

## ARTICLE ON THE TOPIC OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY CAUSES OF WAYS TO OVERCOME

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**Abstract** - *in this lecture we will study the concept of social inequality, its causes, consequences and possible ways of overcoming. Social inequality is one of the main problems of modern society, which affects the lives of many people. We will consider the role of the state and education in combating social inequality and try to understand what measures can be taken to create a more just and equitable society. The diversity of existing social relations, statuses and roles of individual individuals leads to the emergence of significant differences between people, including social inequality. Today social inequality is one of the problems not only of the Russian society. In this article we will talk about what social inequality is, consider its examples, causes, and ways to overcome it.*

**Keywords** - *social inequality, division of the population into poor and rich, economic reasons, differences in the availability of resources, equal opportunities, what is social inequality, examples of social inequality, causes of social inequality, criteria of social inequality, is it possible to eradicate social inequality, can social inequality be eradicated.*

What is social inequality?

Social inequality is the differentiation of people on the basis of their position in society, leading to different opportunities for the use of material goods. Representing this process in the form of a pyramid, its base is formed by the poorest strata of the population, while the upper level is composed of a limited number of the richest individuals who act as oppressors in relation to the strata of society below them.

Social inequality can manifest itself in various forms, but the main one is the division of the population into the poor and the rich.

The beginning of the process of stratification of society falls on the development of agriculture by mankind and the emergence of private property. The most successful owners sought to strengthen their position and pass it on to their heirs. It was during this period that the foundations of the right of inheritance began to form. Not the least role in the stratification of

society was played by religion, which caused the emergence of a separate caste of clergymen, and as a result of wars of conquest there appeared a layer of slaves, completely deprived of any rights.

Signs of social inequality are characteristic of all periods of human development without exception. If in the primitive community stratification was minimal, only the heads had some preferences, then later the process began to deepen. The emergence of slavery, class or caste division of society was characteristic of most countries, and in India the caste system continues to persist to the present day.

### **EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

The most contrasting examples of stratification, the division of society into classes with different rights and opportunities, must be singled out:

- Slavery. The most ancient form of inequality, involving complete subjugation and enslavement of the individual.
- Castes. A system of clear consolidation of social position by descent, characteristic of India. Transition between castes is impossible in principle.
- Estates. More a form of material division, where the nobility and clergy had the right of inheritance.

### **CAUSES OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

At various times, representatives of the scientific community repeatedly turned to the study of the emergence of the causes of the formation of hierarchy in human society and the possibility of its existence without inequality. In general, when considering the causes of social inequality, theorists proceed from the existence of three main causes:

- Functional;
- status;
- economic causes.

Functionalism lies in the different functions assigned in society to certain social groups. Society is able to develop only in conditions of division of labor, when a certain group is responsible for solving specific tasks that play an important role for the whole society. For example, some form material goods, others spiritual values. Still others assume managerial and control functions.

For the successful existence of society, each of the components is important, but the degree of importance of the processes will differ among themselves. As a result, the hierarchy formed by the functional becomes the reason for the emergence of classes with different capabilities.

Status causes of inequality lie in the behavior of individual subjects of society. Occupying a certain position, an individual acquires a corresponding status, which allows social inequality to be called status inequality. Successful

realization of one's own role is available to a person only if he possesses certain abilities that allow him to achieve the desired position in society. Capabilities are not only professional skills and knowledge, but also personal qualities that allow to develop a career.

Capabilities, in turn, include the potential that is derived from origin, such as financial status, power, developed connections in the highest circles, and so on.

The economic causes of inequality lie in the uneven distribution of material goods among the population and the different level of individuals' attitude to property. As a result, the emerging classes with different material wealth experience a pronounced antagonism to other classes.

### **CRITERIA OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

Mechanisms for maintaining the stratification of the structure in society can be different. Traditionally, the class division is recognized, where representatives of each class are strictly limited in relations with representatives of other classes, and their rights and duties are clearly prescribed without the possibility of their circumvention by an individual.

