The Complexity of Untold Stories: Experiences, Perceptions, Behaviors, and Outcomes of Collegiate Black Student-Fathers

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THE COMPLEXITY OF UNTOLD STORIES:
Experiences, Perceptions, Behaviors, and Outcomes of Collegiate Black Student-Fathers

By Karlos L. Marshall
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Purpose
At a fundamental level, this work sought to understand the experiences, perceptions, behaviors, and outcomes of collegiate Black student-fathers by examining cultural and behavioral narratives and experiences that were depicted by them, not for them. Lastly, the purpose of this phenomenological research was to unseat how collegiate Black student-fathers perceive themselves in relation to others, how they (re)define Black masculinity, how they construct meaning, and how they view and/or interpret social, familial and educational responsibilities.

Research Questions
Does being a collegiate Black student-father positively affect one’s experiences, perceptions, behaviors, and outcomes?

Do collegiate Black student-fathers provide a theoretical reappropriation of traditional and historical depictions of Black masculinity?

Data Collection
A snowball sampling method was used to secure participants. In-depth qualitative one-on-one interviews were conducted with 8 participants from a phenomenological lens that used “a methodological approach popularized by critical race theorists... to oppose dominant discourse concerning the social and educational status of Black men in America” (Harper, 2009, p. 697). Interviews were recorded, transcribed, and coded and through data analysis themes and implications emerged.

Population

- Black Fathers
- Black Men
- Black Men in College
- Student Parents
- Student Athletes

Results

- The Presence of "Cool Pose"
- The Strength to Overcome
- Relationship with child’s Mother as Key
- It Takes A Village to Raise A Child
- Reappropriation of Cool Pose
- The Passing Down of Teachings
- Ambiguity of Fatherhood
- Discovery of a New Sense of Being
- Lack of Institutional Support & Understanding
- Placing Together a Support System

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Selected References


Practical Implication
- Review of all financial aid policies.
- Review of all residential living policies.
- Review of admission approaches and practices.
- Review of scholarship opportunities
- Review of pragmatic enrichment.
- Review of programmatic support.
- Review psychosocial support syste
- Future research should examine Division I student-athletes.