

EDU 453 Educational Sociology

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Education and stratification

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How is schooling related to occupational and financial success?

- ◆ Is there exist inequality in educational opportunity?
- ◆ Issues:
 - ◆ Public or private schools
 - ◆ Ability grouping
 - ◆ Teacher and students expectations
 - ◆ Community environment
- ◆ Education continues class differences/stratification between capitalists and the working class.

What is stratification?

Simple definition: position in society!

- ◆ What is your position/class in the society?
- ◆ Determinants of social class:
 - ◆ Wealth
 - ◆ Power
 - ◆ Prestige
- ◆ Educational achievement is highly correlated with social class.
- ◆ Worldwide gender, race, and family status affect individual's chances for an education, future occupations, incomes, and prospects for poverty.

◆ Status attainment model: 6 major variables influencing education and life position

1. Father's and mother's education level, father's occupation, family income
2. Ability, measured by achievement or IQ test
3. Academic performance
4. Significant others encouragement
5. Educational/occupational aspirations
6. Educational attainment's direct influence on occupational attainment.

THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

1. Functional Theory

- The inevitability of inequality and the role education plays in the process stratification because of maintaining a working balance between parts.
- School function to select individuals by ability levels to fill hierarchical positions, based on the individuals merits than group differences (race and gender).
- Inequality is unavoidable in motivating members of society to work hard, and filling the positions in the society to keep smooth running of the society.

THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

2. CONFLICT THEORY

- ◆ Problems in the educational system arise from the conflicts in the society as a whole.
- ◆ The “haves” and “have-nots” in education system.
- ◆ Educational systems perpetuate the existing class structure (power, income and social status).
- ◆ Preparing the children roles in capitalistic and dominant society.
- ◆ Schools as agencies for “reproducing” the social relations of production necessary to keep capitalistic systems working.

THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

- ◆ **Empirical evidence:**
 - ◆ Colclough and Beck (1986) : male students reproduces their class status based on three determinants of reproduction:
 - ◆ Public vs private schooling
 - ◆ Socioeconomic community of the schools
 - ◆ Curriculum tracking within the schools (important determinant)

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