Reinforcing the Educational Glass Ceiling: For-Profit Institution’s Cost of Attending for Women

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Repository Citation
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REINFORCING THE EDUCATIONAL GLASS CEILING: FOR-PROFIT INSTITUTION’S COST OF ATTENDING FOR WOMEN

Kristen Blazek, PhD
Stream
Introduction
I had always wanted to be a nurse...If there was a million reasons why I didn’t go to school when I was young, which I should have because hindsight's 20/20. But when I finally got up the courage to go back to school, I was 36 years old...I looked around, and I probably should have done a lot more research, but at my age, I wanted to just get something that was quick to get into and all-inclusive and get done fast. (Jane, 2020)
Literature Review
FPI Comparison

• Dilemma
  • Benefits
    • FPIs cater to nontraditional students
    • More accessible and flexible
    • Accelerated
  • Costs
    • High tuition
    • High default rates
    • Low educational standards
    • Career prospects same as high school diploma
Methods

Qualitative Narrative approach
Social constructivist
What dimensions of first-generation women’s life experience, particularly the social and structural arrangements of their education, contribute to their choice of a for-profit college or university?

What role does the for-profit institution play in women's post-secondary educational advancement?
Data Collection

• Semi-structured interview
  • Social and structural categories of questions
  • Zoom
  • One meeting
  • 60-90 minutes
Data Analysis

Audio files uploaded into transcript software
- Temi
- Reviewed several times

Nvivo Software to organize data
- First-step coding methods (Saldaña, 2016)
  - Initial coding
  - In-Vivo coding
- Second Step
  - Code Mapping and Landscaping
  - Creation of themes
Trustworthiness

Triangulation
- Multiple participants
- Interviews
- Documentation

Memos
Positionality and Subjectivity

- Work in higher education
- Work with non-traditional students
- Knowledgeable about higher education
- Identify as a woman
- Raised with gender norms
- Went to public schools
Participants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>FPI Attended</th>
<th>Degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Louise</td>
<td>National Technical Institute (NTI)</td>
<td>Computer Science Associate’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel</td>
<td>National For-Profit Technical College (NFPTC)</td>
<td>Nursing Associate’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mia</td>
<td>Local Medical Training College (LMTC)</td>
<td>Medical Assistant Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariah</td>
<td>Regional Technical School (RTS)</td>
<td>Business Management Associates, Bachelor’s,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National For-Profit University (NFPU)</td>
<td>Master’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
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</table>
Louise

“I would do things differently. I would definitely do things differently...I didn't know what I was getting myself into and I'm looking here [record of debt] at all this capitalized interest at the beginning and it's kinda making me sick”
Debt
$45,000*
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Mary

“They [FPI] cost twice as much as regular college. That should have been a red flag.”
Debt
$62,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
“I would go back [to state university] and I would do that over again. Yeah. In a heartbeat. But I mean you live and you learn from your mistakes and one day, you know, when I have kids then, you know, I can tell them about my decisions and my choice and let them make their own.”
Debt
$70,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Mariah

“I figure for me, I just had a very bad luck with jobs and things like that. I didn't get a good start for me. I didn't get a good start personally. I figured sometimes it wasn't about my degree. It was about who you knew and that's just been my experience so far.”
Debt

$90,000

BACHELORS & MASTERS DEGREE
Jane

“I feel like that's just, that's just who I am. And I decided I'm going to do something, I'm going to do it. I'm [a] super strong personality and when I decide I'm doing something, I'm going to do it and I'm going to do it all the way”
Debt
$100,000
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
Mia

“I do really good research. So I'm pretty careful about choosing it. I probably wouldn't be deterred enough to go back to one. Um, um, but I tend to do like really thorough research.”
Debt  $2,000
CERTIFICATE DEGREE
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*estimated cost of attendance
Discussion and Conclusion
CROSS NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

- Lack of Higher Education Knowledge
- Accelerated Programs
- Major Life Events
- Caregiver
- Determination
- Social Networks with Sometimes Limited Post-Secondary Expertise
- Provide economic stability
- Debt
Recommendations

Higher Education could be more accommodating

Funding
Conclusion