**High Economic Inequality between Races**

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**Introduction**

The economic disparity between races, the old and intractable problem that buried its origin in the past, has emerged as a persistent issue in societies everywhere. So, although it has been improved in some fields, many inequalities still exist in income and assets, job opportunities, education, and ultimate resources. A critical component of the racial disparity in economics is the sordid past of slavery, colonialism, and institutionalized racism. Historically, Native Americans and Blacks, who were considered racial minors, have for a long time had to fight enormous tribulations such as systemic racism, exploitation, and disenfranchisement. The United States's slavery is an example. It took away freedom from about four million African Americans but also prevented many of them from getting accustomed to the traditional way of earning wealth. Similarly, the colonial powers also took over the native population for employment and resources; they caused deep scars on the wealth or the economic aspects of the native people.

Among other socioeconomic factors, the education level of people of different races, the number of opportunities in the labor market, and the property we inherit influence economic inequality. Minority groups are significantly under-performing in terms of their education level because public schools are underfunded, the quality of teaching is poor, and the economy is stagnant. Restriction to superior education signifies fewer work prospects, and the amount earned will be low, symbolizing cycles of poverty. Apart from social and economic disparities, structural hindrances strengthen income division amongst different races by preventing them from gaining advantages and resources.

The case of residential segregation, for instance, is something that occurs in poor neighborhoods that have a minority population, and this leads to inequalities in education, health care, and the kind of public services compared to the wealthy areas. Due to insufficient funding, overflowing school sessions exacerbate education inequalities, leading to poor career prospects and low-income possibilities. The race-based struggle is seen in sectors like housing, education, healthcare, and criminal justice as populations who are black and nonwhite are systematically disadvantaged in economic advancement. Racial discrimination not only reduces job opportunities and wages for minorities but also puts them in the place a dilemma where they are not able to create a productive life for themselves. The problem of racial profiling, unequal criminal justice system treatment, as well as mass incarceration in which residents of a particular race bear a heavier brunt adversely affects the society at large. It thus adds to the already existing economic grievances.

**Historical Context of Economic Inequality**

In the wake of slavery and discrimination, many challenges bring about the feeling of exclusion. For both the USA, slavery, and discrimination have passed through the generations and composed the manifestation of such phenomenon that has essentially laid the foundation for enduring racial disparities. As the effects, the negative result of the slave history that came after the segregation, discrimination, and systemic racism, reverberations through the different aspects of American society can still be witnessed. This legacy of inequality is so complicated that it becomes one of the core determinants of the various racial groups in the areas of wealth, education, ha, and crime justice system.

Racial inequality will mark the economic result of slavery continuously. Slavery played a crucial role in the United States' financial well-being. Enslaved laborers, working away on cotton, tobacco, and sugar fields, earned profits for white planters and laid the basis for the U.S.'s wealth. However, equality in the economic sphere is not what this emancipation achieved for previously enslaved people. In the aftermath of their emancipation, the ex-slaves ran aground on the shoals of the highly discriminatory labor market. They couldn't get a proper education or buy property. Also, they were prohibited from benefiting from the Homestead Act, which helped Whites. Thus, they were denied the enormous wealth the whites had enjoyed for generations, but these economic disparities continued. While the wealth of white and black households has reduced the gap, the disparity still maintains, with black families owning only a tiny fraction of the wealth of white families, which leaves the chances of someone overcoming poverty slim and the generational transmission of poverty as a norm keeping.

The slave experience has left interpretable footprints in the landscape of education, perpetuating associated educational gaps that discriminate between students based on their academic achievement and exposure to opportunities. The segregated era came with the creation of separate but equal communities, which necessitated having African American students confined to underfunded, individual, and deprived schools with ill-equipped facilities. The one and only Brown v. Board of Education ruling of 1954 struck down the doctrine of "separate but equal," but the idea of educational equality is still a long way off despite this for a lot of Black students (Marie, nd). The latter technology progresses twice as a product of the unfair practices in the education system of decades past, such as unequal funding, racial segregation, and the birth of implicit bias in the students, thus achieving an existing educational gap. Another contributing factor to the racial gap in the school-to-prison pipeline is an increase in disciplinary practices; for example, harsher punishment for minor offenses by Black students causes disproportionately perpetuating cycles of incarceration and limiting the opportunities for academic and professional success.

