

## SOURCE 5

The article “Diversity vs. equality: Why the education of Roma children does not work” shines a light on another oppressed ethnic group that faces many disadvantages in our world today because of their cultural differences. The Roma people are one of the largest oppressed minority groups, they face challenges in every society they live among, and in countries education systems especially, where the oppression has resulted in more than a third of the Roma population illiterate and most children not finishing primary school. Throughout the past few decades, there have been several plans implemented, although the ethnic group still lacks the attention it needs to make actual progress in the issue it faces. In the past, failed programs give us unintentional consequences as well as realizations to learn from. In the Czech Republic, the lack of education for the teachers and non-Roma students, bias, and lack of funding are some of the main factors that emerged in the negative results of the study that was meant to be implemented throughout the country. Another experiment that fell short took place in Croatia, where the Roma children were relentlessly profiled from their classmates and teachers. At the end of the experiment, most of the teachers stated that the Roma people should actively assimilate to the mainstream society if they wanted to be accepted by it. This idea is shared with the people of Slovakia as well; Roma students are actively a part of the education system that includes the Slovak children, although in Slovakia it is believed that to succeed in their country you must inherent their cultural practices. Unfortunately, the Slovak ideologies go against the practices and mindsets of the Roma and it results in inequality for the Roma in Slovakia. Continuously, the Roma must fight for their freedom because the powerful governments reign supreme and create populations that are ignorant of the cultures around them. the Roma still face unconscious bias from the governments that they rely on even though they are the only people powerful enough to implement a change that could act as a catalyst to combat the cultural prejudice.

The article addresses a minority group that spreads from either side of the EU and is continuously in the most disadvantaged position. Immediately, this article stood out to me because I had never heard of the Roma people yet they seemed to be in one of the most difficult situations to grow up in. They have never been given the equity they deserve to give their children better opportunities in life and the unconscious bias is quite familiar to what is going on in my personal life in the United States. The article helps me make connections between ethnic prejudice and socioeconomic prejudice and how they typically go hand-in-hand. Compared to the other articles I’ve found regarding prejudice towards minority groups in the education system this article’s main difference is the unique situation the Roma are in. Their general situation is standard for minority groups where they are forced under the power of governments that clearly do not care enough to thoroughly help them. Although, the Roma also lack any and all source of power and control to fight back. There are very few people on their side, and the rate of proper education is so low that they haven’t been able to form organized leadership among themselves. In every study I’ve read about, there is an overarching problem of prejudice. It is clear that the privilege that is shared with mainly white people becomes a visual barrier that doesn’t allow them to accept people who have a different appearance. This is also consistent with children, the bias is placed on innocent children who aren’t old enough to even grasp the concept of prejudice, although their entire culture is a victim of it. To combat the education system’s lack of equity for the Roma it is clear that all types of prejudice must be distinguished and removed from all positions of power to plant the necessary seeds to grow a culture based on equality.