



İSTANBUL
GELİŞİM
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCIAL INJUSTICE AND STRATIFICATION

WEEK 12

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Social Injustice

- **Social Strata**

The category composed of people sharing similar advantages and disadvantages in their social life.

- **Social Stratification**

The hierarchical classification of people in society which leads the development of higher and lower ranks in the society.



The Principles of Social Stratification

- Social stratification is not a simple reflection of individual differences.
- Social stratification continues from one generation to the other.
- It does not include inequalities but beliefs.
- Social stratification is universal, but it can change.
 1. Living together in long terms may crystallize the strata
 2. Individual differences coming from birth can be stratified as well
 3. Environmental factor is affective
 4. It is governed by systems of stratification (slavery, cast, class)



Systems of Social Stratification

- **SLAVERY:** An individual's being the property of another person. It is organized by the older legal systems. As parts of the property, they can be transferred to the next generations/heirs. Owner has the right to decide for the life and death of the slave. In some societies slaves could be given freedom after a period of slavery.
- **CAST:** bases on birth; social mobility is not allowed, or it is limited; shapes the entire life of the cast member including occupation and marriage. It is widespread in agricultural societies and traditional societies.
- **FEUDAL GROUPINGS:** are part of the Medieval history; they are organized by law; everyone has a status that defines their rights and duties, priorities and obligations.
- **CLASS:** It is gained both by birth and meritocracy (individual success/abilities). Class allows a social mobility that bases on the success of one person, however it keeps cast elements such as family to sustain order and social unity. It is widespread in industrial societies and post-industrial societies.



Criteria of Social Class

- INCOME
- LEVEL OF EDUCATION
- OCCUPATION
- LIFESTYLE
- CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS





Marx and Social Classes

- The ones who own the means of production and the ones who do not own them.
- Classes will disappear in time.



Weber, class and status

CLASS, STATUS and POWER

CLASS = ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

To mention class:

- A group of people should share a common reason for their living standards
- This common element should be represented by sole economic benefits property or gaining income
- This element should be represented under the circumstances of labor market and commodity production.

STATUS = LIFESTYLE

POWER = GOVERNANCE



Differences Created by Classes

- Access to Health and other Social Mechanisms
- Values and Attitudes:
- Politics: Tendencies such as not paying taxes and supporting individual rights at the same time or protecting status quo and mitigate inequalities can be blended in one class.
- Family
- Gender
- **Former Prime Minister of England Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990):** “I think we have gone through a period when too many children and people have been given to understand ‘I have a problem, it is the government’s job to cope with it...’ And so, they are casting their problems upon society and who is society. And you know there is no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families. And no government can do anything except through people, and people must look after themselves first.”



Social Mobility

- Social mobility

Transition from one status to the other

- **Horizontal mobility**

Passing from one status to another one having a similar prestige.

- **Vertical mobility**

Passing from one status to another having a different importance; can be towards higher or lower ranks.



Factors under Vertical Mobility

- Economic factors (economic development, crisis)
- Increase in population
- Urbanization, change in family types
- Political Structure
- Education
- Codes and symbols





Globalization and Social Inequality

- Inequality shows an increase both inside societies and between countries.
- World Bank: During the process of globalization developing countries are growing faster than industrial countries which would effect the distance between different income groups.
- UN : The difference was deepened between 1980 to 1990.

Today the wealthiest 200 people of the world gain more than the total income of %41 of the disadvantaged groups.