

2016

1/1/20

Q. Why social stratification is an inevitable for a society. Explain its determinants in the context of Pakistani society.

Ans. 1) Introduction:

Social Stratification is the need of every society. It is mainly the outcome of human diversity and resource distribution within the society.

It mainly arises from the differences in the power, wealth, education and the social status. It is an inherent and inevitable feature of any complex society.

2) Defining the term "Social Stratification"

a) Talcott Parson

Parson's theory of social stratification

explains the social stratification

in the **functionalist perspective**

He defined social stratification

as a particular form of

social inequality. It refers

to the presence of distinct

social groups which are ranked

one above the others in

terms of factors such as

prestige and wealth

b) Karl Marx

Marx explains the

social stratification in the

**Conflict perspective**. He viewed

it through the lens of class

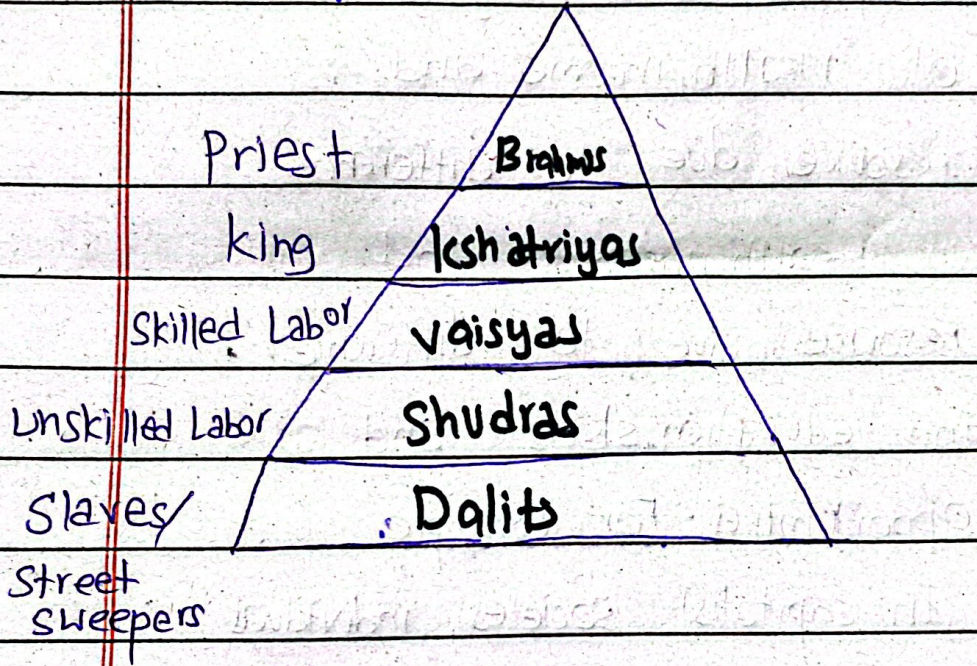
**struggle and conflict**. His

views are basically based

upon

- class-based Division
- Exploitation
- Historical change

### Example of "Indian Caste System"



### 3). Why Social Stratification is inevitable.

Social Stratification is inevitable in the society for several reasons rooted in

historical, economic and  
sociological factors.

## 2). Economic Inequality

People possess varying level  
of wealth, income and  
resources due to difference  
in wealth, income and  
resources due to difference  
in education, skills and  
opportunities. For example.

In capitalist societies, individuals  
who own and control  
businesses typically accumulate  
wealth and resources at  
faster rate than those who  
work for wages. This divide  
results in distinct social classes  
with different standards of living

## b) Specialization of Roles

Societies require a division of labor to function efficiently. People specialize in various occupations, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

**Example** : Professionals like doctors, engineers and skilled professions often receive high incomes and societal respect due to their specialized knowledge.

## c) Historical Factors

Events such as colonization, conquests and slavery led to establishment of long-lasting hierarchies based on ethnicity,

race and nationality. These historical legacies contribute to enduring forms of social stratification. **Examples**

**include:** legacy of slavery in United States has resulted in racial disparities, while African American face systemic disadvantages in education, employment, etc.

### d) **Educational Disparities**

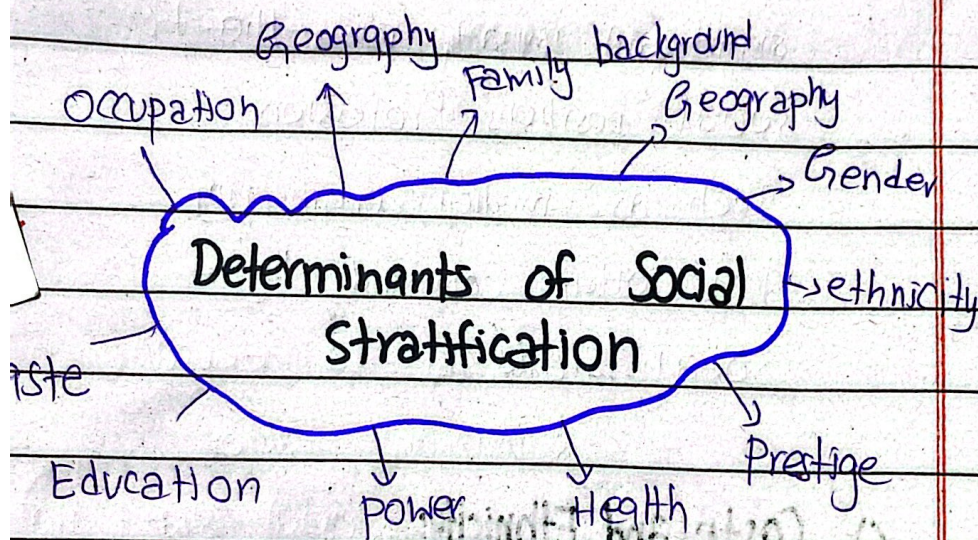
Unequal access to education is the significant factor contributing to social stratification. Quality education is required in rural and marginalized areas that causes social stratification.

**Example:** In Pakistan, children of rural areas from the

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marginalized communities may lack access to quality education, limiting their future prospects and social inequality

#### 4) Determinants of Social Stratification



#### Education:

access to quality education varies widely in Pakistan.

Those who have the means

x

to access good schools  
and higher education institutions  
have a better chance of  
achieving higher social  
status.

### b) Occupation:

This holds a  
significant impact on the  
social positions. Professions  
such as medicine, engineering,  
law often command higher  
social status.

### c) Caste and Ethnicity:

Caste-based  
and ethnic divisions are  
prevalent in Pakistan in the  
regions like Punjab and Sindh.  
Discrimination based on these



factors persist in various aspects of life.

#### d) Gender:

Biggest social stratification issue in Pakistan, with women facing limited access to education, employment opportunities and decision making roles in Pakistan.

#### e) Language:

Language factor, linguistic factor impacts social stratification which with certain regions have more economic development and political representation than others.

## f) Religion,

Religion, in the context of predominantly muslim stratification, with some of the religion groups and sects have more influence and status than others.

## 5) Conclusion

Social stratification is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that exists in societies worldwide, including Pakistan. Societies can work towards reducing inequality from society and promoting greater social cohesion and opportunity for all their members.