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Q NO: 02

1- INTRODUCTION

The theory of conflict was developed by Karl Marx analysis the social class, class structures, and changes in the structure which are key characteristics of capitalism and other ~~societal~~ modes of production. The never-ending competition, in the contemporary times, is dominated by capitalism. And ~~Marx~~ Marx divides such structure as a blend of work and labour, and ownership or possession of property and the means of production. A societal structure, as per Marx's conflict theory, can be divided as supra-structure which can be referred to as proletarian part of the society and Infra-structure which is the part of society that possess mode of production. Both part of the structure are at conflict with each other. As per Karl Marx, this conflict will bring a revolution in the proletariates who will change society from the bourgeoisie concentrated society to an egalitarian and communistic based modes of production society. Such theoretical approach towards the division of social structure has both pros and cons attached to it. Empowerment of marginalized groups, power structure analysis, highlight inequality, and social change are some of its pros. While, Neglecting cooperation, limited prescriptive solutions, over-dimension outlook of human nature, and overemphasis on economic factors are its some cons in the current era.

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## 2- Development of Conflict Theory and its Fundamental Postulates/ Modes of change.

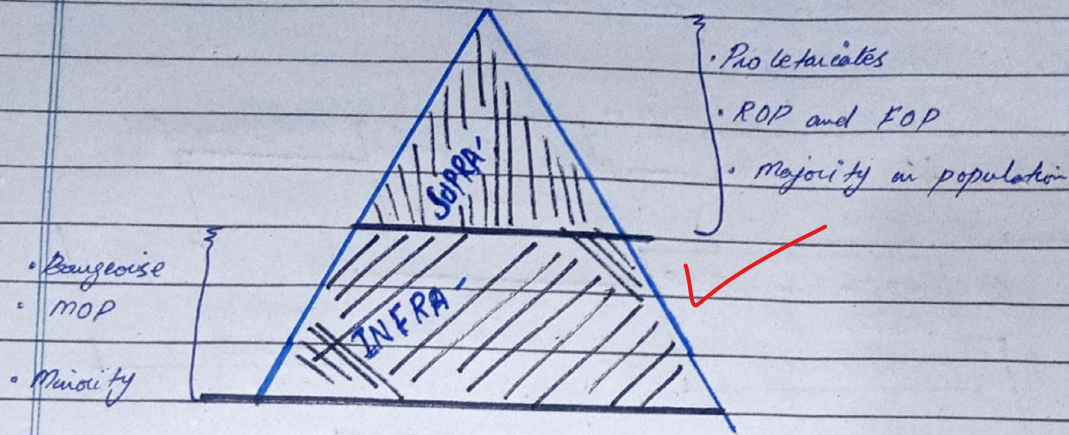
### a. Development of the Conflict theory:

The change in society developed by Hegel was based on the dialectic (ideas or conscious or mind) and different ideas brings change in society. Then, Feuerbach came with the concept of materialism which says that the change in the society is in respect with the material possession which brings division in the society. When both these concepts are amalgamated, the recipe of dialectic materialism comes up, cooked by Karl Marx. As per this concept, dialectics exist not at the level of idea; it exists at the level of materials, as it is material which is real. And dialectics (consciousness) donot determine beings, rather being determine consciousness. When dialectic materialism is applied on history, it introduces the concept of historical materialism. Karl Marx used the theoretical concept to define and explain the change in societies in the past and its possible future. And this concept in turn developed the theory of conflict.

### b. Modes of Changes in the society:

No society can exist with production. And there certain forces of production (FOP), relationship of production (ROP), and modes of production (MOP). Modes of production are possessed by the infra-structure of the society. While FOP and ROP are the tools, factories, labours, and resources possessed by the supra-structure of the society.





