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Racial Disparity

Introduction:

In the United States (US), the racial makeup of a community or neighborhood can determine the average income of a family in the community. These differences of racial makeup are known as racial disparity. In the US, one can assume that a community that is predominantly occupied with minorities that have a background with African, Latin American/Hispanic, and Indigenous makes far less money than a community that is predominantly people with a White/European background. Is this a stereotype? Yes and no, mainly because a large portion of this is true. Why is this possible? Former policies, public beliefs and racism such as Jim Crow Laws, and redlining neighborhoods allowed this to happen to our people.

The United States is known for its broad history of being discriminatory, and racism all dating back to its post slavery era. But what is Racial disparity and how does it still affect us to this day. The definition provided by The Howard University of Law defines Racial Disparity as “the imbalances and incongruities between the treatment of racial groups, including economic status, income, housing options, societal treatment, safety, and myriad other aspects of life and society.” Another problem was redlining of neighborhoods. A definition of redlining “is a discriminatory practice that puts services (financial and otherwise) out of reach for residents of certain areas

based on race or ethnicity”. Redlining would often stop banks from allowing people from certain areas from buying property and business just because of their race and the area they lived in. This also impacted government funding to certain areas and even sometimes stopped progress from being made in certain places. Even though it is illegal now, the effects of it are still being shown

If one person was to take a trip to New York City and visits Brooklyn, they would be able to see a major difference in areas. The areas around Brooklyn bridge Williamsburg, Bay Ridge, and downtown Brooklyn are predominantly white, or Asian. The buildings are brand new; the streets are somewhat clean, schools look renovated and there are a lot of recreational centers for children to go outside safely and be at. Go east to areas such as Crown Heights, Brownsville, Flatbush and East New York and the change is obvious. More minorities, no new buildings, damaged roads, trash gathered on the streets and a lot of NYCHA (New York City Housing Authority) Buildings. Schools are almost run down with poor technology and a lack of modern technology and books. It's almost as if the government doesn't care about the area and the living conditions of the people in these areas.

In 2019 a report of the median household income per racial makeup was released. Asian households have an average income of \$98,174, White has an average of \$76,057, while Hispanics have an average of \$56,113, and Blacks have an average of \$46,073. How is this important? The amount of money being made in a family can determine, their access to healthcare, their education, the area they live in, and their opportunity to a better future. People of Color make up most low-income communities while White and Asians make up most of the middle class and above. But another important note to add is crime. Crime is higher in low-income communities as well. This is because when an area or a certain group of people have

limited access to life necessities and opportunities, they fight for it. People rob other people and stores for money and food, kill people for money and do more just to be able to attempt to be comfortable and safe. On top of that, minorities are more likely to get arrested and serve time for crime they commit as opposed to white people.

There are many solutions that can be achieved to shorten the gap of income and increase opportunities for minorities. Some of these can be better healthcare for people to be safe and healthy without the fear of being denied medication or care because their lack of insurance or money. Better education such as new and renovated schools with better technology and books for students to want to learn and make a change, more public projects to repair neighborhoods with damages streets and abandoned buildings, more job opportunities and recreation centers for children to stay out of trouble.

The US has a large Racial Disparity when it comes to income and communities. This disparity is seen throughout major cities can cause many problems for the African Americans and Latin American/Hispanics who are on the low-income end of problems. Change can be made, and it can help the daily lives of many people.

Sources/ Bibliography

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