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Course

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### American Ethnic Studies

Categorizing the society into the various categories creates social inequality where there is unequal distribution of resources, rewards as well as positions. Social characteristics such as race, role, and identities are used to differentiate and categorize people into the various societal levels which have implications to the society as a whole. Social categorization in itself does not mean aligning people into a hierarchy of power or privilege. However, categorizing people into class, gender, race, and ethnicity puts in the position of getting greater resources becoming a basis of social inequality in the society.

Social categorization plays an important role in the society. First, it ensures that all roles are filled. Without categorization, there are other roles that may remain unfilled. The gender category divides roles among the members of the society, who should do what and how. It also helps in identifying how individuals should behave and relate with other genders. Secondly, it ensures that social order is maintained. Social categorization creates certain values, customs and practices that must be observed by the members of the society to maintain and conserve certain patterns of relations. Social order is a result of conflicts between the working class and the elite class. The powerful class in the society forces social order on the working class by controlling the resources and other programs that are beneficial for them (Andersen and Collins). This creates a conflict between the classes which leads to a restructuring of the social order. However, due to the complexity of the society, social order is subject to change. History has demonstrated

how different gender, religious, economic and political groups have restructured social order in the society.

Thirdly, social categorization ensures that societal roles are fitted with those who are capable of executing them. Members of the society have different capabilities hence the categorization. Class categorization plays an important role in ensuring that individuals occupy their respective roles in the society. Powerful roles in the society such as political and economic cannot be fully executed by people from the lower class. Their decision making skills are considered weak hence they are not capable of making certain critical decisions that can help the society move forward. It also ensures the roles are classified according to their merits and importance. This makes it easier on who to execute them. Additionally, class acts as a motivational tool to the society where they are encouraged to work harder in order to move up the social class.

Social categorization is necessary because it enables to understand ourselves better. Assigning individuals into certain categories tells us more about them such as their ancestral origins. There will be difficulties functioning in the society if the various categories and levels are not understood well. In addition, they help us know which category we belong to and define our appropriate behaviors based on the groups.

Despite America being known as a country where equality is being advocated, cases of discrimination have been reported throughout history where the Americans discriminate a certain group of people. With a deeper understanding of these categorizations, America will be a country of chaos and further discrimination of the different groups that are in the country. Since people will be categorized according to their races, genders and classes, inequality in the country will deepen further. Gender inequality will increase as most people will consider the roles that every

gender has to play in the society. In the ancient times, leadership roles were considered to be executed by men. This is not the case today as we can see several women occupying different leadership roles in the society. If people will go back to social categorization, women will not occupy certain roles in the society. Additionally, racism will be on the rise in America as the whites will not recognize the blacks, Hispanics and other races in their society. There will be more problems in the society than there is now and people will be treated according to their category.

Albert Einstein once said, “The world that we have made as a result of as a result of the level of thinking we have done thus far, creates problems that we cannot at the same level as they were created.” American Ethnic Studies emerged as a result of social categorization in the society, therefore, changing these perceptions will have tremendous effects on the field. The American Ethnic Studies enables students to understand the various ethnicities and know where they are coming from. However, shifting the perceptions will increase multiculturalism and diversity in America as the people will see each other equal in the society. The differences among the different groups is what that is hindering diversity and multiculturalism. American Ethnic Studies enables students to understand the possible problems that exist in the society and how the society functions in general. Therefore, shifting the perceptions will allow the students embrace diversity and multiculturalism in the country. The existing perceptions only highlights the differences in the society and why they are important, this will make the students exert these differences creating social inequality in the society (Higginbotham and Andersen).

Social categorization ensures that important roles in the society are filled by those who are competent enough. Therefore, regardless of how simple or complex a society is, it must

differentiate its people. Most importantly, social categorization ensures that the existence of the society is continuous.

Works Cited

Higginbotham, Elizabeth and Andersen, Margaret. Race and Ethnicity in Society: The Changing Landscape. University of Delaware; Thomson Wadsworth. Pdf.

Andersen Margaret and Collins, Hill. Race, Class, and Gender. An Anthology. Universities of Delaware and Maryland. Wadsworth Cengage Learning. 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. Pdf