

Instructor: Kristina Gale

Sociology 1010

30 November 2012

Racial Profiling

In today's worlds it is inevitable to come across some level of discrimination, you hear in the news about how different ethnicity are being targets of racial profiling. Racial profiling is a discriminatory act when law enforcement officials target people of suspicion of crime based on the individual's (ACLU). Racial Profiling can happen to you or someone you know. Racial profiling has happened in the past and it is still occurring today. Applying the three theories of function, conflict, and symbolic will give you a different view of the pros and cons of racial profiling.



Racial profiling commonly takes place in cultural communities or if an individual is the in the wrong part of the neighborhood. An example of racial profiling I saw in a documentary titled: *Face the Truth: Racial Profiling Across America*. Tells a story of a Muslim man name: Karwan Abdul Kadar, from Nashville, Tennessee. Kadar shares his story in the documentary of how he was a victim of Racial Profile. His story begins when two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents (FBI) came to his house after 9/11 happened. The FBI questioned him asking him if he was part of the Al-Qaeda terrorist group. He told the FBI repeatedly he was not part of the terrorist group and he was not even from the same region of Osama Bin Laden.

Kadar shares a second story that he had with Law Enforcement. Kadar was driving one late night when he got pulled over by a policeman for suspicious activity because he was in the wrong part of the neighborhood, as the policeman puts it. Kadar was arrested and was

interrogated for a couple of hours. In the end he was released with no ticket or citation. As Kadar tells his story he gets emotional, he then says: "I've seen a lot in my life but to be degraded...not just stripped of my clothes, being stripped of my dignity, was what I had a problem with." Kadar story is an example of racial profiling.

In the story the Muslim man was being racial profiled because the policeman was suspicious of him. The function of racial profile in the story is how Law Enforcement uses racial profiling to protect communities or themselves. If they feel something is suspicious they will act on their suspicion and they will use their authority to be in control of the situation. In this situation the benefit of racial profiling is for prevention. After 9/11 most people in America have this view that Muslims are terrorist. Now most law enforcement have the idea they are preventing crime or another terrorist attack.

Empowerment is a conflict faced in racial profiling in Kadar story the policeman holds the power. The policeman punished Kadar by stripping him from his dignity because the people who caused 9/11 were Muslim. Now the policeman is using his authority to racial profile people like Kadar because they are accounting for what happened on 9/11. By afflicting or punishing anyone who poses a threat is a way for the policeman to stay empowered.

In Kadar story he was labeled as a terrorist. Having a negative labeled placed on an individual or group will affect how people will interact with the person. In Kadar story you can see how the label placed on him affects the way the policeman interacts with him. Even though there was no evidence against him, the policeman had a suspicion. The policeman suspicion feelings may be a link to 9/11. Therefore, the policeman arrested him and interrogated him to be

Instructor: Kristina Gale

Sociology 1010

30 November 2012

on the safe side or to make an example of him. The negative label placed on Kadar is the reason why the policeman attitude towards Kadar was prejudice.

The pro of racial profiling through functionalism is to provide prevention and safety. After 9/11 new laws and regulation were implemented to provide safety for the people of the United States and to prevent another terrorist attack. The con of racial profiling has made it more complicated for innocent Muslims or other foreigners to escape their country to come to America to live the American Dream.

The pro of racial profiling through conflict theory is keeping people of important on top. Most Americans feel the purpose to be empowered. When terrorist attacks like 9/11 happens America will find ways to fight back to stay empowered. Racial profiling is one method used by law enforcement to find people who are non-Americans. The con of racial profiling through social conflict may cause humiliation to the individual who is being arrested, or grief for taking away their dignity.

The pro of racial profiling through symbolic interaction will change the way people interact with Muslim. Racial profiling will help identify American from non-Americans; this pattern of racial profiling will help reduce the competition against foreigner and keep jobs open for Americans. The con of racial profiling through symbolic interaction will prevent people from interacting outside of their own culture. And the best way to decrease discrimination is learning from one another and interacting.

The best theory that fits racial profiling is the symbolic interaction because in Kabar story the policeman were treating him like a criminal. Kabar was being treated like a criminal because after 9/11 Muslims got the label as “terrorist.” This label has affected the way most people interact with the Muslims. Having a negative label is a big reason why law enforcement racial profile.

Racial profiling has been happening for a long time and will continue to happen. The function of the situation is making new laws to make the United States a safer place, the conflict of the situation is maintaining power, and the symbolic interaction is the positive/negative label on a particular group affects the way people interact with the group. Racial profiling has its pros and cons, which is why there is no solution or end to racial profiling.

Caitlyn Yellow

Yellow5

Instructor: Kristina Gale

Sociology 1010

30 November 2012

Works Cited

"American Civil Liberties Union." *American Civil Liberties Union*. N.p., 23 Nov. 2005.

Web. 30 Nov. 2012. <<http://www.aclu.org/racial-justice/racial-profiling-definition>>.

Work Consulting

<http://restorefairness.org/2010/09/face-the-truth-racial-profiling-across-america/>