

Multicultural Issues in Law Enforcement

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Introduction

The world in which we live today is full of different culture, different people, and different religion. On these bases there exists multiculturalism. As a result of this diversity there are different aspects of life and society that gets affected. Issue of diversity and multiculturalism also occur at workplace. There have been many instances that have witnessed the presence of this element and its affects. Similarly, this issue of multiculturalism is also prevalent in the field of law and enforcement. The following part of the paper discusses the extent to which this issue of multiculturalism is prevalent in law and enforcement and its effects.

Discussion

Multiculturalism means prevalence or existence of different cultures. First and foremost it can be said that when a society is a multicultural society then it is obvious that all the important institutes would also face this issue of multiculturalism. Whether in society or in an institute the prevalence of multiculturalism creates certain issues. Multicultural issues in law and enforcement are as follows:

The first issue related to multiculturalism is of race. Racial demographics of the civilian population do not match up with the racial demographics of the prison population. According to the census 12.1 percent of the total population is comprised of black people. However, when it comes to the prison population then black people constitutes around 38.9 percent. Controversial questions are raised about the equal application and implementation of the law enforcement as a result of these racial disparities (Herbert, Robert and Aaron, 2007).

Another issue that gets highlighted when we talk about the multiculturalism and law and enforcement is the behavior and attitude. According to research attitude and behavior of police workers and even the attitude of judges and other members of the law and enforcement institutes get affected as result of racial biases and prejudices. This also brings in limelight the concept of stereotyping. Law and enforcement agents stereotype black people as individuals who are frequently and more often indulge in criminal activities. They have formed this belief because of their higher percentages in the population of prison (Robert et al, 2010).

The issue of immigrants is also very critical and controversial when it comes to the law and enforcement agencies. If we take into consideration statistics and data then it would be revealed to us that there is a large number of people who are illegal immigrants. It is obvious that it is impossible for the law and enforcement agencies to deport this much large number of immigrants. So, to prevent illegal immigration they have imposed strict laws, rules and regulations. So, the point of objection is that talk about equality and on one hand, they give leverage to some of the illegal immigrants by not deporting them and on the other hand, they impose strict laws for some (Robert et al, 2010).

Conclusion

On the basis of the discussion that is done in the above part of the paper it can be concluded that multiculturalism and diversity also exists in the field of law and enforcement. This is a field that is so critical for the peace of society. In this case, promoting and encouraging such issues like multiculturalism would not be effective. Members and authoritative figures of the law and enforcement agencies should make an effort to do their duties and perform their task

without any prejudice and biasness. Factors like diversity and multiculturalism should not be taken into consideration when it comes to law and enforcement. As we all know that:

“The law is the same for everyone; it should be applied in the same way to all”.

References

- Herbert, Z., Robert, M., and Aaron, T. (2007), "*Multicultural Law Enforcement: Strategies for Peacekeeping in a Diverse Society: Concepts and Tools in Practice*", Prentice Hall PTR
- Robert, M., Deena, R., Philip, R., Herbert, Z., and Aaron, T. (2010), "*Multicultural Law Enforcement: Strategies for Peacekeeping in a Diverse Society*", Prentice Hall