

A critical review of

John Hawkins's, "The 7 Keys to Trapping as Many Americans as Possible in Poverty"

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INTRODUCTION

The welfare of the American citizens has been a highly debated topic over the years. The reason for that is due to the fact that there are those who allege that the government puts in place various strategies in order to ensure that the Americas do not get to improve their standards of life while others allege that America is the only country where those who are hardworking are genuinely rewarded hence the reason one can be able to come from nowhere and become prosperous in America in what has now been christened as the American dream.

The purposed of this paper is to critique the article by John Hawkins¹ that is titled; The 7 Keys to Trapping as Many Americans as Possible in Poverty. In the article, the author discusses seven policies that are in place and can be blamed for the increased poverty levels among the Americans. Nevertheless, it can be explained that while some of the arguments put forward by the author are valid, there are a few of the arguments that are not valid.

SUMMARY

According to John, the unprecedented levels of poverty among the Americans in the US can be attributed to the policies that are put in place by the government in place as the government does not really want people to become rich. In particular, John explains that the seven main reasons as to why a lot of Americans are still languishing in poverty entails; high taxation rates, high dependency on the government, increased

numbers of single parents, demonization of success, incompetent education system, increased migration, and increased inflation. As already pointed out, while some of the reason put forward by John can be said to have contributed to poverty in the US, some of the reasons cannot be alleged to have contributed to the increased poverty levels.

CRITIQUE

One of the reasons that John says has contributed to increased poverty in US is high rates of taxation. While that reason is valid to some extent since high taxation results to people have been left with little money to spend, it can also be noted that the argument is not valid to some extent. Indeed, as discussed by McBride², tax is most of the times the main source of revenue for governments. Thus, in the event that the tax rates in the US were to be lowered, then the country would have less income and that would in the long run result to more poverty in the country.

The other reason that has been explained by John as contributing to the poverty levels entails the increased numbers of single parents as well as the increased number of children who are born out of wedlock. According to John, having children out of wedlock implies that the child has to be brought up by one parent and that would to some extent have negative impacts to the productivity of the parent since the parent has to spend a lot of time taking care of the child and not working, However, what John seems to have forgotten is that every person is guaranteed under the constitution the right to choose what is good for his/her life and thus the government cannot really demand that gays and those who are single not to have any children.

The other reason that John has explained to have contributed to the increased poverty entails the massive immigration. According to John, the US has made it easy for migrants to come into the country and once they are in the country, they are more than happy to work for lesser pay. As a result, the employers are left with no choice apart from preferring to employ the migrant workers as they will result to low costs of production. In the long term, majority of Americans are left unemployed and that result to increased poverty levels. This specific argument by John can be explained to be valid since it is no doubt that migrants are taking a lot of job opportunities that in the past were the preserve of Americans. The government should seek to minimize the number of migrant workers coming into the US and could also pass some regulations that would demand that a certain percentage of employees working in any given organization in US are made up of Americans.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusions, the discussions by John are to some extent valid even though from another perspective, some of the reasons put forward can be argued not to be valid. Nevertheless, irrespective of the opinion that one has from the discussions by John, what is clear is that the government can play a major role in helping millions of Americans who are languishing in poverty to come out of poverty by implementing various strategies.

Cited References

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