

## **Why Classroom Diversity and Teacher Ethnicity Matters**

For my choice assignment, I chose to do the article review. The article that I read was not extensive in length, but it did prompt me to do a lot of reflecting upon this matter. The article is entitled “Why Classroom Diversity and Teacher Ethnicity Matter”. Rasheed (2019) starts this article off by stating that studies have shown black and Latinx children benefit from learning from a teacher of the same race or ethnicity.

The data analyzed to support this article was taken from three key sources of information. Rasheed (2019) and her colleagues used teacher self-reports, teacher assessments of academic performance and behavior, and student records provided by the New York City Department of Education.

When reflecting upon this opening quote, my mind shifted to the media and pop culture. I thought how commercials and movies have shifted towards a more inclusive mindset. They have recognized that if their viewers come from a diverse racial and cultural background, so should the actors/actresses. This does not denote any sort of racial bias on behalf of the viewer, moreover, I believe it is an unconscious preference to imagine yourself in the shoes of someone of an identical race.

Based on Rasheed’s findings, this same concept of an unconscious bias seems to translate into the classrooms as well. Although I am white and have taught several students of a differing race, I do not believe my connection with those students was any less genuine than it would be with a student of the same race. I do support the idea that diversifying our faculty to support the learning of our students based on Rasheed and her colleagues’ findings.

Although after reading this article, I clicked on several supplemental links regarding the data gathered to support this opinion. I do not have a solution for what data could have been gathered to give this article more validity, but I do think it is somewhat lacking in its credibility. Several of their data points are subjective (self-reports and behavioral assessments) and do not hold the same integrity as an objective academic assessment would.

## **References**

Rasheed, Damira. (2019). Why Classroom Diversity and Teacher Ethnicity Matters.

The Graduate Center, CUNY.