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Reflection 10

Chapter 4

1. Discuss the ways in which social class, gender, race/ethnicity, age, and sexual orientation interact to place people in multiple jeopardy for oppression.

The concept of social stratification recognizes that people are grouped hierarchically based on the differences they exhibit in class, gender, race, age and sexual orientation. However, many of these factors have the tendency to combine and create an instance of multiple jeopardy for oppression. Social class focuses on the amount of wealth that a person has, or lack thereof. Since this category includes aspects such as income and education, it puts people that aren't able to achieve stratification at risk of multiple jeopardy. For example, a man can be in a lower social class which is based on his lack of wealth. However, when we take into account that Latinos are statistically known for having lower educational levels than caucasians, it makes it possible that his race makes it difficult for him to progress to a higher social standing. There is also this sense of multiple jeopardy when it comes to gender. A woman can have a hard time achieving social stratification because the wage gap limits her income potential. Instances like these conflict with the American societal view on upward mobility that can be attained by everyone.

Chapter 5

2. Delineate and discuss the role of family, peer groups, communities, organizations and institutions in both the development and hindrance of women's equality.

Family has the most direct influence on both the development and hindrance of women's equality. In most cases, it is the introduction to the patriarchal structure of society. The socialization that occurs within the family structure sets the expectations for what the role of a woman is expected to be. Its development is influenced when equality is practiced within the home. Peer groups also directly influence the hindrance women's equality when they perpetuate the biases of a gender based society. Communities, organizations and institutions directly impact both the development and hindrance of women's equality by essentially setting the standard. This is exhibited through the use of policy that aids in the development or hindrance of equality. Some policies may favor men or not take into account certain struggles that are specific to women. Opportunity is also a factor on the mezzo level as well. Equality is shown in the opportunities that are offered to individuals and whether gender is an influential aspect of it. Lastly, it is important to note that change can happen at all levels.