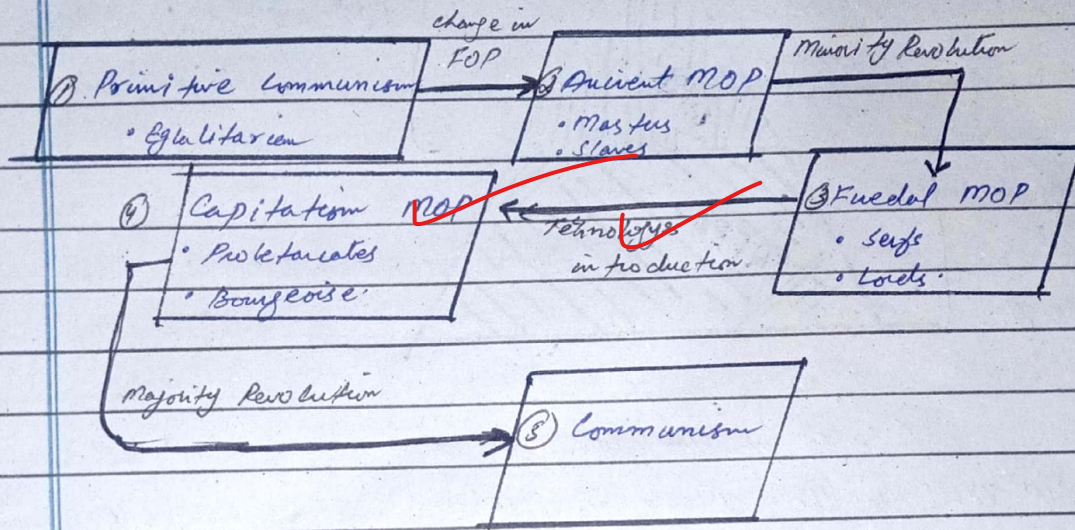
Change in dialectics at the level of FOP and ROP leads to the change in MOP, which in turn changes the society. There are, as per Karl Marx, five types of changes occurred in society, which are: Primitive Communism, Ancient MOP, Feudal MOP, Capitalism MOP, and Communism is yet to occur. Primitive communism was an egalitarian society. Change in FOP brought change in ROP, and this society changed into Ancient MOP. Ancient MOP consisted of ~~masters~~ masters (Haves) and slaves (unconscious haves not). Then revolutions in the minority (masters) brought Feudal MOP. It consisted of serfs and lords. In this society, land production/yield declined and moved towards technological based society of Capitalism MOP. It consisted of proletariates (haves not) and bourgeoisies (haves). In early societies, minorities were unconscious, but thanks to American and French revolutions which brought the era of Enlightenment and thus, made minorities conscious. This consciousness, along with working conditions will bring a revolution in the proletariates, who would take up the MOP and would become equal partners of the bourgeoisie, and in this way socialist society

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will be established and brings communism.

### C. Five MOPs.



All above discussion is the synopsis of overall theory and its development and modes.

### 3- Conflict Theory in Current Era.

The competition for finite resources will never end as it has enveloped almost every aspect of life: Political, Economy, Technology advancement, Environmental conflicts, class conflicts, and even social movements. There's always divisions among above mentioned aspect, like political polarization, in which elites influence power; economic disparities between wealthy elite and the labour class; technology has influenced the nature of conflict by reshaping jobs market and industries; contest for limited resources like clean water and arable lands; struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat class; and movements advocated for gender, racial, & LGBTQ+ equality. All these aspects align with the core ideas of conflict theory.



## 4~ Pros of Conflict Theory in Contemporary Era:

a. Disparities in Societies: One of the central aspect of this theory is that it highlights inequality, which refers to the analysis and exposure of disparities present in societies. This theory emphasizes how power struggles between social classes perpetuate inequality. Accompanying this, ~~Structural~~ functionalism shows how inequality may serve certain functions in maintaining social order. But, it does so by subduing one group and uplifting the others and giving them power would rather aggravate the distinction in power among different groups.

