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**DEPARTMENT:**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**COURSE:**

**SOC 310**

**MATRIC NUM:**

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**ASSIGNMENT:**

**Discuss the consequences of social stratification in society.**

**What is social mobility? Citing relevant examples, discuss how social stratification system can impact social mobility both positively and negatively.**

Question 1

**Discuss the consequences of social stratification in society**

Social stratification refers to a society’s categorization of its people into ranking of socioeconomic tiers based on factors like wealth, income, race, education, and power. A relatively fixed, hierarchical arrangement in society by which groups have different access to resources, power, and perceived social worth. In a sports organization:

* Owners control the resources of the teams.
* Players earn high salaries, yet do not control the team resources.
* Sponsors provide the resources.
* Fans provide revenue.

Social stratification is the main reason for relational set of inequalities in economic, social, political and ideological dimensions. It is a system whereby people rank and evaluate each other. On the basis of such evaluation, one is rewarded with more wealth, authority, power and prestige. It is broadly organized into three parts: upper class, middle class and lower class on the basis of power and wealth. This has resulted in the creation of a number of levels within our society. It is also a methodology of understanding different social classes based on their economic and political power. Let’s understand why social classes exist. For instance money; the world revolves around money. Money determines your consumption pattern, your lifestyle choices and even your life choices.

Going back to the agrarian times, wealth was made by cultivating farmlands and growing crops. Wealth however was accumulated by accumulation of surplus crops. The big mighty king would ask his servants to plant crops on his behalf and harvest it when it is due. These crops were sold off and the king received remuneration for them. Some businessmen noticed this practice and replicated it. This was the beginning of wealth accumulation aka capitalism. Fast forward to hundreds years after, wealth, farm lands and properties acquired were passed from past generation to generation through inheritance. Social stratification allows the wealthy class to maintain their social position. A person’s social position often determines from birth or adoption, whichever the case may be. Let’s look at someone born from wealth or upper class. Who goes to the finest private schools and studies at the most prestigious university. He has automatically shot up the social ladder. Through his experience, he has been socialized with the upper class and culture. That is the way they speak, act and present themselves. They have learnt principles on how to utilize their powerful social network to their advantage.

**Consequences of social stratification in society**

Social stratification causes social disparity and many problems as it is an unjust system with monopoly of power and wealth in a particular group. It affects life chances, lifestyles and prestige. It creates emotional stress and depression for the people belonging to lower social stratum as they have unequal access to wealth, power and prestige. It creates a huge gulf between the people in terms of their incomes and a range of measures associated with social position, education, health, and psychological well-being. It is distinctly perceived that disparity causes chaos in society. These are the stumbling blocks in the way to progress and development of the country. Stratification affects life chances, lifestyles and prestige. It creates emotional stress and depression for the people belonging to lower social stratum as they have unequal access to wealth, power and prestige. It draws a clear cut line of division in society, leading to grouping and thus hampering the social solidarity. It is dangerous for a multicultural and multiracial country like India. As more importance on own identity can harm the unity of the country.

Stratification has led to many malpractices like caste based discrimination, untouchability, clashes and murders, leading to poverty and backwardness. A gab being formed between the rich and poor, which is very difficult to eradicate. It has led to the inequality in the society. Resulted in slavery and exploitation of human.

In conclusion, stratification is beneficial to some section whereas devastating for another. It has led to troubles but also has made things easier to understand. Like every other phenomena, stratification too has the two aspects of good and bad.

Question 2

**What is social mobility? Citing relevant examples, discuss how social stratification system can impact social mobility both positively and negatively.**

Social mobility describes the movement or opportunities for movement between different social groups, and the advantages that go with this in terms of income, security of employment, opportunities for advancement etc. it refers to the ability to change positions within a social stratification system. When people improve or diminish their economic status in a way that affects social class, they experience social mobility. Mobility shows that there is a great deal of income and earnings mobility (upward and downward) in Britain but much of this is short range. For example, individuals on low incomes or earnings may move one or two declines up the income or earnings distribution but not in general much more. Social mobility matters because: equality of opportunity is an aspiration across the political spectrum. Lack of social mobility implies inequality of opportunity; economic efficiency depends on making the best use of the talents of everyone; and social cohesion and inclusion may be more likely to be achieved where people believe they can improve the quality of life they and their children enjoy through their abilities, talents an efforts.

