

Heterosexism, Homoprejudice and Classism: Shared Tensions

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Shared Tensions

- ◉ Issues of Identification
- ◉ Issues of "Choice"
- ◉ "Belief in a Just World" and coming to the realization that "Life is not fair"
- ◉ Interaction of social class with other 'isms

Where do I fit?

- ◉ Continua
- ◉ Labels
- ◉ Internal and External Determinations

Identity, Labels, and Continua

Identity label is a sociopolitical construct and the degree to which one does, or does not, identify with a particular label reflects their psychological and sociological experience

- ◉ Object of oppression
- ◉ Internalized oppression
- ◉ Lateral oppression

Whereas,

- ◉ Place of privilege and oppression are assigned, access to resources are determined by that assignment

Intersection of 'isms and Dominant Group Values

Classism

Protestant Work Ethic

Myth of "Choice"

Homoprejudice

Beliefs about reproduction as central function of romantic relationships

Myth of "Choice"

Belief in a
Just World



Life is
Not Fair

Belief in a Just World and Poverty

- ◉ Many economically advantaged Americans assign responsibility for poverty to individual actors, ignoring systemic factors.
- ◉ To maintain belief in a just world leads many, of all socioeconomic statuses, to explain economic inequalities as the result of purely individual factors. (Belle, 2006)

Belief in a Just World and Homoprejudice Sentiment

- In research examining attitudes about AIDS and HIV, gay men were given more personal blame for contracting AIDS than heterosexual men. The more intolerant people were toward gay men and the more fearful they were of contact with AIDS, the more likely they were to blame gay men for contracting AIDS. (Anderson, 1992)

Intersection of Economic Pyramid and

10% of population wealth owns 47% of wealth



“Nontargets” of oppression have most opportunities For moving up the pyramid

19% of population holds 44% of wealth



“Targets” of oppression encounter barriers to resources (e.g., jobs, education, etc.) thereby pushing them down in the pyramid

40% of population holds 8% of wealth

40% of population holds MINUS wealth with minimum income or debt

Advocacy Competencies Model

(Lewis et al., 2002)

- ◉ Consider level of advocacy that is appropriate (individual, community or organizational, societal)
- ◉ To what extent does the client want to be involved in the advocacy (advocacy with the client or on behalf of the client)?

References

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Web Resources:

- Tools for building justice.
http://www.socialjusticeeducation.org/social_justice/creighton/downloads/crieghton_PDF/classism.pdf