

Student Name

Professor's Name

HCOM 110-04

Date

Final Persuasive Speech

I. Introduction to the Speech

My name is...

I am passionate about social justice, and how it is expressed in the realm of social equality. I find the social conception and economic arrangements of work, and how it is conceived to be a fundamental issue in modern day justice. As such, I seek to focus on the intersectionality between labor and globalization.

Introduction

Interestingly, a young black kid in the South Side of Chicago either has aspirations to end up in the Whitehouse, or to end up in prison or playing for the NBA. The odds are often that they will either end up in prison, working in prison, or if they are lucky, get enrolled in the NBA. So from the start, the labor participation of the minorities is either aimed at prison industrial complex, or hinged to become a professional athlete in the athletic industrial complex. Trapped, and what they can say is that the ways of Washington are broken – and getting a corporate job in New York or being a technology entrepreneur in Silicon Valley seems farfetched dreams—away from their world, far off

and farfetched. But this should not be the case. It is an issue of persistent inequalities, and shows how labor has been used to divide and even oppress. In the most developed nation in the world, and in the age of global justice, it is time we spoke of labor justice as minorities deserve a better and equitable chance in the labor markets and live up to the promises of the 13th Amendment.

The Prison Industrial Complex and Athletic Industrial Complex

The prison industrial complex and the athletics industrial complex are labor exploitative methods which bear witness to the broken labor system in the US, and the systemic exploitation of minorities at the global scale. This issue can be resolved by creating social policy reforms, especially in providing quality pay systems, and evolving the criminal justice system. But think of the alternative, of what the world would be if we attain labor equality. I foresee that, if we create social justice around labor, we shall be able to attain an equitable society where racial minorities and women shall have access to dignified work, and we shall all experience a freer America. The American dream shall become realizable by rewarding labor as enshrined in the values of hard work – which is the promise to every American regardless of their color. To attain this promise, we must make an urgent effort to break the shackles of prison labor exploitation and the gridlocks arising from labor injustice.

It goes without saying that the prison industrial complex is perpetuated by a rogue criminal justice system that is punitive to racial minorities. Walk to any jail today and you are likely to be met with more black and Spanish American faces than in San Francisco. Flip the statistics of black men in prison and you have enough labor to fit in a Walmart.

When the capitalistic system is rigged against the black minorities, the state ends up benefitting from their labor. The private enterprise too, seems to have benefited from this with the rise of private prisons. As Sawyer (3) puts it, “Every year, over 600,000 people enter prison gates, but people go to jail 10.6 million times each year.” A great majority of blacks are in prison, for minor offenses that whites would have gotten away with it. In such a system, justice becomes a material for sale, and it becomes a tool of control, enriches the rich, and subverts the dreams of racial minorities, traversing from prison to athletics (Runstedtler 152). As Runstedtler (154), a sports science scholar observes, the rise of the athletic industrial complex in the black neighborhoods is an indication of the need to attain economic equality through sports, as the racial minority seem to have no other path of getting away from poverty than through sports. Now, it befalls upon us to demand for better policies – and a labor system with a human soul.

Severity of the Unjust Labor

The existing problems, that is, the prison industrial complex, and the athletics industrial complex, can be resolved by building communities in a significant way. Take for instance, if instead of building a prison, the same funds went to building a school or an industry. It is established that societies can be changed, and so instead of building punitive criminal justice system, we ought to work on restorative justice – focused on industrial parks, skills training, and educational scholarships for the underserved communities. We know too well that the government has sufficient resources – as prisons consume a significant amount of the revenue. In my view, we can invest both private capital in building human centered societies, where upward social mobility and labor equality is realized. So we say, build better schools not bigger prisons. When we

educate and empower people, we free them. When we dumb them down, we are subconsciously preparing them for prison. So how do we define labor and labor systems?

Solutions: Building a More Equitable Labor

Westover, one of the leading scholars on the global labor dynamics and systems, argues that it is without doubt that fulfillment from work is a human need, and a desire to self-fulfillment. Hence, we must build a human centric capitalistic enterprise in order to have sustainable communities. One of the global goals, as stated in the UN charter, and is an inherent promise of the American dream is freedom, and labor freedom is an intrinsic part of attaining sustainable societies. As Myles (273) argues in his foundational thesis, "Beyond Labor Markets", the number of White American middle class and working class families have comparatively better social outcomes such as less gun violence, less cases of obesity, higher college graduation rates, and more two-parent households. As Davis (52) puts it, "I feel that if we don't take seriously the ways in which racism is embedded in structures of institutions, if we assume that there must be an identifiable racist who is the perpetrator, then we will never succeed in eradicating racism." As work is intrinsic in building American families, and attaining the concept of social justice, we must move with urgency to reform institutional approach. Labor systems dignify or subvert lives. Black athletes who have made it to the NBA are more likely to attain higher levels of income mobility and live in better neighborhoods. But this is just one part, to have more income mobility it is essential to cut the fetters and build better economic societies. As we are now in a global society, we must eliminate elements that reduce human dignity or enslave.

Conclusion

As we have seen, labor being the fundamental element that defines human life, and the value ascribed to it, it is useful to advance human dignity, and advancing the capitalistic economic enterprise which is part of the American exceptionalism in the global arena. That is why we must speak of labor justice. Labor justice is a crucial part of the global agenda to have substantive justice and equality, therefore, we must eliminate prison industrial complex and all other related forms of inequality that dehumanize people. We have seen that prison industrial system can be eliminated by a progressive policy actions, and a realignment of the labor system from dependence on prisoners, and adjusting the criminal justice system to reform rather than to punish. We must resolve that there is need to build institutions that empower and reward labor according to free market economies than enslaving. There is a better alternative to using sports as a way of “getting out of the block,” as they say in the Southern Side. I believe we can give a better shot to that kid in South Chicago to grow up, enjoy freedom and live to their full potential by reforming the structures in the labor markets. That way, they will not consider prison as a potential end or athletics as their only labor option.

Works Cited

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