

Classism in America is one of the greatest determinants for who holds power within society. In American culture, class is a social hierarchy that is based mainly on economic influence. Classism specifically is when people are targeted for and discriminated against due to their education, access to resources, or economic status. This type of discrimination harbors negative stereotypes to form around the people within lower economic classes. These stereotypes lead to greater inequality between people in America, shifting the power dynamic so that those who are a part of a lower social class also have less social power. Power in America comes in many forms as well such as the type of access to proper healthcare, private education, or employment opportunities. Classism alters the opportunities people have in America, furthering the split between social and economic classes altogether.

Classism affects power dynamics in numerous ways within America such as economic inequality and access to education. People who are born into lower social classes face numerous systematic barriers because of their lack of access to privileged opportunities. For example, children with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to get lower scores on standardized testing, such as the SAT. Lower test scores can make getting into college very difficult for many students, especially when many schools are moving away from test optional applications. Not only are test scores an issue but extracurricular activities can get to be very expensive, which are growing in importance for many college applications as well. If students are unable to further their education beyond high school it can make finding a job that can financially support them extremely burdensome. People who do not have equal access to proper education then cannot secure jobs in prominent corporate or financial institutions that ultimately hold the most power within society. Not having a job that can financially support someone then affects where

there is no resolution. Economic inequality makes it more difficult for families to be able to move beyond an over stigmatized social class that holds them back from pursuing opportunities in society that would grant them the power to access the same goods as wealthy individuals.

The distribution of power in American society is affiliated with political, social, and economic forces that promote inequality. These power structures are constantly being challenged through social movements and social justice reformation to shed a light on the millions of people being marginalized. The social identity that a person holds places them at a large advantage or disadvantage for the power they can operate. Race, class, and gender are some of the few identities that alter the power dynamic between groups of people. For example, men statistically have more power in society than women that ultimately leads to social misconceptions between the two. These misconceptions include that men are more ambitious and better suited for leadership roles, which could make women who are just as qualified for a role less likely to get it. Power dynamics within the work place seem to favor men more because of these misconceptions and women are forced to accept them. This furthers the divide for unequal opportunity advancement within society for many groups of individuals because power in America is not as equal as it is made out to seem.

Overall, classism creates a systematic divide for people in society that preserves socioeconomic inequalities. These inequalities shape the way people are able to live their lives and access goods and opportunities. These inequalities can be addressed through a couple different measures such as policies and interventions that expand overall access of services to people of all economic backgrounds. When people have equal access they get a greater distribution of power. This greater distribution of power allows individuals to be able to stand up

stigmatization can dwindle away which opens paths for people of all backgrounds to try and achieve their goals. Greater distribution of power also allows for greater representation during decision making processes. This is suppressed when certain groups of people are silenced and oppressed for trying to speak their mind based on their experiences. Minorities rights are better protected and utilized to uphold justice against those who hoard power for selfish reasons. Power should be withheld between all classes of people within society so that changes can be made properly for all groups of people, not just the wealthy individuals. These changes should consist of finding ways for underrepresented and impoverished groups to make headway in society so they are lifted up and supported. This creates greater unity and stability within societies which can lead to America's success as a nation.