



## From Disadvantaged Girls to Successful Women: Education and Women's Resiliency

Pamela C. LePage

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This book's most important goal is to explore styles of teaching and learning that can promote resiliency among women from disadvantaged backgrounds. These findings can be useful in affecting policy decisions as professionals begin the process of restructuring our educational system to meet the needs of a diverse student population. Higher education is now attempting to attract and encourage varied students and this book will provide educators with information not only about how to educate women from difficult backgrounds, but how women in this population have felt about their past, their success, and their schooling. The author provides insights into what disadvantaged women need and want from schools.

The author conducted in-depth interviews with 21 academically high achieving women who were also disadvantaged as children, having faced multiple risk factors. Qualitative measures were used to explore how our education system has either assisted these women in their achievement or set up barriers to their success. The interpretations, however, go beyond simply listing what was good and bad in these women's education experiences. The results suggest patterns in their psychology and in the traditional social structures that discourage learning among certain populations. The author discusses the sociological and psychological barriers to education (especially higher education) for women who have experienced disadvantages.



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