

Sociology

UNIT 5: Stratification and Inequality

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Can social inequality and stratification be repaired at the individual, community, state, national, and global levels?

BIG IDEAS

Students will...

- understand their own and others' social problems.
- assess and explain how group memberships and identities provide or deny certain opportunities and power as well as create and reinforce social stratification.
- explain how social stratification can result in conflict between groups and diminished access to scarce or valued resources for some individuals.
- analyze how disadvantaged groups experience social problems such as poverty, unemployment, poor education, lack of access to health care, and inequality in obtaining rights and privileges.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Content:

Social Stratification:

- How do societies create systems of social stratification? What are the principles that underlie social stratification?
- What are common patterns of inequality?
- What aspects of your societal situation establish you in a social class?
- Who are the major sociologists involved in explaining social stratification in society and what are the major tenets of their theories (e.g., Plato, Karl Marx, Kingsley Davis, Wilber Moore, and Max Weber)?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology (e.g., Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Conflict Theory, and Feminist Theory) in defining social stratification, explaining the reasons for social positions, and justifying the fairness of unequal rewards from a sociological lens?
- How has social, racial, and gender stratification evolved in the United States?
- What are the different types of poverty, the description of the major patterns of poverty, and explanations for poverty among the US population?
- What is the definition of privilege and how does it play a role in stratification based on wealth, power, race, ethnicity, and/or gender identity?

Race and Ethnicity:

- How do race and ethnicity help define society?
- How is race different from ethnicity?
- How does the physiological definition of race differ from the social construct of race in American Society?

- What are the causes and theories of how prejudice, discrimination, and bias develop?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology (e.g., Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Conflict Theory, and Feminist Theory) in analyzing race and ethnicity from a sociological lens?

Gender Roles and Identity:

- How does the physiological definition of sex differ from the social construct of gender in American society?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology (e.g., Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Conflict Theory, and Feminist Theory) in analyzing the acquisition of gender identity, what gender means, and gender stratification in America from a sociological lens?

Process:

Social Stratification:

- How do I analyze to what extent social stratification is universal?
- How do I explain why sociologists should look at social stratification from a multidimensional view?
- How do I analyze how social mobility differs from one society to another?
- How do I analyze the extent to which group membership creates and reinforces social stratification?
- How do I analyze the extent to which the distribution of power, wealth, and status create conflict within society?
- How do I compare and contrast similarities and differences among social classes and positions in the United States?
- How do I evaluate how social class position impacts health, values, politics, and family life?
- How do I evaluate the degree of society's technology is linked to social stratification?
- How do I analyze how inequality, social classes, power distribution, and forces for societal change in the United States compare to Global experiences of social stratification?
- After comparing and contrasting statistics from America and other countries on social inequality, how do I analyze the trends and patterns that emerge?
- How do I analyze the important factors that play a role in social inequality in industrial and post-industrial societies?
- How do I analyze and evaluate social mobility as the exception or the rule in America? How do economic patterns affect patterns of social mobility?
- How do I explain which of the major theoretical perspectives in sociology (e.g., Functionalism, Symbolic Interactionism, Conflict Theory, and Feminist Theory) definitions of social stratification, explanation of the reasons for social positions, and justification of the fairness of unequal rewards from a sociological lens best explain social stratification?

Race and Ethnicity:

- How do I explain to what extent ethnicity has influenced access to employment, education, healthcare, rights, privileges, etc.?
- How do I interrupt bias and prejudice?
- How do I explain the similarities and differences among social standings of the various racial and ethnic categories in US society?
- How do I analyze to what extent society enforces patterns of social inequality based on race?
- How do I analyze and evaluate the impact of redlining and racial steering?
- How do I analyze and evaluate the role race and ethnicity play in access to employment, education,

healthcare, rights and privileges, etc.?

Gender Roles and Identity:

- How do I analyze and evaluate gender identity as an important dimension of social stratification?
- How do I explain to what extent society enforces patterns of social inequality based on gender?
- How do I analyze and evaluate if gender inequality is present in various social institutions?
- How do I explain to what extent society creates gender stratification?
- How do I explain to what extent gender has influenced access to employment, education, healthcare, rights, privileges, etc.?

Reflective:

- What defines communities that have low-status consistency? What are the ramifications, both positive and negative, of cultures with low-status consistency?
- To what extent do you believe poverty is cyclical?
- Why is it important to understand and be aware of global stratification?
- How does social stratification influence the daily interactions of individuals?
- How do systems of class, based on factors such as prestige, power, income, and wealth, influence your daily routines, as well as your beliefs and attitudes?
- Does race and ethnicity matter in people's social standing?
- Why is gender socialization important? How is children's play influenced by gender roles?
- What can be done to lessen the effects of gender stratification in the workplace and American society?
- How does gender stratification harm both men and women?
- Is gender harmful? Why or why not?
- How has women's role in society evolved?

FOCUS STANDARDS

KSDE HGSS Standards

- Individuals have rights and responsibilities. (Standard 2)
- Societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups. (Standard 3)
- Societies experience continuity and change over time. (Standard 4)
- Relationships among people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic. (Standard 5)

NCSS C3 Framework Standards

- D2.Soc.15.9-12. Identify common patterns of social inequality.
- D2.Soc.16.9-12. Interpret the effects of inequality on groups and individuals.
- D2.Soc.17.9-12. Analyze why the distribution of power and inequalities can result in conflict.
- D2.Soc.18.9-12. Propose and evaluate alternative responses to inequality.

ASA National Standards for High School Sociology

- Domain 4: Stratification and Inequality
 - 4.1 Students will identify common patterns of social inequality.
 - 4.1.1 Privilege
 - 4.1.2 Power
 - 4.1.3 Racial and ethnic inequality
 - 4.1.4 Class inequality

- 4.1.5 Gender inequality
- 4.2 Students will analyze the effects of social inequality on groups and individuals.
 - 4.2.1 Life chances
 - 4.2.2 Social problems
 - 4.2.3 Inter- and intra-group conflict
- 4.3 Students will explain the relationship between social institutions and inequality.
 - 4.3.1 Distribution of power through social institutions
 - 4.3.2 Potential of institutions to produce, reinforce, or challenge inequality
- 4.4 Students will assess responses to social inequality.
 - 4.4.1 Individual responses to inequality
 - 4.4.2 Group responses to inequality such as social movements
 - 4.4.3 Social policy responses to inequality