Racism

Student’s Name

Institutional Affiliation
Racism

It is interesting to analyze how people’s perspectives on others are shaped by stereotypes. It may be the case when it comes to treating people of different races. One can say that there are people who are rather prejudiced toward those who differ from them racially, because they were taught that way from the early childhood. Hence, one can say that racism is something that depends on a person’s environment and the ability to accept new concepts and people.

There are three levels of racism. The first one is individual racism. It comes from a single individual or a group of people who are prejudiced toward those who differ racially. It means that personal discrimination of people is based on their race. An example can be seen in a working place where white employees may discriminate a black employee or vice versa.

Cultural racism is discrimination of people who belong to a certain culture or civilization. An example can be seen with Hitler and his hatred toward Jews. He wanted to destroy the entire Jewish culture, and that showed his racial approach towards Jews.

Institutional racism is the most dangerous form of racism, because in this case racism is considered as something acceptable and even legal in a country. Hence, there are certain racial issues which exist within a country, and one group of people may legally humiliate or dominate another racial group. An example can be seen with Colonial America before Civil War when African Americans were enslaved and that was considered normal (Douthat, 2012).

There are many different factors that contribute to racism on each of the three levels. Individual racism is influenced by education and situation in the family. People often become racists, because they grew up in families where people of other races were considered inferior or bad. Friends, colleagues and people who surround a person also influence his or her treatment of individual racism.
Factors of cultural racism include overall mood and tendencies within a society. In societies where certain stereotypes about some races exist, it is easier to speak about spreading of cultural racism.

Factors of institutional racism include a political situation within a country, a political system and relations it has with other countries. In authoritarian countries, it is much easier for institutional racism to prosper, especially when the government wants it.

Racism had a huge impact on African Americans and Mexican Americans. Both groups felt inferior because there was much pressure and biases towards them. Nevertheless, things have changed over the past decades. At the present moment, both groups can represent themselves freely without fearing racial remarks. Nevertheless, while African Americans try to stick to their roots, Mexican Americans still feel the need to assimilate in order to fit in.

There was one huge effort to combat racism in the past. It was the actions of Martin Luther King Jr. toward a peaceful resolution of the issue (Rieder, 2004). He gathered many African Americans as well as people from the other groups in order to make American society equal where every individual is respected despite the race. His actions had a huge impact and led to the implementation of equal rights for people from different racial groups.

One can say that racism greatly affected different racial groups. African Americans, for example, used to feel inferior in the past. Nevertheless, racism was also a key factor that united African Americans together in order to defend their rights. They made many efforts to combat racism including non-violent protests and strikes. Due to these things, they were able to achieve their goals as well as frame racism as something unacceptable and wrong in democratic and humanistic society. At the present moment, one can say that racism is becoming less widespread, because people see its negativism.
References
