Course

Student’s Name

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Date

**Baldwin's Essay on Teachers**

**The most important point in Baldwin’s essay**

Baldwin’s most prominent point in the essay was about social inequality within the society with ‘normal oppression’ inclined on the minority classes mainly characterized by racial discrimination based on color. I use the word normal oppression to imply that the oppression is somehow considered as normal within the society even though it affects a large number of people within the society negatively. Baldwin argues that American society is championed by the few people who believe they are always right and they determine how society is affecting people. On the receiving end, several people, mostly the minority classes, are predisposed to act in a certain way without questioning even in cases of obvious mistreatment. As a result, the minorities in American society are exposed to cycles of disadvantages while their counterparts within the same society are treated differently. Baldwin criticized the fact that people tend to accept the oppression from society without questioning and pinpointing instances of discrimination and unnecessary oppression. Baldwin believed that the society should be directed not by the desires of the minority elites who emphasize their own gains but by collective responsibility anchored on the realm of societal values, norms and standards. According to Baldwin (1), teachers have the greatest role in championing a society without discrimination and one where equality is the key virtue considering that teachers interact with the students and can make them change their acceptance of the violation of the societal values or not. On the contrary, Baldwin identified American teachers to be responsible for the escalation of the widening of social disorder.

**How social inequality point in Baldwin’s essay is linked to a chain of other events**

In the education context, Baldwin (1), argued that the system of education should be instituted on the role of ‘*perpetuating the aims of the society’* by teaching individuals to make a responsive decision based on their desire. On the contrary, such individuals with responsive decision-making anchored on individual interest are likely to identify the social disorder and inclination attached to race and color thus refuting the ‘social norms’. As such, society tends to control the existence of people characterized by responsive decision making. Society expects all the members to comply with the rules whether they are oppressive or otherwise to promote social order. In identifying this social disorder linked to the educational institutions, Baldwin (1), observed that *‘no society is really anxious to have that kind of person around’.* Other than the education system that is not championed to produce responsive individuals who can identify the social disorder, Baldwin also argued that American society is structured in line with social strata based on economic power. He identified a connection between the class of poor families, mainly characterized by the Negros, to poor states and poor dwellings. Baldwin observed the standards of states in America with a high number of street boys and uncovered that such societies are characterized by insecurity, underrepresentation, and an unhealthy environment. Out of the predisposition to endless cycles of poverty in such poor states, Baldwin (2), argued that a resident within such states is likely to *’become a kind of criminal because that’s the only way he can live’.*

**How social inequality point in Baldwin’s essay show up in the world**

Social inequalities anchored on race and class are still prominent in America even to date. America is a multicultural society and it is expected that cultural integration and acceptance of people of varied cultures would be the most proactive way of enhancing social equality. However, discrimination based on race and color is still a major issue. While American society is constructed on an overview of *‘liberty and justice for all….and a nation in which anyone can become president’* (Baldwin 2), the reality is very different as the blacks are not subjected to similar opportunities as compared to their white counterparts. States in America are still categorized based on the economic capacity of the residence with a characteristic association of class. The Negros are still more associated with the poor states where security and health-related issues are not guaranteed. According to Dixon (32), the economic power of most of the blacks in American society cannot make them afford to live in the vicinity of good environments with safety in health and security. As such, health-related complications from the dirty environment and high crime rates are among the characteristics of their dwellings. This condition, however, is not caused by their intention to reside in such areas but rather by the predisposition to cycles of disadvantage. Besides, the representation is also skewed in American. For instance, the police brutality in the current state of America is still skewed to affect mostly blacks (Williams et al. 2). The discrimination against blacks in America is still a common practice which is expressed in many forms and is practiced as though it is a normal consideration.

Works Cited

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