SOCIOLOGY

A race on simple comprehension is an indelible and heritable marks on human bodies-skin colour,hair texture,bone structure where one can be classified as either white,black or red skinned among others.Racial inequality on the other hand is a significant differentiation and segregation of races on social and economic terms.It refers to the disparities across races ranging from unequal Resource endowments ,unequal employment opportunities,persistent poverty among certain racial groups,fewer access to quality education opportunities,poor housing structures,inadequate supply of resources such as water and electricity,social insecurity,class segregation among others.We ask ourselves,what brings about or what are the major causes of racial inequality?

Historical colonial legacy;colonial subjugation brought about much of the racial disparities experienced today in the modern society,Through cultural indoctrination,Certain racial groups have dominated other races socially,politically and economically.It can be argued today that one sense of individuality solely rest on the culture and social environment one is brought up.Colonialism brought about forceful introduction of foreign culture rendering the existing culture inferior and archaic.This resulted to cultural anomie and social disentegration leading to a loss of sense of being to individual members of the colonized races psychologically impeding their mindset and their overall growth patterns.Much of the behavioral dysfunctions experienced today in the African-Americans is due to loss of culture,a way of life that dictates the values and norms for growth of a healthy society .Colonial legacy did not itself had a detrimental effect on the mindset of the colonized races but also on the attitude of the colonizers perpetuating racism experienced today in the modern society.Racism has fueled discrimination and segregation leading to unfair opportunities presented to certain racial groups in comparison with majority of the population.Furthermore ,certain racial groups particularly the African-American did not just find themselves in America.It was through slavery that their ancestors had their way to the American soil.Finding life in a new soil together with slave status is not just a walk in the park,Despite civil revolutions that brought about the end of slavery,The African-Americans still underwent the struggles of starting from scratch.The abolition of slavery did not bring about a significant change of course to the status quo of the African-American as no land were allocated to them,they were still marginalized in employment opportunities,they had fewer access to education opportunities and this persisted all through the generations despite minimal intervention by policy adjustments upto the racial inequities on racial minorities on the modern day society.It can be argued that the rate of poverty witnessed today on the streets of Chicago can be attributed to slavery of the African- Americans years ago.

Institutional setting;The criminal justice system,financial institutions,healthcare and education systems have been promoting stereotypes and discrimination against racial minors perpetuating racial inequalities in modern societies.This has resulted to unequal treatment and opportunities inJustice and fairness,funding and economic opportunities,access to quality education and healthcare and residential segregation to the racial minorities.Racism is a social construct,its a social construct of declassifying “we” aganaist “them”.It is like a social boundary line that even limits interaction between society,sharing of resources,promoting discrimination and unfair treatment of certain racial groups limiting their societal health due to obscured opportunities.To the victim racial groups ,racism has undermined their sense of being and individuality in their societies,being labeled as a threat,thugs has had far more reaching consequences to the behavioral patterns of the segregated races in the mainstream society.This includes rising cases of homicides,school dropouts and flouting prisons filled with certain racial groups particularly the African-Americans.Any behavioral psychologists would argue that an individual behavior is majorly due to the societal construct and model of such a person,if being black means social threat ,the individual can as well indulge in robbery cases since afterall he/she is treated as one by the main stream society.This case scenarios cumulatively leads to generalizations resulting to a treatment pattern by the criminal justice system,financial institutions,education and healthcare systems to certain racial groups as social threats.This limits opportunities presented to such racial groups,use of excess police force aganaist such racial groups,discrimination in the work places and educational sectors impeding their overall growth as a society.Stereotypes and biases have been perpetuated in the financial sectors.The banking and non banking systems are mainly the support structures offering financial services to the society.with predominant stereotypes and discriminatory practices,certain racial groups face limited opportunities such as limited access to loans for financial investment,discrimination such as residential segregation curtail enterprise set up by people of colour.Credit provision and mortgages are often discriminatory against racial minorities leading to unequal opportunities fueling poverty and unemployment among the racial minorities.

Discriminatory legislative policies and laws;implementation of certain policies and laws by governments have disadvantaged certain racial groups.Elected officials promulgate punitive,racially desperate criminal justice policies due to partisanship and racial fears.they pursue this policies due to ideological beliefs in civil rights ideals and political interest in appearing to solve specific social problems by merely massaging the interest of the mainstream voters against their minor counterparts.Legislative policies crafted to address social insecurity believed to arise from the minor racial groups have perpetuated unfair treatment in the criminal justice system of minority racial groups.This has perpetuated use of excessive force by law enforcement in handling members of certain racial groups in the social environment.This has destabilized overall performance both opphysically and mentally of minor groups in their social environment .This criminal labeling of the affected racial groups has further fueled unemployment among the minorities due to discrimination.

Economic disparities;Racial minorities often experience higher rates of poverty,unemployment,lower wages compared to the majority of the population .This can be attributed to factors such as limited access to quality education,unequal job opportunities,unequal resource distribution and fundumentally limited access to economic opportunities.Racial minorities are often confronted with lack of adequate representation in position of power and influence,and therefore they are usually left out in economic decision making power.This often leads to racial segregation which has far more reaching consequences including limited economic opportunities to this racial groups,lower income wages,unemployment,being miserable and helpless,increased crime rates,homicides,poor housing structures,economic stagnation,poor access to quality education resulting to a vicious cycle of poverty among the racial minorities.

