

Pioneers of Diversity in Criminal Justice Professions

Student's Name

Institution

Supervisor's Name

Date

The role of Jackie Robinson

Jackie Robinson an African American athlete and activist who played a huge role in what the American criminal justice system came to be in the latter days. As a young baseball player at age 28, Jackie Robinson was able to demystify the vicious ideology and legacy of the white supremacy when it came to American history. As an activist against racial discrimination in the United States, Jackie Robinson was able to see many African American being given a chance to play in major baseball league as a symbol of equality that came to be in his actions. Perhaps one of the most important roles is the influence he had in abolishing racial discrimination in America (Stokes & Scott, 1996).

This happened on July 26th, 1948 when the then American president Harry Truman issued an executive order 9982 which abolished racial discrimination in the American armed forces. This happened just when Robinson faced his first pitcher at Ebbets field successfully integrating professional baseball among the black communities. By his executive actions, he was able to inform the supreme court case *Brown v, Board* and its verdict to desegregate public schools in 1954, that later informed the decision of Rosa Parks action on boarding a bus which leads to the Montgomery bus boycott (Tartaro & Krimmel, 2003). This is where other leadership roles like Martin Luther King Jr. came in with civil rights action.

During this time there were various forms of discrimination that came out due to Jackie Robinsons and his predecessor's actions. For example, black people were not allowed to eat, socialize or study in the same schools or institutions like the white people. The Montgomery bus

boycott also revealed that black people were discriminated against when it came to the provision of social amenities. At some point black men were not allowed to vote and were almost compared to the white women of the time who were also not allowed to vote. However, this was a thing of the past after the abolishment of racial segregation by them President Harry Truman. Looking at the kind of racism that Jack Robinson and other African American of their time went through and now, it is very open that the experience would be different.

This is because due to the experiences that the African American of the time went through, civil rights activist like Robinson and Martin Luther were able to come up with demands that would ensure several measure and actions were taken against any form of discrimination. Nowadays citizens in the United States have various avenues to address discrimination that it was in the past. In addition, there are laws which have been enacted in the United States in which a victim of discrimination can use to address the issue. Due to the rising global networking, the issue of color seems to fade away as people are not intermarrying that it was in the past. It has become a normal affair for a black America and a white American to live and work together (Reaves, 2010). Black people have also been incorporated in the American criminal justice system means that they are fairly represented through the struggle is still on.

There are, however, a lot of challenges since the rules are not enough to penalize people accused of racism. In addition, very few racial cases are often reported, and when reported they are rarely addressed. The other challenge comes with social media uprising where groups are rising to counter cases of racial discrimination and media groups do not report cases of discrimination when it is done against a black person (Stokes& Scott, 1996).

Conclusion

In conclusion, racial discrimination is still an issue in the country and needs to be addressed. There is still need for strong laws that will ensure discrimination has been wiped out through using the criminal justice system in the United States.

References

- Reaves, B. (2010). *Local police departments*. Retrieved September 15, 2017, from <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/lpd07.pdf>
- Stokes, L., & Scott, J. (1996). Affirmative action and selected minority groups in law enforcement. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 24*(1), 29–38.
- Tartaro, C., & Krimmel, J. (2003). The effect of race on criminal justice students' career choices. *American Journal of Criminal Justice, 28*(1), 109–124.