



## **FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE: BALLB**

**Semester –IV**

**SUBJECT: SOCIOLOGY-III**

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**NAME OF FACULTY: DR. SHIV**

**KUMAR TRIPATHI**

# Lecture-8



## **PRINCIPLES OF STRATIFICATION**

There are four basic principles of Stratification which can be seen from the early times: -

1. Stratification is present and viewed upon the whole community of a society. It does not represent any single individual of a society. In short, it is a mass phenomenon rather than an individual insight. For example in India Hindu religion is not used for a particular individual, instead, it is a collection of so many people altogether.
2. Stratification is not a new phenomenon of society. It has been present in our society from a long period of time, in fact from the time human beings evolution proceeded, its existence has been observed. Only a few changes have been observed but it's a global phenomenon existing in every part of the world.
3. Although Stratification is a global phenomenon, its level of effects and happenings is the different place to place.
4. Stratification is a combination of beliefs and norms which has occupied people's mind from generations. The inequality is not anybody's agenda but having beliefs different from others makes Stratification come into account.

## **CLASSIFICATION OF MODERN STRATIFICATION**

There are three types of classification which is popular and well known by every individual

### **1. Upper Class**

They are influential people who have the foremost and most of the powers in their hand. They have well connections in the society which make their work done in the fraction of seconds.

### **2. Middle Class**

They are the group of people who neither comes under Upper Class or Poor People. They undergo a set pattern of struggle through their entire life. Neither are they very influential not they are the most deprived people of society. They have to continue their struggle on a medium pace throughout the life. The number of middle-class people is certainly more than upper class or poor people.

### **3. Lower Class or Poor People**

They are the people who actually face poverty. They are deprived of their right of living a wealthy life. They undergo an amount of struggle which other class people cannot go in their own life because they are used to the facilities given.

Stratification phenomenon can be interlinked or understood better by this effect: -

**Glass Ceiling** – It is the most common thing faced by some minorities of any country or women. They face a continuous discrimination providing them unnecessary awkward scenario with depression. This factor was boldly opposed by Conflict Perspective in

which Karl Marx stated that this kind of society who does not know how to provide women same place and respect or regularly practicing Capitalism can never improve.

## **THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION**

### **1. KARL MARX**

Undoubtedly, Karl Marx was the one who emerged to be emphasizing thinker of all the time. His work gained people attention posts his death i.e. after 1883. He is known as the father of Conflict Perspective in which he was concerned about the peasants and lower class people conditions. He discouraged the popular concept of Iron Cage. He was always against Social Stratification. He worked efficiently to make people understand what they are lacking due to less knowledge. He emphasized a saying that the difference between upper class and lower class people. The more upper-class people will keep on earning more and deprived people will keep on decreasing.

He gave a detailing of Capitalist mode in two types:-

1. **Substructure-** The substructure or base is the basis of a working style. The workers and their relation with each other come under substructure. Mainly substructure does not affect Superstructure.
2. **Superstructure-** The superstructure consists of industrialist and owners. Only they can affect substructure by changing any of the norms present in an organization.

### **2. Max Weber**

Max Weber was also majorly involved in Conflict Perspective after Karl Marx. He was impressed by Karl Marx but not every time he agreed with his all theories. He did not believe in complete removal of Stratification. He wrote three key elements of stratification.

1. Class
2. Status
3. Power

Weber has done an excellent job in research work and classified people in four groups:-

1. The Upper Class
2. The white collar workers
3. The petite bourgeoisie
4. Manual Working Class

### **3. Wright Mills**

After Karl Marx and Weber, another sociologist came into notice and revised their ideas and philosophy regarding Social Stratification.

He agreed with their point that social class depends on the economic condition of a man, but it also depends on political and ethnicity of a group of people too. He classified the group of people in three different types during his time.

- Political Leadership

Political parties have always been a major important role in the decision-making process in society. Hence the leaders of a political party are majorly important in society.

- Military Circle

During the wartime especially at the time of 1950-1960 many decisions were under military heads. They were the biggest decision makers of that time.

- Corporate Elite

The time, at which military leaders got its dominance, same time corporate leaders worked in a parallel way with military leaders to have their place in society.

## **ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORIES**

Anthropologists were a different kind of people who were not in the favor of aspect of Stratification. While other sociologist emphasized that Stratification is a global phenomenon, while anthropologist completely disagreed with their ideation. Recently John Gowdy researched his work in 2006 stating that generally, people are competitive in nature, it's not about any hierarchical difference between groups. He believed that there could be some places where the concept of egalitarian society i.e. a society in which there could be no stratification, is present. He believed that a society like this existing is not a myth, unlike other sociologists.

Altogether people have many views regarding Stratification. Major people believed that stratification is a global phenomenon.

## **Caste system in india, origin and sociologist view**

