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During the first half of the Sociology of Education course I have gained a new perspective and better understand of how the education system shapes American society and allows it to maintain a status quo. The large amount of inequality in America’s schooling system caries on into adult life, and as you can only imagine the students who are negatively affected by inequality become the adults who live life in the lower class, while those children who are on the positive side of inequality become adults of the middle and upper class. The cycles then repeats itself causing the children of the poor/lower class to remain where they were born and the children of the wealthy/higher classes to remain in the class they were born. I’ve come to the understanding that educational systems and America as a whole is a huge lump of unfairness.

Through the operation of our classroom I now see how society and schooling teaches children to be competitive beings. In traditional classrooms the banking method shames students for helping one another, because it’s “cheating.” As students we were always socialized to sit and listen; participation only so often takes place because it is places into the student’s minds that they have nothing to teach one another and the teacher has all the knowledge. It was not until I became a student of yours that I was pushed to participate and educate or receive education from my classmates because they were always the competition. Schools value this competitiveness of students because it motivates some and discourages others, leading to the rabbits and the turtles. This then leads to different placement in certain classes; all of the rabbits learn together and all of the turtles slowly grasp concepts together. If only people knew that the turtles speed up with the help of the rabbit, and the rabbit remains at the same pace; together they win the “race.” We cannot see or understand this because of society’s/education’s placement of that competitive spirit inside of us. We are taught that it is stupid to go back and help someone because the goal is to win the race alone.

Also I’ve learned how institutions have the largest impact on a child’s ability to learn. First and foremost, economic culture in the largest determining factor of a child’s education. Affluent children are granted the ability to access private schooling because of their family’s wealth. They have more educational instruments, such as computers and science labs, which enhances leaning, causing these children to enter into elite schools and become wealthy adults. Which then the cycle is continues; the wealthy marries other wealth inhabitant and have children who are entered into private schools and so forth. Poor class citizens are not this fortunate, they must enroll in public schools that are government funded. If they live in a poor neighborhood then their school will be poor as well. They will not have access to computers and science labs. Music and art courses will not be available, which means there will be a lack of critical thinking. College is not usually the dream after high school, causing these individuals to only be able to fulfill low paying occupations. They then have children and the cycles continues on as well. Although economic culture is the most important role of education, family plays a major part as well. The functioning of the family can either positively or negatively affect a child leaning. If there are bad situations taking place in the household, it negatively affect the child at school; but sometimes the hardships faces can be used as motivation for the children to become and have better in life.

Although these are the things that I have learned while in Sociology of Education, deep down I feel like I already knew most of these things. I’ve always felt that schools weren’t fair but it was from more of a selfish standpoint. I was the smart child who didn’t quite meet the capacity of the honors class, and I thought it was so unfair; never did I take in consideration of the kids who were placed in the lower leaning classes, but still had the potential to do better. I think the inequality of schools is not latent, we are just blinded by society. We see it, but we are told it right; we have to stop conforming to society’s views and see things for what they really are.