Equality is something that I always hold dear because I am one of many that have to realize that there are injustices in this world and that my coming up was going to play a big role to how my future turns out. I think that it would be appropriate for me to talk about equality and affirmative action because its something that I’m so passionate about. I know that it is a controversial topic on how it ties in with not how I see equality but how others see it. I want to talk about how equality and affirmative action affects me and many like me and go over the argument for affirmative action, the argument against it, and how I feel about it. I want to start with the argument for affirmative action.

So, to start, what exactly is affirmative action? According to *Doing Ethics: Moral Reasoning and Contemporary Issue* by Lewis Vaughn, it’s “a way of making amends, or eradicating discrimination based of race, sex, or gender. You have one side of the argument coming from Rawls saying thatit is justice as fairness. Rawls believes this because he knows that we’re all not born with the same opportunity as others. He gave a scenario where you can be born as a child of a tech billionaire in the white majority, a single mother making minimum wage, a middle class white parent with a significant learning disability and more. The reason that the other examples aren’t worth noting is because the idea is that you would want to be the child of the tech billionaire in the white majority since they have it better off and will always have it better off than most people. Rawls believes that affirmative action gives some advantage to those who will always have a long road ahead of them because of their race, sex, age, etc. While this feels like a solid argument for affirmative action, with ever argument comes a counter argument.

The other side of this argument affirmative action is wrong because two wrongs don’t make a right and reverse discrimination is unfair. This is how Pojman views the idea of affirmative action and separates it into two different types. There is strong affirmative action, that is basically treating someone in a certain way based on preference, and there is weak affirmative action, that is basically helping out the disadvantaged. He says that not only is strong affirmative action immoral, but based on the argument for affirmative action, role models don’t have to be a certain race, the action doesn’t punish a guilty individual, but instead an innocent group, and that ability is more than diversity. With that said, here is how I feel about affirmative action and equality in general.

Personally, I am for affirmative action. From my experiences, I see the justification of it in two ways. The first way is that not all people are born with equal opportunity. This is something that can apply to every race, gender, or sex, even a white cis male. That said the deeper you go into the issues that people face daily, it goes so much deeper than just trying to get a job. A lot of people of color, women, and young people aren’t given the equality they deserve, but even that, it’s a very generic way of looking at the situation. If the person is African American, Hispanic, poor, middle class, single mother, only one parental figure, etc. These are things that change the way that they are able to go about life.

The second way is the nature of the acceptance. As people who aren’t a part of the thought process that goes on in situations that affirmative action would be involved, how can we tell that its that big of a factor. For example, personally when I am job hunting, I’m told that its hard for me to get a job because someone will see the name “Simeon” and automatically know that I’m black and base their decision off of that alone. I understand that its something that would be noticed but at the same time, how could we tell that someone thinks that way for sure? Commonly, its said that two people with equal qualifications are to be chosen between, but how often would we know that two people are equally qualified? One could’ve gone to a more prestigious school or studied a field that was needed.

In conclusion, I think that affirmative action is a very just. I went over the argument for affirmative action, the argument against it, and how I felt about it personally. I feel as though even when people see it as revers discrimination, looking deep into another person’s situation shows that there is balance. All of us weren’t born with the same privileges. Understanding where we’re all come from helps ensure a better tomorrow.

Work cited

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