

QUESTION NO 16:

DEFINE SOCIAL STRATIFICATION ? WHAT ACCORDING TO YOU ARE IMPORTANT CRITERIA'S FOR SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IN PAKISTAN?

1. **CONCEPT OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:**

Stratification is the product of social inequality and is a relatively permanent position of the society, is transmitted from one race to another, limits the chances of progress. Its way are different in different societies and are changeable with social changes and sometimes this stratification becomes a cause of revolution.

2. **CONOTATION OF TERM:**

According to Melvin M.Tuman:

"Social stratification refers to arrangements of any social group or society into a hierarchy of positions that are unequal with regard to power, property, social evaluation and/or psychic gratification."

3. **DEFINITION:**

"Social stratification is group division of a society and there is difference of superiority of inferiority among the individual."

4. **IMPORTANCE OF STUDY OF S.S:**

According to sociologist, this study is very important because it seriously affects the institutional relations and social interaction.

5. **HISTORICALLY / BASIC SYSTEM OF STRATIFICATION:**

Historically, four basic systems of stratification can be distinguished:

- I. Slavery
- II. Caste
- III. Estates
- IV. Class
- V.

6. **SLAVERY:**

Slavery is an extreme form of inequality, in which certain people are owned as property by others. The legal conditions of slave ownership have varied considerably among different societies. Sometimes slaves were deprived of almost all rights by law-as

was the case on southern plantations in the United States-while in other societies, their position was more akin to that of servants. For example, in the ancient Greek city-state of Athens, some slaves occupied positions of great responsibility. They were excluded from political positions and from the military, but were accepted in most other types of occupation. Some were literate and worked as government administrators; many were trained in craft skills.

7. CASTE:

A caste system is a social system in which one's social status is given for life. In caste societies, therefore different social levels are closed, so that all individuals must remain at the social level of their birth throughout life. Everyone's social status is based on personal characteristics - such as perceived race or ethnicity (often based on such physical characteristics as skin colour) paternal religion.

8. ESTATES:

Estate were part of European feudalism, but also existed in many other traditional civilizations. The feudal estate consisted of strata with differing obligations and rights towards each other, some of these differences being established in law.

9. CLASS:

Class system differs in many respects from slavery, castes or estates. We can define a class as a large-scale grouping of people who share common economic resources, which strongly influence the type of life style they are able to lead. Ownership of wealth, together with occupation, are the chief bases of class differences. Classes differ from earlier forms of stratification in four main respects:

- Class Systems are fluid.
- Class Systems are in some part achieved.
- Class is economically Based.
- Class System large scale and Impersonal.

10. SYSTEM / CRITERIA:

Max Weber Gave a model of three elements for social stratification: economic resources, prestige and political power. In Pakistan society, the following factors determine important criteria's for social stratification.

- Economic Resources
- Occupation.
- Prestige.

- Power.
- Caste.
- Education.

11. ECONOMIC RESOURCES:

The level of incomes from all resources is an important indicator of one's place in society.

i. In Rural Areas:

- a) Upper class
- b) Middle class
- c) Lower class

ii. In Urban Areas:

- a) In urban areas, the big industrialists, wholesale and big business man.
- b) The next lower in these and other professions having their income and expenditure almost equal belong to middle class.
- c) Those who are in lower in all the professions are jobless, dependents and unskilled laborers belonging to the lower class.

12. OCCUPATION:

Occupation is also an important indicator of stratification in every society.

a) In United States of America the prestige rating of occupations was surveyed and the maximum score was

- i. 94 which went to Judge of the Supreme Court
- ii. Score 93 went to physician
- iii. 92 to scientist
- iv. 91 to state Governor
- v. 90 to Cabinet Member of Federal Government
- vi. The lawyer scored 80
- vii. The minister 87

13. PRESTIGE:

If individual has high prestige in social life, he is regarded most respectful person. The social prestige in a community in our society depends upon the following factors:

- i. Nobility of the individual
- ii. Harmless person for others
- iii. Free from social evils, like drinking, adultery, gambling, deceiving, robbery and fraud

14. POWER:

Power is one of the most important factor of social stratification in Pakistani society. Those who attain more power are given more respect in society.

15. CASTE SYSTEM:

In Pakistani society, caste is considered an important element of stratification. Some castes are believed to be higher in status like, Rajput, Pathan, Jutt and Taga. Some castes are generally placed in lower case like the menials, laborers and professional castes like carpenters, barbers, washerman, etc.

16. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM:

The standard of education also determines a society class. The illiterate persons belong to lower class. Those who received only education up to school may be placed in class and those who got college, university education and professional education may be placed upper class. Generally, the standard of education of awards standards to status in our society.

17. DIMENSION OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION:

Like all societies, the United States is stratified, and this stratification is often based on a person's socioeconomic status (SES). This complex formula takes into account three factors:

- I. Education
- II. Income
- III. Occupation

18. EDUCATION:

One determinant of socioeconomic status is education. People with a high school degree are classified in one group. People with college degrees are put into another. Using educational attainment levels to indicate SES is problematic for two reasons:

- i. School system in this country are not uniform in quality.
- ii. Not everyone has equal access to primary, secondary and higher education.

19. OCCUPATION AS DIMENSION:

Occupational prestige is very subjective and varies from country to country. In the United States, as in most industrialized societies, jobs requiring extensive schooling and intellectual acuity, and that afford the greatest degrees of professional autonomy, are considered the most prestigious. These occupations include:

- a) Physicians
- b) Judges
- c) University professors

Jobs requiring manual labor, or in which a person serves or cleans up after others, tend to be low-prestige occupations:

- a) Mechanic
- b) Truck driver
- c) Maid
- d) Janitor

20. INCOME:

Of the three variables, income is perhaps the least reliable as a predictor of SES. Assuming that a person's income is derived mostly from his or her job, the salary he or she receives is subject to influence by a variety of factors:

- Geographic region
- Size of company
- Educational level
- Work experience

21. CONCLUSION:

To conclude that Historically, four basic systems of stratification can be distinguished: slavery, castes, estates and class. Stratification differs from society to society. In United States of America, 22% of the population is still considered low class while these people have higher standard of living than high class.

