**Social Issues Affecting the American Race and Proposed Policy Solutions**

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**Introduction.**

The United States of America is a diverse nation founded on liberty, equality, and justice. However, it is not immune to the societal issues confronting the American race, which affect people of all races and ethnicities. These challenges stem from past injustices, institutional unfairness, and prejudice, all of which remain today. Understanding and tackling these social concerns is critical to the development of a more inclusive and fair society. Racial inequalities are a significant socioeconomic issue affecting the American race. Despite advancements, racial gaps in school, employment, criminal justice, healthcare, and housing continue. As a result of these injustices, racial and ethnic minorities have unequal access to opportunities and resources, continuing a cycle of adversity.

Furthermore, the American race is confronted with criminal justice reform issues. From racial profiling in policing to harsher sentencing processes, the criminal justice system reveals faults that disproportionately affect ethnic minorities. Minorities are overrepresented in the criminal justice system as a result of these inequalities, which perpetuates socioeconomic inequities. Educational disparity is another significant social concern for the American race. Students from underprivileged communities generally confront unequal access to high-quality education, resulting in achievement gaps and restricted opportunities for advancement. These inequalities stifle social mobility and perpetuate intergenerational poverty.

Furthermore, gaps in healthcare continue to exist among racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Access to excellent healthcare, increased prevalence of chronic diseases, and decreased life expectancy are all common issues. These discrepancies are driven by various factors, including socioeconomic position, implicit bias, and institutional impediments, and impact racial minorities' overall well-being. To solve these societal concerns, comprehensive legislative measures that address the core causes of inequality, discrimination, and institutional racism are required. The recommended policy solutions promote a more just and equitable society by fostering equal opportunities, access to resources, and anti-discrimination safeguards.

**I. Racial Inequality.**

Racial disparity is still a major societal concern in the United States. Minorities confront inequities in education, employment, criminal justice, healthcare, and housing, among other areas. These gaps sustain systemic prejudice and impede racial minorities' social and economic mobility (Benjamin, 2020).

**Policy Solutions.**

Affirmative action policies should be implemented: Affirmative action measures can help impoverished communities overcome historical disadvantages. These policies promote diversity and inclusion in education and the workplace by including race in decision-making processes such as college admissions and employment procedures. Strengthen anti-discrimination legislation: Strengthening and strictly enforcing current anti-discrimination legislation can assist in reducing racial bias in a variety of industries. Stricter sanctions for discriminatory acts and proactive compliance monitoring can promote equitable opportunities for all (Omi, 2022).

**II. Criminal Justice Reform.**

From policing to punishment, the criminal justice system disproportionately affects ethnic minorities. This systematic prejudice maintains the cycle of poverty and leads to racial minorities being overrepresented in the criminal justice system (Benjamin, 2020).

**Policy Solutions.**

End racial profiling and encourage community policing: Adopt comprehensive regulations that ban law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling. Encouragement of community policing tactics can lead to increased trust between law enforcement and marginalized populations, resulting in more effective crime prevention and less prejudice. Change mandatory minimum sentences: Examine and change minimum compulsory sentencing rules that have contributed to the imprisonment of ethnic minorities in large numbers. To minimize recidivism, encourage alternative sentencing schemes and invest in rehabilitation and reintegration activities (Benjamin, 2020).

**III. Educational Disparities.**

Persistent educational inequities limit ethnic minorities' capacity to prosper academically and economically. Inequality in access to high-quality education fosters societal inequalities and limits prospects for underprivileged people (Litam, 2020).

**Policy Solutions.**

Increase financing for underprivileged public schools: Provide more resources to low-income schools to enable access to high-quality education, such as technology, well-trained instructors, and extracurricular activities. Equitable resource allocation can aid in closing the achievement gap. Increase the number of early childhood education programs: Invest in initiatives for underserved populations (Benjamin, 2020). These programs have increased poor children's cognitive development, social skills, and educational results.

**IV. Healthcare Disparities.**

Healthcare inequalities in the United States disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities. Compared to white Americans, these inequities include restricted access to excellent healthcare, greater incidence of chronic illnesses, and lower life expectancy (Litam, 2020).

**Policy Solutions.**

Expand Medicaid and enhance access to healthcare: Raise Medicaid eligibility and coverage requirements to guarantee needy people have access to affordable healthcare services. Invest in community health centers and clinics in underprivileged communities to enhance access to healthcare. Consider the social determinants of health: Recognize and address the socioeconomic determinants of health that disproportionately affect minority populations, such as poverty, racism, and housing insecurity. Adopt policies that promote socioeconomic equality and offer resources to address health inequities (Litam, 2020).

**V. Voter Suppression.**

Voter suppression is a serious societal problem affecting the American population and undermining democratic values. Certain laws and practices target racial and ethnic minority populations disproportionately, making it more difficult for them to exercise their right to vote. The measures used include strict voter ID requirements, voter purges, decreasing early voting chances, and gerrymandering (Omi, 2022).

**Policy Solution.**

Implement policies that safeguard and extend voting rights for all people, especially racial and ethnic minorities. This can be accomplished through opposing and repealing discriminatory voter ID legislation, implementing automated voter registration, increasing early voting periods, and providing accessibility for voters with impairments. Furthermore, efforts should be taken to combat gerrymandering, which can weaken minority populations' voting strength. Increase financing for voter education initiatives that give information on voting rights, registration procedures, and polling places (Litam, 2020). Engage in community outreach programs to reach out to underprivileged populations and provide resources to assist them in voting. This might involve cooperating with community organizations, conducting town hall meetings, and disseminating information through digital media.

**VI. Economic Inequality.**

Economic inequality is a societal issue that affects the American race disproportionately. Racial and ethnic minorities are frequently subjected to greater poverty rates, poorer earnings, and limited economic opportunities. This maintains a cycle of generational poverty while impeding marginalized populations' capacity to acquire wealth and financial security (Omi, 2022).

**Policy Solutions.**

Raise the minimum wage: Raise the federal minimum wage to a level that allows all workers to live comfortably. This would enable working families, especially racial and ethnic minorities, to escape poverty and gain economic stability. Implement policies that promote equitable economic development, such as targeted investments in underserved communities, tax incentives for businesses to invest in marginalized areas, and support for minority-owned companies through capital and resources (Omi, 2022).

Increase financing for affordable housing initiatives: Increase funding for affordable housing programs to guarantee that people of all races can access safe and affordable housing alternatives. Put rules in place to address housing discrimination and promote fair housing practices. Enhance access to high-quality financial services: Increase access to low-cost financial services in underdeveloped areas, such as banking and credit (Flanagin et al., 2021). Encourage financial literacy programs and efforts that assist persons from underserved communities in building wealth, saving for the future, and gaining access to finance for education or business.

**Conclusion.**

Affirmative action, criminal justice reform, educational fairness, and healthcare access are just a few of the potential policy solutions explored in this article. However, it is critical to note that more than these solutions may be required independently. To deconstruct systematic racism and build a society that assures equal opportunity and social justice for everyone, a comprehensive and persistent effort, including collaboration between government, communities, and diverse stakeholders, is required.

By enacting these policies, the United States may move closer to becoming a more equitable and inclusive society where people of all races have an equal opportunity to succeed and contribute to the country's advancement. We can establish a brighter future for the American race and eventually develop a more peaceful and equitable society for all its members via proactive measures, legislative changes, and a dedication to social justice.

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