

**EXCAVATION RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ALABAMA  
THROUGH THE CHARACTER IN *JUST MERCY* BY BRYAN  
STEVENSON**

**(A Thesis)**



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BANDAR LAMPUNG  
2023**

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**This thesis is my work based on my knowledge and study. This thesis has not been submitted for any degree of other purposes.**

**I certify that the intellectual content of this thesis is the best study of my own work and that all the assistance received in preparing this thesis and sources have been acknowledged.**

**Bandar Lampung, June 6<sup>th</sup> 2023  
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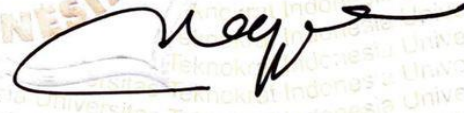
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## **MOTTO**

*“You will probably see me moaning and crying. You will probably see me exhausted and screaming alone. But, i will promise you one thing, you will never see me give up”*

*(Karina Dwi Pratiwi)*

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to myself, my parents especially my mother who have supported me to finish this thesis. Thanks to Allah SWT, my older brother and sister. Thank you to my class of 2019 who have supported and given me colorful days.

## ABSTRACT

### **Excavation Racial Discrimination Through the Character in *Just Mercy* Memoir by Bryan Stevenson**

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*The United States has a dark history of racial conflict between white people and black people for at least three centuries. This is because black people often become victims of discriminatory acts of white people. It is difficult for white people in the United States to assimilate black people, due to the early arrival of black people to the United States only as slave workers, so that a mindset of black people as second-class citizens is formed which becomes an attitude in social stratification in the United States.*

*This study applied a sociological approach and theory from Swingewood to represent the problems that occur in the memoir *Just Mercy* (2014). This study applies qualitative data research methods. The data used for this study was taken from narratives and quotations and the source of the data came from the memoir *Just Mercy* (2014).*

*The results reveal that the conflict occurred because of racial discrimination problems that occurred in the city of Alabama. Stevenson, an ordinary civilian and a lawyer who is concerned about the many cases of discrimination, tries to help African Americans who are struggling because of this racial discrimination by opening a free legal institution to fight for the rights of African Americans, Stevenson's struggle in fighting for the rights of Africans America in the city of Alabama is not easy because it also gets discrimination wherever it is.*

***Keywords: Racial discrimination, representation, Swingewood analysis,***



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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Background of The Study**

This memoir written by author Bryan Stevenson, tells how this racial discrimination occurs in his real life. He experienced various problems in fighting for African Americans rights. Stevenson, a graduate student from Harvard University, has been through a difficult time since he started college. His first case as a lawyer after he graduated was the case of Walter McMillian. Walter is accused of being the murderer of the case in Alabama City. Nearly seven months after Ronda Morrison's death, police were looking for the killer, but witnesses could not provide a clue as to who the real killer was. Ralph Mayers, who has an extensive criminal record, tried to give fake testimony for redemption. Racial segregation that has occurred in the long history of American society covers almost all aspects of life. African Americans people struggling to convince themselves that they are innocent are not being listened to by the government and the police.

Memoir is a work written by the author based on the realities of life that he experienced. By this, as part of literature, memoir conveys certain values from the author, as stated by Samanik (2018) that the author's perception of world and reality affects the work he expressed. Memoirs have been around for a long time. They have

a certain universal appeal as they allow people to learn from each other and gain insight into new perspectives.

The memoir analyzed in this study raises the issue of social discrimination received by the African Americans race in prison, society and government. The *Just Mercy* memoir has the issue of African Americans being treated unfairly while in prison and prisoners being sentenced to death for illogical reasons. This memoir was released in 2014 and the author is Bryan Stevenson. The story told in this memoir is an original story that he experienced during his time as a lawyer.

Literature can be seen from all aspects of life and also from a social perspective, since a product of literature, namely literary works, come from several cultural contexts in society (Afrianto & Gulö, 2019; Suprayogi, 2019). Through this medium it is hoped that literature students and researchers can easily apply the theory of literary studies to understand human life (Kasih, 2018). Literature can also be related to discussions on social issues. Literature as an important medium must have values including moral values so that a literary work not only entertains its readers but also imparts values and lessons (Amelia, 2020). Literary works can also reflect and enhance social issues and values through research and methodical formulation as in this novel. The social issues framed in the literature refer to issues of social justice, racism and redemption. Literature refers to a collection of published information or materials on a particular area of research or topic, such as books and journal articles of educational value. Meyer (1997) Literature consists of those writings which interpret the meaning of

nature and life in words of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest. It is because literature also becomes a tool to convey the author's feelings (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021).

The work of literature sometimes refers to racism issue. Racism is the process by which systems and policies, behaviors and attitudes create unequal opportunities and consequences for people because of their race. It occurs when that prejudice is combined with forces that discriminate, oppress, or limit the rights of others, whether individual or institutional (Fredickson, 2002). Racism in all its forms is a human right that today is not recognized as a fundamental problem to be solved especially in America. Racism in its various forms threatens the lives and rights of millions of people around the world. Although racial discrimination has been declared since the multilateral treaty of 1965 the US government perpetuates and allows racism in favor of immunity and personal racial profiling is common. Despite laws against discrimination and protection of equal rights the US government has clearly failed to protect its citizens from racist behavior.

Discrimination is an unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on something such as race, ethnicity, religion, or other social classes. These actions are usually carried out by the majority group and intimidate minority groups. Racial discrimination is a sensitive issue in society (Hacken, 2012). As God has given rights and freedoms to every human being, the principle of human equality is usually ignored and ignored by some people. Discriminatory treatment is still often found in

society, especially in the Americas, and it is still an interesting issue (Luedtke, 2012). Discrimination based on race, politics, and economics causes problems. America has a diverse history of how human rights are implemented. According to (Logan, 2013) racist incidents in America were caused by history that occurred in the past. The entry of many immigrants from Africa who employed African Americans as slaves to America made this racial discrimination conflict occur.

Based on the definition of discrimination above, discrimination means racial attitudes and unequal treatment of a certain group of people because of race. This makes certain races feel considered superior or inferior because of discrimination and inequality of treatment. A civilian who has not been proven guilty of his actions received a sentence from the police in the form of execution sadistically. This is for example; the discriminatory treatment received by African Americans has been around for a long time and is not a world secret. African Americans people who have received bad treatment not only in social life but from various aspects such as discrimination in schools, and the home environment.

The case of George Floyd in the U.S, which at that time became a hot topic discussed by many people, began to trigger emotions and sympathy from other social communities. The state of Australia protested and questioned the rights that should belong to all people, especially African Americans people. George Floyd, who received the judgment in public in a sadistic way that was inappropriate for the police, is a public figure and received a lot of criticism about the government. According to

a survey conducted, there were still racial discrimination and African American hate in the U.S. (Fano, 2020). Finally, *Just Mercy* memoir was chosen in this study as this memoir was considered delineating racism issues.

