***Sociology and social psychology, Thursday 13.00-15.00***

**Kakharmanova Aruzhan 21B030839**

**Social stratification**

Social stratification refers to the way a society is divided into different layers or levels based on factors like wealth, power, education, and social status. It is the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities among individuals or groups in a society, creating a hierarchy of social classes. This hierarchy can affect an individual's access to things like education, healthcare, housing, and political power. Social stratification refers to the hierarchical arrangement of individuals or groups in a society based on their social status, power, wealth, and prestige. It refers to the unequal distribution of resources and opportunities among individuals or groups in a society. It is a fundamental aspect of human societies and can be observed across different cultures and historical periods. It is typically based on factors such as class, race, gender, age, education, occupation, and religion.

*Some of the key characteristics of social stratification are:*

Hierarchical: Social stratification is hierarchical, meaning that individuals or groups are ranked or organized into different layers or levels, with some having more power, wealth, and status than others. Persistent: Social stratification tends to be persistent over time, meaning that the positions of individuals or groups within the social hierarchy tend to remain relatively stable across generations. Universal: Social stratification exists in all societies, although the specific forms and structures of stratification can vary across cultures and historical periods.

Based on multiple factors: Social stratification is based on a combination of factors, including wealth, power, education, occupation, and social status, as well as other factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, and age. Inequality: Social stratification creates inequality, with some individuals or groups having greater access to resources, opportunities, and privileges than others. Reinforced by institutions: Social stratification is reinforced by institutions such as education, the legal system, and the economy, which perpetuate and maintain the existing social hierarchy.

*There are four basic forms of social stratification:*

Slavery: In a slave society, individuals are owned by others and treated as property. Slavery has existed throughout history and is characterized by extreme social and economic inequality.

Estate System: In an estate system, society is divided into three classes: the nobility, the clergy, and the commoners. This system was prevalent in Europe during the Middle Ages and was based on inherited social status. Caste System: A caste system is a social hierarchy in which individuals are born into specific social groups, known as castes, that determine their status and occupation for life. Caste systems have existed in many parts of the world, including India and parts of Africa. Class System: In a class system, individuals are stratified based on their socioeconomic status, including factors such as income, wealth, education, and occupation. Class systems are fluid and individuals can move up or down the social hierarchy based on their own efforts and circumstances. This form of social stratification is prevalent in modern capitalist societies.