

The Critique of The Education System: Focusing on Black Youths and their Social Mobility in Inner Cities Throughout England

Abstract

The social mobility of black youths in light of the current education system is a pressing concern not only socially but politically. Despite increased acknowledgment of the issues facing this demographic it has not stopped the growing sentiments of the need for more being required.

The aim of the dissertation was to gain an understanding into the lives of black youths and their social mobility in inner cities throughout England. This was done by a look into the provisions provided to them by the current UK education system. A comprehensive examination took place, primarily through a real life case study, with a keen focus placed on examining the travails of a black youth from primary education to his dreams of attending law school. This was complimented by an extensive list of literature and practical research complying the issues pertaining with this most pertinent topic.

A number of key findings were made in regards to the topic at hand. With the case study, views of prominent figures and statistical backing all pointing towards an inequality at the feet of black youths in the current UK education system. The main conclusions were that the current UK education system was not doing enough in regards to black youths and their social mobility. Propositions including decolonising the curriculum and a call for more from not only the law but those affected by the inequality shown itself, perhaps best portraying the need for change.

What Should the UK Education System Actually Provide?

Article 29(1) United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) examines what a child's education must actually accomplish, explaining that it must equip a child:

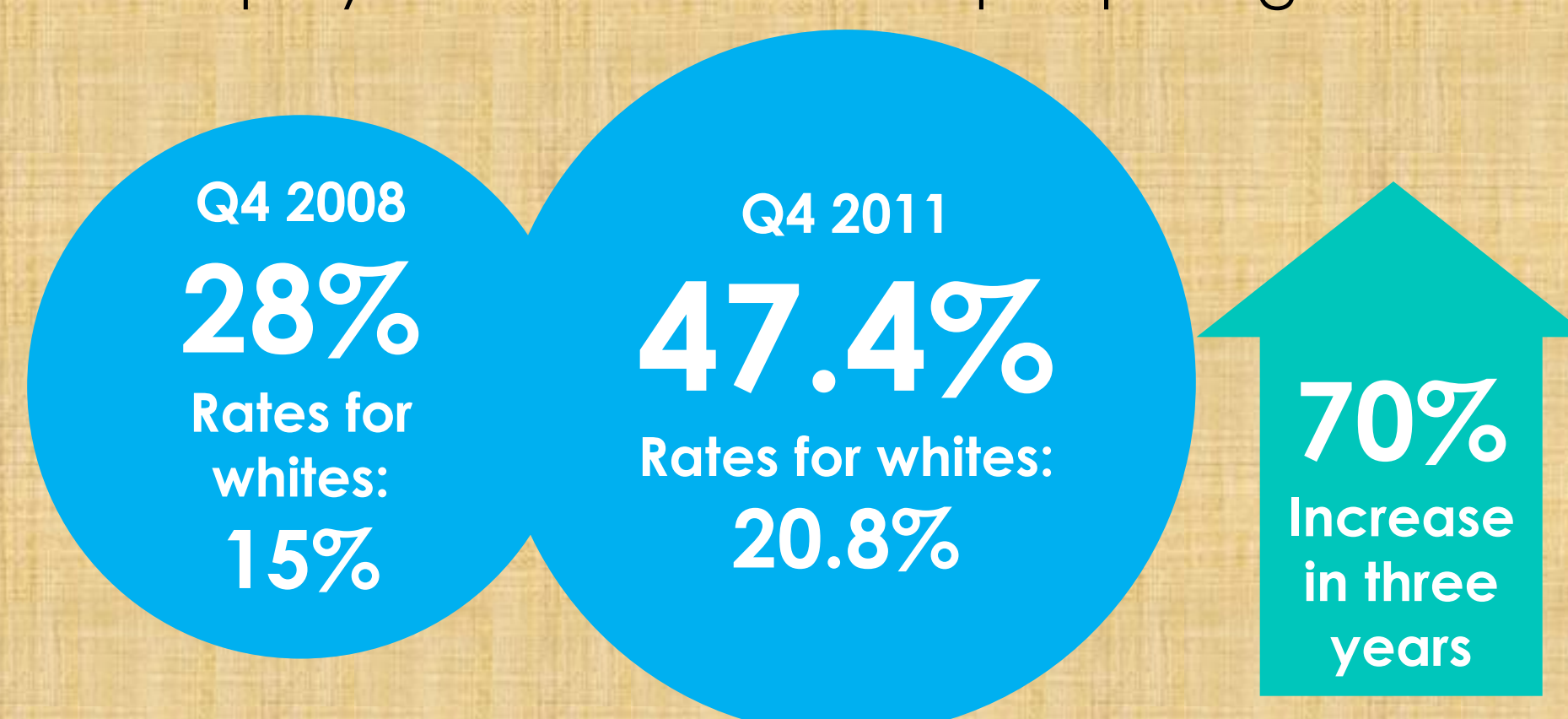
"For responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin".

However, it often seems "one cannot escape... the ubiquitous negative labelling of black children when one should focus readily instead on the shortcomings of the British education system".

"In Britain, 45% of black children live in poverty". This could portray the supposed shortcomings of the British education system when we bear in mind *"poor children are clustered in specific schools"*. Thereby leaving them open to segregation and thus often prompting the aforementioned inequality.

Black unemployment rate

Unemployment rate for black people aged 16-24



Summary

A change in the starting position of black youths in the UK education system is paramount in any sign of progression in this arduous battle of justice versus the presumed novelty of morality, upon a society which has not shown it. The goal surely, then, is to give an education system that truly coincides with the words of Article 1 (d) of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education. No longer can there be an education system which can inflict *"on any person or group of persons conditions which are in-compatible with the dignity of man"*.

Examination of the Current Education System in line with Black Youths

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that:

"Education shall enable all persons to participate effectively in a free society, promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations and all racial, ethnic or religious groups".

The gap between the objectives provided and the reality facing many black students has culminated in a systemic failure governing the UK education system.

Simply put, black presence in the UK has been viewed as *"problematic and a threat to the British way of life"*. This also reflects itself in schooling as *"black males are more likely to be excluded from schools than any other group"*.

Research conducted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission highlighted black graduates in Britain were paid on average 23.1% less than similarly qualified white workers.

References

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