## **1.2 Research Question**

According to the background of this research, the writer elaborated this question as to the following question:

How is racial discrimination reflected in *Just Mercy* memoir?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

Based on the formulation above, the objectives of this research are to know racial discrimination reflected in *Just Mercy* memoir.

## **1.4 Use of The Study**

This research is expected to contribute to literary analysis and can provide understanding for the readers, especially for the students of English Literature about sociological analysis in a literary work, especially analyzing racism and discrimination experienced in memoir.

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

Theoretically, the results of this research are expected to provide benefits for literary studies, especially in the case of racial discrimination. In addition, it can provide more understanding about one of America's histories in terms of racial discrimination against African Americans. Readers will better understand the importance of

understanding racism or discrimination, and readers will understand things about discrimination based on race.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

The results of this study can be useful for other research materials. In addition, readers will understand more about the discrimination that happens in society which is an absolute thing important for the people. So readers are expected to be motivated to help others regardless of race and skin color.

#### **1.5 Scope of The Study**

Based on the title of this research, racial Discrimination as reflected in *Just Mercy* memoir by Bryan Stevenson. The object of this research is a novel entitled *Just Mercy*. To evaluate this research, researchers applied sociology approach and Laurensen & Swingewood theories in this research.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Previous Study**

This study aims to discuss the issue of fighting racial discrimination through justice that is fought for by African Americans people. The African Americans group does not accept the injustice that the author is trying to fight for and prove that there is still justice in this world for minorities. Several studies have previously discussed this issue and raised the issue of racism. So to support this research, the researcher uses several studies that use almost similar topics, namely racism, and discrimination. Some of this research is expected to keep the discussion that the researcher will carry out.

Martin (2018), in her study entitled *Racism, racial discrimination, and trauma: a systematic review of the social science literature*. In order to better understand the connection between racial oppression and psychological functioning, this study attempts to provide a comprehensive evaluation of studies that explore links between racial discrimination and trauma. Researchers use study selection to find out some of the victims who have experienced this racist case. Researchers obtained data on victims suffering from trauma through google scholar, and data analysis was carried out directly. The research conducted by Christina Martin is expected to help complete this research.

Dozier (2016), based on his study entitled *A memoir of MLK, MSU and Discrimination in East Lansing* discussed the discrimination experienced by Robert L. Green and his wife Frances. Green, who at that time had graduated from MSU and already had a job, had to buy a house in West Lansing. However, an unexpected situation occurred when he met the owner of the estate who was racist to Green. In this study, the researcher used the observation method that occurred in this study of memoirs. The researcher also examines and understands the cases that occurred by the author with the research in this thesis which have similarities in the events and cases that occurred. The case that happened to the author, which is the story of his life journey, has something in common with the case that happened in this study. It is hoped that the memoir on Green's case can become an inspiration for researchers to make observations in the memoirs in this *Just Mercy* book.

Zoe (2020), based on her study entitled "*Racial Discrimination As Seen in Stockett's Help*". This study aims to demonstrate racial discrimination from white to African Americans as seen in Kathryn Stockts. Assist with implementing qualitative research and collecting data in the form of verbal expressions and online novels and other books. Investigation. The author collects data using two types of sources, namely primary and secondary sources. This novel represents the situation back then in the Jim Crow law era, where all aspects and accommodations for African Americans and whites are separated for equality. Still, it does not show the equal treatment of African Americans. Instead, the long perception of the African American race is inferior and dirty. For the African American race, it costs trauma, poverty, and death. They still

receive all those harmful threats even after suffering and working hard, even when they have to serve the white race and fight for their freedom. The issues in this study are the same as the problems discussed by the researchers in this journal. It is hoped that this study can help complete and provide ideas for this research.

Hafizh (2016), in his study entitled *Racism in The Post-Colonial Society: A Critical Discourse Analysis to Jacqueline Woodson's Novels*. In this research, the researcher analyzes the novels. The research he conducted raised the issue of racism in the post-colonial era. This study discusses the ideology of white and African Americans people. This study uses a CDA approach. This research is beneficial for researchers because it provides information about American life in the past.

## **2.2 Sociological Approach**

Literature is a work of art, the result of human creativity in the form of thoughts, feelings, experiences, imagination, and the author's experience, using language as a medium. Literature and sociology share the same problem: dealing with humans in the community. A sociological approach examines literature in the cultural, economic, and political contexts in which it is written and received and explores the relationship between artists and society. An artist's culture is sometimes examined to understand the writer's literary work better. Representations of such social elements in the literature may be explored in other cases.

A major theme of sociological literature is the relationship between literature and society, how this relationship can arise, and how it affects literature and society itself. Literature and society show the relationship between people, in which literary works will give birth to creations and imagination to describe real social problems. By this, this theory combines the intrinsic elements of the work and the extrinsic elements of the literary work's historical, social and cultural context. (Mentari and Samanik, 2022). In addition, authors making literary works usually describe the realities of life, meaning that literature is a reflection of society. Therefore, this approach becomes the scalpel used by the writer to look at the social issues represented in literary work (Kurniawan and Samanik, 2022).

In addition, according to Laurenson & Swingewood (2013) there are three perspectives in literary sociology research, they are research that views literature as a social document in which it is a reflection of the situation at the time the work was made, research that reveals literary works as a mirror of the social situation of writers and research that captures literature as a manifestation of history and socio-cultural conditions. In this case, the memoir *Just Mercy* is a reflection of the situation that occurred in America.

Sociology is a division of the science of human interaction. This is its essence. Sociology is the systematic and unbiased examination of humans in society, the scrutiny of establishments and social methods. Sociological exploration on human

finances, politics, faith, family, and community. Sociology is the systematic and unbiased examination of humans in society, the scrutiny of social establishments and methods: endeavors to solve the problem of what society is like, its potential, how it operates, and why it continues. through stringent social framework, faith, finances, political and familial, forming the so-called Social structures, which do not always provide a distinct view. How humans adjust and adapt to particular things in society; the method of socialization, its process of cultural learning in which individuals are aligned and accepted their respective roles in social structure (Larenson & Swingwood, 1972).

Based on the above statements, sociology is the interaction between humans and society and human society and includes Social institutions, religion, economy, politics, one's relatives, and social figures. Sociology is social relations and assumes that they relate to all the different social institutions that are necessary and correct, and connected between people. Sociology is not only focused on the durability of social frameworks and connections but also on the indications and indications of social transformation in an individual and the transformative essence of society. Literature as sociology is mainly centered on the social universe of humans, their adjustment to society, and their aspiration to modify it. It can be viewed as an endeavor to accurately replicate the social world of their association with their family, government, and the nation, along with their position within the family and other establishments, and the frictions among groups and social strata. Strife and stress are also illustrated. (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

The discipline of literary sociology shares similarities with sociology in terms of the objects and goals discussed. Its focus is on all aspects related to society, including its male targets. However, literary sociology is a relatively new field compared to other established disciplines such as religion, education, politics, and social change. Despite its ideological inaccuracies and questionable nature, the discipline of literary sociology attempts to establish a corpus of knowledge that explores the correlations between literary texts and social history.

