

This article explains why so many Black, Hispanic and White intercity students lacking basic skills such as reading and arithmetic? Why do so many of them drop out of school?

There are many reasons, but the public education system is the primary cause. I worked for 13 years as a psychologist, teacher and administrator in rich, poor, schools which were all white and in integrated schools. I spent over 20 years as Professor, the Head of Elementary & Secondary Teacher Education Program, and Director of Research, Head of Education Administration and Interim Dean of Education in a State University in the 4th largest city in the country. When I started the student body and faculty was almost 100 percent Black. To my knowledge I was the first White administrator. As I had done in the public school system I helped integrate the schools in the University.

During my tenure I worked with thousands of students and teachers. A large percent were inner-city students and teachers. We also had one of the largest foreign student enrollments. We had students from 63 countries with a large percent from Africa and the Middle East.

What bothered me was that the Blacks from Africa tended to do better than the American Blacks. I wanted to know why so I started doing some research to determine why the difference in American Blacks American Blacks. Here is what I found with the college students. The African Black students had good academic skills, reading, and writing, and math, study habits and were highly motivated. The few American Black students with similar skills did almost as well, but most of them lacked the motivation and skills which affected their achievement.

I then made a study of the inner city public schools. The study indicated that most of the schools had had a much higher percent of Blacks and Hispanic students than of Whites. There was little difference in the academic education programs in inner city and suburban schools. The text books and teaching methods were very similar. The few motivated Black, Hispanic and White students from similar backgrounds, socio-economic status and intelligence showed little difference in achievement. Most Black and Hispanic students were from a much lower socio-economic background and with little experience and motivation and parental support. White students from and with similar conditions did about the same. In most of the public schools the education programs were rigid and geared to students with the academic ability to follow the program. Once a student

got behind it was almost impossible for him to catch up so he got left behind.

The major problem was and still is that the traditional education program wasn't and isn't geared for a large percent of the pupils and students in the schools today. Schools today have to accept and keep all students. They try to make them fit into program. Many of them lack the skills or ability required for these programs. In an attempt to help these students most schools had remedial programs but few had programs for the gifted. *Few of the remedial programs were effective in helping students overcome gaps in their development. Most of these programs were structured for slow learners rather than remediation*

Is there a realistic solution to the problem? Yes it is a program which insures that every student that has the ability will learn to read, write and do simple math. It has the flexibility to allow students with the ability to advance and go as far as his ability will take him.

The program is the Objective Diagnostic Prescriptive Program, developed by Dr. Strong's Team. It evolved from the 3 year Teacher Development Program which involved 14 school districts and 79 schools. The program showed that most students, regardless of race, background or ability, can and will learn the academic skills necessary to be independent and meet the requirements of most jobs. The Program was found to financial feasible, produced superior academic achievement and could be implemented into any education program..

Why isn't the Program used? Most people don't know about it as it was developed in the 70s and is free to the public. Where can one find more information about this program? There is a website:

“strongoneducation.net which provides information on the development, implementation, operation, and results of the program. Click on Strong's Papers and scroll down to Objective Diagnostic Prescriptive Program.