b. Empowerment of Marginalized Groups: These are the testing times for those groups, who have been subdued and their contributions ~~towards~~ betterment always been undervalued. But this theory provides them tools and resources, and opportunities, in theoretical perspective, needed to address systemic inequalities. This theory informs strategies for advocacy, policy, and social reform via critiques of power structure and encouraging social change to empower marginalized groups.

c. Analysis of Power Structures: Though the theory is all about economic domination, it yet its extension to other dimension and their analysis is  the need of the hour. Application of this theory emphasis the political, social, technological, and economic powers shows the distinction in powers that are used to subdue the marginalized, less power-oriented, poor,



low social status and less developed groups. Use of this theory in extension, may define societal differences more emphatically.

d. It Brings Social Change: It is the more accepted idea that a change is brought in a society when there are difference among the people. Groups in a society will try to ~~reduce~~ the differences and domination either by developing themselves, or reducing power gaps, or by any other suitable means. And all this becomes possible due to the idea of conflict in society, by conflict theory, though applied in extension to what one Marx explained.

e. Framework for Sociological Research ~~in Pakistan~~:

Pakistan is engulfed with class divisions, ethnic tensions, political conflicts, and other malaises in the society. And all these diseases give impetus to conflicts in societies. Such aspects can be studied for research and also for policy framework, which when studied carefully and enforced completely in every nook and corner will bring to an end to all such malaises, thanks to the idea provided by Marx's conflict theory.

5- Cons of Conflict Theory in the Current Era:

a. Neglect of Cooperation: As per this theory, differences in power and power-oriented classes are what the main problems ~~are~~. Thus, it emphasizes on ~~conflict~~ revolution, a major change in the



society to end the conflicts and classes. This theory completely undermined the idea of cooperation. Thus, in contemporary times, any revolution may bring devastating effects and destructions with it. Hence, no respite to the peace of humanity. Therefore, it provides very limited prescriptive solution.

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b. One-dimension Outlook of the Problems: Karl Marx critical theory looks at only one dimension of the problem. As per this theory only economic disparities among the individuals brings the conflict in classes. Though, contemporary times are very complex and requires all-oriented approach towards the difference in classes. According to Talcott Parsons, it is not only economic disparity, but also differences in goal setting and direct social activities, laws, and patterns of maintenance are other parts of the problem, this he describes in his pattern variable theory.

c. Inevitability of Revolution is Doubtful: As per Marx, conflict at the level of economics is the most important aspect and it may bring a large change in the capitalist society through revolution. But certain Neo-Marxist like Ralph Dahrendorf, doubt that revolution may not come, because capitalists have developed new approaches to exploit proletariat. Now, so as to awake the proletariat from the sleep of certain advantages given by capitalists, new ideology has to be developed for that purpose, which has now become a Sisyphean task.



d. Political Class & The Real Power Class: Gramsci and Ralph Dahrendorf are the prominent advocates of the idea that economies do not have the capacity to bring a change in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century because the real power now belongs to the political class. The conflict between BJP and INC may bring a change, but conflict between Ambani and Adani will not have that capacity to bring a change. Therefore, Marxian description of capitalism was generally accurate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but argument about its relevancy is doubted in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century and it has, most probably, outdated to explain the basis of conflict.

## 6- Conclusion

The Conflict Theory is the second tier of the approaches of Sociology. As per the view of Karl Marx, conflict in classes exist because of economics. This approach when viewed with the lens of contemporary scenario presents dual faces as good and also bad or rather no relevancy in the current times. When applied in extensions with other aspects may provide a good view to the greening of power-based society. But this is also criticised even by Neo-Marxist such as Ralph Dahrendorf and Gramsci.

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## 1- INTRODUCTION

The concept of social solidarity as proposed by Emile Durkheim is a foundation of sociological thought; its relevancy extends prominently to the understanding of modern societies. Solidarity refers to the cohesive forces that bind individuals within a society together, by fostering a sense of unity and cooperation. Durkheim distinguished between mechanical solidarity in traditional societies, where values and norms prevail, and organic solidarity in modern and complex societies, where interdependence based on specialized roles and functions is the key. This concept is very significant due to its role to maintain social order, explaining social change, and addressing issues like anomie. This concept offers deeper insights into how individuals in current times and highly interconnected societies depend on one another, providing a foundation for sociological analysis and the development of policies aimed at societal bonds and addressing social challenges.



