

The lack of social mobility for minorities living in poverty in the United Kingdom due to a lack of acceptance

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The Question

How successful is social mobility in the U.K. for individuals existing in a visible minority? How does class relate to poverty and the social stigmas associated with each level?

Background

- History of discrimination and racism
- Visible minorities living in poverty experience a great deal of mental and physical strain
- Lack of trust toward the government
- Social mobility refers to the movement of an individual or group in social position
 - Traps individuals
 - Tiers based on family one is born into

Description of Country

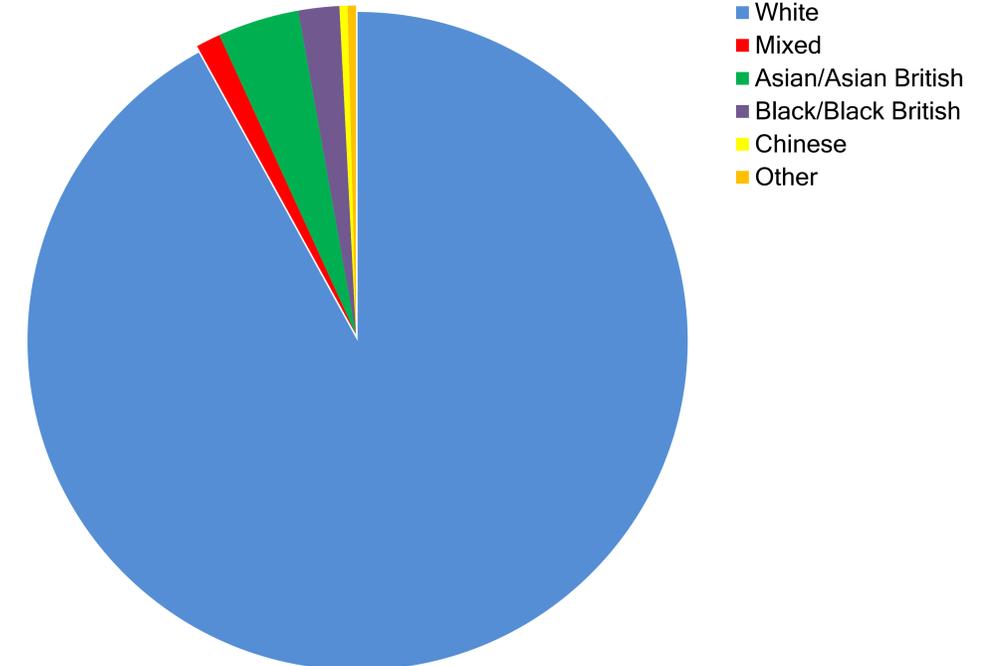
- United Kingdom = Great Britain, the northern part of Ireland, Wales, Scotland
 - Monarchy government
- The richest tenth exceeds that of incomes of all those below average income line (Poverty Org. Graph 4: Total Income Shares)
- Racism was recognized during the Brixton riot (Black man was denied help from local police)
 - Tension arose and created a sense of inferiority for the minorities
- Controversy in immigration policies



Evidence

- Fundamental relationship between the government and visible minorities
 - Establishment of social roles given to these groups
- It was only after the 1990s that U.K.'s political parties began to take responsibility - understand the importance of tailoring a new set of laws that address these so-called invisible issues
- Five-tier immigration system - places immigrants on different levels as they apply to move in
- Race Relations Act - 2000 - focus on eliminating discrimination in public service sectors (ex. education)
- Employers are monitoring potential employees by ethnicity - hiring, training, benefits, etc.
- Majority of teachers are White, middle-class
 - Not as comfortable preaching multiculturalism as they possess little knowledge
- Hierarchical society - minorities cannot access basic services without a negative reaction from public eyes
- During industrialization period, British took advantage of immigrants - forced them into labour jobs and paid low wages
- During the twentieth century, minorities became visible - still experienced hostility
- Attempts to open door policy for immigration, but Britain lacks upward social mobility for the minorities

Population percentage of the U.K., by ethnic group, 2001



Conclusions/Recommendations

- Britain is the least socially mobile country in the world
- Visible minorities are poorly represented and lack equal opportunity to jobs, services, education, etc.
- Racism and discrimination are the main cause of poverty for visible minorities

Macro Recommendations

- Governments must continue to establish a relationship and accept their visible minorities
- Open-door immigration policies must be introduced, eliminating the five-tier system

Micro Recommendations

- Individuals existing in a minority group must recognize their inequality - continue to fight for equality together/create support networks
- Teachers must be trained in the understanding of multiculturalism and share acceptance for these minority groups

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