



İSTANBUL
GELİŞİM
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND MOBILITY

WEEK 13

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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.



Social Change

- **“Social change:** the transformation of culture and social institutions over time. “
(Macionis, Sociology)

The process of social change has four major characteristics”:

- **1. Continuity of change:** Every society constantly changes yet some societies change faster than others. A member of post-industrial society sees more changes in a life time than the total members of hunting and gathering societies in their entire history.
- **2. Social change is often unplanned:** The factors involved in the process are hard to be calculated beforehand.
- **3. Social Changes brings both good and bad developments:** “Capitalists welcomed the Industrial Revolution because new technology increased productivity and swelled profits. However, workers feared that machines would make their skills obsolete and resisted the push toward ‘progress.’ (Macionis, Sociology)”
- **4. Some changes become more prominent:** The change brought by computers became more important than the change in dressing habits.



Causes of Social Change

- **Culture and Change:** Invention, discoveries and expansion are important factors in social change. Many cultural elements in our daily life come from our confrontations with other cultures.
- **Demographic Change:** factors like change in institutions such as family; migration; plagues bring a change to society.
- **Change in Ideas:** Entrance of new ideas such as equality may cause social change.
- **Conflict:** Most social changes happen through conflict due to inequalities.



Social Change brought by Modernizm

- **Decrease in traditional societies:** small and isolated societies disappear day by day while sub-cultures increase.
- **Increase in individualization:** Rationalization brought by modernism brought also the collapse of unified public/collective consciousness but increased the variety of beliefs and lifestyles as well.
- **Increased social diversity:** with increasing individualization and increased social rights brought the acceptance of differences and co-habitation over this principle.
- **Internalized Time-Space Compression:** increased communication technology and rapid developments are part of the life of societies.



Social Movements

- **Collective behavior:** activity involving a large number of people that is unplanned, often controversial, and sometimes dangerous. (*Macionis, Sociology*)
- **1. Collective behavior is diverse:** Collective behavior involves a wide range of human action. It is difficult to foresee the effects of disasters rumors, or **mob** (a large and disorderly crowd of people) behavior.
- **2. Collective behavior is variable.** Sometimes a rumor spreads across the the world; others disappear easily.
- **3. Much collective behavior is short-term:** Disasters, rumors, trends come and go quickly.



Collectivities

- **People in collectivities have little or no social interaction:** People in groups interact frequently and directly; by contrast, people in mobs or other crowds interact very little.
- **2. Collectivities have no clear social boundaries.** Group members share a sense of identity, but people engaged in collective behavior usually do not. People in a local crowd may have the same object of their attention, such as someone on a ledge threatening to jump, but they feel little sense of unity with those around them. Individuals involved in dispersed collectivities, such as students worried about the possibility of a military draft, have almost no awareness of shared membership. To give another example, people may share concerns over many issues, but usually it is difficult to know exactly who falls within the ranks of, say, the environmental or feminist movement.
- **3. Collectivities generate weak and unconventional norms.** Conventional cultural norms usually regulate the behavior of people in groups. Some collectivities, such as people traveling together on an airplane, do observe conventional norms, but their interaction is usually limited to polite small talk with respect for the privacy of others sitting nearby. Other collectivities—such as excited fans after a game who take to the streets drinking and overturning cars—behave according to no clear guidelines

(Source: Macionis, Sociology (14th edition), p. 541)



Social Movements

- Collective behaviour in crowds for example panics, lynching, fads (craze in collective behavior) are guided largely by impulse and die out easily. When short-lived impulses give way to long-term aims, and when sustained association takes the place of situational groupings of people, the result is a social movement.
- Social movements include participants rather than crowds.
- Social movements involve a decision-making process and governing mechanism, leaders and followers.
- They have shared demands and goals.
- They can be spontaneous, but they involve an accumulation of shared concerns or ideas.