

1 Gender Stratification

Sex
And
Gender

2 Gender and Inequality

- Gender- refers to the personal traits and social positions that members of a society attach to being female and male.
- Gender also involves *Hierarchy*.
- Gender stratification refers to the unequal distribution of wealth, power, and privilege between men and women.

3 Gender and Inequality

- Male-Female differences:
 - It is important not to think of social differences between the sexes *exclusively* in biological terms.
 - Biologically, men and women differ in limited ways, but culture can define the two sexes in dramatically different ways.

4 Gender and Inequality

- Gender within different world groups:
 - The Israeli kibbutz
 - In Israel, collective Jewish settlements are called kibbutz.
 - Members of kibbutz consider gender irrelevant to most of everyday life.

5 Gender and Inequality

- Gender within different world groups:
 - Margaret Mead:
 - Completed groundbreaking research on gender, which showed that gender varies across cultures.
 - Arapesh: both sexes would be described by Americans as feminine.
 - Mundugumor: both sexes would be described by Americans as masculine.
 - Tchambuli: gender roles reverse by American standards.
 - Critics of Meads work charge that she oversimplified her findings, and implications.

6 Gender and Inequality

- Gender within different world groups:
 - George Murdock:
 - Murdock surveyed over 200 societies and found substantial but not complete agreement concerning which which tasks are feminine or masculine.
 - *Therefore: What is considered to be female or male is mostly a creation of society. (Culture!)*

7 Gender and Inequality

- Patriarchy and Sexism
 - *Partriarchy* is a form of social organization in which males dominate females.
 - *Matriarchy* is a form of social organization in which females dominate males.
 - *Sexism* is the belief that one sex is innately superior to the other. It underlies partriarchy and harms men, women, and the society as a whole.

8 Gender and Inequality

- Patriarchy and Sexism:

- The costs: Sexism stunts the talents and limits the ambition of women, who represent half the population. Although men benefit in some respects from sexism, privilege comes at a high price, especially in terms of intimacy and trust.
- Patricarchy is not inevitable because modern technology has eliminated most of the historic justifications for it.

9 Gender and Socialization

- Roles are attitudes and activities that a society links to each sex.
 - Gender and the family: Parents treat male and female children differently from birth.
 - Gender and the peer group: Boys and girls play different kinds of games and learn different styles of moral reasoning.
 - Gender and schooling: Curriculum in schools further reinforce a culture's gender roles.
 - Gender and the media: The media esp. TV, also reinforce culture's gender roles.

10 Gender and Social Stratification

Working women and men: In the U.S. and other industrial societies, women working for income is now the rule rather than the exception.

The majority of married couples in the U.S. depend on two incomes.

Gender and occupation- women continue to enter a narrow range of occupations, with almost half in clerical or service work.

Page 254, Table 10-2

11 Gender and Social Stratification

- Housework: The women's "second shift"
 - Women's entry into the labor market has not substantially reduced their involvement in housework, as husbands have resisted increasing their participation in these tasks.
 - Page 255, Table 10-3.

12 Gender and Social Stratification

- Gender, Income and Wealth:
 - The average female earns about 76 cents for every dollar earned by a male in full-time work.
 - Mostly this is related to the different kinds of jobs held by men vs. women.
 - People still devalue the work in jobs that women typically do.
 - The greater responsibility for family and childcare are traditionally assigned to women is another factor explaining earning differential.
 - The last crucial factor is discrimination.

13 Gender and Social Stratification

- Gender and Education:
 - By 1980 women earned a majority of all associate's and bachelor's degrees.
 - Still society defines high-paying professions as masculine;
 - Which explains why equal numbers of men and women begin most professional graduate programs, but women are less likely to complete their degrees.
 - The percentages are very close in many of the professional fields. (See text)

14 Gender and Social Stratification

- Gender and Politics:
 - Women's involvement in politics is increasing, although very slowly at the highest levels.
 - Federal Government- Presidential cabinet positions, Senate and Congress positions, Supreme Court appointments, other Federal Court appointments.
 - State Government- Governor's advisors, Senate and Congress positions, State Supreme Court members.
 - Women make up approx. 10 - 15% of those serving in Federal and State governments. (P. 257, Table 10-4)

15 Gender and Social Stratification

- Gender and the Military:
 - Technology blurs the distinction between combat and non-combat personnel.
 - Women are taking on more military assignments.
 - Equality has not yet been achieved.

