The motivation for crime in the African American community

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**Outline**

1. Abstract

 2-Introduction:

1. 1-The objective of the research is to find out the factors that motivate African American Community to conduct crimes.
2. The research will focus on the economic conditions of black people, drug abuse, psychological need, and their overall living environment.
3. The research will also highlight the role of crime within the community

3- Literature review

 A-Racial inequality

 1- Baumlin (1999) says that racial deprivation has been very instrumental in forming a collective black psychological reaction. This psychological reaction based on racial inequality has made the black more involved in violence than the white racial county in the United States.

 2. Another researcher says that the racial socialization in the familial provides resilience to the effects of crime on the interpersonal racial insights of the African American Youth (Burt, Lei, & Simons, 2017).

 B- Economic ramification of the Black community

1. From the past two decades the black community of America is being treated brutally and in the 1990 30 percent out of 56 percent black Of Los Angeles were living below poverty line and in the same year the police department of California reported increasing rate of crime among the Black community. (Armstrong, 1994)

 C-Drug Abuse

1-A report presented by Mauer and Huling (1995) that the drug offender population in the criminal justice has increased recently and the percentage has risen by 510% in the years 1983-93. This percentage increased because the black Hispanic women have been involved in drug abuse ion that time period. The arrest of African American for violent crimes has also increased from 24% to 39 percent from the year 1980 to 1991.

 D-Psychological Stress Caused by limited resources

1. The black community is segregated based on social and economic resources and that is affecting their mental health (Association, 2016).

 1.1-Psychological Health

 E- The intrinsic and extrinsic factors that motivate crimes

 A-Family situation and living environment of African Americans

1-Black families and communities have experienced abject poverty from the time they were brought to America as slaves. The back families are out of the educational facilities and the American have put some limits to the black lives. The middle class black families are struggling to get equal opportunity in the American society(Allen, 1995)

 F- Modern day culture and its influence on African American community’s crime rate

1. To cope up with the modern culture of technological advancement the Black community is involved in robbery and homicide (McFarlane, Groff, O Brien, & Watson, 2003)

 G- Lack of role model within the community of African American

 H- The role of crime within the community.

4-Conclusion:

1-Most influential motivational factor of crime within the African American Community.

 2-How to control the increasing rate of Crime within the community?

**Annotated bibliography**

1. McFarlane, J. M., Groff, J. Y., O Brien, J. A., & Watson, K. (2003). Behaviors of children who are exposed and not exposed to intimate partner violence: an analysis of 330 black, white, and Hispanic children. *PEDIATRICS-SPRINGFIELD-*, *112*(3; ISSU 1), 663–663.

 Black youth are likely to me more prone to the child abuse and more involved in robbery than the white youth. Homicide is also the cause of more of the death among African American societies. All of these are due to the fact that they cannot cope with the changing modern society.

2-Allen, W. R. (1995). African American family life in societal context: Crisis and hope. *Sociological Forum*, *10*, 569–592. Springer.

 Black families are captured by poverty and this is due to their separation from the dominant stream of the society. The families are not able to get out of the cycle of poverty due to the fact that they are being marginalized.

3-Association, A. P. (2016). African Americans have limited access to mental and behavioral health care. *Mental Health America (Eds) Black & African American Communities and Mental Health. At: Http://Www. Mentalhealthamerica. Net/African-American-Mentalhealth*.

The racial and ethnic stratification of a community determines their socio-economic status. There are health disparities and low level of education found among the African American society and that cause a lot of stress among this racial group.

4- Allen, W. R. (1995). African American family life in societal context: Crisis and hope. Sociological Forum, 10, 569–592. Springer.

The monolithic, in assurance and stereotypic portrayal of the African American families are very common and these factors show that this community is marginalized from the main stream and is being involved in crimes due to lack of resources.

5-Association, A. P. (2016). African Americans have limited access to mental and behavioral health care. Mental Health America (Eds) Black & African American Communities and Mental Health. At: Http://Www. Mentalhealthamerica. Net/African-American-Mentalhealth.

20 percent of the Adult black African American are more effected by psychological distress as compared to white adults and 3 times black people are below poverty line than the whites. Thus the increasing rate of crime is also high in Black than whites.

6- Baumlin, J. (1999). African-American communities and violent crime: The construction of race differences. Sociological Focus (Vols. 1–32(1)).