In essence, literary sociology is an academic discipline that examines the social aspects of literary works and their relationships with social phenomena from a sociological perspective. It encompasses various elements of literature, including social class, status, ideology, national affairs, economics, education, religion, and social change in society. There are three distinct approaches to the sociology of literature, which include:

### **2.2.1 A Literary Work as a Mirror of the Times**

This approach pertains to the source of literary pieces. Laurenson & Swingewood (1972) assert that literature is a reflection of the past. This implies that literary works can serve as a platform for readers to discuss social phenomena that occurred during a specific period and location in society. Consequently, literary works mirror the condition and circumstances of social existence in society. Laurenson & Swingewood contend that "the most prevalent perspective considers the documentary feature of

literature since it reflects the times." This implies that the mirror reflects itself, and literary works now mirror society. Scholars scrutinize literary works that mirror society and social existence. It must regard literature as a reflection of social reality.

### **2.2.2 Literary Work Deals with The Social Situation of the Author**

The writer is a part of society and is thus impacted by the circumstances and events that surround the literary world. However, it is essential for authors to be more attuned to the social phenomena that are present around them. Laurensen & Swingwood's (1972) stated that the focus shifts from the literary work itself to the social situation of its production and, most importantly, the author.

Laurensen & Swingwood (1972, p. 18) state that "*the writer's position in mass society, in contrast to their early social situation, is of great importance and can have a significant impact on their creative potential in many ways.*" The connection between the historical context and the evolution of literature is a critical area of literary sociology. Academic sociology examines the relationship between the author's life experience and the era in which they live. Therefore, a literary work is often based on the author's social background.

Memoirs, for example, are narratives that stem from the author's social experiences. Consequently, a literary work typically delves into the historical backdrop of the author's life. Furthermore, there is a harmonious relationship between the author and

their social life. The author's inspiration does not arise from their imagination alone but also from the world around them. As a member of society, the author's inspiration must come from their community. In other words, a literary work examines the author's situation.

### **2.2.3 A Literary Work as a Specific Historical Moment.**

This approach explores the condition of society at a specific moment. Obtaining and comprehending written works is undoubtedly acquired from a particular society at a particular point in history. This standpoint focuses on written works as a representation of reality during that time. In essence, a written work mirrors a historical moment. Most sociologists and literary critics concur on this matter: one studies great research. Writers and their texts, purely because of their greatness. However, it provides profound insights into human and societal composition. Queries about mainstream culture, the essence of popular sociology, for instance, a culture devoid of a message, offer profound insight into human social and societal life (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

In this study, the analyst utilizes the initial perspective, employing written works to scrutinize the social circumstances in memoirs and the actual social conditions that transpired in the city of Alabama. The first standpoint states that the analyst examines a written work. In this instance, the disparity in power is evident, with white people belittling African Americans. They still believe that white people are the highest caste in western countries. The historical impact witnessed in antiquity has led them to



believe in social class disparities in society. The 20th century saw white people employing African Americans as slaves and discriminating against them, a history that persists until today.

## **2.3 Racial Discrimination**

This feeling encourages the community that certain races feel superior to dominate and dominate other racial communities (Amelia and Gulö, 2022), therefore they can oppress other racial communities. Moreover, this discrimination occurs in various community institutions such as political institutions, law, and the world of education which results in a person or group being treated unequally to other groups.

### **2.3.1. Types of Racial Discrimination**

According to Pincus (1996), racial discrimination is divided into three types, they are individual discrimination, structural discrimination and institutional discrimination.

#### **2.3.1.1. Individual Discrimination**

Individual discrimination is the result of a close relationship between discrimination and individual behavior, usually the act of different treatment by members of the majority or dominant group against members of a minority. This individual discrimination is usually carried out directly, usually from superior to those who are considered inferior. So, basically this type of discrimination includes all actions and words of someone who is consciously committed to humiliate another race. This action is usually due to envy of something that is obtained by an individual which

makes a person start to discriminate when they start to get the achievement of what they want.

#### **2.3.1.2. Structural Discrimination**

Structural discrimination leads to policies by dominant people. Dominant in this regard is the dominance of race, ethics, gender institutions and the behavior of individuals implementing this policy. Actually, the policy making institution on structural discrimination aims at neutral race. However, in fact this policy has a different effect and is detrimental to minority groups.

#### **2.3.1.3. Institutional Discrimination**

Institutional racism refers to differences in access to goods, services and opportunities for people based on ethnicity. It can be argued that this type is also deliberate discrimination but perpetrated by a wider range of practitioners. This is because institutional discrimination is carried out by policy makers both in law and government and also by individuals who implement it. Thus, this type has a wider impact on minority groups. The main purpose of institutional discrimination is to keep minority groups in a lower position in society.

### **2.4 Racial Discrimination in Alabama the U.S**

The City of Alabama has long practiced and adhered to white Supremacy and put their welfare aside. White people who act against their rules by grabbing their land with the excuse that they are in power make African Americans people unable to do

anything. The city of Alabama whose residents separated their rights from white people such as prosperity, health and infrastructure that were usurped by white people. The police who are more pro to white people make innocent African Americans people do not have the authority for them to be able to defend themselves to fight for their right to freedom.

The prison population, which is mostly inhabited by African Americans, has shown how the police system can side with whomever they are in upholding justice. The part of serious talk about education, society, government and justice occurred in the city of Alabama, which is the basis of common knowledge for all people has been divided into sections of social strata. For example, in distinguished colleges and top universities funded by the government, most of them are white students. This imbalance has become a very common thing that happens to residents of the city of Alabama until now.

## **2.5 Bryan Life**

Brian Stevenson, who graduated from Harvard in 1985 and earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the Kennedy School of Government, as well as a Juris Doctor degree from law school, became part of the clinical department at New York University School of Law in 1998. In the past, he was employed as a prosecutor at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. Since 1989, he has been the Executive Director of the Equality and Justice Initiative (EJI), a non-profit legal organization he founded, which focuses on social justice and human rights in the area

of criminal justice system reform in the United States. EJI aids imprisoned convicts, juvenile delinquents, individuals who have been wrongly convicted or prosecuted, impoverished individuals who have been denied proper representation, and those who have been subjected to discriminatory practices or prosecutorial misconduct during their trials. It also manages litigation on behalf of other individuals. Stevenson's achievements have garnered him national acclaim. He received the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship Award in 1995. He has also authored several manuals that are widely used in criminal justice and has extensively written on criminal justice, capital punishment, and civil rights issues. He is also the author of the New York Times bestseller *Just Mercy* and has won the 2015 Carnegie Prize for Best Nonfiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the NAACP His Image His Award for Best Nonfiction. Stevenson believes that attending law school "enables law students to consider the legal needs of the poor and effectively serve those in need in resource-poor areas such as the Deep South of the United States." It provides an excellent opportunity to explore how to train.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

#### **3.1. Research Design**

The method used in analyzing this novel is a descriptive qualitative method with a sociological approach. This method is considered a real phenomenon in societies as it is found in some research (Kuswoyo, et.al., 2020; Rido., et.al., 2015) The qualitative data obtained is the result of observations, examinations and studies of various things. By this, qualitative research directly focuses on analyzes and explanations (Fithratullah, 2019). In addition, this method focuses on narrative, description, and comprehension analysis (Amelia, 2016; Kasih, 2018). To analyze the qualitative data, the researcher used a sociological approach because the conflict that occurred reflected the social situation and issues of justice experienced by Americans in 1987 when many African Americans were sentenced to death and deprived of their rights to justice.