Cultural factors;cultural attitudes and norms can contribute to racial inequality by perpetuating stereotypes,prejudices and discriminatory practices within the society.Racial minorities particularly the African-Americans are often perceived as intruders and are therefore never given equal opportunities as majority of the population.Cultural biases and stereotypes where the minorities are seen as inferior and out of order has perpetuated racial segregation and discrimination.This results to unfair treatment of the racial minors,discrimination in the work place,in healthcare and education sectors.This downplays the participation rate of the minorities in the general economic performance,lowering their economic outcomes and thus perpetuating persistent poverty among the racial minorities or people of colour.Furthermore,societies have taken advantage of the mainstream media to perpetuate racial inequality whereby one culture is presented superior over the minor racial groups culture.This embeds a mindset in the general society of inferiority and superiority complexes which affects even the policy measures taken by governments of this societies.For instance wealth redistribution policies favours the predominant racial groups over the minors downplaying the productivity of viable individuals in the minor racial groups leading to underdevelopment.Preoccupation with cultural excesses such as advances of homosexuality has further undermined economic opportunities presented to minor racial groups and other races who are still cultural conservative.The condition set out for some certain aid disbursements like acceptance of homosexuality to this cultures has led to missing opportunities as the values and norms of certain racial groups does not concur with the conditions set out for financial assistance,This results to persistent poverty on this racial groups worsening the already existing disparities across races.

Lack of representation;Racial minorities are often underrepresented in positions of power and influence.This results to policies and decisions that do not adequately address the needs of this communities .With limited or no representation at all,in both political and economic decision making platforms,racial minorities interest are normally overlooked and remains unaddressed completely.This scales down the level of economic opportunities presented to this communities impeding their economic growth and development as a community.Consequently, lack of representation also results to limited resources allocation to this communities.Public provisions such as roads,schools,electricity,hospitals are usually underprovided to this communities compared to the majority of the population.This leads to an unfavorable competition in the economic participation and from the advances of competitive market theorem,infavourable allocation of initial endowments leads to unfavorable outcomes leading to economic disparities across the races such lower income wages,poor housing structures and enterprises and lower provisions of numerous public goods to this communities.

Implicit bias and stereotypes;prejudices and stereotypes about certain racial groups or communities can influence individual attitudes and behaviors leading to unequal treatment in various aspects of life including employment,education and law enforcement.An individual sense of control over life and health outcomes and perception of the world are significantly influenced by ones social experiences and environment.When one is subjected unfortunately to a world of discrimination and biased institutional systems,one develops a sense of powerlessness and inferiority which ultimately influence the physical,mental and psychological performance of an individual negatively.Prejudices and stereotypes against a particular racial group not only undermines the value of individual members of such racial groups but also creates a psychological imbalance upon such communities leading to a self fulfilling prophecy based on such prejudices and stereotypes .What majorly leads to racial inequality is institutional setting and stereotypes created against particular racial groups.Control of factors of production,financial institutions and technological plants have greatly undermined monor racial groups through discrimination,unequal opportunities and unfair treatment in this sectors leading to economic disparities across such racial groups .

Addressing racial inequality requires comprehensive approach that involves policy changes,community engagement,education and efforts to promote diversity and inclusion.Policy adjustments have been put place to curb racial inequality including the TANF-Temporary Assistance for Needy Families enacted in 1996 to provide cash assistance to families with children experiencing poverty.TANF developed from AFDC-Aid to families with depedent Children(cbpp.org)TANF cash assistance program can play a critical role in supporting needy families who are mainly dominated by racial minority groups thereby alievating racial inequality .TANF as a welfare support program was created through the personal responsibility and work opportunity reconciliation Act as a safety net through the federal effort to end welfare disparities.

Under TANF,the federal government provides a fixed block grants to states which then utilizes the funds to run and fund their designed welfare programs.States are entitled to spend some of their own income in certain ratios and the funds provided by the federal government to provide cash assistance to needy families.TANF was mainly created to address four main objectives;(1)Assisting families in need so children can be cared for in their own homes or homes of relatives.(2) Reducing the depedency of parents in need by promoting job preparation,work and marriage.(3)preventing pregnancies among unmarried persons and (4)Encouraging the formation and mantainance of two parent families.About 70% of African-American children are born to a single mother (Glen G.Loury)Having an efficient child support system to those families is very crucial for development and economic performance of such racial groups.TANF assigns rights to child support to the state,the state keeps the money it collects from non-custodial parents to reimburse itself for the cash assistance program to children.Consequently,cash provided by the federal government and states are used for cash transfers to single parents children to help them access basic needs such as food ,healthcare and education.This provides a platform that provides opportunities to the racial minors who are economically unstable to alleviate poverty and foster economic growth and development among the minor racial groups.

TANF utilizes some of its fund to programs and services such as child care,programs that encourage and support employment among low income families,funding ongoing basic needs to families experiencing economic hardship,work support programs and supportive services to needy families.This addresses some of the economic problems experienced by the marginalized racial groups to some extent but do not however provide equal opportunities that would enable growth and eradication of poverty among the affected racial groups.Numerous policy adjustments including in the TANF ,funding and redistribution policies are required to maximize efficiency of this social programs to aid aleivate economic disparities among the social groups.

References;

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