

Video Assignment#2

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

6,7-1 Video Assignment#2

Initial Reactions to the Video

Watching Melanie Funchess discuss implicit bias in her TEDx talk was enlightening and unsettling. Her delivery was poignant, filled with personal anecdotes that illustrated implicit biases' pervasive and often devastating impact. The stark reality that these biases are not confined to overtly discriminatory individuals but are present in everyone, including myself, is a sobering thought. The narrative was compelling, mainly because it forced a reflection on the internalized stereotypes we might unknowingly harbor and act upon. The emotional gravity of Melanie Funchess's presentation was impactful, particularly as she intertwined personal stories with broader societal implications.

New Information Learned Regarding Implicit Bias

The talk expanded my understanding of implicit bias, particularly its automatic nature and how it infiltrates our subconscious actions and decisions. Melanie Funchess emphasized that implicit biases are not a reflection of our declared beliefs but are instead those unexamined reactions and thoughts that occur without our conscious awareness. The distinction between explicit bias, which is conscious, and implicit bias, which operates subtly and often invisibly, was particularly enlightening. This understanding underscores the need for continuous self-awareness and the challenge of addressing something deeply ingrained and often invisible. Additionally, the talk highlighted how implicit bias is shaped by personal experiences and broader societal narratives and media portrayals, which often go unchallenged within our subconscious. Understanding this origin is crucial as it provides a pathway for deconstructing

these biases through targeted education and exposure to diverse perspectives, fostering a more inclusive viewpoint in our everyday interactions and professional judgments.

Implicit Bias in Healthcare

The example provided by Funchess about the healthcare system was particularly striking. She recounted a personal story where doctors persisted in testing her husband for diseases stereotypically associated with African American men, such as HIV, despite multiple negative tests, overlooking the correct diagnosis of stage four B non-Hodgkin's lymphoma until it was nearly too late. This incident starkly illustrates how implicit biases can blind healthcare providers to objective evidence, leading to misdiagnosis or delayed treatment based solely on the patient's race. It is a powerful reminder of how stereotypes can lead to life-threatening delays in treatment and misdirected care protocols. Furthermore, implicit bias in healthcare can extend beyond diagnostic decisions to affect patient-provider interactions, where providers may unconsciously communicate less effectively or empathetically with patients from particular racial or ethnic groups. This can undermine trust and patient satisfaction, crucial components of effective healthcare delivery, potentially leading to poorer health outcomes and decreased adherence to medical advice among those impacted by such biases.

Impact of Implicit Bias on Patient Care

Acknowledging that we all possess implicit biases is crucial for healthcare professionals. For medical professionals, these unrecognized biases can influence how we perceive patient symptoms, the seriousness with which we take their complaints, and even the treatments we prescribe. This could lead to disparities in the quality of care delivered to patients from different backgrounds or ethnicities. For instance, research has shown that pain management differs among racial groups, with some studies suggesting that African American patients are less likely

to receive the same pain management as their white counterparts due to biased perceptions of their pain levels.

Understanding and mitigating our implicit biases is not just about improving individual patient interactions but is essential for advancing health equity. It requires an ongoing commitment to introspection, continued education on cultural competence, and implementing systematic checks in clinical protocols that help reduce the space for biased judgments to influence care. It could include more standardized approaches to diagnosing and treating common ailments, ensuring that all patients receive the same level of care regardless of the practitioner's subconscious biases.