

# Anti-Black Racism and Educational Equity Policies in America

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## ABSTRACT

At this stage, the novel coronavirus has destabilized the American social order. At the same time, the deep-rooted racism made the black people's situation worse, led to a series of destructive demonstrations, and intensified the social unrest. In this article, the author will discuss the main contents and positive significance of a series of policies to promote educational equity in the United States. Then the author will argue against the deep-rooted discrimination against blacks in America. Finally, the author will put forward her own views and opinions on the unsolved problems of education equity policy. Through literature analysis and data analysis, the conclusion is drawn that there is still serious discrimination against blacks in the American society, and this racism must be improved by means of educational equity.

**Keywords:** *African American, racism, Educational equity policy*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

On May 25, 2020, in Minnesota, Derek Michael Shavin, a white police officer, arrested an African American named George Floyd, who was suffocated due to the misconduct of the police. Since the outbreak of the incident, it has aroused wide concern in the American society, and it is believed that it has exposed the deep-rooted racism in the American society, as well as triggered a series of retaliations by the demonstrators, which has caused a very bad impact on the unstable social order of the United States due to COVID-19. The main reason for this incident is the deep-rooted racial discrimination in the American society. Especially during the Trump Administration years, Trump used racism in the American society to win votes, and also increased the propaganda of white supremacist, leading to the white people's unfriendly to black people. At the same time, the demonstrators' destruction of the United States has undoubtedly intensified the resentment of white Americans against black Americans. Meanwhile, under the influence of the novel coronavirus, African Americans are living in a terrible state. The Washington Post reports, that while 14% of the Michigan population is black, 40% of COVID-19 deaths are among blacks. This shows that long-standing racial discrimination in American society forces African Americans to live in crowded and poor communities without access to health care. In the context of the current epidemic, blacks are more

likely to be employed in low-paying jobs that do not allow remote work options or provide health insurance or paid sick leave. According to 2018 data, 11 % of white households have incomes below the federal poverty line, compared with 23 % of blacks [1]. The main reason of poverty is also the lack of access to higher education and better jobs, which is rooted in racism in American society. On the one hand, racism causes the white people to have prejudice against the black people and hinders the black people to get the same social status as the white people. On the other hand, the unequal distribution of opportunities makes the blacks still unable to get rid of poverty and intensifies the discrimination of the whites against the blacks. The most effective and fundamental way to improve the state of American society is to continue to take some measures to promote racial educational equality. Through literature research and data analysis, the author will discuss the issue of racial discrimination against blacks which has not been completely solved by the previous policies to promote educational equity in the United States and put forward the author's own opinions.

## 2. ANALYSIS ON THE EDUCATION EQUITY POLICY CARRIED OUT IN UNITED STATES

As early as 1950, the United States successively carried out African-American Civil Rights Movement

and Affirmative Action, which weakened the discrimination against blacks in the American society at that time. Now the author will describe the main elements of America's efforts to promote educational equality between blacks and whites.

In the law, abolish the system of racial segregation in education, striving to realize equal rights to education among all RACES, and resolutely resist racism. In 1954, in *Brown V. the Board of Education of Topeka*, the Chief Justice, Earl Allen ruled that public school education never allows to exist the idea of segregation but equality, because educational institutions once segregated will not be equal. This decision was of great significance for promoting educational equality for minorities. In the next decades, the federal government worked hard to eliminate segregation in education through legislation and other measures, although these efforts to desegregate schools met with fierce resistance from racists. In 1964, the federal government passed the Civil Rights Act, section 4 of which stipulated that the Board of Education provided technical and financial support to solve the problem of segregation in public schools. Section 6 and its subsidiary articles stipulated that no person shall be discriminated against in any federally funded educational program on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and prohibit the provision of federal aid to a university that discriminates on the basis of race. In 1965, the Primary and Secondary Education Act was passed, urging all district schools to desegregate. In March 1966, the Federal Administration of Education formulated the revised opinions on school Anti-Apartheid Program Policy.

In the 70s and 80s, the focus of the integrate is black and white students of fusion. The fusion is through such as set, school choice, magnet school, the school bus plan enrollment scale, redrawing school districts within the school district scope, mandatory or voluntary or learning transfer and strengthen the urban and rural learning interval and other measures to achieve. As these measures were rolled out in school districts across the country, the courts declared that more and more urban college districts were integrated. Especially into the 1980s, a number of Supreme Court cases spelled out how to get court consent to remove the school segregation program, providing a legal standard for determining when local school districts could get away with having to do so.

Financially subsidize the disadvantaged minority groups, so that they can receive the same education. Since the 1960s, the federal government has assisted and expanded secondary and higher education for disadvantaged minority students through a variety of financial aid. In 1964, the Federal government passed the Economic Opportunity Act, stipulating that the federal government allocated 300 million dollars a year to aid poor students. In 1965, the Federal Government enacted the Primary and Secondary Education Act, which provided for a substantial increase in federal allocations for spending on primary and secondary schools.

Up to now, the education policy of the federal government has achieved remarkable results. The policy of eliminating racial segregation provided strong conditions for white students to get along with and integrate with black students, alleviate the contradiction between white and black students in the American society at that time, and improved the social status of black students. These policies are undoubtedly of great progressive significance, but their effect on alleviating the discrimination between white people and black people is still very limited, which can be seen from the serious anti-black racism in the United States today.

### **3. RACISM IS DEEPLY ROOTED**

African-American Civil Rights Movement and Affirmative Action were implemented for disadvantaged groups such as ethnic minorities in terms of school admission and financial aid, promoting equal development of education and improving their status in the American society. However, because of the reasons of history and policy itself, the problem of racial discrimination has not been completely solved.