The black community has developed a psychological reaction due to the racial discrimination and the violent behavior leads to crimes and homicide.

7-Burt, C. H., Lei, M. K., & Simons, R. L. (2017). Racial discrimination, racial socialization, and crime: understanding mechanisms of resilience. Social Problems, 64(3), 414–438.

The racial socialization of family provides flexibility towards crime and increase interpersonal discrimination among the community of Black people. Thus black are more involved in the daily crimes.

The motivation for crime in the African American community

# Abstract

 This research paper aim is to identify the motivating factors behind the increasing rate of crime in the African American community of the United States. The discussion includes the dominant motivational factors and explains the reason for the development of black violent culture. Criminal actions of the black communities are being motivated by the increasing rate of poverty, social marginalization of the ethnic group, drug abuse, and more importantly the racial discrimination that let the development of the class system in the American society. While the low privileged class involves more in crime due to lack of basic facilities.

# **Introduction**

The objective of the research is to find out the factors that motivate the African American Community to conduct crimes. The main focus of this research paper is to identify the fact that the crime rate is increasing with thin the black community and it is based on the stress due to deprivation from resources. The psychological needs of the group are not met and the group is economically deprived. The research discusses the intrinsic and extrinsic factors that motivate crimes including the family situation of Black people, their living environment and the pressure they get from a peer. The group also lack a role model and their financial affiliation is not known and they also get motivation from the changing modern culture.

 The research paper also highlights the role of crime within the community and the cause of fear within the community by the increasing rate of crime and thus motivates more crime within the community.

However, Crime is defined as an offense that is consists of condemnation of community and punishment is mostly been given in the shape of imprisonment and fine (Crawford, 2013). Most of the black community is involved in drug abuse, robbery, homicide and violence. The main motivation factors that help the Black American community to conduct crime is the racial inequality in the American society that has developed psychology within the black community that they are mean to conduct crimes in order to meet their basic needs.

# **Literature Review**

Theories of crimes are always geared towards the explanation of why some people are more motivated towards crime and that have understood the source of criminality could be racial discrimination, economic deprivation. Psychological mentality and there could be the tendency of certain other traits as well (Baumlin, 1999).

# **Racial inequality:**

American society is highly segregated based on basic facilities as well as crime rates. African-American neighborhoods have a high rate of crime than the neighborhood with white people. Researchers have identified racial segregation in the United States as a motivating factor behind the crimes in the United States. Racial discrimination is the sole cause of poverty in the Black neighborhoods and the middle-class black families are very few in number (Massey, Condran, & Denton, 1987).

Racial segregation because of poverty due to the fact the get poor job opportunities, low business ownership, isolated from many different social networks, isolated from macroeconomic events and receive very poor public services. This is further explained in the diagram given in Appendix A.

Black Community cannot reach the high authority that makes these policies and it is an effect of the dominant culture that deprived them of basic rights (Massey et al., 1987).

 Baumlin (1999) says that Blacks have developed a collective psychological reaction to racial deprivation and this collective mentality motivates the individual in the community that they should conduct crime otherwise they are not going to survive. The families have adopted a resilience towards the effect of crimes due to the racial inequality in society (Burt et al., 2017).

# **The economic ramification of the black community:**

The black community of America is always marginalized and from the past two decades they are being treated brutally and most of the community lives below the poverty line which encourages them to conduct more crime (Armstrong, 1994).

Despite the fact the black in America are showing political; involvement and the rise in the middle-class black community are also immerging but African American has a high rate of unemployment. African Americans have the highest rate of unemployment in the United States, the rate is 6.3 percent, white is 3.2 percent, Asian is 3.0 percent and Hispanic rate of unemployment is 4.5 percent (Jones, 2018).

Economic policies in the United States are enhancing metropolitan growth and attract industries that are providing high wage rate. These give the opportunity to both Black and White within the states. But the black labor demand policies are not clear that how they are going to end up the increasing poverty of the community which eventually motivates them to9 conduct crimes. Therefore much policy formulation is needed. (Armstrong, 1994)

# **Drug Abuse:**

The prison population in America consists of 60 percent colored people and 37 percent of them are accounted to drug arrests and 14 percent are the regular users of drugs. The involvement of African Americans in violent crime has also increased from 24% to 39% due to the increasing rate of drug abuse within the community (Mauer & Huling, 1995).

