“Gender and Economic Progress: The Contributions of Female Geniuses in the United States”

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Gender and Economic Progress: The Contributions of Female Geniuses in the U.S

By: Amadu Jacky Kaba, Ph.D

The United States is the richest country in the world today because of the enormous contributions of women. Among the women contributing to the economic progress of the U.S. are geniuses. Who is a Genius? One definition of a genius is “A person of extraordinary intellect and talent.” Another definition of a genius is a person of “Extraordinary intellect and creative power.” I will attempt to expand the definition of a genius as someone aged 18-24 or younger with an earned doctorate. The reason is that to be that young with a doctorate shows an extraordinary effort, dedication, diligence, hard work, determination and brainpower. It is rational then to recognize such an individual as a genius. The data we are about to examine was extracted from an April 27, 2009 U.S Census Bureau report titled: “Educational Attainment in the United States: 2008.”[ii] The report presents degree attainment rates of Americans from high school diplomas to doctorates as of 2008. The data in this article is limited to only those aged 18-24 with doctorates. The report presents data for professional degrees, but this category includes degrees in law, divinity, medicine and others. Therefore, it is difficult to extract the medical degrees from the total professional degrees. Let us briefly go over the numbers.

As of 2008, there were 28,398,000 people in the U.S aged 18-24, which included 14,392,000 (50.7%) males and 14,006,000 (49.3%) females. In 2008, there were 14,000 people in the U.S. aged 18-24 with doctorates and within this population 11,000 (78.6%) were females and 3,000 (21.4%) were males. There were 22,056,000 whites alone aged 18-24, which included 11,267,000 (51.1%) males and 10,789,000 (48.9%) females. Of the 6,000 doctorates (42.8% of the 14,000 doctorates) whites earned, males and females each had 3,000 (21.4% of each of the 14,000 doctorates). For non-Hispanic whites alone, 17,525,000 were aged 18-24. There were 5,000 non-Hispanics whites with doctorates (35.7% of the 14,000 doctorates) 3,000 (21.4% of the...
There were 4,112,000 blacks alone aged 18-24, which included 1,973,000 (48%) males and 2,138,000 (52%) females. Of the 4,000 doctorates earned by blacks alone (28.6% of the 14,000 doctorates), females accounted for all of them. There were 1,173,000 Asians alone, with 593,000 (50.5%) males and 580,000 (49.5%) females. There were 4,000 (28.6% of total) of them with doctorates, with females accounting for all of them. There were 5,011,000 Hispanics (of any race); 2,629,000 (52.5%) males and 2,382,000 (47.5%) females, and all 1,000 doctorates were earned by females. The 2007 data in the 2008 version of this same report was even more interesting. For that year, of the total 9,000 individuals in the U.S. aged 18-24 with doctorates, all were non-Hispanic white women.

The Census Bureau data show zero by using a dash for some groups such as Asian males, black males and Hispanic males, explaining "A Dash (-) represents zero or rounds to zero."

As the data above revealed, females have made enormous progress in degree attainment. This would not have been the case in 1970, for example, since females did not have the opportunities as they do today. In the U.S., educational attainment is correlated with income. For example, according to a 2002 U.S. Census Bureau report, over an adult’s career, an individual with a high school diploma is expected on average to earn $1.2 million; $2.1 million for a bachelor’s degree; $2.5 million for a master’s degree; $3.4 million for a doctorate; and $4.4 million for a professional degree.

What are the economic implications for this progress of women in earned doctorates? One answer is that because females live longer than males, they will pay taxes longer than their male counterparts. Also, many academic studies have shown that females are more liberal than males, which means that the communities where these female geniuses reside might benefit economically from their relatively high incomes. Such benefits could come from contributions to religious organizations such as churches, synagogues, mosques, etc. since more females attend religious services than their male counterparts. In some religious congregations members contribute up to 10 percent of their annual incomes. The data above also reveals the strength of the United States. It is a celebration of a country where, despite gender and racial/ethnic backgrounds, young people have the opportunity to
show how far they can expand their brain power and show what humans are capable of doing. These numbers show why the U.S. continues to attract the young and the old alike from all over the planet, because these young doctors are representatives of almost all of the peoples of the world.


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