## 2 - Derivation of the concept social solidarity:

Earlier, Adam Smith suggested that an individual chooses economic activity / occupation by oneself, which may provide one the maximum happiness or profits (more economic benefits). Thus, it is exactly ~~the~~ solidarity or ~~integration~~ <sup>both</sup> (though ~~both~~ terms differ) can be achieved. While, for Auguste Comte, integration largely is the result of common value consensus. Whereas, Herbert Spencer differed from both of the above and proposed the concept "individualism" as the basis of integration. Then Emile Durkheim, published his book "The Division of Labor in Society" in 1893. In this book, he rejected all above concepts and especially that of A. Smith, and said "division of labor is rather a social fact", which means, one does not choose occupation on the basis of economic benefit rather on the basis of societal facts, which is external to the individual. Best example to justify his arguments would be that ~~example~~ of trend of being YouTuber. Becoming a YouTuber has become a trend and everyone in the society follows YouTubers. Therefore, it is the division of labor which is the basis or factor of integration or solidarity in society.




### 3- Concept of social solidarity:

Emile Durkheim proposed the concept of social solidarity, which he ~~ref~~ referred to as "the cement of society," is the binding force that unites individual within a society. Durkheim stressed on its significance by asserting that, without collective solidarity, there is no morality (conscience); without morality, there is no society. This solidarity arises from values, norms, and beliefs shared by individuals, and it creates a sense of belonging and preventing social disintegration. Though, he recognized that social solidarity varies in tradition society and modern society. The type of solidarity that exists between different parts of society varies with the volume and density of the society. Though, in each society the purpose of solidarity in one society would be same as that of other, but values, norms, and beliefs shared by different societies may vary. Therefore, solidarity is pre-requisite (functional prerequisite) for any society to keep itself away from the disease of 'anomie', which means normlessness. By normlessness, it means either there is no norm whatsoever in a society or there are multiple norms, hence creating confusion in a society.



## 4- Organic and Mechanical Solidarity

Mechanical solidarity refers to societies governed by similarities. Traditional societies, which ~~are~~ were based on hunting, and gathering societies, and agricultural societies, were pre-industrial societies. Whereas, Organic solidarity  refers to the societies where there is a lot of specialization, which leads to high interdependence among individuals and organizations.

### Characteristics of Mechanical & Organic Solidarity

	UNITS	MECHANICAL SOLIDARITY	ORGANIC SOLIDARITY
1-	Focus	Focuses on similarities	Focuses on differences.
2-	Individuality	limited room for individuality	Individuality is given a free-hand.
3-	Laws	Laws are Repressive	Laws are Restrictive and Reformist.
4-	Collective Consuence	Collective Consuence is <del>strong</del> <sup>strong</sup> due to <del>multiple</del> <sup>multiple</sup> values are common	Collective Consuence is <del>strong</del> <sup>weak</sup> due to multiple common values
5-	DoL	DoL is very low	DoL is very high
6-	Beliefs & Values	Values are Similar	Values and beliefs vary greatly.
7-	Material social Fact	Non-material & F. are strong here.	Very Strong material S. fact.
8-	Material density	Low Population	High Population
9-	Moral Density	Low Interaction	High Interaction
10-	Social Change	Slow <del>social</del> <sup>social</sup> Change	Rapid social change.



