

Contemporary Issues and Challenges in Cuba

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Abstract: At this point in life as I enter a program of graduate study, it is difficult to conceive of a more meaningful activity than a self-study that addresses such questions as: Which people and events have shaped me? What motivations drive me? What are my core values? What is my self-concept or self-image? Where am I in my life right now?

Cuba is a nation that is still faced by many issues due to the political and bureaucracy systems of management. Cuba is a hybrid of little private and wide public property ownership, investment and various forms of production. These coexist with the state companies that are run by the military in the building of the economy and under the rule of one-party. As an underdeveloped nation, Cuba is experiencing development issues in its social and economic sectors. These economic and political environments are the major causes of various issue and challenges facing Cuba as a nation.

Poverty is a dominant problem affecting the society of Cuba. This is expressed by the lack or limited resources even for the basic needs. As a third world country, water, food and public amenities are all limited. Life in Cuba is more of surviving, following the economical strains. Food and goods shortages are evident all through, due to natural disasters and trade barriers respectively. The government also has a hand in this poverty, because it only supports trade with only two currencies (Cave, 2012). People struggle to make ends meet, through the sale of stuff from their homes. The citizens are determined people but the system of operation pins them down.

There are mixed races in Cuba, which cites the next problem that the nation is facing. Racial prejudice has dominated major institutions of transformation such as the education sector. While people are expected to have education to facilitate literacy and elite society, this privilege is accorded on racial lines. Though racism, discrimination and stereotypes are not institutional, the institutions supposed to encourage multicolor communities are doing little about it (News Reporter, 2013). In addition, the education system in Cuba still relies on the Western values that limit a broad-encompassing culture. There is no balance of the racial diversity in

Cuban educational system, which brings forth racist, biased and incomplete graduates to the society. These attributes are passed on from generation to another and affects the economic and social settings as well.

Good health care from the health care systems in Cuba is a myth. It is offered free to the citizens but the quality of the health care is not the best. Care on patients is poor, supplies to the health facilities are few, and the physicians are not fully qualified (News Reporter, 2013). The health care situation is quite problematic, because of the political sensitivity in regard to medicine in Cuba. High number of doctors is produced for international trumpeting due to the political capital factor employed. A confession from a cardiologist professor contended that most educators tolerate shortcomings among medical students following the influence of the political sensitivity in the medicine sector.

Aging cites another socio-economic problem in Cuba. There is a demographic tendency of high number of grandparents than grandchildren noted compared a few decades ago. The fertility rate of people in Cuba is noted to have been decreasing, which is a cause factor to the aging problem. The number of elderly adults who cannot access the basics such as financial resources or portable water live alone in insecure housing conditions is increasing (Grogg, 2014). The economic challenge in Cuba limits her from responding to this issue among the elderly with quality life through attentions programs and systems. This old population amount to 17.8 of the two million people in Cuba.

In summation, the influence of government's control over the economic system in Cuba is cited to be the source of multiple issues and

challenges. Manning the needs of such a huge population is has proved a crisis to the government. Considering the quality of public services such as education and health care, food production and trade, it is all poor. The economic system has affected various sociological areas, hence pushing the citizen to survive in their own independent nation. Capitalist economic system would serve a considerable solution to most of these problems. The government needs to revise the economic system and allow hybrid economic sector: public vis a vis private capitalism to allow for competition.

References

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