Health disparities between racial groups are the glaring consequence of a system that had slavery as its backbone, and the legacy of discrimination is reflected in how healthcare is provided to date. Chronic diseases, in particular diabetes, hypertension, and obesity, pose a greater danger to African Americans than to any other racial group. These differences are caused by a combination of a very intricate social background of factors (limited access to high-quality health care, environmental racism, the accumulation of stress and trauma, as well as awareness of systemic racism) that contribute to them. Communal mistrust of the historical injustice, including the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis study, was born among African Americans; due to this, unequal uses of health care and undesirable results are the consequences. Also, the fact that racial bias among medical providers can cause differences in disaggregation of treatment and diagnosis leads to health inequities.

The reminiscence of slavery, oppression, and discrimination is similar to systematic instead, as differences amongst races in the criminal justice system can be observed and easily recognized. Known as the "War on Drugs," African Americans are primarily targeted and convicted for the same crimes involving drugs that white people are, even though they are not more involved in these crimes. In the early 1970s, the so-called War on Drugs began, overwhelmingly targeting the neighborhoods with a considerable number of people of color. The result turned into a notorious crime scene, and generations of African American men were deprived of equal social status and their voting rights. Secondly, a person who is a Black person is more likely to be stopped and searched by the police, to be sentenced disproportionately, and to be subjected to over-policing in their neighborhood, all of which leads to the fact that the African Americans dominate this section in the criminal justice system. Aside from the social stigma, incarcerated individuals often struggle with limited job opportunities and loss of voting rights, which hamper their economic progress, giving rise to a setback for the ghetto communities, which mostly are people of color.

**Indigenous Dispossession and Economic Marginalization:**

Indigenous dispossession and immiserization of economically eclipsing repeated racial inequalities are complex two-way conjunctions. As for the historical view, the ones with the power stood by colonizing the natives and taking their land, resources, and sovereignty. This unmerited ejection mainly upset the tribal economy and downgraded their lives, placing them at the bottom of society. Alternatively, poverty that haunts native people dramatically increases the lack of education, health care facility usage, and employment access for the Indigenous population. Policy usages and practices maintain a discriminatory spirit that plants barriers and hampers access to economic resources. Deepening these problems is systemic injustice manifested in every Indigenous people's group cycle of poverty and discrimination. The long-lived consequences of the Indigenous possession and the marginalization remain critical issues as modern-day Indigenous people continue to exercise their rights, preserve their cultures, and enjoy being treated with equitable opportunities. This deep structural inequality is institutionalized with race as well, therefore adding to the gaps that are felt by the Aboriginal people more than the non-aboriginal ones.

**Education Disparities**

Wealth and income disparities embedded and generated in the structural economy factors typically cast racial discrimination to the fore. Even though education is usually considered the way to move socio-economically up the ladder if the person is financially sound, the educational opportunity is highly unequal among racial groups. This system of inherent discrimination is one of the factors of the growing separation in wealth and income of the different racial groups. It displays pictures of the old times when there was a lot of discrimination, and people of color were underprivileged. One can point to the absence of such disparities as the reasons for the issue. In the case of schools that are underfunded, the minority, specifically Black and Hispanic students, communities are affected, and it is manifested in schools that have basic facilities, inadequate buildings, and limited access to advanced courses (Choi et al., 2023). The gap starts from the early life stages when children from unprivileged backgrounds might often attend schools with lower budgets, less experienced teachers, and more significant numbers of dropouts. This eventually gave them a high chance of not coping with the required skills and knowledge and finally obtaining jobs in the new economy.

In addition to school disproportions, these inequities also penetrate beyond the classroom. The lasting effects of structural barriers, like the problem of unequal housing distribution and unequal school finance mechanisms, help set a continued cycle of poverty and inequality into motion. Residential segregation, which has racially led to the concentration of poverty in minority neighborhoods, is mainly responsible for the lack of quality schools and extracurricular opportunities, leading to academic disruption among minority students. Similarly, students from low-income and underrepresented communities have limited exposure to social capital and networking opportunities; hence, their chances of accessing higher education are frowned upon, and securing high-paying jobs is unlikely to be enhanced.

The fact that academic attainment gaps bring about economic outcomes gaps is one of the most reliable ways to connect learning with socioeconomic status. Numerous studies have shed light on the fact that individuals with higher levels of education can expect to earn more during their lifetime as compared to those with low levels of education with lower rates of unemployment. Nevertheless, the higher percentages of Becoming post-secondary graduates are related to some instances of low intensity and systemic problems, which perplex people with African American ethnicity, like limited access to college preparatory assets, financial inability to pay for higher education, and discriminatory admissions methods.

