## Social issues affecting African American race

African Americans have in the past years, or rather, century faced a number of challenges. This has evidently happened and somehow it has found its way to become a norm. It wouldn’t be any surprise to wake up and find the news headline “Black lives matter”. This has been caused by constant open oppression of the African Americans that has led human activists to rise up in an attempt to calm the big uprising storm that arguably can be a fatal one once it is left to take over. It would be very embarrassing for me to talk and say that Africans are humans who like any other race on earth are human beings who deserve equal and just, not to mention humane treatment, but the current situation is one that I have had enough of. We should well be past that. Africans are a race like any other on planet earth. They just have a different skin complexion from other races. The melanin in their skin is the only thing that makes them different and like I said it is a very embarrassing thing to think that just a natural thing like that would make someone in their right state of mind think that blacks are any different from other races. It is simply melanin!

As a result of people’s bias, should I say inconsiderate behaviour Africans living in the US have faced a number of social problems. These are discussed below;

Racism and discrimination; African Americans have in the recent years been racially discriminated in various sectors:

Education system- it is quite not often that you would find an African American with high academic qualifications, such as PhD. This is due to the challenges they face throughout their school life such as bullying by fellow students or an encounter with a racist tutor- as we are well aware of the vital role tutors play in academically developing a child, and in this case an African American student. It is caused by the cultural norm part of it that an African student doesn’t have all it takes to be an academic giant.

Employment - most of the employers who wish to hire workers would tend to think that an African American applicant is less qualified for the vacant position as compared to an American applicant. The white applicant in almost all the time ends up getting the job while the African American, despite having all the qualifications with them is left at the mercy of the world.

Criminal justice system- African Americans have been severely affected in the criminal justice system. According to past evidence, it is virtually impossible for an African American to walk into a courtroom, for example, and face a bias-free judgement. This has constantly continued to happen due to the fact that it is very rare to find a judge of just enough integrity to give a just and fair ruling. It is quite awakening to realize that this are the same places that we highly trust and run to in cases of oppression and injustices that are seen to do the actual injustices that they are supposed fight against. African Americans are always seen and perceived to be the obvious law breakers even before listening to the case in hand. It is simply a tale of “He (she) is black?… he (she) might be guilty!” African Americans often face more arrest rates, higher incarceration rates and longer sentences in comparison to other races and ethnic groups.

Police brutalities- the police have annoyingly not been left behind in the unjust treatment of African Americans. Just recently an African American George Floyd was denied their right to life by a police officer, who claimed to be arresting him, had him against the ground with his knee on the victim’s neck long enough for him to die from lack of air as he could not breathe. This took racial discrimination to another level. This unfortunately was one of a case in hundreds of others that go undocumented.

Economic inequalities- African Americans constantly face high rates of economic disparities. Statistics will show that they have more poverty rates lower wealth accumulation as well as below average median household income as compared to the white Americans who have the ‘bragging rights’. these economic inequalities are a by product of racial discrimination that in turn leads to unfair limited access to good education that is also involved in the chain of job opportunities and other discriminatory practices.

Health disparities- Due to their poor diets and eating habits, basically due to poverty, African Americans tend to have higher rates of some health conditions with the likes of diabetes, obesity and hypertension. These are health conditions that necessitate a good and proper access to quality health care services. It is quite ironical that the African Americans are discriminated even in the health centers even with the life threatening health conditions.

Other challenges- African Americans face an endless list of problems in their day to day lives. Stereotyping as well as cultural misrepresentation adds to the list. They, most of the times face negative and absurd stereotypes and cultural misrepresentation in the media. This leads to biases and even strengthens the reality of racial inequalities in the community.

Environmental injustices are also one of those challenges to add to the list. The African American communities are passionately affected by such environmental injustices as very close proximity to toxic waste disposal sites industrial pollution as well as lack of clean air and water access. These hazardous exposures to clean habitable environment contributes to very serious health issues.

Several policies can help calm down these problems that the African Americans are facing. It is never too late and step by step this monster can come to a halt.

Implementing policy rules that address the systemic racism and at the same time promoting equal chances for the African Americans is a significant action towards ending the social issues that the African Americans are facing.

The following is a list of some of the policies that can produce a positive impact:

Media representation and diversity- promoting the policies that would encourage good representation of the African American race in the media. This include in film production, television as well as in news outlets. Media representation can be a very effective way to stop racial discrimination as the present population largely rely on the media for entertainment and as a source of information; thus many people are made aware of the ranging racial discrimination. They are also made to see and most importantly understand African Americans as normal people, just like themselves, who need to be treated equally.

Reforms in the education system- policies that would help address achievement gap in education need to be implemented. These will help to provide an equal access to good, quality education for the African American student. Some of the policies include; providing better funding to the schools in the disadvantaged areas, using more cultural responsive methods of teaching in schools and expansion of early childhood education programs.

Criminal justice system reforms- Adressing systemic issues present in the criminal justice system. This can be actualized by implementing the policies that aim at reducing the racial disparities during arrests, incarceration and sentencing in courts. Some of the policies can include; ending of racial profiling, providing alternatives to incarceration and putting much effort in community policing initiatives.

Economic empowerment- Policies that would promote equal economic opportunities for African Americans need to be implemented. These are; equal access quality jobs, government support in entrepreneurship, targeted initiatives towards economic empowerment and tax incentives.

 Health care access- policies that help improve African Americans’ access to quality healthcare would help. These can aid in addressing the healthcare disparities faced by the African Americans.

Examples; providing more funds for the community health centers, promoting diversity in the healthcare workforce and expansion of the medicaid eligibility.

Implicit bias training- organizations and institutions such as law enforcement agencies and the educational institutions should have a mandatory requirement to undergo an implicit bias training in order to raise awareness as well as reduce impact of rather unconscious bias towards the African Americans.

African Americans have constantly faced discrimination. It is time that we wake up to the matter and work towards its demise.