Social Discrimination Against People With Albinism

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Albinism

Oculocutaneous albinism, also known as OCA, is a genetic condition that results in people who have reduced levels of melanin in their hair, skin and eyes, with associated visual impairment and extreme sun sensitivity requiring lifelog monitoring.

Studies have shown that albinos are more likely to face skin cancer as they get older.

This results with the appearance of freckle lesions, which are small flat brown marks arising on the face and other sun exposed areas.

Hypothesis

The individuals that I have interviewed are most likely to be faced with prejudice and discriminatory characteristics of the social, cultural, and political aspects in African societies.

Methods

Step 1: I will conduct a literary analysis of publications that I find in the library's database

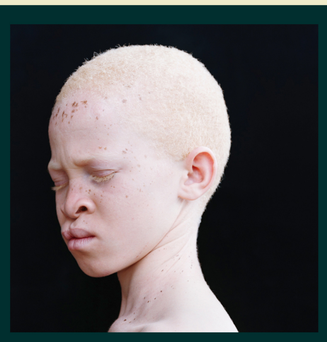
Step 2: I will contact an expert in the field of albinism who is from Nigeria.

Step 2: I will have more information about albinism and have connections to people who will participate in the interviews and questionnaires, as well as her personal experience since she is an albino person.

Step 3: I will interview 3 people with albinism who have experienced any personal discrimination in their life. I will also be doing questionnaires.

Background

People with albinism face the negative outcomes of social, cultural, and economic prejudice. With different physical appearances, especially with colored skin, albino individuals are shunned by the rest of their community and at a high risk of being killed. Albinos have been turned away from education, employment, transportation systems, and housing within their communities. Albino families are discriminated against and in some cases, forced to be killed due to their body parts bringing others fortune and wealth.



Myths

- Albinos having magical superpowers

- Albinos can cure diseases like HIV

- The devil stole the original child and replaced it with an albino

- Albinism is caused by a missing top layer of skin

- There are marketers who sell albino body parts that make charm bracelets because they are assumed to bring wealth and fortune to other individuals who have an albino fetish

- The fear of albinos being contagious

Solutions

- Awareness campaigns dedicated to reducing albinism discrimination to assist albinos with proper medical care and available resources to treat skin cancer

- There are organizations and agencies that help improve environments for albinos who are feeling discriminated against

- Activists who protest to prevent the violations of human rights amongst people with albinism.

- Public awareness will contribute to stopping the harmful and violent accusations against people with albinism and stop affecting those who are loved ones that have to deal with the social, cultural, and political discrimination

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