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Social Inequality



What does Social Inequality Mean?

Differential Access to

➤ **Wealth**

➤ **Power**

➤ **Prestige**

In What Areas does Social Inequalities Exist

- **Gender**
- **Race**
- **Age**
- **Ethnicity**
- **Religion**
- **Kinship**



Classification of Societies Based on the Equality-Inequality continuum

- **Egalitarian Societies**
- **Ranked Societies**
- **Stratified Societies**

Egalitarian societies

➤ Eg. Hadza of Tanzania, !Kung bushmen of the Kalahari, and Batek of Malaysia

➤ Foragers with few possessions, no land ownership, and little specialization, other than a division of labour based on gender and age

➤ lack any clear organisational structure

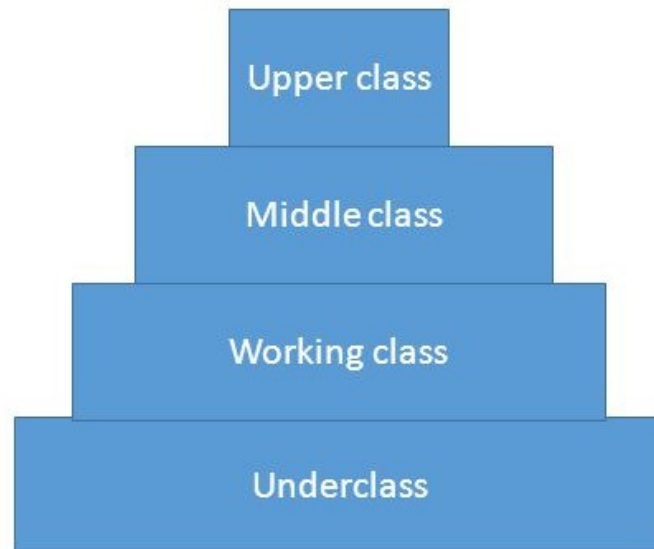
➤ There is a continuing debate as to whether there is inequality between men and women in foraging societies.



Hadza of Tanzania

How is society stratified by social class?

- Stratification refers to the way society is structured. Society is made up of a set of layers that are unequally ranked one above the other. Each layer is smaller but more powerful than the one below it. The higher the group on the pyramid the more money, status and power they have.



How is society stratified by gender?

Feminists highlight that although there is now far less stratification by gender, gender inequality does still exist for example:

- Women have to perform the triple shift in the home
- There is still sex discrimination in the work place
- Women are stereotyped negatively in the media far more than men

How is society stratified by age?

- Child Labour is now illegal in Britain, it was the norm among working-class families in the 19th Century and exists in some parts of the world today.
- The status of older people can also vary between cultures. In some cultures, getting old is seen as something to be avoided. In other cultures, older people are seen as having a high status in society as their experience is valued and appreciated.
- The term ageism describes a situation where someone is treated differently because of their age. In Britain, there are now regulations against age discrimination in employment and training.

How is society stratified by ethnicity?

- Over the last 40 years, reforms and policies have addressed inequality based on ethnicity in areas such as education, employment and criminal justice
- Employers have equal opportunity policies to support equality and diversity.
- As a result of such changes, sociologists believe that ethnic inequality is less significant now, although others argue that there has been little change in the fields of employment, education and criminal justice.
- Unemployment rates in England and Wales are higher among people of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black Caribbean heritage than among White British or White Irish people.
- Research has also found that men and women of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage have much worse chances of getting professional and managerial jobs than their white peers of the same age and educational level.

How does stratification affect people's life chances?

Life chances are the chances that a person has of achieving something good in society. Some people get better life chances than others.

The middle and upper class get far better life chances than the working class. For example, a middle class child has a better chance at succeeding in education because their parents have material capital so can buy them educational resources and can pay for tutors.

What inequalities are based on gender?

Feminists highlight that although there is now far less stratification by gender, gender inequality does still exist for example:

- Women have to perform the triple shift in the home
- There is still sex discrimination in the work place. Women end up hitting the glass ceiling.
- Women are stereotyped negatively in the media far more than men

What inequalities are based on ethnicity?

Ethnic minority groups in Britain are likely to suffer from:

- Racism in the workplace
- Racism in the education system
- Racism in the criminal justice system

What is life course?

