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Educational, Economic, & Marital Debts Owed to Black Males: A Systematic Literature Review



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INTRODUCTION

- Research is needed to understand the relationship between educational achievement gaps, economic disparities, and marriage occurrences among Black males.
- Ladson-Billings recommends reconceptualizing racial academic gaps as an “education debt” to create restitution for education inequality.
- Iruka et al. call for research to ensure equity in various areas of livelihood, but this review centers educational opportunities, economic stability, and community for Black children/families.

RESEARCH Qs & METHODS

- **RQ1:** What is the relationship among family structure, educational attainment, and economic standing of Black males?
- **RQ2:** What role has Black males’ educational attainment and economic standing played in their marital or paternal availability?

Currently screening full-texts and hand-searching bibliographies for other relevant articles.



Racial and gender bias at home and in school create barriers on Black males’ transition into adulthood—namely economic standing and marriage & family

PRIMARY IMPLICATIONS

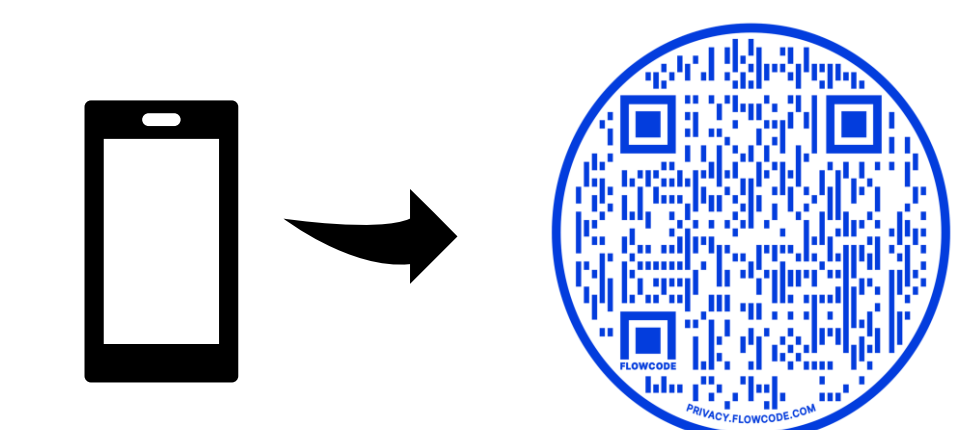
- Gender disparities in school and higher education that disadvantage Black males may contribute to a “failure to launch” in the workforce (e.g. un/underemployed) and their availability for marriage/family.
- Economic factors may play a role in family structure, access to education, and shaping perceptions around manhood, husbandhood, and fatherhood.
- Higher education may be associated with increased marriageability, potentially indicating that males with more education are perceived as more desirable partners.

LIMITATIONS

- The included studies may have diverse methodologies, sample sizes, and measures, making it challenging to directly compare and synthesize findings.
- Variability in the quality of individual studies may affect the reliability of the review.

Faculty Research Advisor:
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