16 Gender and Social Stratification

- Are women a minority?:
 - A minority is a group of people which have physical or cultural differences, that society sets aside as a subordinate group.
 - While women fit this definition of minority group, most white women do not think of themselves as a minority.

17 Gender and Social Stratification

- Intersection theory:
 - Explains the double disadvantage of women who face the additional interplay of race, class or other multiple dimensions of disadvantage.

18 Gender and Social Stratification

- Violence against women:
 - “Rule of thumb”- referred to the thickness of the stick a man was allowed to beat his wife with.
 - Much of the violence which occurs against women, happens within family settings. (This includes physical, sexual, and emotional.)
 - Most violence committed against women is about power. (Including rape)

19 Gender and Social Stratification

- Violence against women:
 - Sexual Harassment- refers to comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature, that are deliberate, repeated, and unwelcome.
 - Women are more likely to be harassed than men.
 - Culture encourages men to be sexually assertive, and to perceive women in sexual terms.
 - Most often men are in the position of supervising women in the workplace.
 - Some harassment is blatant, but much of it is subtle.
 - The complexity of events involve the different perceptions of the same behavior.

20 Gender and Social Stratification

- Violence against women:
 - Pornography: sexually explicit material that causes sexual arousal.
 - On the surface, this appears to be a clear statement, however there are some problems;
 - It is the responsibility of the local government to say what is pornographic.
 - The question of morality.
 - The question of gender stratification.
 - The conflicting concerns of material offense v. freedom of speech.

21 Theoretical Analysis of Gender

- Structural-Functional: suggests that traditional sex roles emerged in hunting and gathering societies where they promoted the efficient functioning of the family.
 - Each sex played a role that complemented the role played by the other, men took the instrumental part and women took the expressive part.

22 Theoretical Analysis of Gender

- S-F- Parsons “gender and complementarity”
 - Girls and boys are socialized into expressive and instrumental roles.
 - Social control reinforces gender-linked behavior

- The gender role of complementarity helps to integrate society.
 - This view has been criticized for ignoring women working out of necessity, and the personal strains and social costs of following rigid gender roles, and keeping with the status quo.

23 Theoretical Analysis of Gender

- **Social-Conflict:** explains contemporary sex roles in terms of dominance, subordination and sexism. (behavior and power)
 - Engels: "gender and class"- capitalism intensifies male domination of women.
 - Men insure their position by placing women in the position of maintaining the home and caring for the children.
 - This casts conventional families as morally evil; minimizes the extent which people live happily in families; and that capitalism stands at the root of gender stratification.

24 Feminism

- **Feminism** is the advocacy of social equality for men and women, in opposition to patriarchy and sexism.
 - **Basic Ideas:** Although people who consider themselves feminists disagree about many things, most support five general principles:
 - Importance of Change -Expanding human choice
 - Eliminating gender strat -Ending sexual violence
 - Promoting sexual freedom

25 Feminism

- **Types of Feminism:** Although feminists agree on the importance of gender equality, they disagree on how to achieve it.
 - *Liberal feminism:* individuals should be free to develop their own talents and pursue their own interests.
 - *Socialist feminism:* capitalism increases patriarchy by placing power in a small number of men.
 - *Radical feminism:* believes that gender equality will be achieved only through the elimination of gender.

26 Feminism

- **Opposition to feminism:**
 - Primarily directed at Socialist and Radical forms of feminism
 - Support of Liberal is fairly widespread
 - The continuing trend of the last 10-15 years is toward greater gender equality.

27 To the future

- Changes will continue to occur incrementally. (one small step at a time)
- We see movement toward a society in which women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities.
- Clearly today's economy depends on the earnings of women.