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THE AMERICAN MELTING-POT : AN UTOPIA ?

Digits about the American population are pieces of evidence about its diversity : 80 % of people speak English and 12,3 % speak Spanish. Concerning racial and ethnics groups, 72,4 % are White, 12,6 % are Black and 4,8 % are Asian. Among them, 16,3 % have Hispanic roots. We may wonder if the diversity of the USA is an utopia through 3 three articles. The first article, "More young Americans identify as mixed race", extracted from The New York Time, deals with the multiracial trend. The second article, "Census data show segregation", from USA Today, deals with the Black segregation. The last article, "Professor's goal : Separate HIV facts from fiction", adapted from The Chicago Tribune, explains consequences of segregation, especially about HIV.

Firstly, what is a race ? According to the US Census Bureau, it is an identification chosen by American people. In this way, College Park, Maryland, is the place of the Multiracial and Biracial Student Association. The goal of students is to claim their multiethnic lineage and reject stereotypes about color lines. For example, the past president of the association, Vicky Key , asserts that she is Greek and Black and Vasco Mateus considers himself as Portuguese and African-American/Haitian.

Reasons of mixed race is immigration (Asia, Europe, Centrale America) and intermarriages. Indeed, 1/7 of new marriages are biracial or biethnical. Then, mixed race is one of the fastest-growing demographic groups in USA. However, there are diferent point of view about this trend. Concerning optimists, they think that it will delet segregation, whereas pessimists assert that mixed-race people will become another minority. Finally, sociologists explain that it will glosses over differences.

Regrettably, differencies persist between minorities concerning intermarriages : White-Asian marriages include a better education and higher incomes whereas Black and White marriage have the lowest rate (because of social distance).

Then, the multiracial trend allows people to struggle against a colorblind society, but White-Black differencies remain.

Now, what about census data concerning segregation is the USA ? Since 1980, progress toward integration has come to a halt (according to the Census Bureau). Results show segregation concerning non-Latino white people and Black people. Both live in different neighborhoods from others. For example, Northeast and Midwest is called the "ghetto belt". Besides, Asians and Latinos are segregated by White people, which results concentrated ethnic enclaves.

How can we explain segregation concerning Black people ? There is no denying that there was a blatant exclusion from white neighborhoods from 1920 to 1970. Moreover, the recent recession pushes segregation rates up again. But there is hope thanks to the rise of black middle class.

So, segregation is an unsolved and chronic issue and Blacks are still the more segregated minority.

A study from Dexter Voisin, an associate professor at the University of Chicago and a doctorate in social work, shows consequences about black segregation. In 2007, according to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, black adolescent males were about 8 times more likely to become infected with HIV compared with white males. So, why teens who live in violent communities might engage in risky sex ? The first study of Voisin, led to black teen people, shows that high-risk communities include high-risk behaviors. For example, black teenagers who come from black ghettos will not use a condom. More surprisingly, there is a disbelief about HIV numbers : black people believe in conspiracy theories. The second study, led to college students of different races, show that only Black students have conspiracy theories. Then, they receive information about HIV-prevention from friends and the media. Furthermore, black socializing structures compare HIV as a gay disease.

Then, consequences of Black segregation in a limited acces to AIDS prevention and the rise of conspiracy theories in their community.

To conclude, immigration and neighborhoods show how the country is a melting-pot. But it is an utopia because of segregation. Then, black people could have a feeling of reject and are victims of misinformation.