## Q- Significance of Social Solidarity in Understanding the Modern Societies.

There are several reasons why social solidarity holds tremendous significance in understanding modern societies. Some of them are:

a. Social Integration: Social integration means people in a community sticking together and feeling they belong. In modern and diverse world, this togetherness helps everyone get along, even if they are from different backgrounds. It is really important because it stops people from feeling lost and unsure about their conscience. Solidarity helps everyone work together to get through disaster like natural disaster or sickness. It is like teamwork, but for a whole community, and it keeps society peaceful and ofcourse strong as well.

b. It Saves Individual From Anomie: Anomie or normlessness usually occurs when a mechanical society moves towards organic solidarity. Cause there germinates alot of norms, and existence of multiple norms, thus bring ambiguity in following any particular norm. We know that rapid social change, which brought anomie for multiple choices for (lets say) occupation. Solidarity in a society helps an individual to overcome this dilemma, by suggesting or recommending one to choose particular occupation which follows or has traits of that individual. Hence, keeps <sup>away</sup> that individual from anomie.



c. It Helps in Preventing Crimes: Social solidarity helps in reducing crime rates. Those who turn to criminal acts are mostly from society. Thus, engagement with the communities are better equipped to keep individuals away from such acts. Solidarity can be achieved also through conflict resolution programs which prevent crimes, establishing stronger laws, and also when people in a society have strong bonds and look out for each other, then such society is highly unlikely to witness any crime or criminal act.

d. Provision of Social Services: Charitable organizations are one of the biggest sources of philanthropic work. A country like Pakistan is engulfed by such philanthropic work, which provides services essential for people, like healthcare, education, and for alleviating poverty. Volunteerism is yet another way to strengthen solidarity.

e. Academic Research is a way to enhance solidarity:

In order to strengthen social cohesion, certain countries and organizations perform research. Such research analyzes dynamics of social bonds, identifies barriers to social solidarity, develops policies through engagement with the public, developing metrics of impacts of developed policies, and other such measures. The end result is then presented to governments, which has to utilize the data and information provided in the research to bring such changes, which helps to increase cohesion in a society.



## 6- CONCLUSION

The concept of solidarity in a society is derived from the book 'The division of labor in society', written by Emile Durkheim. In that book, he defines what exactly social solidarity is. And divided traditional and modern society, in terms of solidarity as mechanical and organic. The significance of the concept in the contemporary, modern, diverse, dynamic, and ever-changing societies is tremendous. Multiple values in different societies creates ambiguity as to which one to follow. But social solidarity keeps a diverging individual into its hold as it brings all together and creates the feeling of belongingness in individuals.

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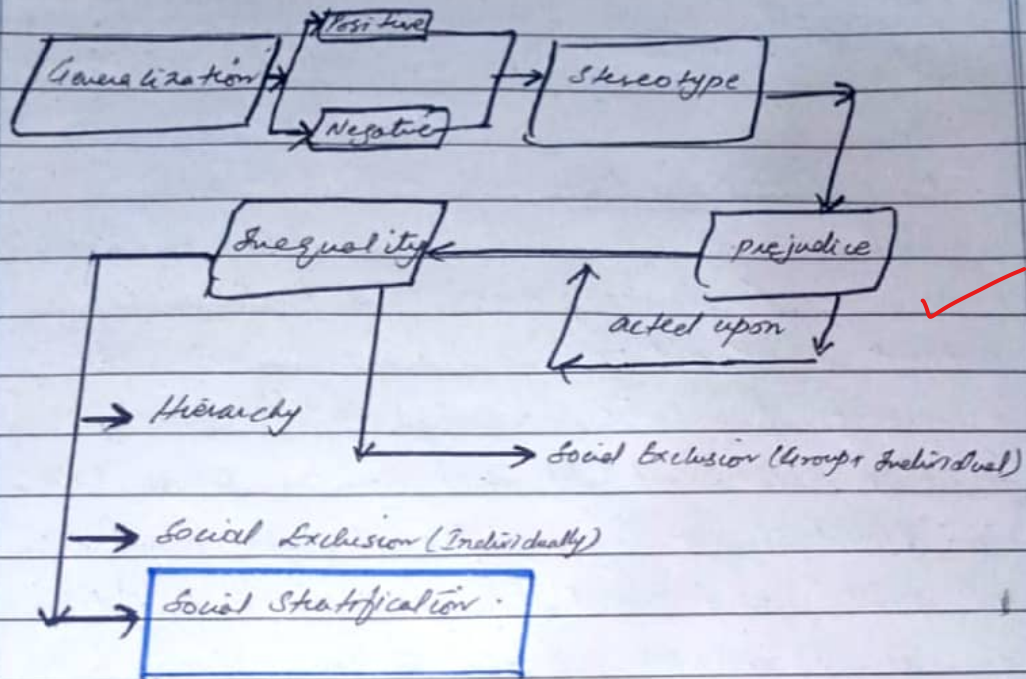
1- Introduction

