

Social equality

“Social equality is a state of affairs in which all people within a specific society or isolated group have the same status in certain respects. At the very least, social equality includes equal rights under the law, such as security, voting rights, freedom of speech and assembly, property rights, and equal access to social goods and services. However, it also includes concepts of health equity, economic equity and other social securities. It also includes equal opportunities and obligations, and so involves the whole of society.

Social equality requires the absence of legally enforced social class or caste boundaries and the absence of discrimination motivated by an inalienable part of a person's identity. For example, sex, gender, race, age, sexual orientation, origin, caste or class, income or property, language, religion, convictions, opinions, health or disability must not result in unequal treatment under the law and should not reduce opportunities unjustifiably.

Social equality refers to social, rather than economic, or income equality. “Equal opportunities” is interpreted as being judged by ability, which is compatible with a free- market economy. A problem is horizontal inequality, the inequality of two persons of same origin and ability.

In complexity economics, it has been found that horizontal inequality arises in complex systems, and thus equality may be unattainable. It has been speculated by some conservatives like David Horowitz that socialism, a system advocating social equality, played a significant part in 20th Century murder and torture under dictators in the USSR, Maoist China and Cambodia.”

Wikipedia. *Social equality*. [online] Available at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_equality> [Accessed 16 September 2014].