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The Minorities Within The Minority

Gloria P. Aiten
Reynolds High School

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THE MINORITIES WITHIN THE MINORITY

Gloria Ph. Aiten

Introduction

Although the United States of America is becoming more and more diverse, by having the Hispanics, African-Americans, Caucasians, Middle-Easterners, and many more; One specific group of people that are hidden behind another race, are the Asian-Pacific Islanders. Between these two ethnic groups the Pacific Islanders are already classified as minorities, but under the API umbrella the PI people are seen as an invisible within the minorities. Inside the API (Asian Pacific Islander) community, the majority of the people who are considered API are the Asians that are documented; the Pacific Islanders are the minority within the faction. The Pacific Islander people are slowly losing their identity, by being categorized in a category they have no ties with. There are many problems the PI community are suffering through and due to the success of many Asian Americans the PI issues are not resolved. As the category API is mostly represented by successful Asian Americans, many of the statistics and data are that are recorded do not show the needs of the PI community. Such as the majority of the PI community are not able to acquire health insurance, have the high rates of high school dropouts, and are faced with climate change issues.

Materials and methods

The types of methods and materials that were used for this research paper were to have surveyed and to interview people who are Asian-Pacific Islanders from different age range. For the surveys I composed, quantitative and qualitative; to compare and contrast how each person or generation have or did not go through the same struggles. By surveying people from different age groups, it would give my research paper solid evidence to support it.

Another method I used was to put the theme *power and imagination* in my survey questions. Asking them what does power and imagination mean to them, and how do they work together. Also, to make sure that the questions I would asked weren't biased, to keep the research open everyone's opinion's.

Acknowledgments

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Results

Do you think/believe the Pacific Islander community hidden within the minority group? If so, why do you believe/not believe.

Many people were confused at first by what I was asking, confused as to why the Pacific Islanders would be hidden and become the minority with the minorities. This has clearly shown and proved how many Pacific Islanders aren't even aware of this concern; and how they haven't thought about how it affects at all. Also, there were only about 20% of the people I surveyed that understood what I was asking. After I had explained what I was asking the 20% who understood and the rest of the 80% all agreed that the Pacific Islander community is hidden and are the minority within the minorities.

"By combining two completely different ethnicities and trying to provide the services and resources that they need through a census does not actually give the help that they need. With the model minority myth in place, many of the PI issues are not addressed due to the success of many Asian ethnicities."

Do you believe the Pacific Islander community are exposed to all the opportunities the community/country has to offer? (Healthcare, free head-start, nutritional cooking classes, & etc.)

About 90% of my results believed that the PI community are *not* exposed to all the opportunities the community/country has to offer. Especially for the PI's who aren't U.S citizens, most of the responses agreed that the PI is limited to many opportunities due to the lack of communication towards them.

"No, the Pacific Islander community is hardly exposed to given opportunities that the county has offered due to the divers citizenship status and eligibility within the sub-communities of the PI groups."

"Healthcare is hard if you're not a United States citizen."

"Due to the lack of awareness on who the PI community is, there is a shortage of resources available for them. There is also a lack of outreach about the programs that are available in which many people are not aware of the opportunities that they have access to."

Conclusions

Living behind another ethnicity and being misidentified, it's hard for the Pacific Islander community to let their voices be heard. By the research paper the results I received surprised me, because of how some people of the Pacific Islander community are unaware of the daily struggles some of them go through; not only in the first world countries (America and New Zealand) but in the third world countries (Polynesia, Micronesia, RMI, Solomon, & etc.). Also, to how they have so many opportunities for the ones who were born in America. Furthermore for the kids who are the first

generations to live in the US, how there isn't a lot of guidance for them and the culture clash they have to go through.

MISidentification

