

Diversity in the Media

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Research has shown that a lack of diversity exists in the media, particularly regarding how two vulnerable populations, women and people of color, are portrayed. For example, usually only very thin women are portrayed, and people of color are misrepresented, perpetuating negative stereotypes. This study seeks to determine whether a sample of college students from Valparaiso University recognize the lack of diversity in the media and would like it changed. Through this study, society may become more aware of the lack of diversity in the media. This study may also encourage further research into how equal representation in the media can be achieved.

Information about the Authors:

Jane Hurdish, Emily Penn, and Ashley Watson, all social work majors, are particularly interested in how diversity in the media, or lack thereof, affects two vulnerable populations – women and people of color. They think it is particularly important for society that we not only recognize the lack of diversity in the media, but also begin to change it. They hope this study will be an eye-opening experience for Valparaiso University's campus.

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