Conducting qualitative research involves studying natural language that naturally evolves and is not influenced by researchers. Skilled researchers do not have a significant impact on the dynamics of these phenomena. The researcher is the primary tool used in qualitative research. Statistical procedures are not used to present the findings of descriptive qualitative research, but rather data is presented in the form of

descriptions. This approach involves gathering and analyzing non-numeric data (Samanik, 2021), resulting in findings presented in words (Kuswoyo and Susardi, 2016).

### **3.2. Data and Data Sources**

Data is the important part in the research as data provides the issue to be analyzed by the researcher (Kuswoyo, 2021). Meanwhile, the data source used for this research was from the memoir of *Just Mercy* as the primary data source. In addition, the other data sources that the writer also applied were also taken from journal, book and memoir. Those data refer to the internal conflict issue.

### **3.3. Data Collecting Techniques**

The aim of the research was to gather the necessary information, which required a comprehensive data collection process that was well-coordinated (Kasih 2018). To achieve this goal, researchers followed a series of steps sourced from various references to collect data for the proposal (Kasih, Amelia & Fitratullah, 2021). The study employed the descriptive qualitative method for data analysis, which encompasses description, analysis, interpretation, and provision of details.

1. Read *Just Mercy* memoir and observe carefully what points are needed in the research.
2. Read and find several journals and articles that discuss racism and discrimination, analysis related to research.

3. Take note of some important things related to research while reading this novel.
4. Write and create analytical data that will be used for research purposes.

#### **3.4. Data Analyzing Techniques**

After collecting the data, the analysis was done by focusing on the issue (Kasih et al, 2022) that the writer raises. Therefore, in data analyzing, the writer used several steps, some of these steps are:

1. Analyzing existing data and classifying suitable data and then applying this has been chosen.
2. Evaluating the result of the analysis. After analyzing existing data, the next step is to evaluate the results of the analysis.
3. Conclude the result of the analysis.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### ANALYSIS

This chapter discusses the questions stated in problem formulation, representing racial discrimination reflected in *Just Mercy* memoir. Several steps have been taken by clustering and classifying data to find out the sign and symbol in the memoir using the sociological theories by Laurenson and Swingewood. In the first step before conducting analysis, the data is from the memoir of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson as the object of investigation. The researcher also uses secondary data relevant to the research, such as articles, journals, books, and previous research studies. Those data will be collected and used as reference material in support and completing research. After that, the writer classifies the data into several parts according to the issue of racial discrimination. Finally, the data are going to present as follows:

#### **4.1 Racial Discrimination in Education.**

Nelson Mandela States that education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world (Campbeill, 2012). Education holds great significance as it possesses the potential to alter the world through an individual's intellect and understanding. The educational initiatives are intentionally designed to impact and support children in enhancing their cognition, physical abilities, and ethics, which can eventually lead them towards their ultimate aim. Brock (2003) adds that education plays a vital role in ensuring a child's well-being and contributes positively to their personal growth and



societal development. Whether we realize it or not, education is the most important thing to forming a personality. Education is an effort planned in the guidance process and learning for individuals to develop and grow into independent human beings, responsible, creative, and knowledgeable.

Tatum (2017) states that education is also very important to advance human resources to be more knowledgeable and form a civilized character. Education is something that everyone must receive, and it is their right to get it. Children usually accept education that starts from school to the social environment at an early age. When their racial identity is still evolving, kids of color may encounter racism in a variety of ways in their day-to-day interactions at school, including institutional, structural, and personal racism. Because education is considered necessary, everyone needs education, but the problem is the existence of racial discrimination that occurs in education.

The issue is the discrimination of education received by African Americans. Most of Alabama City is American, with a low percentage of the educated population. The *Just Mercy* memoir exposed this issue when African American John was arrested in Alabama to reduce the number of educated African Americans. According to Morris & Allen (1994), white supremacy and racial discrimination in Alabama's system of higher education are not entirely dependent on de jure segregation. Both remain strongly entrenched and anchored in hidden mechanisms that ensure white rule. Americans feel that it is not feasible and inappropriate to get an education. John, as an Alabama educator, experiences racial discrimination that occurs in education, John, as

Alabama educators, experiences racial discrimination that occurs in education, as shown in the sentence below.

John convinces the white judge who controls the town to allow him to open a school for African Americans children. His education has empowered him, and he has strong opinions about racial freedom and equality that land him and the African Americans community in trouble. Then the judge shuts down the school when he hears what John has been teaching. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 87)

Line 2 of the quotation states, “*His education has empowered him, and he has a strong opinion about racial freedom and equality that land him and the African American community in trouble. The Judge shuts down the school when he hears what John has been teaching*”. This shows the discrimination that John has received as an African American teacher who tries to give equal rights to the community help founded to receive knowledge. In 1990 education for African Americans was very difficult to get. Children were frequently advised by adults in schools and community-based youth groups to “*ignore it (racism),*” or that they will eventually grow out of it (racist sentiments) (Masko, 2005).

According to Walter (2005) 1990, the schools for African American that did exist were consistently shortchanged regarding educational materials, building construction and maintenance, funding, and other resources. In this narrative, “The judge shuts down the school when he hears what John has been teaching” explains the discrimination against John and his community; they get unfair treatment, and the Judge forcibly closes the school they built using money donated by the African American community.

According to Timberlake (1995), education for African Americans was challenging to get because of several factors, such as the high cases of racism and the difficulty of accessing these schools, which are located far from where they live; because of this educational discrimination case, many African Americans do not get proper education as experienced by the Stevenson family as seen in the narration below:

None of my aunts or uncles had graduated from college; many hadn't graduated from high school. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 88)

The quotation exposes that *none of my aunts or uncles had graduated from college*. He explains that his family did not get a proper education until college. In assessing the overall racial status of higher education in the state of Alabama, two conclusions can be reached. First, it is clear that university in these circumstances must be determined by race, this applies at all levels of students (Morris & Allen, 1994). The people of Alabama experienced several factors because of the difficulty in getting a proper education, so they could only get an education up to junior high or high school.

Sowell (2006) states that no high school facilities were made available to African Americans, even though in many areas, they constituted a large proportion of the state population schools for African Americans were, for the most part, unresponsive to the community they served, these schools were ostensibly used as instruments of social control by the southern white power structure.

