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AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S
STRUGGLES IN HIGHER EDUCATION:
ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF
INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND SEXISM

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Abstract

African American Women's struggles in higher education: Addressing the issues of institutional racism and sexism

Studies show that a significant number of African American Women administrators and faculty in higher education has increased in the United States, but their current status is not impressive. In 1985, 3.4 percent of African American Women were administrators in higher education, while white women constituted 30.4 percent (Benjamin, 1997). The majority of these women were employed by black campuses and operating at the lower level positions. (Jennifer, 1995) research on, *Minorities and Women in Higher Education and the Role of Mentoring in their Advancement*, found that the history of African American Women in higher education is one of our nation's most shameful stories. It is really a story of our nation's struggle to overcome overt and institutional racism and sexism. This study examined and explored the thematic issues of identity, power, and change of African American Women, academics and administrators, from various walks of life. The study is grounded in the volume of (Benjamin, 1997) *Black Women in the Academy*. The question posed: What is the current African American Women's status in higher education? Data from this quantitative study of 50 African American Women administrators and faculty in higher education found no significant Changes.