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Many individuals who belong to ethnic and racial minority groups in Japan have been extremely affected by COVID-19. This is because of some inequities that exist and belong to the social determinants of how they live in the country. The determinants are primarily of health, for example, healthcare access, and poverty. The ethnic and racial minority groups in Japan are more affected due to the quality-of-life and health risks and outcomes. Therefore, certain factors of health make it easy for the mentioned group to be at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19, which has led to a lot of deaths worldwide. These factors include discrimination, occupation, housing, wealth gap, income and education, and health access and utilization. The factors are mostly associated with more cases of COVID-19, deaths, and hospitalization of the places where ethnic and racial minority groups reside, worship, play, work, and study (Kopel et al., 2020). Even if some community strategies have been put to decrease the spread of COVID-19, it causes unintentional harm to some racial and ethnic minority groups due to increased stress, reduced access to services, and reduced or lost wages.

The living conditions promoting the spread of COVID-19 in Japan for racial and ethnic minority groups include living in crowded conditions, which leads to the challenge of these individuals to follow the strategies put in place for prevention. In Japan, family members from several generations live in the same house; hence, the minority groups also do the same because the houses can accommodate most individuals. Thus, it would be influencing the spread of COVID-19. Also, with COVID-19 affecting many businesses, individuals in the minority groups are at a higher risk of losing their jobs, which means no income. This would then lead to eviction from their homes, rendering them homeless or sharing a small house with other individuals.

Being a person of color in a foreign country is hard to get a well-paying job unless one has excellent education training and other quality skills. In Japan, the low paying jobs are allocated to racial and ethnic minority groups. Even though the jobs pay a low income, it would be impossible for them to quit their jobs because they need the money to survive during the pandemic. Hence, even though the job puts them at risk of contracting COVID-19, it would be hard for them to leave it since they need the resources to survive (Guan et al., 2020). The money they get pays for their rent and other basic needs. Hence, if they quit low-paying jobs, especially during a pandemic, it would be hard for them to survive. They opt to stay in jobs that risk their health to get the money to help them manage and survive in life. They would rather go to work when they sick so long as they manage to get the money that would meet their basic needs.

Individuals that belong to the racial and ethnic minority group have low access to health care, and they live in poor condition because of low income and poverty. Most of them are uninsured and unable to access health care because of the lack of resources. There are several factors that make them have no access to health care, which include the inability to take a leave off work, cultural differences, language barriers, lack of transportation, especially if the health care facility is far from there are of residence, current and historical discrimination in the health care system and child care (Matthews, 2020). Therefore, most individuals from the minority group in Japan mistrust the government, making them not seek care since they are responsible for inequity and discrimination. Thus, during the COVID-19 pandemic, most individuals from this group are affected by the virus, but some cannot access health care facilities on time, leading to their demise which makes it such an unfortunate situation for the population living there.

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