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Social Justice

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### What is Social Justice?

What is social justice is a very broad question to ask anybody, even a student in a social justice class. In my opinion, social justice has been the latest discussion in today's society due to the crime rate, inequality in race and gender, and the hatred in the streets. Some people may consider that this is the main root of the definition of social justice. In my opinion, the definition of social justice is the foundation for a stable and safe community. It should reflect the characteristics of each person showing that a human has values that should be respected, despite your lifestyle and physical health. Only as we recognize the value and dignity of each person can we build a healthy community, so it's a slow, painful process of learning and growing. We also shape policies and patterns of behavior to protect and enhance the worth of each person. We do this by building governmental and economic structures, educational and religious institutions, and all the other systems that provide for the health and social welfare. This justice is not a goal that we'll ever reach, but a process, a struggle in which we can be engaged through all the pain and all the joy. This is my view of social justice and how particular issues have changed due to the solutions to these particular issues and how we are protecting human rights in every sort of way possible through justice.

I believe that the overview of social justice is the equal rights of a human being and the respect toward that person, which will help develop the society in a place of equality. I also believed that the term is also a set of issues in the world right now that I reference in the beginning, dealing with the crime rate, inequality among people, and the stability of a person's lifestyle. If you look in today's society, people believe that there are problems in the criminal justice system also the police department of the killing of other humans that are predominantly black. This can relate to a just a racial issue; however, it can relate to a justice issue because people deserve the right to live in a community where they do not have to fear for their rights and their life. To further clarify, in the book "Just Mercy", the author, Bryan Stevenson, his legal team worked furiously to save McMillian before time ran out but obviously the racial injustice occurring in its own courthouse and went against the main character because of his race hints at the masterpiece of Stevenson of tying together a social issue of injustice and the racial issue of blacks in society. The relevance of Stevenson's point of view and the world can express that there should be a change in these particular issues. How should this be fixed? If Justice is substantiated for everyone equally and follows the definition of social justice, blacks or any other race can feel as if they do have their rights and don't feel like they are against the show called "good guys"(criminal justice system). President Trump and immigrants have been a major problem against social justice because President Donald Trump is expected to continue to stoke anti-immigrant sentiments in what will likely be his latest plea for a costly wall at the United States–Mexico border. He will endeavor to portray a state of crisis at the nation's southern border—one that opponents say does not exist. This is where social justice needs to be enforced and taken into consideration because even immigrants need rights as well as any other typical

human even if they are not born on U.S soil. All races have problems in life and some can't help this fact because of their background, human trafficking, violence, and etc. This can relate to the guest speaker we had during class discussed human trafficking and how people are forced and kidnapped to go to work, usually women around the world. She also discussed how families are trying to escape and come to America where human trafficking is horrible where they are from to seek justice. So, justice for immigrants is limited because of Donald Trump, which he needs to secure justice for these people who dreading for freedom and fairness. Also in the book Evicted, Matthew Desmond illustrates the role inequality and discrimination play in housing injustice in America. One of the main forms of discrimination the book addresses is racial. Desmond makes frequent reference to the history of racist housing discrimination, showing how this placed many families in a cycle of poverty that was virtually impossible to break. Desmond during the book connects to social justice issues of our time. However, don't get me wrong, everybody in this system is not a person against their job, but they actually follow the social justice term and believes that all people should be entitled to their rights and live life fair despite there race. To provide justice for the people that are in these circumstances is by providing more opportunities for immigrants to live the way they want and physically let them choose where they want to live. Racial issues can easily be fixed if communities openly accepted everyone as one because a person shouldn't take away another person's justice.

I believed that social justice is a term that establishes fairness towards everyone but has limitations because of the set of issues. The next issue that is part of these issues is the crime rate. The crime rate in the United States is by far the worst around the world, which can highlight the lack of social justice only in America. Criminal justice is a subset of social justice that

applies the criminal justice process when principles of right and wrong, and fair and unfair are violated according to criminal law. Crime leads to social injustice based on the discrimination that is prevalent in society. There is discrimination based on caste, religion, status and also power. When any person does any crime then there is a duty of government to provide justice to the person who is suffering from the crime but today in many cases the criminal be released and cannot provide for themselves because of how society is set up. Society is set up to fail after they are released because of their record. This causes more prisoners to go back to prison because they can't provide for themselves and go back to their old ways. If social justice would imply towards prisoners equally, they would live a better stable life instead of daily fights to find a job, food to supply for the family, and better living conditions. Crime rate will steadily decline because the criminal will most likely change their life around and get a job. They wouldn't be viewed as a horrible person and feel as if the community doesn't accept him. Social justice for criminal can change a mindset for the worst criminals to criminals that only have misdemeanor if their rights are secured.

