

Vitoria Fonseca - Prompt C

Because education provides social and economic benefits to society, it is often viewed as a social good. However, educational structures, such as the American public school system, uphold unjust practices that reinforce social inequalities and perpetuate class and racial differences.

Education is essential for advancements in society as ideas are built on knowledge we learn at school. Gaining knowledge and skills can also lead to social and economic opportunities for individuals, expanding the workforce and global economy. To add, schools play an important role in social integration. In school, students are introduced to societal norms and values, fostering a shared understanding of the social world and helping to maintain order and stability in society.

While education brings social and economic benefits to society, structural features of the American education system, like unequal school funding, disadvantage minorities. Because public schools rely mainly on property taxes for funding, affluent neighborhoods end up with well-funded schools while poor neighborhoods end up with poorly funded schools. More funding brings more resources for teachers and students, leading to better education and, consequently, more job opportunities and greater access to college.

Furthermore, standardized testing is another systemic issue that hinders marginalized communities. Standardized tests often reflect the experiences and cultural background of the dominant social group, the white middle class, leaving minority students at a disadvantage. This cultural bias is evident in test scores as low-income minority students tend to score lower on these tests, limiting their opportunities for higher education and future success.

Vitoria Fonseca - Prompt C

Inequalities in education can be addressed by promoting equity in education through educational policy interventions. To begin, federal and state governments need to increase and equitably allocate school funding so property taxes are no longer schools' primary source of funding.

Defunding unjust practices in schools, such as standardized testing and policing, can create more funding for education reform initiatives and resources to support low-income schools.

Governments need to ensure equitable access to technology and educational materials, including special education tools, as well while providing targeted support for students who may be at risk of falling behind. Additionally, initiatives and resources for teachers should also be provided.

Professional development programs that emphasize the importance of cultural competence and inclusivity in education should be implemented to reduce implicit bias in educational leaders.

Thus, education is a social good as it provides social and economic gains to society, yet unequal practices within educational systems make it structurally unjust. Educational policy interventions can mitigate these inequalities to create more equity in education.