Concept Social stratification is a fundamental concept in sociology that explores the hierarchical arrangement of individuals and groups in society based on various attributes and traits, such as race, class, and gender. This multifaceted phenomenon is not limited to a singular dimension; instead, it encompasses a complex interplay of social forces that shape individual's life. Three approaches: Functional, Marxians and Weberians, are usually used to characterize social stratification as a fundamental concept in sociology. Class, race, and gender as its dimension intersect and also influence one another, and also shape and influence individual's life chances and opportunities.

2- Synoptical Note on Derivation of the social Stratification:

Generalization of anything in positive and negative manner is ~~called~~ somewhat called as stereotype, which largely leads to a stereotypical understanding which in turn becomes prejudice. When prejudices are acted upon, then generate discrimination, which gives ways to inequality.





Flow Chart of Derivation of S. Stratification:

Inequality further leads to development of the concepts social stratification. It is somewhat understood as hierarchy, but differs as follows:

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Hierarchy → Both are ranked arrangement ← S. Stratification of society

1-	* When ranks are given in the form of superiority or inferiority	* here ranks are not given rather achieved; therefore, changeable
2-	* Mobility doesn't exist here.	* Mobility is allowed here.
3	* Membership is based on certain criteria and is highly restricted in nature.	* Membership is not strongly restricted, rather earned here.
4	* Interactions are highly restricted. Eg. Brahmins and Shudras.	* Interactions are rather fluid and diffused in Parsonian sense. Eg: Interaction between bureaucratic ranks.



### 3- Theoretical Perspectives of Social

#### Stratification

a. Functional Perspective: This perspective was developed by Davis Moore, who considered social stratification as a function prerequisite for a society. He developed method of "Effective Role Allocation (ERA)" based on social stratification. As per ERA, identifying important positions, ensuring allocating right persons at those positions, training those allocated, and ensuring their continuous motivations by rewarding them. Such method can perform stratifications for society.

Though, such explanation of stratification was criticised by a Marxist scholar, Tumin. He criticised such functional approach by certain questions and arguments: Who determines the important positions?; skills are widely present, so it is difficult to allocate a person; economic rewards are not sufficient, and such approach has ignored the cultural factors.

b. Weberian Perspective: As per Weber, stratification is present in class on the basis of economics, status, honor, and prestige, and also because of power equation present in a society. He advocated that a stratified society is classified on multi-dimensions, rather than on any particular dimension. Therefore, he does not look into what is functional and dysfunctional. He only looks into dimensions of stratification present in modern society.



c. Marxian Perspective: Marx did not give any theory on hierarchy or stratification. He just discoursed on the basis of equality and inequality. He never was a proponent of hierarchy or stratification as he considered both of them as same, as a manifestation of inequality. ~~Though~~, Marxian theory of stratification is derived from his understanding of society, and that society can be classified on the basis of class characteristics.

As per Marx, those who controlled modes of production, and <sup>those who</sup> owned the forces of production are dominating class; labors, who work with the FOP becomes the subservient class/proletariat.

Therefore, such classification of society or stratification is dysfunctional (disintegrational) for society, as it creates inequality, which needs to be wiped out.