McLemore (2007) showed that African Americans' education in the South was controlled by Southern whites who sought to preserve the racial caste system and by Northern whites who continued to bear much of the superior feeling of responsibility. White Americans feel superior and responsible for the education system in America; they do not want African Americans to be superior to them. The discrimination in the education system that they feel makes African Americans struggle to get their right to education by trying to establish special African American schools, which they build together to achieve their goals. However, the reality experienced was different from what they expected because of White Americans' discrimination in the education system.

They were responsible for and had power over the African American education system. Even among the youths from another poor and disadvantaged group in the North, the ideals implanted by the schools do not fit life as they experience it; the conflict is, of course, accentuated in the case of Negroes. The many cases and problems African Americans face to get their right to education do not go according to what they dream. This is reflected in the following narrative below:

“I had never before considered how devastated John's community must have felt after his lynching. Things would become so much harder for the people who had given everything to help make John a teacher. For the surviving African Americans community, there would be more obstacles to opportunity and progress and much heartache”- (Stevenson, 2014, p. 88)

Lines 1-3 show the quotation: *“I had never before considered how devastated John's community must have felt after his lynching. Things would become so much harder*

*for the people who had given everything to help make John a teacher".* Explain that John as a teacher must receive the death penalty because of the prohibition of regulations to provide education to African American people. John lost the right to educate African American people in his community and was forced to be killed for his actions. Feagin (2010) stated that racial discrimination that generally occurs in social society also grows into formal education, for example, in schools. Education, which should be an institution that is free from crime, makes it difficult for African Americans to get an education.

Teachers as educators should be able to give them the freedom to develop and fight for the ideals of African American community organizations. The teaching profession needs to have an organization so that it can develop and advance the profession, monitor and expand the field of motion of the profession, gather and provide opportunities for all members in the organization to work and play an active role in developing and advancing the profession. A teacher also has a great influence on the ongoing education. Discrimination against education does not only happen to students but also teachers can become victims of discrimination in the city of Alabama.

A teacher like John, who has an educational background, does not give him protection from discrimination. The sentence that describes discrimination against John is also depicted in the narrative "Things would become so much harder for the people who had given everything to help make John a teacher" In this sentence, many people in

the African American community tried to help make John a teacher for people who did not get an education like African Americans in Alabama City, but he was forced to receive the death penalty discrimination. The teacher is the main source of learning in the classroom. In the classroom, the teacher is a companion, coach, and guide to create knowledgeable and civilized human beings (Maulida, 2018).

The discrimination that occurred and the disruption of the education system, as experienced by John, hindered an effective and conducive education system. The African American community, who did not have the power to defend John, who was sentenced to death by the judge, was forced to bury their dreams and aspirations when their school was forced to close. Pratami (2001) states that the right to education for everyone who does not get an education can lead to high poverty rates and increased criminal cases. Cases of educational discrimination have an impact on dropping out of school experienced by African Americans, causing them to be left behind and slow to accept modernization due to a lack of good education and jobs. Today's racial discrimination and the legacy of the past also target children as a racial generation of blacks, especially in educational settings (Willmore, 2019).

#### **4.2 Racial Discrimination in Government**

The government as an institution that has the absolute right to regulate the system of government, society, and citizens. According to Fremon (2002), the system of government is the role and responsibility of members to maintain all cultures, including the state and its government. Fremon emphasized that governmental systems have a

practical monopoly on coercive power. However, the government system, which is supposed to serve and protect the rights of citizens, actually only supports some of the majority of the population. According (Bonham, 2010) Defines, the system of government as a relationship of power, authority, and function between two or more organs of the state and government on a reciprocal basis. A government that should be fair and not discriminates between races and classes.

The United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The Court said, “Separate is not equal,” and segregation violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The discrimination that occurred in the government system in America in 1990 showed how other African American people experienced injustice. When they try to take refuge in the government, the government does not work to be fair to minorities. This can be seen in the narrative below:

Outraged by lack of local law enforcement interest in the case, the African Americans community and civil rights activists persuades the US departement of justice to get involved. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 41)

The statement above explain that outraged *by the lack of local law enforcement interest in the case*, African Americans are angry because their rights are not treated relatively, trying to express their opinions. The Government’s report alleges that “statistical proof of racial disparity, particularly when combined with other circumstantial evidence, is probative of the discriminatory intent necessary to make

an equal protection claim.” Thus, the report suggests that the intent doctrine is not a substantial bar to bringing discrimination claims (Wu, 2007).

During 1866, parts of the South struggled after the civil war. Geiger (2011) states that much unemployment between blacks and whites resulted in a lack of force of law at the time. As a result, many people take the law into their own hands because of criminal acts by enslaved people who have not been trained and educated. Separate but equal” refers to the infamously racist decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in Plessy v, which allowed the use of segregation laws by states and local governments or by black and white people, Ferguson (1991). Discrimination and injustice in the legal system and government that occurred in the city of Alabama, which is described in this narrative as “Outraged by lack of local law enforcement interest in the case,” the legal system that does not care about cases of the people of the city of Alabama, the majority of whom are African Americans.

The weak power of law for African Americans makes them easy suspects to become perpetrators or victims of crimes in the government system. It's so easy to impose punitive sanctions on African American people. Discrimination caused by their former past of working as enslaved people, that indelible image that has always made White Americans constantly belittle and despise African Americans. There is little injustice for African Americans who fight for their rights and liberties. This can be seen in the narration below:



40 percent African Americans, it was not uncommon for prosecutors to exclude all African Americans from jury service”- (Stevenson, 2014, p. 50)

In line 1 explains that: 40 percent of African Americans, it was not uncommon for prosecutors to exclude all African Americans from jury service. In this case, the government seems to differentiate the human rights of African Americans and Americans. The difference in treatment experienced by African American people, who are considered only enslaved people and not treated as human beings, makes African American people feel anxious about what punishment they will receive in court proceedings later.

According to Yamuna & Sharmila (2017), From 1926 to 1986, the recorded African American percentage among admissions to State and Federal prisons more than doubled from 1926 to 44% 1986. Importantly, this growth is not explained by general population trends. The number of African Americans relative to the general population was about the same in both years: in 1926 and 12% in 1986.

The injustice in justice felt by African American people like McMillian is one of the many cases in America. When they are often made suspects to replace white people's punishments, they still cannot defend the confessions they have experienced even though they are innocent. The increasing number of African American prisoners is evidence of discrimination in the justice field they receive. African Americans do not get the service in court like a jury fighting for their rights. McMillian did not assign the defense jury as per the following narrative below:

Twenty years after the civil rights revolution, the jury remained an institution largely unchanged by the legal requirements of racial integration and diversity. As far back as the 1880s, the Supreme Court ruled in *Strader v. West Virginia* that excluding African Americans from jury service was unconstitutional, but juries remained all white for decades afterward. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 50)

The narration explains that is *the jury remained an institution largely unchanged by the legal requirements of racial integration and diversity (...) the Supreme Court ruled in Strader v. West Virginia that excluding African Americans from jury service was unconstitutional*". In 1963, John Patterson took office as governor and immediately proceeded to completely promote the segregation of African American rights, including segregating homes, buildings, and public services.

