**FIELD:** Social Science

**CONTEXT:** What social issues are affecting the African American race? As well as what policies will help.

African Americans are an ethnic group consisting of Americans with partial or total origin from any of the black racial groups of Africa. The recent census conducted on July Two thousand and twenty-two revealed that at least Thirteen-point six percent of the American population comprises African Americans and it is predicted that this percentage is likely to rise soon due to the immigration of individuals from African countries.

An African American individual born in the States or having acquired citizenship through the due republic procedures is therefore considered a citizen of the United States of America. This will therefore mean that they are subjected to the general basic rights which include the right to freedom of speech and expression, the right to a fair trial, the right to free and unperturbed media, the right to vote freely in public and open elections, and the right to worship religion in a free setting.

The republic has ever since enacted laws that protect all races including the African American race, for instance, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 among other Acts prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Despite acts and laws enacted, there are social issues affecting a wide range of people from all races, classes, and cultures; minorities, specifically African Americans within the states.

Poor standards of living, Unemployment rates, discrimination, racial differences, and many other social problems strike African Americans. Afro Americas living and working in the city do face difficulties in finding employment opportunities and sustaining the opportunities, while others may have jobs, but face troubles with work racial discrimination that makes it impossible for them to rise in work-related ranks. This reflects directly lower earnings than fellow workers of different races. In the long run, it is indicative of not only lower economic power, but also lower access to quality healthcare, and fewer social amenities.

Policies should therefore be implemented to promote better employment opportunities for Black Africans. As a starting place, policies for improving educational outcomes for them will consequently improve their chances in the labor market. In addition, the policy should aim to match the unemployed African Americans with gaps in the available job opportunities in the market. Recently it was noted that there is rapid growth within sectors such as health and education and few Black Africans are working in these roles. The Policy should therefore respond by providing scholarships and other incentives to encourage more Blacks to become nurses, healthcare assistants, tutors, social workers, and other similar roles.

Another social problem is criminal injustice which involves a violation of rights or the rights of others. Several people around the world are being held in prison while they wait for a trial. Many have been detained for months, or even years, even though they have not been convicted of a crime. In America, African data reveals that the highest percentage of prisoners are Black Africans with their cases not being able to be ruled fairly and some held and convicted wrongly.

Addressing this issue of criminal injustice among other social issues and problems affecting this race, there must be significant reform to the criminal justice system. Black Americans are drastically overrepresented in the prison population and they are five times more likely to be confined during their lifetime than white men and they are more likely to serve longer sentences.

In the end, this has multiplicative effects on the life chances of Black people in America. They face barriers in finding employment and housing, many lose the right to vote, and many lack access to social services, including federal student aid. All of this taken together reduces the economic opportunities available to Black men and hinders their role in social and family life. To address these obstacles, criminal justice reform must be made a policy priority. The objective should be, to reduce the number of Black prisoners behind bars and then, to improve the hearing of back people’s cases in the courtrooms.

Thirdly African Americans in the United States are facing significant barriers to achieving higher education. Although there have been notable improvements in educational attainment over the years, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, an increase in education level for black people had been seen rising from 19.9% to 28.1% in adults aged 25 and older who had completed high school and this figure has been steadily increasing over time, reflecting progress in educational attainment.

However, it is important to recognize that there are still disparities in education levels among different racial and ethnic groups in America. African Americans, on average, continue to lag behind some other racial and ethnic groups in terms of higher education attainment. The factors contributing to these disparities are socioeconomic factors, access to quality education, systemic biases, discrimination, and poverty. Moreover, many of the service providers within the educational system do not cultivate the full potential of African American students. To improve the economic outcomes for Black men, there needs to be a policy response to these educational disparities.

Firstly, student loans should be made available to black people who are beginning their studies and those willing to take the opportunity to further their studies at friendly rates and periods of payment. Second, the infrastructure of the education system should be improved to support Black students so that they can achieve their full academic potential.

A majority of blacks have experienced discrimination and been treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity. Roughly one-in-ten say this happens to them regularly, while others say they have experienced this rarely or from time to time. Discrimination toward blacks is not just an issue that contradicts the core values of fairness and equality of opportunities in America. It also has very real health consequences and explains a substantial proportion of the black-white health gap.

In particular, black Americans have historically been disproportionally exposed to both institutional racism (ie, institutions, policies, and practices that perpetuate barriers to opportunities and racial disparities, such as through residential and educational segregation) and interpersonal racial discrimination (ie, directly perceived discriminatory interactions between individuals such as racial slurs or microaggressions), which are associated with major physical and mental health consequences, including mortality, hypertension, depression, anxiety, and psychological distress.

In healthcare settings specifically, research suggests both discrimination against racial/ethnic minorities and implicit provider biases are prevalent and negatively affect healthcare delivery, and patients who perceive discrimination tend to underutilize healthcare and forego needed medical care.

Policies to address this issue could include: Implementing anti-discrimination laws that explicitly protect individuals from racial discrimination in all aspects of life, including employment, housing, education, and public services, and Promoting diversity and inclusion initiatives in schools, workplaces, and other institutions to raise awareness, foster understanding, and combat stereotypes and establishing independent bodies to investigate and address complaints of racial discrimination, ensuring fair treatment and equal opportunities for all.

Discrimination often results in inequality and socioeconomic disparities. Black individuals living abroad face socioeconomic disparities that limit their access to quality education, healthcare, housing, and employment opportunities.

The following policies will assist in reducing the levels of discrimination. Implementing affirmative action or positive discrimination policies that aim to provide equal opportunities and address historical injustices will assist in reducing the levels of discrimination.

Increasing access to quality education and vocational training programs that promote upward social mobility and developing targeted social welfare programs that specifically address the needs of marginalized communities, including access to affordable housing, healthcare, and financial resources.

Cultural Integration and Identity are other social that Black individuals living abroad may experience. Challenges in terms of cultural integration, identity formation, and maintaining a sense of belonging. Policies to support cultural integration and address these issues could include; Encouraging cultural exchange programs and initiatives that promote understanding, appreciation, and celebration of diverse cultures especially in schools and social events.

Establishing community centers or organizations that provide resources, support, and networking opportunities for Black individuals and communities and incorporating diverse histories and perspectives into educational curricula to foster cultural awareness and inclusivity.

Police Brutality and Unfair Treatment: Black individuals may face disproportionate targeting, racial profiling, and instances of police brutality in some states. Policies to address these issues could include; Implementing comprehensive police reform measures, such as increased training on bias, de-escalation techniques, and accountability mechanisms.

Establishing independent oversight bodies to investigate complaints of police misconduct and ensure transparency and accountability and promoting community policing initiatives that build trust, improve relationships between law enforcement and communities, and address systemic biases within the criminal justice system.

It is essential to note that policies alone cannot solve these issues entirely, but they can be part of a broader approach to address systemic challenges and promote equality and social justice for African Americans. Additionally, it is crucial to hold open dialogues, listen to the experiences and perspectives of affected communities, and involve them in the policy-making process to ensure that the implemented measures are effective and inclusive.

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