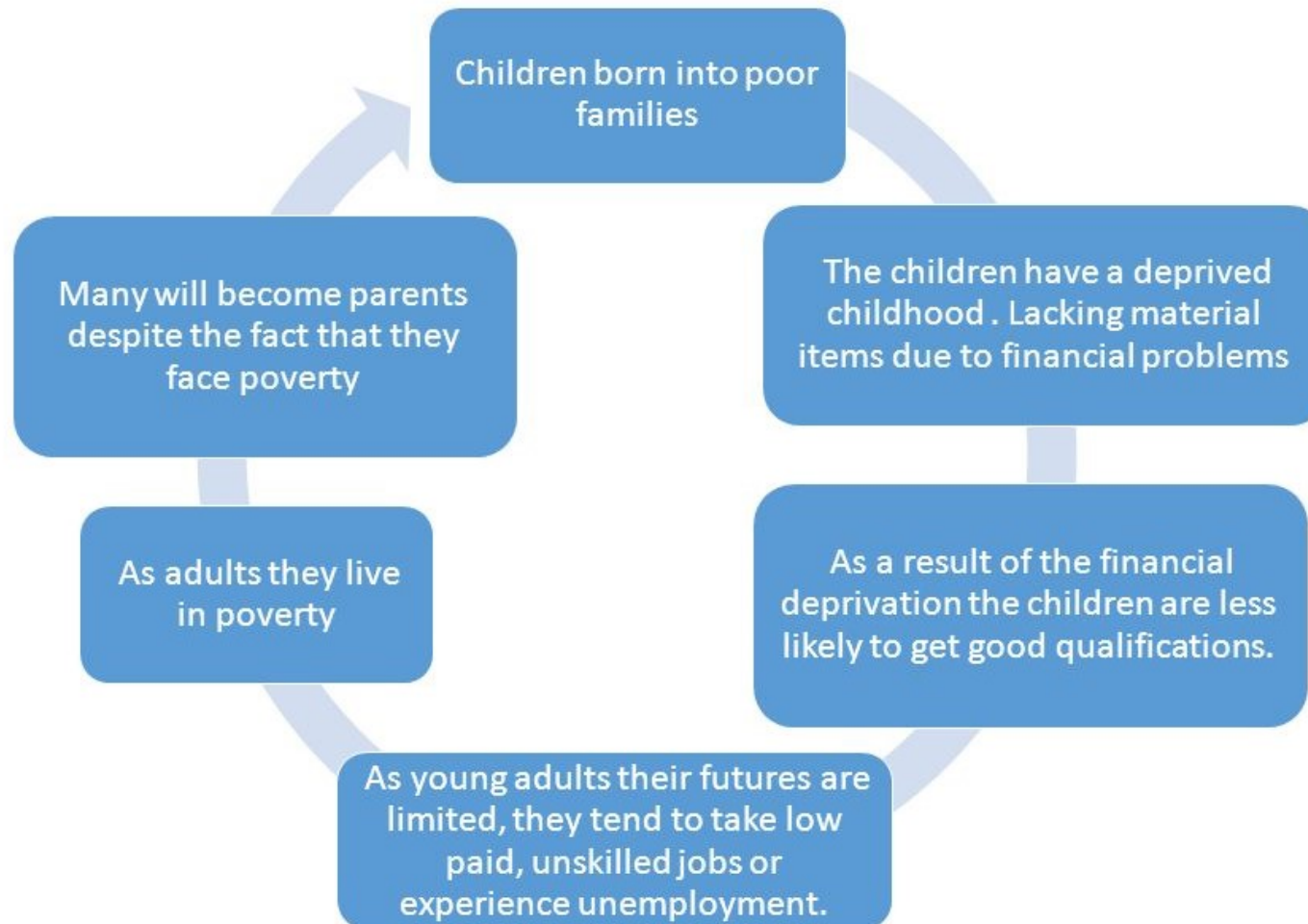
The chances of experiencing poverty are linked to age – children and pensioners are more at risk of poverty than other age groups. This is expressed in the idea of the life cycle of poverty.

At different courses throughout your life you are particularly likely to experience poverty e.g. when you are child and when you are an old age pensioner

What inequalities do people face in youth and in old age?

Youth	Old age
<p>Parents control children, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young people aren't given freedom in where they go• Young people aren't given freedom in how they spend their time• Young people are restricted in the activities they can take part in e.g. age restrictions stop them watching certain films at the cinema	<p>Older people are seen as incapable and therefore have restrictions put on them, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once people get to a certain age it is suggested that they don't drive anymore• Old people are seen as incapable of working

What is the cycle of poverty?



Any questions?



Thank you!

For your Attention