Name

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The Struggle for Civil Rights in the U.S

For a long period, the black American population was discriminated against in terms of racial basis. This had begun in the colonial period, where African slaves were made to work on the fields tilling the land under the watch of the whites. The civil rights movement became influential in the 20th century, and they were carried out through nonviolent protests. In the past years, black Americans had endured the harsh economic, cultural, and political consequences brought by racial oppression and were focused on putting this to an end. Although the United States founding documents has affirmed for equal rights, most inhabitants were denied essential rights hence the commencement of the civil rights movement. The movements were focused on securing the right to vote, provision of equal opportunities in the education sector, also providing the freedom to seek legal counsel without intimidation.

African Americans were denied the right to vote. The 14th amendment to the constitution in 1868 had granted them the power of citizenship, but this did not allow them to vote. Any time black voters appeared on the polling places, they could be turned away, leaving the white inhabitants with authority to select the leader of their choice (Levy, 2019). Dr. Martin Luther initiated the protests that sought for inclusivity in exercising the legal right to vote. The protest turned fruitful, and in 1965, the voting rights act was amended, allowing African Americans to vote.

Before the 1964 civil rights act, the black population had difficulty accessing educational facilities. These people had been denied access to public educational facilities, which had essential material for research and acquisition of knowledge. However, the 1964 act was a significant milestone since it brought to end segregation in public sectors, also prohibiting discrimination based on ethnicity, race, national origin, or sex (Reed et al., 2016).

In seeking legal counsel, the black population felt discriminated against. During the civil movements, they were denied access to law courts where they could air their grievances. However, the 1964 amendments to the constitution offered rights to access these places.

With the leadership of courageous men such as Martin Luther, black Americans managed to push for equality in society. After a period of racial discrimination, most of the rights they were advocating for were achieved. This led to harmony, and their relationship with the whites improved with time.

**References**

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