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ASSIGNMENT ANSWER

RACISM,ITS IMPACT IN OUR SOCIETY AND SOLUTION

The concepts of race and racism are of relatively recent origin. Although ideas about human differences on the basis of color and phenotypic characteristics already occurred in earlier societies .The notion of "race" thus originated in modern times and has changed with the evolution of modern society. , the introduction of this concept constituted the culmination of a complex development in modern thought regarding descent, heredity and human differences.

Distinctions between and negative evaluations of phenotypic differences in skin color, in hair color, in the color and shape of eyes, in the shape of the skull and so on has for a long time been a central element of the ideology of racism. These kinds of differences were used as explanations for differences in culture and in mental properties. By the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century this mode of thinking was common in the Western world. It was used to justify practices such as slavery and colonialism.

Since the Second World War, racism has been conceptualized as an irrational prejudice according to which other groups are considered inferior on the basis of biological-racial characteristics. Racism, however, is not a personality disorder or irrational prejudice--although prejudice is an important underlying attitude--but a political, social and institutional phenomenon that is brought about and expressed in both the public and private spheres of life. Racism is a historically specific ideological construction .It changes with time and with the economic-political and socio-cultural conditions in which it functions. Consequently, it has to be studied in its specific historical and social context. Racism is more than an ideology. It also involves discriminatory practices and discriminatory effects in the functioning of elements of the social structure, such as institutions. Racism, in its broad sense, also comprises anti-Semitism and modern forms of ethnocentrism and xenophobia such as islamophobia.

Racism, also called racial discrimination , any action, practice, or belief that reflects the racial worldview—the ideology that humans may be divided into separate and exclusive biological entities called "races"; that there is a causal link between inherited physical traits and traits of personality, intellect, morality, and other cultural and behavioral features; and that some races are innately superior to others. Since the late 20th century the notion of biological race has been recognized as a cultural invention, entirely without scientific basis. Crucial for understanding the phenomenon of racism is the observation that racism not only refers to overt and violent forms of social domination and exclusion but also to more indirect and subtle forms

expressed in daily practices, including through discursive practices. It should, however, be stressed that racism is not considered a mental property of individual persons, but rather a dynamically changing dimension of social practices.

The most important and most far reaching forms of social inequality today are related to group relations based on gender, class and ethnic background. [Inequality on the basis of age, sexual orientation, and physical or mental handicap also plays a role.] Gender, class and ethnicity are influential concepts of social organization and processes of signification. Historically, specific mechanisms of group dominance have produced and reproduced these forms of social inequality. Racism is a typical expression of group dominance. Racism as a system of social inequality implies that social groups do not have equal access to and control over material and immaterial social resources. At the material level, these resources include employment, income and housing. Immaterial resources, however, are of equal concern, including education, knowledge, information and access to the social networks and means of communication instrumental in public debates (such as the media, politics, the judicial system, the educational system and the welfare). Discursive representations imbue social practices with meaning and thus legitimate social inequality and the daily organization of dominance and exclusion. This also implies, among other things, that ethnic groups do not have control over their representation in public discourse.

The different historical manifestations of racism have always been intimately linked to the different economic functions that the labor of the targeted groups fulfilled in the socio-economic system. Racism develops and increases where human exploitation, extreme inequality, and oppression exist—in particular where structures of inequality overlap with differences of color or origin. The effects of perceived racism on negative affect may be multidimensional, influencing both trait negative affect and state negative affect. Trait negative affect refers to a broad and stable affective disposition that makes an individual more likely to experience negative emotions, whereas state affect refers to momentary experiences of emotion that may fluctuate as a result of daily events, situational characteristics, and other factors. Affective dispositions including trait negative affect may develop as a result of both genetic and environmental factors. Some of the environmental factors are a function of the individual's unique circumstances (e.g., attachment relationships), and some may be a function of social stressors that are shared across individuals (e.g., racism or neighborhood stress).

Furthermore, Fear can become an everyday occurrence with low self-esteem being a common side-effect. When someone faces harassment and persecution regularly throughout their life, they naturally come to view themselves as less worthy than they truly are and this can only perpetuate the cycle of oppression. Those who place little value on themselves will never strive to attain more, and it is this problem that results in whole generations of families

becoming trapped in disadvantaged situations. It is also common for individuals who consistently deal with racism to become aggressive and resentful, turning to criminal behaviour in an attempt to fight back against the injustice. This too only serves to perpetuate the cycle of disadvantage.

Also, by limiting one race's ability to participate fully in the culture of the country, the people as a whole are unable to appreciate and understand similarities and differences between them, leading to social stagnation and ongoing persistence of racism through future generations. On a more serious level, if racism is allowed to thrive within society as a whole, eventually this will lead to aggression and even violence, either on a local or even national scale. If bad feeling is allowed to build up between community groups, over time this is sure to result first in low level negativity, from name calling and isolated incidents, and potentially on into full scale conflict. Fighting, rioting and even warfare can be the result of racial prejudice and intolerance.

No matter how much a society tries to separate the different races within it, it is important to realise that, in the end, people of all colours and religions must interact at some level. The key, therefore, to encouraging development and a happy, peaceful future is to learn to develop tolerance and understanding for those who are different to ourselves. By encouraging fellowship and participation between diverse communities, we regain our morality and forge new ways forward into a positive way of life where all members of society regardless of their race can be valued and make a difference for the better. Society as a whole must promote integration between its different communities, starting with the youngest members of the community in order to raise a new generation of tolerant individuals who embrace diversity and value all members of society equally.

A country with a racist mentality does not allow all of its citizens to contribute collectively to the nation, thus limiting its success and development. If an entire class of people cannot enjoy the same privileges as the rest of society, they lack the educational and employment opportunities that would enable them to contribute to the overall economic well-being of their country.

There is no denying that racism can be devastating to the culture and well-being of a country, causing economic and moral upheaval. Let us hope that we all could come to an understanding. Agree to disagree, we could come to an understanding. Human beings are all the same.