With the support of the Ku Klux Klan and a history of discrimination against civil rights, John Patterson was elected governor of Alabama in 1959. John, who was supported by the Ku Klux Klan community, succeeded in seizing the rights of African Americans. Patterson, who served as Chief Justice, did not provide jury service facilities and discriminated against African Americans in the legal system, as seen in this narrative "The Supreme Court ruled in *Strader v. West Virginia* that excluding African Americans from jury service was unconstitutional." The unfair treatment was because John was part of the KKK community, which opposed the civil rights of African Americans. According to Merriam (2002), the Ku Klux Klan is a violent secret fraternal society founded in 1915 in Georgia to maintain white Protestant cultural and political power.

They were against African Americans' rights because they do not deserve the same rights as white people. They opposed the rights of African Americans because they were not entitled to the same rights as white people and discriminated against and abused African Americans in Alabama by utilizing separate but equal policies. John Patterson also had separation which became popular in 1963 as seen in this narrative below:

“The chief judge of the court was former governor John Patterson . He made national news in the 1960 as a fierce opponent of civil rights and racial integration. In 1958, with the backing of Klu Klux Klan, his segregation become the most segregation in America declaring in 1963 "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" just block away African Americans people from this courthouse”(Stevenson, 2014, p. 111)

The quote shows that: *“his segregation become the most segregation in America declaring in 1963, Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever just block away African Americans people from this courthouse”*. At this moment, it was told that the declaration made by Governor Patterson was a form of discrimination against African Americans. According to Swingewood (1972, 13), literature as a documentary also provides a mirror to the age.

This statement means any literature forms, specifically memoirs, follow the present time or contain historical events. The chief judge, who used to be a KKK activist, made things worse. He does not give freedom and rights to African American people in Alabama. The segregation that occurred on a large scale in the city of Alabama

made it difficult for African Americans to get their rights. This can be seen from the following narrative “Just block away African Americans people from this courthouse.” In the statement that Patterson gave when he made a large-scale separation in the city of Alabama, violence began to occur everywhere because it challenged public facilities and services.

According to Scott (2002), government, such as institutions, is divided into groups, namely for white people and people of color, whose facilities cannot be joined by African Americans. Facilities for people of color tend to be worse because of a lack of funds, and the quality is also very low or far from adequate, very different from white people. African Americans in Alabama who did not accept that their rights to freedom were being mocked began to protest against the government and hoped their voices would be heard. However, their governor was not on their side and tried to destroy the bus of African Americans activists, as reflected in this narration below:

When the freedom riders’ bus traveled through Alabama, they were abandoned by the police. Alone and unprotected, they were beaten violently, and their bus was bombed. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 111)

The quote in line 2 explains that: *Alone and unprotected, they were beaten violently, and their bus was bombed.* When the police were supposed to protect the people, they tried to kill African American activists who tried to protest and question the rights of African American people. In the mid-1960s, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which included black community leaders, and then the Student

Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which included younger activists, met to discuss peace face-to-face (Eshter, 2001).

The human rights activists gave instructions to do freedom rides. In carrying out this action, African Americans used a vehicle as a bus, then drove south to get to a location that could attract attention from the media and the general public's attention to attract sympathizers so that changes would occur in the south. However, some of the buses carrying African Americans were bombed by the police to curate the demonstration period to voice their rights as told in this narrative "Alone and unprotected, they were beaten violently, and their bus was bombed" Protest action and voice aspirations against their commitment to equity and justice for everyone even though they could not save some of the African American community.

However, they have tried to fight for their right to freedom. According to Mulyani (2021), negroes are an example of victims of racial discrimination, even though government institutions cannot take sides or lean towards either party, from one's religion, ethnicity, or race. All are entitled to legal services, facilities, and rights that are fair and equal to others. The government system must always hear the voices of the people against injustice without exception and regardless of their ethnicity, race, and skin color.

### 4.3 Discrimination in Society

Humans are social creatures who live interdependently with one another. According to Ibid (2017), humans cannot live alone and need help from others. The social life that humans live, such as interacting with family, friends and neighbors, for example, is a form of social interaction that occurs in everyday society. However, differences such as race, religion, and caste became an issue. Differences in caste, race, or religion occur everywhere, especially in the City of Alabama.

Racial difference is one of the problems of social discrimination; African Americans always get discrimination against where they are. In the case that occurred in the book of *Just Mercy's* memoir, Stevenson is the author of this book and has experienced first-hand how social discrimination occurs. In a case where Stevenson was in a white neighborhood when he was offered by a friend to live temporarily in his white house, he experienced social discrimination as explained in the following narrative:

There was a particularly vocal older white woman who loudly demanded that i be questioned about items she was missing. White woman suspect to Bryan as burglar. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 35)

The last line states that: *a White woman suspects Bryan as a burglar*. The narrative explains how he was accused by a white woman of being a thief. He was surprised when a policeman brutally approached him and messed up the contents of his car. He was also shocked when the police pointed a gun at Stevenson's head. He did not understand what happened and why he was treated like this.

According to Irana (2017), The existence of discriminatory acts against black people was further strengthened by American law in 1957-1968. This law discussed civil rights in a society that occurred to white Americans and African Americans, with this creation realizing social formation. So that it goes well without having to hurt anyone.

This problem can be seen in the narrative below:

“The second officer, who had not drawn his weapon, inched cautiously toward me. He stepped on the sidewalk, circled behind my parked car, and came up behind me while the other officer continued to point the gun at me. He grabbed me by the arms and pushed me up against the back of my car. The other officer then lowered his weapon” (Stevenson, 2014, p. 35)

In line 5, it states that: *the other officer continued to point the gun at me*. This narrative describes the police trying to arrest Stevenson because there are many cases of African American people trying to distribute drugs to people in the city of Alabama; the police do not ask permission first and immediately search Stevenson's car without knowing that Stevenson is a lawyer. The police, who were not discriminatory or tended to abuse Stevenson, should not have been so rude, especially since Stevenson had not committed a serious crime that required the police to go that far. Discrimination against all African American people should not be done; the police should act fairly and protect society regardless of skin color and race. Even the police officers also intervened to fight or harm black people. The police, who are supposed to act to protect, try to attack and hurt people who have not been proven guilty.

The social discrimination felt by the people of the city of Alabama is torturing those who are African Americans. They try to find solutions to overcome the social discrimination in their city. The discrimination depicted in how the police brutally searched their homes and vehicles for no apparent reason made them anxious, and they tried to solve this problem. As explained in the narrative below:

“I decided to talk to youth groups, churches, and community organizations about the challenges posed by the presumption of guilt assigned to the poor and people of color. I spoke at local meetings and tried to sensitize people to the need to insist on accountability from law enforcement. I argued that police could improve public safety without abusing people.” (Stevenson, 2014, p. 37)

Lines 3-4 state that *I spoke at local meetings and tried to sensitize people to the need to insist on accountability from law enforcement*. The social discrimination felt by almost all African American people is felt by the city of Alabama residents who are victims of harassment for police behavior towards them. Stevenson tries to discuss with their community to fight for their rights to feel safe from the actions of the police. Because of these, Alabama people assume that the police are on the same side as white people. Social discrimination in the surrounding environment, such as schools, residences, and others in the city of Alabama, is common.

