

# **Social Stratification**

## **Chapter 7**

# Social Stratification:

- ...is the structured inequality of access to rewards, resources, and privileges that are scarce and desirable within a society.
- ...the inequality of entire categories of people, who have different access to social rewards as a result of their status in a social hierarchy.

# Class:

- ...those people who stand in a similar position with regard to their opportunities to acquire the society's economic rewards.
- ...a group determined by the role it plays in economic production.

# Class Consciousness:

- ...recognition by the members of a class of the role they play in the production process.
- ...the shared awareness that members of a social class have about their common situations and interests.
- ...the recognition by workers of their unity as a social class in opposition to capitalists and capitalism itself.

# Stratification Systems:

- Closed System-
- **Caste System:**
- ...hierarchy of *endogamous* divisions in which membership is hereditary and permanent. Includes inequality both in status and in access to goods and services.

# Caste System: Varnas

- Brahmins - (Priest/Scholars)
- Kshatriyas - ( Nobles/Warriors)
- Vaishyas - (Merchants/Skilled Artisans)
- Shudras - (Common Laborers)
- Harijans/Chandales - (Outcastes )

# Stratification Systems: Cont'd

- Open System -
- **Class System:**
- ...an open form of stratification based primarily on economic status, which may be subject to change.

# Social Mobility

- ...movement from one social status to another.
- Types of Social Mobility:
- **Intergenerational Mobility** -
- ...movement up or down the hierarchy by family members from one generation to the next.



# Types of Social Mobility: Contd'd

- **Exchange Mobility:**
- ...changes in people's social statuses as they exchange places with one another at different levels of the hierarchy.
- **Structural Mobility:**
- ...changes in people's social statuses as a result of changes in the structure of the economy.

# Analysis of Class

- **Marx's Analysis:**
- ...a class consists of all those people who share a common relationship to the means of production.
- **Bourgeoisie -**
- ...owners of the means of production, (property, factories, capital)

# Marx's Analysis: Cont'd

- **Proletariat** -
- ...those who work for them. (Subordinate class)
- Relationship between the Bourgeoisie and the Proletariat?

# Marx's Analysis: Cont'd

- **Exploitation:**
- ...the utilization of a subordinate group, by a group in a superordinate position for its own economic or other advantage. (Surplus wealth)

# Weber's Analysis

- Hierarchies are based on:
- **Wealth** - Economic status
- **Power** - Political status (party)
- **Prestige** - Social status
- For Weber - Stratification can be seen as emanating from several sources, not simply one's economic position.

# Weber's Analysis: Cont'd

- Weber - a class is comprised of those who stand in a similar position with regard to their opportunities to acquire the society's economic rewards.
- “Similar position” includes:
- Display of a particular life style.

# Webers' s Analysis: Cont' d

- Aware of differences between themselves and other status groups.
- Common consumption patterns
  - ...club membership
  - ...residential areas
  - ...schools
  - ...intermarriage

# Gerhard Lenski: Distributive Systems

- Distributive Systems - National
- Class Systems - Social criterion ,(wealth, occupation, education, political authority, ethnicity, etc.)



# Global Distribution of Income

- Grameen “Village” Bank- Muhammad Yunus, founder.
- *The Price of a Dream*, David Bornstein