

AI-00200 White savior complex

👤 Owner	Ⓜ Rigel Arcayan
⋮ Tags	psychology
🕒 Created time	@April 23, 2023 6:23 AM

White savior complex

The "white savior complex" is a term used to describe a phenomenon where individuals from a privileged, often Western background, attempt to "save" or "rescue" people from less privileged backgrounds, typically in the Global South, without fully understanding the complexities and nuances of the issues they are trying to address. This can often involve a sense of superiority, a lack of recognition of the agency and resilience of the people being "saved," and a failure to address the root causes of the problems they are trying to solve.

The white savior complex has been criticized as perpetuating a neo-colonial mindset and reinforcing power imbalances between the West and the Global South. The term is most commonly used in the context of international aid and development work, where it can lead to projects that do more harm than good by failing to take into account the local context and needs.

It's important to note that the white savior complex is not limited to white people, and can be exhibited by individuals from any race or background who have a sense of superiority over the people they are trying to help. It is a complex issue that requires a nuanced understanding of power dynamics, cultural sensitivity, and the need for genuine collaboration and partnership in any effort to address global inequality and injustice.

more

The white savior complex can manifest in many different ways, including:

1. Taking a paternalistic or condescending attitude towards the people being helped, seeing them as helpless and in need of guidance and assistance.
2. Focusing on short-term solutions without addressing the underlying structural issues that contribute to poverty, inequality, and other problems.
3. Ignoring or downplaying the expertise and knowledge of local people, and failing to involve them in the decision-making process.
4. Assuming that the Western or privileged perspective is the only valid perspective, and failing to acknowledge the diversity of experiences and perspectives within the communities being helped.
5. Framing the act of helping as a way to feel good or gain recognition, rather than as a genuine effort to make a positive impact.

To combat the white savior complex, it's important to recognize and challenge the power imbalances that exist in global development work. This means listening to the voices and perspectives of the people who are directly affected by poverty and inequality, and working in genuine partnership with local organizations and communities. It also means prioritizing long-term solutions that address the root causes of problems, rather than focusing solely on short-term aid or charity. By working together in a collaborative and respectful way, it is possible to create more equitable and sustainable solutions that empower local people and communities.