Residences and other social interactions where humans interact with other social beings are serious cases in Alabama. Discrimination that occurs in the city that most of the population feels, from young to old, makes some underage children lose their



identity. Social discrimination is marked by social inequality between White Americans and African Americans, making it easy for children or adolescents who are victims of discrimination to commit crimes and other immoral acts. As explain in the narrative below :

“When the discrimination that burdens all children is combined with environments that some poor children experience environments marked by abuse, violence, dysfunction, neglect, and the absence of loving caretakers-adolescence can leave kids vulnerable to the sort of extremely poor decision making that results in tragic violence”. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 234)

The narrative states that: *When the discrimination that burdens all children is combined with environments that some poor children experience environments marked by abuse, violence, dysfunction, and neglect.* The form of social discrimination that occurs in the city of Alabama worsens their childhood or youth because of the discrimination they have received since childhood. Lack of love, education, and environmental factors make them have bad traits that could happen in the future or later.

The emergence of this discrimination resulted in inequality in the health sector, even worse, using physical violence and economic factors (Malik, 2017). The author, who acts as the first person point of view to retell this history and is also a character who experiences the events in the *Just Mercy* memoir, retells past events through his work. From his point of view, as a human being interacting with the social life in his environment, Stevenson tells his story of experiencing social discrimination by White Americans. According to the sociological approach, a literary work is a specific

historical moment. “From this point of view, such as a culture without a message Contains deep insight into human social and social life” (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972)

#### **4.4 Discrimination in Justice**

Justice is a legitimate human right to be obtained by all human beings in the eyes of the law. Justice cannot be measured and judged by anything. According to (Jonathan), 2018 Justice received by humans has the right to be obtained without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, and religion. Justice which has legal value legally in the eyes of the law has the power to protect and prosecute those who are guilty and those who are not (Thomas, 2001). However, there are many legal injustices everywhere, as happened in the US, especially in Alabama. In cities where the majority are African Americans, almost all of whom are poor, they often question their rights to justice, which are not treated fairly.

As happened in Charlie's case, Charlie is the client whose case is turned over to Stevenson and had to go to prison when he was 16 years old and had to be sentenced to death because he was proven guilty of killing his stepbrother. Charlie was then forced to kill his step brother because he tried to kill Charlie's mother. Charlie's mother was pushed and hit by George until he fell and was bleeding on his head.

A terrified Charlie tries to help his mother, finds a gun in his stepfather's room, and shoots George in the body. Charlie is named a suspect in George's death, and Charlie's mother is rescued. Many of the criminal cases that occurred in children aged sixteen and over were sentenced to death, even though teenagers at that age were starting to find their identity. They are mentally unstable and do whatever they want, regardless of right or wrong. Because of that, some prisons are inhabited by teenagers who are still underage. This is explained in the narrative below:

Many of my Alabama clients were on death row for crimes they were accused of committing when they were sixteen- of seventeen year-old children. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 100)

The narrative states that *Many of my Alabama clients were on death row for crimes they were accused of committing when they were sixteen- or seventeen-year-old children*. In this case, the death penalty for minors began to be enforced, but unfair injustice occurred to minors from people of color. African American people suffered a lot from this implemented policy. Even though teenagers cannot be categorized as immature, it is just that the application of the death penalty for reasons that are not certain can harm African American people who are still teenagers.

Charlie's actions in defending his mother are not categorized as a crime. He tried to protect his mother because George was drunk. Charlie was forced to accept the death penalty for his mistakes in defending his mother. Hanifah (2022) America still uses the jury system in its trials, which refers to common law, where the result or decision

is determined not by the judge but by the jury as a valid appraiser. Based on the available evidence and testimony.

This raises controversy with various parties which are considered worthy of deciding. The jury is also not required to be entirely sure of its decision. They only need to analyze with a logical system of fairness. This does not rule out the influence of various parties by kinship and other psychological factors. Another justice discrimination experienced by Charlie was when he was placed in prison with people older than his age and got terrible moments. The role of the police again cannot be relied upon to protect minorities like Charlie. This case can be seen from the following narrative below:

“They were three man who hurt me on the first night. They touched me and made me do things.” Tears were streaming down his face. His voice was high pitched and strained with anguish” (Stevenson, 2014, p. 107)

The first Quote states *,They were three men who hurt me on the first night.* The violence perpetrated by three men against Charlie was a form of bullying towards him because Charlie looked so weak. Charlie's condition at that time was under pressure because he had to lose his half-sister and was also worried about his mother at the hospital. Charlie getting this act of violence could have been prevented if there had been sanctions against people who were discriminatory against Charlie that the police should have given; the justice that Charlie should have been able to receive did not only apply to white people.

Racham, (2019) states that justice in this discrimination is very concerning because the authorities also consider this to be commonplace or the authorities are in the same class as the perpetrators of the crime. This discrimination harms Charlie in an institution that protects him from violence. African Americans who feel they are a minority feel oppressed by other people, so there is no word of justice for them. On this issue, the justice discrimination felt by African Americans continues to occur repeatedly. Stevenson as the lawyer who wrote this book, also tells how the injustice felt by African Americans at that time, as written in the narrative below:

“Susan Smith's effort to blame random black man for the death of her children in south Carolina before later admitting to murdering them fascinated crime obsessed Americans” (Stevenson, 2014, p. 238).

The narrative exposes *Susan Smith's effort to blame a random black man for the death of her children in South Carolina*. In the case experienced by Stevenson, where he faced cases of justice discrimination experienced by black people, it became very complicated when he had to deal with the media and national news about the deaths of children that shocked the city of Alabama.

The unexpected perpetrator, the victim's mother, made residents and the city of Alabama not believe the investigation results. Susan, who at that time slandered African Americans as suspects who had killed her child, easily slandered black people for what she had done. Even though, in the end, the African American man was proven innocent, the Americans did not believe him and asked to re-investigate the case.

Kuhl (2021) states that the need to hear the voices of negroes whom the subaltern represents because patterns of injustice and oppression continue in society. The way the author presents it takes into account society's problems at that time (Swingewood, 1972, p. 18). The author's work influenced the situations and problems that occurred then. This shows the point at which the sociological conditions of a particular society can be told through the power possessed by the writer through literary works.

#### **4.5 Impact of Discrimination**

Discrimination is a bad act that differentiates one human being from another. Discrimination causes a person to feel worthless, have low self-esteem, and lack confidence. This behavior can also lead to illnesses such as mental illness for example. According to Anthony (2011), discrimination and racism affect a person's mental health. He explained that experiencing discrimination or abuse regularly can affect one's health because one's self-esteem is eroded.

