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By the end of this section, you will be able to: Understand and apply functionalist, conflict theory, and interaction points of view on the social stratification of Basketball is one of the highest paid professional sports. There is a bundle even among the teams. For example, the Minnesota Timberwolves are handing out the lowest annual salaries, while the Los Angeles Lakers are reportedly paying the highest. Kobe Bryant, a Lakers quarterback, is one of the highest-paid athletes in the NBA, earning about \$30.5 million a year (Forbes 2014). Even in certain areas, layers are layered and members are ranked. In sociology, even issues such as NBA salary can be seen from different perspectives. Functionaries will study the purpose of such high salaries, and conflict theorists will study exorbitant salaries as an unfair distribution of money. Social stratification takes on new meanings when it is viewed from different sociological points of view - functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interaction. In sociology, functionalist perspective explores how parts of society function. According to functionalism, there are different aspects of society because they serve the necessary purpose. What is the function of social stratification? In 1945, sociologists Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore published Davis-Moore's dissertation, which argued that the greater the functional meaning of a social role, the greater the reward should be. The theory states that social stratification is inherently unequal value of various works. Some tasks in society are more valuable than others. Skilled people who fill these positions should be rewarded more than others. According to Davis and Moore, the work of a firefighter is more important than, for example, a grocery store cashier. The position of the cashier does not require the same level of qualifications and training as firefighting. Without the incentive of higher wages and higher benefits, why would someone be willing to rush into burning buildings? If the level of payment was the same, the firefighter could also work as a grocery store cashier. Davis and Moore believed that rewarding more important work with higher incomes, prestige and power encourages people to work longer and longer. Davis and Moore said that in most cases, the degree of qualifications required for the job determines the importance of the job. They also stated that the more skills required for the job, the fewer qualified people would do the job. Some tasks, such as cleaning corridors or answering phone calls, do not require much skill. Employees do not need higher education. Another job, like designing a highway system or delivering a child, requires tremendous skill. In 1953, Melvin Tumin objected to Davis-Moore's thesis in Some Principles critical analysis. Tumin doubted that determines the degree of work Davis-Moore's dissertation doesn't explain, he argued, why a media personality with little education, skill or talent becomes famous and rich on reality TV or campaigning. The dissertation also does not explain inequality in education or inequality on the basis of race or gender. Tumin believed that social stratification prevents qualified people from trying to fill roles (Tumin 1953). For example, unying young people are less likely to become scientists, however intelligent they may be, because of the relative lack of opportunities available to them. Davis-Moore's thesis also doesn't explain why a basketball player earns millions of dollars a year when a doctor who saves lives, a soldier who fights for the rights of others, and a teacher who helps shape the minds of tomorrow, likely won't make millions during his career. Davis-Moore's dissertation, though open to discussion, was an early attempt to explain why there was a bundle. The thesis states that social stratification is necessary to promote excellence, productivity and efficiency, thereby giving people something to strive for. Davis and Moore believed that the system serves society as a whole because it allows everyone to benefit to a certain extent. These people are protesting the decision taken by the University of Technology Tennessee in Cookeville, Tennessee, to fire custodians and outsource jobs to a private firm to avoid paying benefits to employees. Private employment agencies often pay lower hourly wages. Is the decision fair? (Photo courtesy of Brian Stansberry/Wikimedia Commons) Conflict theorists are deeply critical of social stratification, arguing that it only benefits some people, not society as a whole. For example, the conflict theorist seems wrong that a basketball player is paid millions for a year's contract, while a public school teacher earns \$35,000 a year. Stratification, conflict theorists say, perpetuates inequality. Conflict theorists try to draw attention to inequality, such as how a rich society can have so many poor members. Many conflict theorists rely on the work of Karl Marx. In the era of industrialization of the nineteenth century, Marx believed that social stratification was the result of people's attitude to production. People were divided by one line: they either owned factories or worked in them. In Marx's time, bourgeois capitalists owned high-mining enterprises, factories and