Psychological Stress:

The mental health of the colored people is being affected by the lack of socio-economic resources and which compel them towards crimes (Association, 2016).

Black adults suffer 20 percent more from psychological stress than white adults. It is due to the fact that they live below the poverty rate and the therapist also do not prefer to treat blacks.

A huge stigma is attached to the community which does not let them accept that their certain acts come under the criteria of crime and those stigmas also not let them identify their mental health. In a black community minor anxiety is a normal black thing (Jackson et al., 2004).

# **Psychological Health:**

Socioeconomic segregation and racial discrimination implicate huge psychological suffering and the black community also lack health facilities which makes them more prone to mental health issues. Thus they are more prone to drug dependency and they became involved in crime in order to pay for drugs (Association, 2016).

# **The intrinsic and extrinsic factors that motivate crimes:**

The communities of Afro-American have always been viewed in a negative way to buy the rest of the Americans. Those communities are judged based on the stereotypical view that blacks are made to conduct crimes and are ill-mannered people.

# **Family situation and living environment of African Americans:**

The families of Black people and the neighborhood have always been in abject poverty. Those families lack quality life, health facilities and those are also deprived of quality education. The emerging middle class is in search of opportunities in the high discriminated society of America (Allen, 1995). Thus the black conduct crime as the life in abject poverty. The situation of a black family makes it unable to provide a good platform, to the child and he or she has also to follow the footsteps of the general community. Thus the involvement of black in crimes prevail.

Modern culture and its influence on the African American community’s crime rate

The black community is linked with a stigma called, “black culture of violence” and people think that the Northern states have a high rate of crime due to the migration of black. It is because of the fact that due to the modern culture bring technological facilities with them and blacks are unable to manage all those and become involved in homicide and robbery (McFarlane et al., 2003)

# **Lack of role model within the African American community**

The vulnerable status of the black community needs a leader who can motivate them to get rid of their miserable life. These people are in a disadvantage in the present time and it is a matter of concern that these people define themselves as violent and are compelled to follow a criminal cultural. They need to develop an identity that will be known among the Americans and those people are no more stereotyped (Gale, 2007).

Studies show that the African American role model will help to break the cyclic pattern of the society which results in the involvement of back in crimes, incarceration and drug abuse (Gale, 2007).

# **The role of crime within the African American community**

The African American Community has high Crime rates than other ethnic groups in the United States and it is not due to the fact that is criminally oriented but because they’re facing disadvantaged social conditions. They are more dependent on crime due to the lack of opportunities and basic facilities.

Research shows that the rate of poverty in Black is directly proportional to the rate of crimes conducted by the members of the community. The black youth adopt a violent posture and have developed a criminal culture. The youth also experience peer pressure who kept the criminal circle alive by involving youth in such activities (Cherry, 2017).

# **Conclusion**

African American community have more rates of crime as compared to the white community. Literature review shows that this is due to the fact that they are being social and economic marginalized. Due to the high racial inequalities, this community lacks basic facilities including, health facilities, employment, quality education, and positive role model. The collective black psychology has developed die to racial deprivation of the community and this mindset promotes criminal acts.

Due to racial discrimination the group experience less cultural socialization with the dominant group of the society which makes the black to remain in their circle of violence and crime.

So racial discrimination is motivated black people to conduct crime more than any other factor. Because it is due to racial inequality, the black community lack policymakers, employment opportunities, low-quality education, cheap health facilities, less involvement in the matters of the government and least leadership roles. Thus colored people develop a culture of violence and criminal actions are the only means of survival for them.

 However, the increasing rate of Crime within the community can be controlled by helping them develop a unique identity and giving them opportunities equal to the white people. The government should develop economic policies that will generate more employment for the black people and they will be given an opportunity to be part of the policy-making body of the government. The black community should not be kept separated from the white neighborhood so that they could get benefits from the facilities being provided to the dominant race. Black people should be made the part of good educational institutes and they should develop positive goals for themselves. Awareness sessions should be arranged to let the people of the United States know that there is nothing like a black violence culture but that is a stereotype attached to the black community.

#

# Appendix A

**The relationship between poverty and racial segregation in African American**



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