

Racial Autobiography

To be honest this assignment was one of the most difficult assignments for me, because I have never experienced any of these questions.

1: What is my earliest memory of race? I have been raised in a country with the same race. I have never experienced a time that I be judged by my race. But in my country, we had many ethnics the big ones were Pashtuns and Tajiks. From the time that I was a teenager I was facing with the word if I was a Tajik or Pashtun. Pashtuns people were the ones who wanted to be in power and wanted to have control over everything in the country. For example, in most of the ministries Pashtuns were in charge when you applied for a position you had to speak Pashtu. If you were Pashtun, then it would be easier to have that job but if you were from other ethnics you had to try twice to have that job. Minor ethnics were not even visible for some ethnics with majority of people, and I have seen that, even minor ethnics have been attacked by major ethnics.

2: Have I had any negative experience associated with my racial identity or that of someone else? As I said in the first question about the place that I have been raised, to answer this question I should say no. Directly I haven't had any negative experience associated to my racial, but regarding to my ethnic yes, I have been facing with negative experiences. I was not selected in a position that I was eligible for, in an organization just because I was not Pashtun, and I couldn't speak Pashtu.

3: When did I become racially conscious? When I was in school, I had read in my books about the history of race and racial injustice that had happened in many places of the world. How people were going through this injustice, who were most in danger to face with racism? How the world is fighting against this phenomenon. But no one was talking directly about the word race in my place, so I only know from the school about different races.

4: From whom or in what period of life did I learn the most about race and diversity? When I was in school, I was reading about different races and diversity in the world. At that time, I had no idea what diversity mean? I thought because we have many ethnics in my country it may means diversity. I also watching documentaries that was talking about different ethnics and races in one place. One year ago, when I come to the US for the first time, I noticed what diversity mean. In my country when you were asking people from where you are it meant from which province of this country you are. But in New York my mind completely changed in here when you ask people from where you are they name different countries instead of provinces. To be honest for the first time one year ago, I truly understood the true meaning of diversity and different races. After the city, in my university I noticed how much divers are students. I noticed that there are students from many different countries and as much as I know my university is one of the universities with the most diversity, still I'm learning about diversity and different ethnics.

5: Can I describe the different stages of racial identity development I've gone through and what made me aware of each? If I describe the different stages of racial identity, The first stage of the racial identity development model is conformity. The second stage is dissonance and appreciating, the third is resistance and immersion, the fourth is introspection, and the fifth stage is integrative awareness. Each of these stages have different stages that are attitude toward self, attitude toward others of the same minority, attitude toward others of a different minority, attitude toward dominant group. I have gone through to the first stage of the racial development, I have accepted the images, beliefs, and values of the dominant group. I have considered myself as "colorblind" and the world as "raceless".

What concerns me about my racial past? I haven't been concerned about my racial past in my own country but from the time that I have come to the United States, here I notice that how much differs are these societies, I have no idea how I would be seen as an Asian.

What encourages me about my racial past? I haven't faced to a racial injustice in my society except some minor injustices with some ethnics, but I have constantly learned that I should stand for racial justice, in school and university. It encourages me that I have no direct experience of being a victim of racism and not have I judge a human being by race.

Why do I do racial justice? What is the purpose for me?

We are living in a time that we should have relation with human being and how we know them not who their ancestors are, and from which race they are. We are being created by one God and we should be committed to humanity. I should do racial justice because it's my job. Countries have fought enough against racism now I see it my job and every other one that they should make themselves committed to the racial justice. Sometimes I think we have no right even to ask people from where they are. It should be enough that we know their name and our relationship with them. With the commitment to this my purpose is that to not allow another human being to feel that I'm different than the other person. And to not allow my children to feel that ethnics matters. That people should live in a society equally without feeling different or separate from others. That everyone in a society should have equal right and opportunity. That a society is standing on the work of everyone, not a specific ethnic.