land, as they do today. The proletarians were workers who performed manual labor in the production of goods. Capitalists of the upper class raked in profits and got rich, while the proletariat of the working class earned meager wages and fought for With such opposing interests, these two groups were divided by differences in wealth and power. Marx saw workers experience deep alienation, isolation and suffering as a result of powerless levels of status (Marx 1848). Marx Marx that the proletarians were oppressed by the bourgeois hungry money. Today, as working conditions have improved, conflict theorists believe that strained working relationships between employers and employees still exist. Capitalists own the means of production, and there is a system to make business owners rich and keep workers poor. According to conflict theorists, the resulting stratification creates class conflict. If he were alive in today's economy as it recovers from a prolonged recession, Marx would likely argue that the recession is the result of the greed of capitalists, satisfied at the expense of working people. Symbolic interaction is a theory that uses everyday interactions of people to explain society as a whole. Symbolic interaction considers stratification from the point of view of micro-level. This analysis seeks to explain how people's social status affects their daily interactions. In most communities, people interact mainly with other people who have the same social status. It is because of the social stratification that people tend to live, work and associate with others like themselves, people who share their same level of income, education, or racial background, and even tastes in food, music and clothing. The built-in system of social stratification groups of people together. This is one of the reasons why a royal prince like Prince William rarely marries simplicity. Symbolic interactions also note that people's appearance reflects their perception of social status. Body, clothing and transport point to social status, as do hairstyles, taste in accessories and personal style. (a) A group of builders at the place of work and (b) a group of entrepreneurs. What stratification categories do these builders share? How do builders differ from managers or custodians? Who is more qualified? Who has more prestige in society? (Photo a) courtesy of the Commons; Photo (b) courtesy of Chun Kit /Flickr) Symbolically communicate social status, people often participate in a noticeable consumption, which is the purchase and use of certain products to make a social statement of status. Carrying expensive but eco-friendly water bottles can indicate a person's social standing. Some people buy expensive fancy sneakers even if they will never wear them for a jog or play sports. The \$17,000 car provides transportation as easily as a \$100,000 vehicle, but a luxury car makes a social statement that a less expensive car can't live up to. All of these stratification symbols are worth exploring by interaction. Social stratification can be viewed from different sociological points of view - functionalism, conflict theory and symbolic interaction. perspective states that systems exist in society for Reasons. Conflict theorists point out that the stratification contributes to inequality, for example, between wealthy business owners and poor workers. Symbolic interactions consider stratification from the point of view of micro-level. They observe how social status affects people's everyday interactions and how the concept of social class is constructed and maintained through everyday interactions. A Brief Answer Analysis of Davis-Moore's Thesis. Do you agree with Davis and Moore? Does social stratification play an important role in society? What examples can you cite that support the thesis? What examples can you cite that disprove the thesis? Consider social stratification from a symbolic point of view of interaction. How does social stratification affect the daily interaction of individuals? How do class systems based on factors such as prestige, power, income and wealth affect your own daily life as well as your beliefs and relationships? Illustrate your ideas with specific examples and anecdotes from your own life and the lives of people in your community. The conspicuous consumption of the act of buying and using products to make a statement about the social status of Davis-Moore thesis, which argues that some social stratification is a social necessity of Davis, Kingsley, and Wilbert E. Moore. Some principles of stratification. American Sociological Survey 10(2):242-249. Received on January 9, 2012 (. FORBES.COM 2014. #15 Kobe Bryant. Received on December 22, 2014 (. Marx, Karl. 1848. Communist Party Manifesto. Received on January 9, 2012 (. Tumin, Melvin M. 1953. Some principles of stratification: critical analysis. American Sociological Survey 18(4):387-394. 18(4):387-394. functional theory of stratification propounded by. functional theory of stratification sociology. functional theory of stratification in detail. functional theory of stratification slideshare. functional theory of stratification by talcott parsons. functional theory of stratification motivation. functional theory of stratification meaning. functional theory of stratification define

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