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Discussion: Sociology

Every society struggles with how to distribute power, wealth, opportunities, and resources. In many societies, this distribution is unequal. In the United States, the distribution of basic necessities of life and rights is based on class, gender, and age.

According to Paula S. Rothenberg, a child grows through his interaction with society and in particular, his interaction with the people in his surroundings. A child and an adult cannot be same. There is a significant difference between their perception, approach, and behavior. The society of the United States is divided into prominent groups: dominants and subordinates. Dominants are the people who influence the determination of society. They decide the distribution of resources. Subordinates are controlled by dominants and labeled as substandard in many ways. When these labels are defined, society starts categorizing people based on these labels. Blacks in the United States are considered as less intelligent than whites. Women are the symbol of emotion and men are the symbol of power. The behavior and actions of the dominant group have an adverse impact on subordinate group. The dominant group assigns some acceptable roles to the subordinate group. These are the roles that no member of the dominant group wants to perform. So, they assign tasks such as cleaning their waste products, to subordinate groups. The dominant groups work in prestigious and reputable positions. Almost in every society, the valued tasks are done by a dominant group and less valued tasks are done by the subordinate group (Miller).

Subordinates are considered incapable of performing valued tasks so they have to strive for their survival. The reactions of the subordinate group are usually very shocking. They are rejected by the dominants. Dominants do not understand the emotions of this group. In our society, a woman is considered as an entity who has to regulate her whole life around one male member. Women’s reaction can cause destructive results. The subordinate group knows more about the dominant group. They can easily predict their behavior as they are so tuned to their likings and disliking.

The factor of inequality is always present in society. There are two types of inequalities; temporary inequality and permanent inequality. Temporary inequality exists on a personal level like relationships between children and parents, students and teachers and many others. The superior party is considered more valuable than the other. The solution for this kind of inequality is to end the relationship. People can continue as friends or colleagues but not as superior and inferior entities. Permanent inequality is defined by the birth or social ascriptions of the person. The criteria of discrimination can be sex, class, religion, nationality or race. These are permanent factors which cannot be changed.

This practice of dominance is very common in the United States which needs to be resolved to give equal rights to every member of the society.

# **Works Cited:**

Miller, Jean Baker. "Domination and Subordination ." Rothenberg, Paula S. *Race, Class and Gender in the United States*. New York : Worth Publishers , 2007.