Social Change

Community Psychology

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07/28/2020

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America is made up of many communities that are continually changing. Some communities are the majority like the whites, while some are minorities like African Americans and Hispanics. Changes in society are brought about by various aspects that are influenced by either internal or external factors. Some of the factors include human interactions and relationships and natural causes. Thus, there are three major types of social changes in the community; planned, spontaneous, and unplanned social changes (Waisbord, 2020). The differences bring numerous alterations to the norm of society, especially its culture. I come from a African American community. Some transformations have occurred in my society; they include the culture of my community, size, diversity, and industry change.

My community comprises about 47.8 million people, which is about 14.6% of the American population, according to the US Census Bureau in 2019 (Black Demographics, 2019). Our population is broken down as follows: 10% live in the west coast, 17% live in the Midwest, 18% live in the Northeast and 55% live in the South (Black Demographics, 2019. Our purchasing power has seen impressive gains since the end of the last economic downturn, jumping from $961 billion in 2010 to an estimated $1.3 trillion in 2018, with a median income of $41,361 per year per household (University of Georgia, 2019 and Black Demographics, 2019) Our families are tightly knit, such that grandparents contribute to raising grandchildren.

Changes have occurred in my society. Some of them are spontaneous, others planned, and others unplanned. Planned social changes occur when organized activities influence change in society. Usually, it is consciously and deliberately attempted to bring changes. A good example of planned social changes in my community includes educational projects, family planning plans, commercial projects, and social programs. The government, non-governmental organizations, and other small groups are the agents who cause the changes to happen.

Spontaneous changes are alterations in society that occur due to the people affected by an event being the agents of change. Usually, it is a mild and uncontrolled alteration (Waisbord, 2020). It can happen through imposing it on people of motivating them to abstain or welcome the factor to be changed. Some spontaneous social changes in a community include changes in relationships caused by the use of technology. Others include changes in the names of people and professional behavior. A study done by the University of Pennsylvania (2015) showed that spontaneous changes in society could emerge from being non-existent to being popular without any external factors. Their study focused on the baby name Aiden, ranked at 324 in the list of baby names by the Social Security Administration (University of Pennsylvania, 2015). However, after a decade, the name became popular among the major 20 names used for over five years. Therefore, they concluded that society members could agree spontaneously on new social norms through changes in the social network.

Unplanned changes are alterations that take the form of a natural course. They are usually either accidental or outcomes of a sudden decision. No one has control over such changes, but the people can control their effects. Some of the unplanned changes can be catastrophic, while others are incredibly beneficial (Waisbord, 2020). For example, when the family planning concept was introduced in my community, the expected outcome was to reduce the number of children that a family can adequately support, thus reducing the poverty level. However, some unplanned changes occurred, too; for instance, there was a shift in the generational gap. There were very few infants, few children and teenagers, and many youths and older adults. The plan's direct impact caused an unplanned shift in the health, consumption, clothing, entertainment, and employment sectors (Waisbord, 2020). For instance, in the health sector, maternal care improved, but some maternal facilities had to close because of a lack of clients. Moreover, some general practitioners moved to take care of youth and old, a big part of the population.

The best social change which fits my community is the planned social change. It is because many positive results have been reaped from the alterations. It is known that my community likes entertainment, especially having get togethers, like having a Bar-b-Que and listening to music. Therefore, various education communication strategies have been employed to bring social change to my community (Waisbord, 2020). For instance, rock music was used to promote sexual responsibility among teenagers to curb early pregnancies, one of the persistent social problems in my community.

Moreover, my community is the third largest minority group with a high level of high school dropouts (NCES,2017). There has been a challenge with African Americans attaining and completing education to the highest levels. The fact can be attributed to other factors like poverty. However, the trend of gas changed over the years due to planned education programs. Many children are attending public schools to learn. Moreover, many youths are noted to proceed with higher academic levels, bachelors, masters, and doctorates, despite women being more than men.

In conclusion, society changes are continually taking place, affecting the size, diversity, culture, and development of communities. In my African American community, numerous alterations have occurred, and some continue taking place. Some of them were spontaneous social changes such as naming; others were unplanned changes, for instance, and maternal care changes while others were planned like education projects and media communication strategies.

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