Social Justice can also be related to the issues of poverty within a community. Poverty is currently one of the major issues in the world to this day. Millions of people are left homeless, lack of health benefits, and lack of education. This lead crime, which was reference in the beginning of the essay, because social discriminations can play a huge role in how people live their lives and try to find a job, so when a person can't find a job, crimes starts to develop from that particular person because that's the only way to provide for themselves and their family due to poverty. Unemployment and very low incomes create an environment where kids can't simply go to school. As for those who can actually go to school, they simply don't see how hard work

can improve their life as they see their parents fail at the task every day. Poor housing and living conditions come into play which later causes health issues and diseases. However, this is where social justice plays a critical role in the poverty field because everyone should have the right to live in a healthy lifestyle. People should deserve to live life with the opportunity to have a great education. According to CARE, "The idea that all people are entitled to human rights is central to a world free from poverty. Poverty is not always caused by a lack of economic resources; it is often a result of discrimination or social injustice that prevents people from accessing tools, resources, and education they need to improve their situation"(CARE's Poverty). Bryan Steveson stated, "The opposite of poverty is not wealth, but justice." So, social justice can help these minor issues in a huge issue (poverty) by providing more welfare systems, employment rights, and government providing more assistance and helping the community, even against anti-discrimination. Social justice benefits from all of these things because the main goal is to provide equal rights and equal opportunity for everyone, no matter their wealth but justice.

The last issue that connects to social justice is the issue of gender. We can hint at the injustice actions towards all genders; however, I believed the most trending issue in the present time is the rights of transgender. I reference in my chapter response during the class about how transgender is not be accepted in the world and Andrew Solomon, himself, interviewed multiple transgender to see how they were holding up in society. The transgenders all answered during an interview with Solomon of how society viewed them as targets as if they were criminals. Transgender men and women often face discrimination in today's world and hatred from people around the world. These actions low self-esteem from transgender and often promote depression. There currently no law to protect transgender and their rights, so to help protect transgender is by

promoting social justice. Social justice can be a key to transgenders' life because they can finally live the way they want to without going into public not having to fear what the community has to say about them. They wouldn't feel as if they are discriminated from everyone else and can actually fit in with society because they will feel as if they are equal to everyone.

Women are often having issues dealing with social justice because of their positions in life that are recommended. A woman can view the pay rate or ratio of men to women very diverse, which typically makes it hard for women to live and eventually causes a woman to become poor.

Woman Women also deal with economic insecurity. This means that women are feeling as if there is a violation of their bodily security and integrity. Justice should be granted for women by promoting more jobs opportunities, safety, and more leadership opportunities. Through social justice, gender equality will be granted to all genders, which will also make job rate goes up for women and poverty rate decreases, and also make all gender have a voice in the community and possibly the whole world.

This are my definitions and how social justice works throughout these particular issues to secure equal rights and opportunities for everyone; however, some people might argue that some people are very limited to justice in a community but have rights. For this, I mean that some people believe that if you are a major criminal in a certain city, you shouldn't be granted rights as everyone else. All Rights are for the people only the people outside the jail cell and into the community. Some people do not believe in second chances for criminals and believe that they will go back to their old ways and commit more crimes. This theory that some people believe in is not full justice for everyone. I can see what point they are making for criminals because they committed a crime, but unlikely certain people, I believe in second chances and from personal

experience from family members, I know some criminals can change their lives all the way around into something great. Don't get me wrong, some criminals don't change and shouldn't be granted any rights because of their actions, but for something to be socially right and social justice, everyone should obtain all their rights despite their pass. This means for a prisoner to have voting rights, which they can have a say in the communities, despite their crime and will be involved in the world changes and debates. So some people have half of the definition of social justice wrong because social justice should be given to all people. This shouldn't be characterized by their gender, wealth, or your past history, because social justice is meant to bring you up in the community instead of bringing you down.

During my observation of social justice, I have seen how social justice had borne out in the community by providing ways for people in the community to have the same opportunity as other people. One of our guest speakers, Josh Harris, founder of the Fresh2You mobile food pantry, helping the people around the world with hunger. He first started in Little Rock but on a mission to help people with food insecurity with a nonprofit organization. However, this is a very courageous act from Harris to help justice for hunger, which helps the world to become a better place and cease hunger in the future. Another guest speaker that observe that helping to promote social Justice is Libby Swenson, who spoke to my class and also at our chapel. I hint at this during my essay about her work of justice in the community towards human trafficking by explaining her personal story about what she has done to upgrade her business of stopping human trafficking. This is a great way to provide an opportunity for the victims of human trafficking to have safety but also the human rights to not be a slave anymore or sex workers also. The last observations that I help social justice in the community and borne out are the



program The Call, which helps children find a safe home for foster parents and also just getting the children off the streets and into a home that they will feel loved and welcome. This will provide justice for the children of shelter, food, education, and safety. These are where I am seeing where social justice is borne out throughout my observations of these amazing actions provided by these tremendous people because the main goal is to provide the opportunity for everyone to have equal rights and also have a fair opportunity for everyone.

This is my take of what social justice means and how it impacted the community also. I personally believe that there is Social justice because of particular issues which are the crime rate, racial discrimination, poverty, and gender; however, social justice helps these particular issues because it provides equality to all humans and fairness to help decrease these particular issues. Social justice is what keeping communities together because of different programs helping to strive for people to gain their rights back and make them feel equal to the world. The programs were listed in the text: The Call helps children that are homeless, Fresh2you non-profit organization to help with hunger, and human trafficking that established the rights for women who are being inducted and taken to work for businesses. There are a million more in the world of how social justice is promoted, but these are the type that I have observed in the community that connects with my definition of social justice. This is my message to the people of what social justice is to me and my viewpoint of observations of social justice.

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