

(7a)

In the context of Aborigines in Australia, social class limits their power and authority due to their low social status. Ethnicity allows ethnocentrism and stereotypes to also limit their power and authority due to discrimination. Prejudice also acts as a barrier to their ^{upward} social mobility, hence their increased power and authority within Australian society.

Social class is a major determinant of the power and authority groups or individuals hold. Considering Aborigines are a minority group, hence 'belonging' to a low social class, limits their access to facilities and services society provides, hence limiting their power and authority in society due to the difficulty in upward social mobility which would allow increased power that ^{the} elite have ~~with~~ with lower education and higher unemployment, it is difficult for

Aborigines to achieve power and authority, if not in the positions to make ^{influence} decisions ^{or} control the behaviour of society. As a minority group, Aborigines are controlled by those in higher social classes. With little wealth, status or income, Aborigines in general have little opportunity to gain higher social classes, hence the continuity of enjoying little or no power or/and authority in society.

Especially in the past, the ethnicity of Aborigines has contributed to their suppression and assimilation of their culture due to the ethnocentric views of 'white' or 'non-Aboriginal' people. Since British settlement in 1788, policies such as protectionism, segregation and assimilation (including suppression in reserves and as domestic servants) ~~has~~ has maintained dominant views of Aboriginal culture. Even after these policies were dismantled, discrimination

continued and continues today. During ~~these~~ the ethnocentric policies of the past, Aborigines has no power and authority, completely suppressed by racist ~~to~~ non-Aboriginal people. With the implication of self-determination policies initiated in the 1960's, discrimination has dramatically decreased, however stereotypes and prejudices towards Aborigines continue today.

With constant bigotry towards them as well as ethnocentrism, discrimination, ~~set~~ stereotyping and prejudice, Aborigines ~~of~~ have difficulty in upward social mobility and therefore are limited in their power and authority to change the present conditions, despite the Australian ideal of egalitarianism.

With society's general negative view towards the minority group as well as being associated.

with a low social class, Aborigines ~~to~~ enjoy ~~to~~ much less to non-Aboriginal Australians. With extremely large imprisonment rates, no education, unemployment, lower life expectancy and health ~~to~~ levels compared to that of non-Aboriginal people, the minority group as a whole do not have the resources and power to change their present conditions. Therefore it is unlikely that they can achieve high levels of power and/or authority in the future.

Prejudice is pre-conceived ideas that favour or are against certain individuals or groups. In Australian Society, Aborigines experience much prejudice which has been largely derived and continued as a result of ethnocentric and racist government policies previous to the self-determination policies ~~have~~ implemented at present. These views have also been perpetuated by the media as negative reports considering their

low social class, poor living conditions and general health of the minority group, lower education, higher unemployment and imprisonment rates. The power of the media, institutional discrimination as well as negative ideology of individuals in society towards the minority group, Aborigines contributes to their seemingly subordinate status, hence having little power or authority as a minority group to overcome this situation.

It is difficult for prejudice to diminish, especially if derived from discrimination and institutional discrimination as well as the media. For Aborigines to gain high levels of power and authority in society these barriers must be proctored, so social status and class can improve for Aborigines to be recognised.

In conclusion, Aborigines generally being in low

social class, their ethnicity contributing and
^{institutionalized} perpetuating ethnocentrism in the past as well as
stereotyping and discrimination of the present,
results in unequal access to facilities and
services society provides, which maintains their
low social class in Australian open ^{social} stratification
system due to difficulties of upward social
mobility. This limits their ability to exercise power
and authority to diminish this circumstance
as well as have power and authority in
society. Prejudice due to their living conditions
and circumstances as a minority group
maintains negative attitudes towards Aborigines
hence their little power and authority to
control or prevent the perspective perpetuating
in Australian Society. Their social class
must be higher to achieve more power
to change current conditions.