Even in many areas where the apartheid has been ostensibly eliminated, although black and white students attended the same schools, their academic performance remained sharply different. Some scholars point out that many black people in the post-racial integration era of The United States face a kind of pressure accused of being "acting white", which tends to burden black students and lead to their poor academic performance [2]. All of these phenomena come from the discrimination of white people against black people in American society.

In order to prove that racism is still very serious in American society, the first thing that needs to be done is to clarify the concept of racism. The definition of William Julius Wilson (1973) about racism or racist ideology is a clear and cogent specification. Accordingly, racism is "an ideology of racial domination or exploitation that (1) included beliefs in a particular race's cultural or inherent biological inferiority and (2) uses such beliefs to justify and prescribe inferior treatment for that group". It is thus a set of ideas or beliefs about relatively durable patterns of difference and inequality between human social groups. It is thus a set of ideas or beliefs about relatively durable patterns of difference and inequality between human social groups.

The concept of racial inferiority and superiority can be traced back to the era of imperialism, colonialism and capitalist expansion, so it can be said that the history of racial discrimination is very long. And this idea is shaped by white supremacism, and the notion of white supremacism is embodied in the practice of various previous institutions, and it even permeates the Enlightenment.

There is a long history of racism against blacks in this country, which has not been eliminated by a massive Civil War or a fierce African-American Civil Rights Movement and Affirmative Action.

In today's American society, anti-black racism is still a problem that cannot be ignored. At one time, the author also thought that Obama's coming into power could at least prove that the racism in American society has been diluted a lot and it can be said that it has entered a new stage.

But the truth is that the fall of Obama and the rise of Trump in 2016 coincided with the "white supremacist" view of a large part of white America, former West Virginia County Development Corporation Director Pamela Ramsey Taylor. Shortly after Trump's election, she posted on Facebook a brief note reading: "It will be refreshing to have a classy, beautiful, dignified First Lady in the White House. I am tired of seeing a Ape in heels". Clay West Virginia Mayor Beverly Whaling quickly replied to Ramsey Taylor's post with a pithy and enthusiastic: "Just made my day Pam." It is hard to imagine a more coarse denial of human dignity than is reflected in these remarks. The comments of both the Director and the Mayor were denounced as racist. Mayor Whaling quickly resigned but also added the following account of her statement: "My comment was not intended to be racist at all. I was referring to my day being made for change in the White House. I am truly sorry for any hard feelings this may have caused. Those who know me know that I'm not of any way racist... Again, I would like to apologize for this getting out of hand".

The most effective and fundamental way to improve the state of American society is to continue to take some measures to promote racial educational equality. One side, equality in racial education can increase the opportunities for African Americans to improve themselves, and to change the situation of blacks, which is baled to turn around the stereotype of whites. On the other hand, the idea of racial equality can be cultivated in white people as early as childhood, which is regarded as a critical period for the formation of human thinking and ideas. Anthropologist Lawrence Hirschfeld has carried out comparative studies on how children acquire so-called racial prejudice or racial orientation and opinions at the individual level for many years. He found that children begin to perceive color differences at a very early age. Between the ages of five and seven, they deftly invoke culturally available racial categories of self and others [3]. Therefore, if educational equality can be successfully applied, it will play a very important and positive role in alleviating and even eliminating racism.

#### **4. UNSOLVED PROBLEMS AND RELATED COUNTERMEASURES**

There is no denying that Affirmative Action and other policies are very meaningful action that deserves to

continue. However, since its implementation, there are still some loopholes and areas that need to be improved. If the federal government can adopt some appropriate policies, it will play a significant role in eliminating the racist policies against African Americans.

#### **4.1. Africa American Educators**

African American students rarely see African American administrators and teachers in their schools. In schools in desegregated areas, white students also rarely saw African-American teachers [4]. This means that for African-American students, there is a lack of a role model to get to know them, and for white students, there is a lack of opportunity to get to know African-Americans. As we all know, once people start to communicate and get to know each other, there is less distrust for each other. So the author thinks it could be done by increasing the number of places that schools can recruit for African Americans as teachers, administrators and other staffs. Federal and state governments could increase financial support to make schools more willing to admit more African American. However, it should be noted that schools should also strengthen the supervision of the behavior of school staff, which should not be discriminatory or malicious [5].

#### **4.2. Access to Higher Education for Africa American students**

Black family education level has been much lower than white, so the black students want to accept higher education when the limited resources and experience of the parents who often lack of understanding of the application process and perhaps ability of school information, and also don't know how to get financial aid ,and often is to find the teacher for help. However, such behavior will not only increase the burden on the teacher, but also cannot guarantee that every student will get the answer he wants from the teacher. This will reduce the chances of black students getting a higher education that suits them better. The author thinks it would be more targeted to set up counseling services to help African American students access this information [6].

#### **4.3. Financial support**

Poverty makes it harder for black students to get a better education, but lower degrees make it harder for them to find better-paying jobs. Therefore, it is very important to continue to increase the financial assistance to black families. At the same time, it is also necessary to improve the welfare security system for human families. During the epidemic, increasing

health assistance to black people would be very helpful in stabilizing the current social order in the United States.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Education fairness to the American society of racial soothe play a positive role, but to fundamentally eliminate, also need other policies and regulations promulgated and established, such as now there is still a guard against black people to neutralize and community isolation are American social discrimination against blacks is difficult to eliminate one of the important factors. In addition, this paper only discusses the issue of racial discrimination against African Americans in the American society, which is representative to some extent, but cannot be fully applied to other minority groups. In addition, affirmative action has always been controversial. It promotes "equal opportunity" and unintentionally causes "reverse discrimination". The federal government has always chosen to take the middle road on this issue. The author supposes that it should be solved by continuing practices.

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