

Math Delusion—Math is Racist & Oppressive for Minorities

Math is Racist & Oppressive for Minorities? My experience and professional take on a statement of this nature is that it is unfounded and without merit based on the opinions of a few biased members of an “Ethnic Studies Advisory Committee” under the Seattle, Washington public school system that explains **math as a racist study to oppress students**. It is insulting to my friends & associates in the African American and Hispanic American communities as well as the Asian American community. As a Chinese American growing up in New York City’s Chinatown, I find this statement to be politically motivated and indicative of the Liberal Left’s condescending racist charged narratives specializing in race warfare, class warfare, and identity politics’ media propaganda being continuously perpetrated among the various ethnic minority groups to be divisive, in order to maintain a constant state of turmoil for the sole purpose of control and ensuring minority dependences on the Democrat party, who’s only interest was the minority vote every 2-4 years without keeping their campaign promises except for a few crumbs to keep the major minority groups happy until the next election.

Troubling and degrading unless the umbilical cord of victimology is cut and the politicians realize they cannot take them for granted any longer. And when I say politicians, I don’t mean just the White politicians but the Democrat Black Caucus and Hispanic Caucus as well whose elected representatives take very good care of themselves and not the population they serve. African Americans are worse off in Liberal run cities and states. A shameful and sad factual reality of life... in real time!

Math in Seattle schools will become integrated with a proposed social justice course adding ethnic studies into the K-12 math curriculum. This has nothing to do with the math you should learn in K-12 and leave students with little actual knowledge or understanding of how to do math. It is indoctrination that is most destructive to these young minds whether you are a minority or otherwise. Are the Liberal schools bypassing standard math and the new math to go straight to woke math? As a real-world matter, an interesting serious conversation should be a challenge to the Liberals to build a high-speed rail system between Seattle and Los Angeles without basic math or engineering skills. Is woke math the answer? Good Luck!

It is the knowledge of mathematics gained mainly through the school system of this NYC Chinese American minority community which allowed myself and many other Chinese American students throughout the NY metropolitan area to compete in high school, college, and graduate/professional schools to graduate with degrees in mathematics, engineering, science, finance, business, education, law, and medicine & its related fields of dentistry, pharmacy, medical research and advanced specialty projects to find cures for many of mankind’s diseases..

Upon reflection, let us pause for a moment and ask a basic fundamental question: *Mathematics? Is it a Science? Is it an Art? Is it a Philosophy? Perhaps all of the above. Perhaps none of the above. “Mathematics is a subject set apart from all other human achievements. The interface between intellect & imagination where the real and unreal are precisely configured”.*

How can math be racist & oppressive for minorities when it has been embraced by Chinese & Asian American minorities and many in the African American & Hispanic American minority communities here in the United States as a pathway and catalyst to enter many professional, vocational, and business fields where you are judged and accepted on the merits of your skills, achievements, and contributions to American society regardless of race, religion, beliefs, ethnic background, and skin color.

Every early civilization seems to have developed their own math with numbers & symbols for counting by creating a numerical system through native intelligence to keep track of things like wealth, property, animals, farming, and the ability to build structures by measurements and a numbering system to match & fit building blocks for shelter. Through the application of math and coupled with other skilled trades of their respective time periods are the cities, temples, and pyramids of the Incas in South America; Aztecs and Mayans in Central America; The great pyramids of Egypt; The great cities, temples, and coliseums of Greece, the Persian Empire, and the Roman Empire with their roads. In the Far East, China built the Great Wall twisting & turning from the northwest interior 13,000 miles to the sea which can be seen from outer space and is one of the 7 wonders of the world; The Forbidden City within the capitol city of Beijing; The 1,200 miles long Grand Canal connecting Northern & Southern China comprised of canal locks invented in the 10th century AD; The largest ships ever built in the 15th century timeframe called Chinese Junks where they were part of the treasure fleets during the Ming Dynasty which sailed the world's oceans with celestial navigation and a master's knowledge of the North Star and Southern Cross. The large size of these Chinese Junks can be best visualized by placing 3 of Christopher Columbus' 1492 ships, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria aboard a Junk and there was still plenty of room as the 3 ships were lost in the vastness of the Chinese Junk. These large magnificent treasure fleets were each commanded by an Admiral who sailed to nearby countries to ferry their leaders to Beijing to pay tribute to China and enjoy the warm and gracious hospitality of the Emperor. Four of the Admirals set sail on 4 different missions throughout the world and mapped their sea going routes; ocean current directional flow; wind direction measurements, weather, and lands explored & visited in the years 1421-1423.

All these accomplishments by the early civilizations would not have been possible without an understanding of mathematics and its practical applications in structural engineering, ship building, strength of materials & analysis, measurements of fit & sizing, and integration with other building, engineering, and architectural disciplines of their respective time periods.

I cannot imagine anyone from my/our generation (+/- 4-5 years from my age) thinking that math was racist and oppressive to minorities. Even if it were the prevailing political and sociological narratives when we were growing up in the 50's -60's, we had enough problems to contend with relative to real racial bias and discrimination at the time. My parents said the best way to combat and overcome racial bias was through education and to be smarter than your discriminating friend or foe that you are competing with. And always remember to be the best you can be in your chosen studies and professional field of endeavor. Math has helped changed my life and many of my classmates from Chinatown to where we are today.

Since I have always been passionate about a good education, I am deeply concerned about today's educational system here in the USA falling behind other countries in math, science, & reading. The 2015 Program for International Student Assessment (PISA-15 yrs old student) ranks the USA in math: 38 out of 72 countries; 24th in science; 24th in reading. Liberals should join America's educators to find the root cause of this decline and develop a plan of action to bring the USA's test ranking back to the top of the list instead of playing around with an imaginary political racist math connotation for social justice.

Math is the language of science & part of the important STEM program if we are to keep up & compete with Asian and European nations. Again, the Asian nations had the top rankings with Singapore in 1st place for all 3 categories in the 3 years' test cycle with China- Shanghai taking 1st place in a previous test cycle. Technology is advancing so fast that we are competing with other nations on many fronts where knowledge & competency in math & science are essential to be successful. I will only name 3 of the many scientific projects on our USA agenda; they are G5 Communications, Quantum Computing, and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

My final comment is: Liberal educators--keep your hand off math as you have distorted "History" by changes & selective teaching which has been detrimental to American students and society.

Once again, on behalf of our "Chinatown Community of the Ages", a note of "Gratitude and Thank you" to Richard (Dick) Chu and his planning committee for their time & hard work in making the 2020 reunion in Las Vegas a reality for us to enjoy the company & friendship of old friends and even new ones in this exciting city of 1,000 temptations and sleepless adult playground of the West with no reference to the concept of time.

Do enjoy the 2020 Chinatown Reunion and Best of Luck in any games of chance to validate your "Probability of Win" math model. Will Sin City have a Chinese abacus to keep track all of your winnings?

All the Best... Stay Sharp...and Be in Good Health...Our most Precious Asset...
Daniel (Danny) Lee., 1/25/2020, Happy Chinese New Year of the Clever Mouse 4718...