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Diversity in Newsrooms

On the first day of Kindergarten, one of the first things children might notice is that not everyone looks the same. One person's skin tone might be darker, one person's eyes might be smaller shaped, and one person might talk differently than them. People do not think anything of this when they are children, however, as they get older opinions begin to change. When growing up, Generation Z did not have people of color represented around them, specifically in the media. When they grew up this caused those children to feel insecure about their identity and about who they are. It is important for children to grow up with themselves being represented in the media because it would help "validate one's identity and experience when the portrayal reflect the complexity of people's identity rather than perpetuate stereotypes" ("Diversity in Media and Why Visibility Matters"). How others are impacted by a journalist's actions should matter to the journalists because one of the reasons people become journalists is to provide benefit to all of those around them. Whether that would be by making sure there is proper representation and diversity, or by fact-checking an article three times, they all impact a person's future.

One of the reasons why there might be poor diversity and representation is because people are not sure how to approach this topic. There are multiple ways to handle this problem and make sure that there is never a similar problem in the future. According to "Diversity," an article on the ONAethics website, one way a newsroom might improve diversity is to "increase diversity in your news staff" ("Diversity"). Increasing the diversity on the staff does not mean to assign the journalists to stories related to them. Story ideas could become more diversified and different views could be brought up that have never been thought of before by the new staff.

(“Diversity”). In the long run, having a diverse news staff would prove to have multiple benefits. Those who hire in the newsroom should not hire someone just because they would make the news staff more diverse, however, someone appearing to be different should not be a reason to turn away someone.

Diversity and representation in media is important to everyone all over the world. Media is one of the biggest ways how almost everyone is connected. Due to the connection, journalists must strive to make sure there is proper representation in the media to help bring forth the idea that not everyone is the same, and that is okay. If this change is made, people might not stop judging based on beauty on the outside, but rather, beauty on the inside.

Bibliography

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