In industrial society, equality is declared, but in fact it is absent. The division is based on different levels of material wealth, and wealth is consolidated in the hands of a limited group of people, causing increased social tension in society. At the same time, inequality is a serious incentive for development. An important role in modern society is played by the middle class, a group of individuals occupying a median position between the rich and the poor. The larger the middle class is, the more opportunities it has to influence public policy and form a set of values in society.

Sociology recognizes economic explanations of social inequality as insufficient, so it introduces social prestige - social status received by an individual at birth or in the process of realization of his/her personal characteristics. Modern society is characterized by the division according to the following criteria:

- income, expressed in monetary form, and received from one's labor or possession of property;
- power - the number of surrounding people, against their will subordinated to the decisions of a single individual;
- education - the amount of time spent on acquiring knowledge and skills, as well as the degree of their importance in society;
- prestige - the level of respect of surrounding people for the social status of a particular person.

Society at all stages of its development was divided into groups according to the principle of a pyramid, where at the top is concentrated a limited number of persons with wealth and power. In turn, the foundation is the layer of the poor, traditionally the most numerous. In turn, for a developed society, the pyramid is transformed into a rhombus, where the number of rich and poor is limited and the majority of the population is represented by the middle class.

### **PROBLEMS CAUSED BY SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

Social inequality is a global problem that affects not only Russia. One of the peculiarities of inequality at the present stage is the difference in the availability of resources, as a result of which the division simultaneously occurs in two directions - economic and social.

With all the disadvantages inherent in social inequality, its presence gives society certain advantages:

- Increase in economic activity of the population;
- growth of competition in the labor market;
- formation of a clear order in the economic sphere;
- increase in labor productivity;
- stimulation of motivation for the development of each individual.

In turn, inequality in society has a direct connection with such socially negative phenomena as:

- crime;
- violence at home;
- alcoholism;
- mental and physical health disorders.

As a result, there are risks of social tension, which in the long term can lead to acts of civil disobedience, conflicts, both at the level of citizens and the population against state structures. In the economy, social injustice is expressed in the discrepancy between the amount of income and the amount of labor invested. People who actually work physically and expend considerable effort receive many times less than the owners of the means of production and capital.

Is it possible to eradicate social inequality?

There is no period in world history when there was no division of society, but the situation becomes really negative only in the case of a pronounced bias to one side, which requires an appropriate balance that will ensure the dynamic development of society and the economy.

Today, several major trends can be traced in the global context:

- Deepening stratification of society under the action of concentration of capital in the hands of a limited circle of owners, and a significant part of humanity does not have access to satisfaction of minimum needs (food, clean water, education, medicine).

- Growing income inequality as a result of higher rates of growth of salaries of top managers over representatives of the working class.

- Increase in unemployment. According to official statistics, in 2020 there will be at least 400 million unemployed people in the world.

The following areas of struggle against social inequality are emphasized:

- Expansion of social services;

- development of free medicine and education;

- support and protection of the social rights of vulnerable segments of the population;

- Formation of a legislative framework for the protection of privileged categories of the population;

- creation of jobs for the disabled;

- elimination of gender discrimination in employment.

Can social inequality be eradicated?

History does not know a time when social inequality did not exist at all. But in order for society to be less susceptible to the negative consequences of this phenomenon, countries pursue certain policies aimed at balancing the polar layers of the population - the rich and the poor.

In order to create favorable conditions for economic growth, the authorities carry out a number of measures:

- Providing versatile financial assistance to the poor population;

- Access to education and medicine is ensured;

- Combating discrimination in employment;

- Individual entrepreneurs are supported;

- jobs are created.

Social inequality cannot be eradicated forever! But it is possible to increase the middle class. The middle class is the most stable and adaptive to all changes, and it has a strong influence on government policy and the formation of social values.

## CONCLUSION

Social inequality is a phenomenon that is characterized by unequal distribution of resources, opportunities and privileges in a society. It can arise due to various causes such as economic, political and socio-cultural factors. Social inequality has serious consequences for society, such as poor health, low levels of education and limited opportunities for personal development.



Overcoming social inequalities requires efforts on the part of the state, education and society as a whole. The state must take measures to create fair conditions and distribute resources, and education has an important role to play in ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens. Only by working together can we achieve a more just and equitable society.

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