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Definition of the American Dream

Introduction

The United States of America, which according to many is a "land of opportunities" is one of the most unique countries in the world. The country's residents come from different ethnic backgrounds and races. Moreover, America is a combination of unique cultures brought together by the diversity of its inhabitants. Nonetheless, the residents pursue an ideal life, the American Dream, which is controversial and has eluded some citizens. The American Dream is a concept that guides the daily activities of American residents. According to Mgamis, the American Dream can be defined as a philosophy, which is based on the notion that every person, regardless of their birthplace, race or religion, sexual orientation, or political inclination, can become successful in life by working hard and taking risks (70). Therefore, this paper aims to define the American dream and how it can impact a person's life, especially those from humble backgrounds.

The term "American Dream" was first coined by James Truslow in 1931 (Alqadhi and Pawar 629). Therein, he suggests that the Dream is not that of expensive material things like cars, but he was talking about a societal order where every American can rise from a humble beginning and become successful in life. This desire and charm have made people from poor backgrounds work hard to better their lives. The American dream is a reminder to the poor that their situation is not permanent but hard work and determination will see them improve their

lives. Apart from the ideal life, the American Dream consists of three elements; the right of the citizens to pursue their goals, the right to accept as a person, and the freedom from oppression.

The first characteristic of the American Dream is that the residents should be able to pursue their goals in life. This is one of the basic fabric that has brought Americans together, hence the culture of working hard in the country. Americans are hardworking people. Notably, that is why the country is attractive to immigrants. The fundamental issue is that America is not for the lazy. Even the low class are encouraged that if they work hard, they will better their lives and enjoy the fruits of the American Dream. There are a lot of opportunities, but people must be willing to work hard to achieve success. Furthermore, as commonly witnessed in the country presently, people and especially the young, are passionate about something. They get encouraged by their family and friends to try and make their ambitions materialize. As seen in American society today, many institutions and clubs have been established in response to the needs of the people to participate in their hobbies and passions. Normally, these institutions allow individuals to satisfy their thirst for knowledge in a particular area of interest.

Second, the American Dream is about the right of acceptance. It is about being respected and accepted as a person. The American Dream is about an ideal society, where every person lives in harmony and peace with their neighbor. In other words, even though people are different, they should appreciate their differences and live together in harmony. The differences may manifest themselves in different forms, but the bottom line is that people must tolerate and respect each other while living together. Furthermore, no one is superior or inferior to another.

In the late 20th century, America enacted new immigration laws that transformed the structure of American society. This led to the emergence of a cult of ethnicity among the nonwhite factions and the non-Anglo whites (King 64). The country's culture began to recognize

the achievements made by the minority groups during the Anglo dominance by the elites.

Furthermore, it led to Americans acquiring a greater sense of their lives.

Another element of the American Dream is freedom from oppression. The poor and the low-class are always oppressed, not only in America but in the world. As highlighted in this paper, the American Dream refers to an ideal society where every citizen enjoys freedom. In this regard, oppression has no place in the land of the free. As clearly stated by John F. Kennedy in his maiden speech, that every nation should know willingly or not that America is ready to pay any price for its survival and liberty (Harandi and Jahantigh 131). America also made its position known when the nation was still young, that it will advocate for the citizen's rights and will not allow tyranny to have power over the masses.

To the poor and low-class citizens, the American Dream is a constant reminder that they can achieve success and better their lives. Furthermore, it is meant to give them hope that they can be whatever they want to be in life. The American dream can impact a person's life in different ways. For instance, everyone has a belief that they can improve their lives. Life can be hopeless if a person works hard, knowing that they will never achieve more than what they have at the moment. For that reason, the American Dream is a motivation to the destitute, disadvantaged groups, and the vulnerable. It is a motivation for them to work hard so that they can improve their social status and become what they want to be in life.

Conclusion

Having defined the American dream and how it can impact a person's life, especially those from humble backgrounds, it is evident that though many people define the American dream differently, it reminds people of three key issues. First, American Dreams means they have the freedom to pursue their goals for a better life. Second is about acceptance. In the United

States, diversity is what should bring people together. America is a country build by immigrants. Concerning this, everyone must be respected and allowed to be different and work hard to better their lives. Last, the country has undergone tremendous changes and laws have been enacted to guard against oppression. A majority of those pursuing the American Dream are the poor and the lows class, who are assured of protection from oppression as they pursue their dreams. Moreover, the American dream is a concept of an ideal society, not just in the United States, but in the world. Hence, every country should try to achieve the American Dream via understanding and cooperation among its citizens.

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