#### 4 - Forms of Social Stratification:

a. Class Stratification: Class stratification, as per Frank Parkin, is relevant in modern world. ~~He~~ argues that western societies have not become egalitarian rather a victim of dual closure, where the class is largely closes their position from above and below as well. Whereas, Ralph Dahrendorf in his theory of decomposition says that a capitalist class of 18th century can be stratified; however, it can't explain classification of capitalism of 20th and 21st century as it has decomposed/division of ownership; therefore, no relevancy today.



b. Social Stratification of Race: Race is a biological concept refer to a large group of people who share certain inherited physical characteristics like colour of skins, type of hair, facial features, etc. Sociologists view race as merely an ideological construct based on physical differences. Joseph A. De Gobineau first gave major racial classification in the middle of 19th century, in terms of White (Caucasian), Black (Negroid), and Yellow (Mongolian), and attached notions of superiority and inferiority with these races.

c. Social Stratification of Gender: One of the most fundamental forms of stratification. It is considered natural by functionalist like Talcott Parsons and Madsen. Though, this natural role thesis has come under attack as the traditional patriarchal division of labor is being slowly turned on its head. Traditional stratification have been criticized by feminists like Joan Acker. Marxist school of thought sees female subordination as a result of private property and consequent adoption of monogamy.

d. Social Stratification of Status Groups.

While class is based on economic criteria, status is based on prestige, social capital, and personal qualities. Status is both achieved as well as ascriptive. Status groups are generally more closed as compared to class groups. According to Weber, Caste is the most developed form of status-based stratification.



c. Social Stratification of Ethnicity: While race is perceived as biological, ethnicity is purely cultural or social in its meaning. An ethnic group may have a common language, history, national origin, or lifestyle. Balkanization of Europe is its an example. Paul Brass discusses three ways of classifying ethnic groups: in terms of objective attributes, by reference to subjective feelings, and in relation to behaviour.

### 5- Intersection and Influence of Dimensions of Stratification on Individual's Life and Chances and Opportunities:

a. Intersectionality: This concept is usually studied in gender studies, was introduced by Leishman, shows how multiple dimensions of stratification intersect in individual's lives. For example, Black Women may experience unique challenges related to both race and gender, making her vulnerable to specific forms of discrimination and inequality.

b. Double Consciousness: This concept is used to describe how marginalized individuals are often aware of how society perceives them based on their race, class, or gender. This concept is used mostly for African Americans in the United States. It usually excludes an individual from certain privileged position of power, and never lets marginalized to enter in the influential places.



c. Feminists and other social movements: Feminists and other social movements like civil rights, gender equality, and LGBTQ+ rights are often started because certain individuals are otherised and stereotyped for being from either to different gender, race, or class. Transgender, for example, in Pakistan <sup>are</sup> most deprived groups, and if one follows their daily life, would be apathetic. When such individuals are subordinated, their life becomes pathetic.

d. Limited Access to Resources: Individuals of certain class, race, ethnic, or group are not provided with the resources which they deserve, or are fundamental to their lives. For example, education, housing, healthcare, and advancement in the workplace are usually provided on the basis their status, class, ethnicity, or gender. Women in Afghanistan are deprived from education is one example this.

e. Other intersections of the multidimension of Stratification: There are other multiple intersection of the multidimension of stratification. Among them are legal protection, political participations, social mobility, social capital, and even environment justice, which are not provided due class, ethnic, race, status, or gender based disparity. These have far reaching implications across individuals' lives.



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## 6- CONCLUSION

Stratification is a concept derived from inequality, which refers to ranked arrangement of individual on ascriptive or achieved. Social Stratification has been described in certain sociological approaches such as Functionalists, Weberian, and Marxian. It has many forms like Class, race, gender, ethnicity, and status. When they are blended with each have tremendous impacts on the lives of individual. Usually their blend is the cause of many negative stereotypes attached to the individuals, making their lives hard and pathetic. Their blend usually have negative implications that is why positive prospects are not explained.

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