

# Social policy

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Social Policy

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Firstly, social policy is the manner in which social issues affecting the society are approached. Additionally, any enactment by the government that impacts the welfare of a state population is a social policy. As an advocate of social workers, various measures are put into consideration to ensure that the interests of the social workers. In most cases, the overlooked population in the society usually the minority are faced with several constraints that tend to impact their well fare negatively. In North Carolina, the major population is made up of whites and African Americans who form the minority group in the region. This paper is set to analyze the social policies that affect the minority from the perspective of a social worker advocate as well as the minority group (Bailey et al. 2017).

In a society made up of mixed races, certain issues that affect specific groups are bound to arise. Gender discrimination is one of the social issues that affect the African American population in their course of life. This happens alongside the lower living standards that seem prevalent in this population. As a social work advocate, the primary objective is to ensure that the minority or the overlooked population in the society is heard and that the challenges they face in the society are addressed. Advocacy holds the mandate to ensure that the voices of the minority are listened to.

The minorities in North Carolina are likely to receive lower health care services as compared to the majority group which is usually comprised of the whites. In this regard, African Americans who seek medical care are often constrained by their race since racial discrimination is prevalent in the health care system. In most cases, the problems arise as a result of poverty that makes access to health services expensive or rather unaffordable. Consequently, the minority experience the worst health outcomes in their course of accessing medical healthcare. The root cause of the inadequate response to medication is primarily caused by lower quality care. The

group comprising of the whites receive quality health care since health care providers are more inclined to assist them than the minority group.

The most effective way to compact these issues according to advocates is to first recognize the existence of race and racism in the health care provision. Many advocates fail to consider this aspect when offering their social welfare services hence overlooking the problems their clients face. Advocacy entails understanding the challenges that affect the minority through proper research and designing a way to handle this issue. The policy in place to reduce the challenges experienced by the minority is ensuring that the <sup>2</sup>disparities in the access to health care services are kept at a minimal <sup>4</sup>(Taylor-Clark et al., 2007).

The goal of the policy is to ensure that the population of North Carolina is treated with fairness when offering health services. The approach involves prompting the Institute of medicine to include equality as <sup>3</sup>one of the goals of the United States health care system. That way, the minority will have equal access to medical health care like whites. They strive to ensure that all American citizens are granted the chance to lead a long life is the main reason for this policy. Consequently, cutting down the costs of healthcare services will eliminate discrimination which may arise since the minority is sometimes unable to cater for their treatment.

For most decades, the forgotten element about offering health services is equity. Equity does not necessarily entail the issue of race but the level of wealth of the minority. Despite the limited access to medical services, the minority is faced with financial resources that hinder them from getting quality healthcare. These problems impact them both physically and emotionally since they start viewing themselves as unimportant. However, to ensure that good outcome are recorded from offering healthcare services, the root causes of the health problems need to be addressed.

Social factors affecting African American populations directly impact their health and their lives in general. Improper housing conditions lead to poor health for the minorities since they lack the basic needs. For instance, cancer among women precisely breast cancer is common. A breast cancer patient has experienced racial discrimination s from the minority groups where physicians do not consider explaining the diagnosis to the patients and the options in place to address their problems. This aspect brings a lot of concerns among the group where they develop a distrust on the medical institutions.

Further, the physicians fail to show support and concerns on the patients causing them emotional issues since they feel neglected and treated unfairly. As an advocate, the knowledge of the real-life issues that the minority faces is a good step in ensuring that the policy succeeds. Social workers collect vital information concerning the problems of the patients. Therefore, the way the data is treated is one of the primary concerns of the clients since it may affect them if it falls into the hands of undesigned parties. Racial discrimination may sometimes compel the practitioners to share the information with other parties hence affecting the welfare of the clients. The policy ensures proper training of social workers to enable them to come up with appropriate ways to treat the information with confidentiality to promote the integrity of the health care system (Schulz & Mullings, 2006).

Encouraging nurses to explain the options available for the patients is one of the vital roles of social work policy. Insurance approvals is another issue that tends to be overlooked when it comes to the advocacy of minorities. African Americans may sometimes be denied access to insurance which may affect their access to health services. Since treatments of health issues like cancer are expensive without health insurance, ensuring that equity is applied in

granting insurance is a good way of promoting equality and eliminating <sup>2</sup>disparities in the health care system.

Racial discrimination gets in the way of the treatment since it does not take care of the emotional issues of patients going through traumatic experiences. They are supporting the patients through their treatment until recovery is a way of addressing some of their concerns and ensuring that their welfare is taken care of. In the ever-changing world, technological advancements have evolved with time making the collection of information effective. The social work advocacy involves sharing this information with third parties usually the health care institutions to ensure that they are treated well. However, the digital information technology makes this data vulnerable to undesigned receivers hence making it an issue of concern for the clients. The poor handling of information primarily due to racial differences is common in medical institutions making many African Americans resent accessing treatments as well as other health care services (Concannon, 2007).

The minority being is the target group will stand to benefit since the equity in the provision of health services will ensure that they receive quality health care. Implicit discrimination by physicians will be minimized by promoting equity in the services hence reducing social disparities. Additionally, providing decent housing is another way that will benefit many African Americans since it is one of the causes of poor health status among minorities. The alternative policy for ensuring good health of the minority is training physicians and social workers on the way to treat the information collected from their clients. Compacting social disparities will involve minimizing the effects of racial bias which is intentionally practiced by physicians in their course of work. From the perspective of the African Americans, lack of attention from health practitioners tends to affect their outcomes after treatment. The

policy will help fill the gap created by medical institutions and assist the minority group to have a healthy life by making the services affordable and accessible to them.

In summary, acquiring data from patients with their consent is a vital role in promoting good healthcare. Also, properly safeguarding the information will increase the patients' trust in the system and make them develop the desire to open up about their health issues. Implicit racial discrimination is the primary cause of poor outcomes of African American patients in health services. If put into consideration, the current policy of promoting equity will serve the needs of the minorities in the regions where mixed races co-exist (Acker, 2010).

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