The type of education that minority learners attain is usually poor, thereby preventing minority cultures from preparing for the demands of the work market. Disparities in education, made worse by the inequality gaps that are being upheld, cause racial bias in employment options and earnings. Discontinuing institutional racism and inclusion in policy-making structures is the needed basis for handling the conditions that uphold racism. It means launching initiatives dealing with scarce housing, providing fair and equitable lending, and increasing diversity in the workplace and community. Educational inequality and systemic racism, however, are two of the main reasons for unequal access to economic opportunities. With the efforts of attacking the fundamental causes of inequality, the world will create a more open and equitable financial system that is more inclusive for all people regardless of race or economic standing.

**Employment Discrimination**

Although the structure of the essentials of the economy, which yields labor discrimination, is the leading cause of the economic inequality sustained between the races. Discrimination in historical past and present times with unfair biases and the systemic challenges in accessing decent jobs, equal payment, and guaranteed rise in a career combined to establish a terrain with racial groups facing considerable obstacles in doing that. In finding out how racial discrimination in employment gives rise to disparities, it is necessary to investigate its mechanisms, its effects, and its place in a vast, complex web of socioeconomic relationships.

Modern discrimination in employment is manifested through diverse channels exam. Examples would be the ion of the candidate for available openings, promotions, salary differences, and the overall environment altogether; racial biases buried into every society's norms and traditions act like a seamless chain of discrimination in the hiring, promotion, and termination process. For example, many studies out there reveal differences in hiring calls received by applicants with names considered American-sounding compared to those of African-American origin. This is generally attributed to the presence of unconscious beliefs in the workplace. Moreover, you may have people of color who constantly encounter a glass ceiling that won't let them be promoted; this, in turn, leads to financial inequality.

Discrimination in educational achievement and disparity in the advantage of resources further deepen the drinking-glass-half-empty phenomenon of racism and economic inequality. For instance, black and Hispanic Americans usually experience inferior education facilities, struggle in education acquisition, and are segregated in residential affairs. This structural inequality, being the nightshade of the cycle of poverty and limited job opportunities, further exacerbates the problem and disenfranchises these communities even more from the labor market on a level playing field (Yearby et al., 2023). It is overlaid by race inequality with other social identities, such as gender and class, which multiply the effects. Again, one may cite that women of color typically are subject to double biases or a more acute level of disparity in wages, promotions, and advancement in careers. In addition, diverse forms of discrimination that they encounter as individuals from low-income families also make them become excluded from the labor market.

The severity of employment-based status on race and economic inequality is considerable and multifaceted. It personalizes the economic disparity at the mainstream as less income, a higher rate of unemployment, and a lower possibility of getting better jobs experienced by racial minorities. This is because specific measures channel the funds to some ethnic groups to the extent that the persistent inequality gaps will continue and will be a pointer for continued inequality. This factor is a pointer for income gaps to persist, consequently concentrating the wealth in the hands of a particular ethnic group. In the long run, everything starts moving with employment discrimination, and we will face structural inequalities like political split and the gap in health, poverty, education, and social mobility. The chart shows that the minorities in a country will bump up against structural problems such as inadequate healthcare and a labor market that excludes them. Implicitly, they will dwell in chronically ill conditions and die young.

There is the need to bring all the players from various fronts to fight for the abolition of racism in the workplace requirements, and also the need for it to influence the end of racial discrimination and economic inequality. Implementing systems of policies that are intended to solidify discrimination-free workplaces could be a step towards a just employment market, such as the observation of the principles of affirmative action and equal pay laws. Through the development of such culture, inclusivity should be established, and training programs and workshops should be conducted without discrimination. This is a viable approach to the elimination of bias toward hiring and promoting employees.

One primary source of racial economic inequality is discrimination at work, as it holds back not only wages, assets, and propensity to dispose of money but also opportunities for improvement across different racial groups. With the revelation of the inner workings and consequences of employment discrimination within the complex economic setup, policymakers and other change institutions will make informed decisions that will lead to actions that promote fair and equal treatment for all in society. Eradication of employment discrimination requires committed actors who strive to destroy, step by step, systemic hindrances and build up more inclusive places of work where people from all races get equal work opportunities.

