**LEBILE CELINE MOTUNROLA 24th JUNE 2020**

**19/MHS01/235**

**MBBS**

**GST 122 ASSIGNMENT**

**ALLOW ME TO SPEAK BEFORE I AM JUDGED**

Ever since the beginning of time, human beings have had to fight in order to gain so many things they desired. The fights do not necessarily have to be a physical, it could be emotional, spiritual, mental, verbal and so on. And as there are many ways to fights, there are many reasons to fight and also many people who fight, but what singles out persons from the people, is basically the fact that some persons fight more than others. These persons do not fight more than others because they want to, they do it because they have to. They fight in order to have freedom, equal opportunities and other basic human rights because they are human, but are in a world which sees them otherwise.

There are so many acts done today, just to show that we are not equal. The first and most popularly known act is racism. The word Racism started to make its first manifestation in the early twentieth century but the idea that a certain group of people are superiors than other has been around in the word for an extensive time. Racism is the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or race. It occurs because of difference in culture, heritage, language, ideas and historical factors.

Racism is the reason why various races are fighting unnecessary wars and still are till this day. Through the years, the question arises whether racism is a learned behaviour or just human nature? Racism is indeed a learned behaviour. According to studies conducted by professionals, it was acknowledged that behaviours are actually a product of one’s observation i.e. people are fuelled by what they see and observe. No one is born racist, it is acquired.

This act leads to discrimination, oppression, violence, intimidation, violation of rights, of the race that is perceived to be inferior. Racism then evolves institutionally when racial oppression and inequality becomes a norm in a society, and these attitudes subsequently permeate the various legal, educational, and economic institution, creating a system that directly or indirectly excludes or discriminates against, members of one or another racial community.

Anther act is Ethnocentrism, it can occur between races and also occur within races. This is believing that the people, customs, and traditions of your own race or nationality or religion, are better than those of others, this often creates contempt, hatred and hostility towards the supposedly inferior race, nationality or religion. For instance, one would argue that the United states are more powerful and economically sound, and generally better than other nations, because of their tendency to dabble in situations occurring in other nations. Another, is the silent conflict between the Jewish, believing their beliefs and ways of life are superior to other religions. The effects of ethnocentrism are unconscious conflict or development of tight boundaries among social groups. What is important to know and remember about ethnocentrism is that, through understanding and coming to terms with other people culture does not mean you have to agree with it, act upon it, or embrace it. One must only respect the differing value and acknowledge its existence.

Other ways people are often segregated is through Discrimination, which involves the treating of a person or particular groups of people differently, especially in a way worse than how others are treated because of skin color, sexuality, or gender. It can also be seen as the unfair treatment of a person or group on the basis of prejudice. As far as historical records show, no society or nation has been immune to discrimination, either as the victim or victimizer. The extreme forms of discriminatory practices include genocide, slavery, apartheid, disenfranchisement, less extreme forms include social exclusion in schools and hospital, saying hurtful jokes on the media.

There is also Stereotypewhich can be seen as the set idea or ideas the people have about what someone or something is like, and is usually wrong. It is to decide unfairly that a type of person or group of persons has particular qualities or abilities because they belong to a particular race, sex, or social class. Most stereotypes are that; Americans are dirty and lack culture, Black people are seen as gangsters and drug dealers. Stereotypes also occur in gender; Males are strong, and any male that does not watch football is seen as gay or stupid. Emotions like anger, low self-esteem, lack of confidence, feeling socially inferior are the common effects.

The last I would be stating is Stigmatization, which is the act of treating someone or something unfairly by publicly disapproving them. It involves identifying and marking an undesirable characteristic in a way that narrows a person’s social identity to that characteristic. The consequences of stigmatization include marginalization, and in some cases dehumanization. People who mostly face stigma are people with diseases like HIV, Corona Virus etc. or physical deformities, mental disorders, homosexuals and even religion. These victims of stigma are shunned from their families, denied health care, denied employment, face physical violence and in some extreme cases murdered.

All these terms and acts that have been listed above, are just few ways in which people discriminate against other people of their own race and even outside their race. Racism alone is not responsible for the division of people, cause even people of the same race do not treat themselves equally. There is always a form of difference, and there would be always a form of difference between people, all we need to do is to accept or tolerate it, and not use it as form to set hierarchies.

Reference:

Essays, UK. (November 2018). Racism And Prejudice Cultural Studies Essay. Retrieved from <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/cultural-studies/racism-and-prejudice-cultural-studies-essay.php?vref=1>

<https://www.cram.com/essay/Racism-Is-Racism/F38CZDH9C55W>

<https://www.bartleby.com/essay/Ethnocentrism-FK9C56ZVC>

References: *Cambridgedictionary.org, Idoceonline.com, The journal of social psychology volume 133, 1993, issue3,*

*Ukessays.com, linkspringer.com, bartleby.com: Goffman theory of social stigma essay*

*Encyclopedia of global bioethics 2016 edition Editor: Henk ten Have DOI:https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-0948-0\_404*

*Allafrica.com*