When studying social classes, the question naturally arises: Is it possible for people to move within a society's stratification system? In other words, is there some possibility of social mobility, or progression from one social level to another? Yes, but the degree to which this is possible varies considerably from society to society.

On the one hand, in a closed society with a caste system, mobility can be difficult or impossible. Social position in a caste system is decided by assignment rather than attainment. This means people are either born into or marry within their family's caste; changing caste systems is very rare. An example of the rigid segregation of caste systems occurs today in India, where people born into the lowest caste (the “untouchables”) and can never become members of a higher caste. South Africa also has a caste system.

On the other hand, in an open society with a class system, mobility is possible. The positions in this stratification system depend more on achieved status, like education, than on ascribed status, like gender. For example, the United States' social stratification is of this type, meaning movement between social strata is easier and occurs more frequently. Several patterns of social mobility are possible:

* Horizontal mobility involves moving within the same status category. An example of this is a nurse who leaves one hospital to take a position as a nurse at another hospital.  
  Vertical mobility, in contrast, involves moving from one social level to another. A promotion in rank in the Army is an example of upward mobility, while a demotion in rank is downward mobility.
* Intergenerational mobility, also termed career mobility, refers to a change in an individual's social standing, especially in the workforce, such as occurs when an individual works his way up the corporate ladder.
* Intergenerational mobility refers to a change in social standing across generations, such as occurs when a person from a lower‐class family graduates from medical school.

**Social Stratification and Social Mobility**:

Social mobility refers to the movement within the social structure, from one social position to another. It means a change in social status. All societies provide some opportunity for social mobility. But the societies differ from each other to extent in which individuals can move from one class or status level to another. It is said that the greater the amount of social mobility, the more open the class structure. The concept of social mobility has fundamental importance in ascertaining the relative “openness” of a social structure. The nature, forms, direction and magnitude of social mobility depends on the nature and types of social stratification. Sociologists study social mobility in order to find out the relative ‘openness’ of a social structure.

Any group that improves its standard will also improve its social status. But the rate of social mobility is not uniform in all the countries. It differs from society to society from time to time. In India the rate of mobility is naturally low because of agriculture being the predominant occupation and the continuity of caste system as compared to the other countries of the world.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of social mobility and social stratification**

* Financial Potential;

When you have social mobility, you give everyone the chance to aspire toward prosperity. This usually involves proper education, hard work and the utilization of individual aptitude on a larger scale. Someone who is born poor is not destined to be stuck in that social class his entire life. He has the opportunity to move up and create even greater opportunities for his own children to further advance in social class.

* Social Classes;

Social mobility can create new social classes. Instead of just rich and poor, you now have middle class, which can further be dissected into upper- and lower-middle classes. However, as more and more people fall into this middle-class distinction, it can lead to a more or less classless society, where most of the people within the society fall into one class.

* Educational Drive;

The goal of upward social mobility has made education a prime factor in society. A postsecondary education has become the main goal after graduation from a secondary institution, instead of getting a long-term job after high school. Those who choose not to pursue a postsecondary education are often offered lower-paying jobs, making higher education more attractive.

* Job Opportunities;
* Social mobility can have a negative effect on job opportunities in two ways. First, social mobility makes competition for the best jobs fiercer, whether it is because individuals want to move up in social class or because they fear a downward move in social class. Second, more people shun lower-paying jobs, because they want a chance to attain upward mobility.
* Societal Anomie;

When more people in society experience upward social mobility, it can lead to societal anomie: where the standards of conduct or values of a society begin to disappear and new standard and values have not yet developed. People in an anomic society may feel emotional distress and lack a sense of purpose. This can lead to harmful events like suicide or homicide.

Social mobility refers to the ability to change positions within a social stratification. When people improve or diminish their economic status in a way that affects social class, they experience social mobility. Individuals can experience upward or downward social mobility for a variety of reasons. When looking at the inequality in education between social mobility and social stratification, it makes it harder for low-income families to achieve social mobility. Research has indicated that social stratification is connected to the deficiency of social mobility. The increasing graduation rates is causing an even bigger gap between high income children and low-income children.

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