**Wealth and asset disparities**

To the detriment of racial equality, structural characteristics like the widening gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate are often pegged to inherent injustices and systematic bias. The fact that free access to wealth-building opportunities such as homeownership and inheritance has been denied to the black and minority communities due to the implementation of discriminatory policies like redlining is a deep case. The above clause denied blacks and minorities the opportunity to build up their wealth over generations. However, the ownership level is generally higher among white households, and the assets are more valuable than those of minority households. Thus, they have a much greater financial security and, hence, wealth-growth opportunities. Disparities between groups in education and employment provide unequal access to jobs and promotions, which leads to the existing race-wealth gap since those with less wealth also make less.

**Role of TANF in Addressing Economic Inequality**

The terrain of social welfare policies covers a wide range of programs, including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), which is right at the core of reducing income inequalities in the U.S. In a welfare reform that came nine years later, TANF was established in 1996 (Jen et al., nd). Its primary aim was to assist very low-income families with a few months of temporary financial aid with the understanding that this program's long-term goal is achieving self-sufficiency through work and job training opportunities. This paper delves into the multifaceted job that the TANF performs in reducing economic inequality.

**TANF's Impact on Poverty Reduction**:

One of the prime objectives of the TANF program is ending poverty. The TANF (temporary assistance to needy families) aims to meet the basic needs of its eligible families through the provision e of cash assistance. This includes food, shelter, and clothes. Although largely debatable, welfare's ability at a macro level to combat poverty is contested. Such a similar situation is the critics' argument about the TANF program, which depends on the block grant structure, spending fixed funding on the states without regarding the actual need. It is an important reason why the program's value has fallen over time, reducing the number of families served and the benefits provided. Otherwise, stringent eligibility metrics and work conditions have seriously challenged some poor people's ability to access and keep TANF funding.

However, the TANF is nonetheless an essential buffer from poverty in the deep among the vulnerable categories, families with children and single-parent units. Studies show the TANF program has moved many families, especially children, from the poverty threshold to a life of prosperity that may be enjoyed yearly. This function of the TANF program thus ensures everyone is offered economic security. Furthermore, TANF training providers concentrate on work-related activities, prompting recipients to seek jobs that can result in a stable financial position and upward mobility.

**Promoting Workforce Participation:**

TANF welfare program stands out in its efforts to encourage work requirements and job searching strategies that enhance self-sufficiency. Work programs generally involve participants in work-seeking activities, such as job hunting, education, or vocational training, to get or keep benefits. Advocates argue that this approach does not only help people to find work but also to contemplate as if they have strength and freedom. By stimulating labor force members, TANF helps tackle poverty and economic inequalities by providing people with the abilities and the necessary resources to compete in the labor market. Even with this, the problem still exists and is not limited to the people with poor educational backgrounds, who may need help securing jobs; the lack of education, childcare, and transportation breaks through that problem. Furthermore, the adequacy of employment opportunities and wages that can lift families out of poverty is another primary challenge in this context, thus requiring that some policies be strengthened to allow TANF recipients to take the journey to self-reliance.

**Complementing the Social Safety Net:**

The TANF, while being a part of the broader social safety net, supports the efforts against poverty. This plan comprises multiple approaches to ensure that low-income groups receive the necessary support to overcome the poverty barriers. Despite that, the completeness and ease of implementing these plans vary among the states, which results in discrepancies in accomplished outcomes and the potential perpetuation of economic inequality. A block grant in TANF gives high flexibility to the states on program design and implementation (Jackson & Fanelli, 2023). Hence, the eligibility criteria, benefit levels, and services offered primarily differ from state to state. On the one hand, the flexibility maintains state programs' ability to respond to regional requirements; conversely, it creates equality and uniformity worries about the standard of services provision. The agenda should significantly improve the partnership and cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies. These measures must be taken to provide the right conditions for the people to improve their livelihood.

**Conclusion**

As a result, TANF, the government plan serving as a safety net for families in need, is of the utmost significance when fighting economic inequality by offering temporary financial aid, helping individuals gain the necessary skills to find jobs, and complementing the general social safety net. Even though TANF has conducted transformative efforts to reduce poverty and promote self-sufficiency, there are still issues to face, such as considering fairness when distributing benefits and taking long-term action to address the economic inequality at its source. In assessing how TANF performs using various metrics for measurements, policymakers may discover helpful tips that could lead to a more efficient program and improve fairness in society.

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