The effects of this discrimination can happen to someone when they are young or old. Discriminatory behavior that occurs continuously for a long time will foster bad memories, and memories they remember can hurt sufferers of this Discrimination. One case in this book explains how an African American man had to be sentenced to death because of a case where he was accused of setting fire to a family. He was taken advantage of because of his mental disorder, and he worked as an enslaved person or gardener for a family in Alabama. He was made a suspect because he could not

answer questions from the judge about the incident. This incident is described in the narrative below:

Herbert Richardson was a Vietnam War veteran whose nightmarish experiences in brutal conditions left him traumatized and scarred. He was disoriented and unable to move. It didn't take long before he experienced a complete mental breakdown. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 164)

Line 3 states that: *It did not take long before he experienced a complete mental breakdown.* The narrative shows that He had a mental illness for a long time, but it did not stop there. Herbert is a soldier with mental illness due to an incident he had in his past when he was still serving as a soldier in Vietnam. He has a phobia or fear of fire and explosions. During the fire, one of the family died, and only he was found alive by the police. Then the police took them and made him a suspect.

When his mental illness started to relapse, he would try to commit suicide. His son and wife tried to strengthen him, but that could not help. This disorder gets more serious when the head hurts and the patient remembers the traumatic event it used to be. The situation worsened when Herbert was accused of being the perpetrator of the arson of a family where he worked. Herbert was made a suspect because he is African American; right or wrong, they are still suspects. As said in this book, this discrimination impacts Herbert's mental health, where he gets discriminatory behavior.

His disease also did not give him legal relief and made him an innocent perpetrator or suspect. According to the survey, Lawrence (2019) states that there are 22 disease biomarkers, including heart disease, diabetes, nerve problems, and inflammation. Ultimately, participants who reported experiencing more discrimination were in poorer health. Herbert's mental health, which has been disturbed for many years, makes it difficult to control and injure himself. The family also could not help much with Herbert's condition, as explained in the narrative below:

He attempted suicide after suffering severe headaches. He married and had children, but his post traumatic stress disorder continued to undermine his ability to manage his behavior. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 170)

The severe effects of this discrimination led to depression, mental decline, anxiety, low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, and even suicide attempts because the racist treatment severely impacted Herbert as the victim. According to Williams (2001), Black men also face more exposure to adverse social and economic environments (e.g., discrimination, unemployment, poverty, violence, etc.) that generate or exacerbate psychological distress. Herbert's mental health worsened when he had to undergo a sentencing hearing for the case that happened to him. He was sentenced to death.

Chronically discrimination can also damage Herbert's physical body as in the narrative "his post traumatic stress disorder continued to undermine his ability to manage his behavior". Chronic discrimination can lead to hypertension, self-reported poor health, and breast cancer, as well as being a contributing factor to obesity, high



blood pressure, and substance use (Pascoe & Richman, 2009). The impact of the discrimination itself was not only felt by Stevenson's clients, but he also felt the impact of the discrimination. He felt that he had failed to save his clients from despair.

As stated in the following narrative below:

For the first time i realized that my life was just full of brokenness. I worked in a broken system of justice. My clients were broken by mental illness, poverty, and racism. They were torn apart by disease, drugs and alcohol, pride, fear and anger. (Stevenson, 2014, p. 251)

Line 1 states, *For the first time, I realized that my life was just full of brokenness*. This quote describes Stevenson's hopelessness in carrying out his work as a lawyer defending the rights of African Americans. The impact on the mental health of someone affected by discrimination can be a severe stage for a person's health. The negative impact of racial discrimination can interfere with mental health and life chances throughout life..

Strong evidence that race-based discrimination is associated with poor mental health and well-being, including anxiety, depression, stress, and a poor quality of life, as described in this incident experienced by Stevenson's character, author of *Just Mercy*. Furthermore, racial discrimination impacts children and young people, explaining that, Children and young people may also suffer the health impacts of direct exposure to discrimination.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION**

In this chapter, the writer analyzes and describes the whole conclusion. Throughout the memoir, the writer finds out about four discriminations: discrimination in education, discrimination in government, discrimination in the social environment, discrimination in justice, and the impact of discrimination. This book uses an approach from sociology using Swingewood's theory. Race discrimination is divided into several types, according to Pincus (1996), which are individual, structural, and institutional discrimination.

This book explains racial discrimination in the United States, specifically in the city of Alabama. The city of Alabama, whose majority population is African Americans, has been discriminated against continuously and occasionally for decades by White Americans. Bryan Stevenson, the author of this memoir, experienced actual events in his life trying to reveal the discrimination of African Americans to the world through his work. Discrimination that occurs starts from discrimination in educational institutions, discrimination in government, discrimination in the social environment, discrimination in justice, and the impact of discrimination. Discrimination in educational institutions occurs starting from the lack of schools for African Americans and the policy of separating facilities for African Americans and White Americans. Inadequate educational facilities and the the difficulty of access for Alabama city

residents to get an education made them create a community that cares about education. They raised donations to build a school for African American children in Alabama City.

However, the school was forced to be closed by the government. John, who at that time taught as a teacher at the school, was forced to get the death penalty and did not get a defense for his noble actions. Discrimination also occurs in government circles in the city of Alabama. The city of Alabama, which is predominantly African American, is led by a White American governor who opposes African Americans' rights. He made a policy by voicing ' *Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever*' because of his policy that African Americans in the city of Alabama did not get their rights properly. Their facilities were segregated from those of White Americans, and the facilities they received were poor and inadequate.

They don't even have a jury of defense, which is important in deciding a trial there. They were also silent not to voice their actions in the demonstration held in the City of Payne; the car used by African Americans was bombed and beaten by the police when they were heading to the city to demonstrate the rights of African Americans. The subsequent discrimination described in this book is social discrimination. The fundamental racist attitudes and discrimination experienced by the author are also told in this book. Stevenson, an author, and living witness, explained how social discrimination was at his residence, where he was accused of being a thief by his neighbor, a White American woman. Discrimination occurs not only in government

institutions but in justice; it is also affected by discrimination and racist issues, which are very severe. Stevenson handled cases of African Americans receiving justice discrimination in the form of the death penalty that Stevenson generally received in several of his cases. The impact of a series of discriminatory problems that occurred also caused severe problems for victims who experienced discrimination, such as a lack of self-confidence, lack of good personality development for children who were already affected by discriminatory behavior, and the worst impact received was mental illness, as happened in the story Humbert.

Throughout the storyline written by Bryan Stevenson, the author of this Memoir Book, explains his feelings and concerns about the problems of discrimination and racism that must be accepted by African Americans living in the city of Alabama. He explained incidents of discrimination that they had to accept for a long time and that they experienced in their daily lives. Even so, the kindness and compassion that Stevenson did by fighting for rights and justice for African Americans can be remembered to this day.

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