

**SR 950 Applied and Clinical Sociology, Assignment #3**

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### Assignment #3 – Essay

#### 1. Write a 5-page essay addressing the following:

- a. Create a hypothetical project for applied sociology (descriptive problem identification/diagnosis) based on a problem within an organization you either work for/with or with which you are familiar.
- b. Extending this project might include a “clinical” intervention to lead to social change. What might the intervention look like and how would it be implemented?
- c. Evaluate ethical considerations for the above two scenarios.
- d. Propose means by which the project outcomes could be evaluated or measured for effectiveness.

#### 2. Paper Outline

- a. Begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.
- b. Address the topic of the paper with critical thought.
- c. End with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.
- d. Use a minimum of eleven scholarly research sources (two books and the remaining scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles).

## **Introduction**

There has never been a greater opportunity for Christian administrators, policymakers, educators, and clinical sociologists to collaborate to have greater influence in devising specific and measurable intervention models for schools around the country advocating for the well-being and education of all children. Clinical sociologists use a combination of analysis and interventions to evaluate systems to prevent, minimize, or eliminate issues. Assessing, collaborating with groups, individuals, and subgroups, sharing assessment results, and making recommendations that reflect a combination of the sociologist's and client's understanding of the problems and solutions (Reichard, 2024). From the leading of the Holy Spirit, the early Roman and Greek Christians broke the norms of their day, which involved educating the white male elite only. Instead, the early Christians made literacy and the Gospel available to women and regular citizens. Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others advocated for taxes to be used to educate all citizens so that society could advance even more with an educated population (Schmidt, 2009; Morgan, 2023). Today, Education in the United States is compulsory through high school. (Clay, K., et al., 2021, Stephens Jr, M., & Yang, D. Y., 2014, Schmidt, A. J., 2009, Morgan, T., 2023, Reichard., J. D., 2024; Chicosky, C. L., 2015).

## **Christians Resetting Their Priorities In Education For the Masses**

God expressed His love for the young, saying that they were a gift and that we should protect and teach children. Jesus modeled His love and protection for the young (Matthew 18:5-7, 10; Psalm 127:4; Exodus 12:26-27; Mark 10:14; Matthew 18:1-3; Ephesians 6:4; Psalm 127:3; Psalm 23:1-6; Psalm 146:9; Mark 9:37). Collaboratively Christians can become the voice advocating for all children shedding light on the fact that the history of education for women and masses came from the influence of the Holy Spirit of God through early believers (Schmidt,

2009). God cares about all His creation because the earth is the Lord's, and every one that dwells on the earth was given life by God (Genesis 1, John 1:1-3; Acts 17:1-31). Education in the United States has evolved as compulsory for all children regardless of their nationality, gender, religion, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status (Clay, K., et al., 2021, Stephens Jr, M., & Yang, D. Y., 2014; Kober, N., & Rentner, D. S., 2020).

While Christianity is being minimized as one of many religions, Christians opened the door to bring education to the masses as we know it today (Schmidt, 2009). The Routledge International Handbook of Religion In Global Society connotes that while there are still many historical parallels in religion, it has changed over time. Religion is not going away. Even if religions assume new forms, gods, and spirits continue to have significance everywhere in the world. There is no longer a single set of traditions, a distinct social sector, or concepts of linear progress that can adequately capture religiosity. It is becoming more and more difficult for the government to regulate and control it since new players and organizations are vying for control of themselves and their gods (Cornelio, J. S., et al., 2021). Does not the Ten Commandments teach us to put the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob first, and to teach this to our children (Exodus 20:3-5; Matthew 6:33; Deuteronomy 6:5-9)?

America has become a multicultural nation of many religions, but it does not negate the Bible's teachings regarding children. The Bible instructs the body of Christ to teach the next generation, our children and young, about the Lord and all his wondrous works (Psalm 78:4; Joel 1:3). Believers are to train their children so they will not depart from truth and teach them to love God with all their soul and strength (Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:5-9). All believers are to share their faith with others (Matthew 28:18-20). If the body of Christ is to transform the

educational system, we must first embrace God's commands as to how we are to value and treat our young.

### **Christian Actions Supporting Education and Educators**

While there are several religions throughout the nation, the Bible is clear on how Christians should care for children. O'Connor, Hoge, and Alexander researched the greatest influence on adults remaining faithful to church (2020). The study found that it was not merely attending church with their families as a child. According to the study, young people from all denominations who participated more in church youth groups as minors were more prone to participate in church activities and religious practices as adults (2020). This is very eye-opening as to why Christians' actions need to lead the way in setting up youth programs all over the country. True transformation can occur as Christian agencies and organizations, like churches, partner and support Christians on the ground working in schools across America.

Christian agencies and organizations can sponsor Christian educators by supporting them as missionaries to sponsor after-school Bible clubs and youth programs. Support for Christian educators who sponsor after-school Bible programs can be provided through financial support, supplementing their incomes. Educators and administrator also need legal backing and backing with policies through the Christian community advocating for them by being active participants and members of school boards and participating on policy committees that govern each county. Supporting Christian educators working in the school system will strengthen the faith of the adults and children. Participating in school board meetings and policy committees will strengthen the protections to hold Bible programs after school. This would encourage young people to care about learning about God and serving him (Proverbs 22:6).

If volunteers from the church and other Christian organizations were to come into the schools to pray with educators or to help sponsor Christian clubs, it would encourage Christian students and staff. If the churches in America were to treat Christian educators and staff as well as they treat their foreign missionaries by visiting them and supporting them financially, the church would have a greater impact. Did not Jesus pray for believers and teach us that the world would know us by the love we show one another (John 17)?

This is a pivotal time for Christians to act. Due to constant attacks, culture wars, low pay, and excessive workloads, teachers are leaving the profession, while college students are choosing other majors over education, resulting in a teacher shortage (Ravitch, 2020; Zimmerman, J., 2022). Imagine if teachers in general could look to the church for support and direction for the profession that educates America's youth. Many schools are working toward providing all students with a high-quality education. Schools are facing challenges and advancements from past generations. Yet, the fundamental objectives of public education have remained, promoting justice, bringing people together from different backgrounds, and preparing students for citizenship and the workforce. Public schools reflect our values and help to mold our future (Kober & Rentner, 2020). There are problems with public schooling. It will require innovative techniques to resolve these problems together with a national commitment to improve public education. This is where Christian church leaders, administrators, educators, lawmakers, and sociologists can vow to save our youth through innovative and effective programs and interventions for both students and teachers (Kober, N., & Rentner, D. S., 2020; Ravitch, D., 2020; Zimmerman, J. 2022).

## **Conclusion**

The goals of modern American education conflict with the country's laws mandating compulsory education, as does the academic achievement of American students when compared to students elsewhere. Educational theorists, critics, lawmakers, academics, communities, parents, teachers, and students are demanding change because they see an issue with the current system. Furthermore, when comparing the United States with other wealthy countries, the results are extremely concerning (Chicosky, C. L., 2015). Chicosky suggests that the United States reinvent its education system and adopt an early intervention program for preschool, and students should continue to receive mandated elementary-level instruction as in successful countries. Chicosky believes that middle school and high school levels should be voluntary, and not mandated. Students choosing to opt out of middle and high school need to select a strong vocational-technical skills program as an alternative to the academic track (2015). Reform is needed to meet the needs of today's students. It is my hope that Christians become the primary voice in America leading the charge to educate and protect the well-being of the next generation.

### Works Cited

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**Note to Professor: I don't know why, but my computer would not cooperate in aligning my references once I switched from a Google Doc to a Word Document. That is why some of the references are not aligned properly.**