

Globalization, Technology and Social Inequality: A Sociological Analysis

Yi Loxley*

Department of Geography, National Technical University, Athens City, Greece

Perspective

Received: 28-Aug-2024, Manuscript No. JSS-24-150476; **Editor assigned:** 30-Aug-2024, PreQC No. JSS-24-150476 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 13-Sep-2024, QC No. JSS-24-150476; **Revised:** 20-Sep-2024, Manuscript No. JSS-24-150476 (R); **Published:** 27-Sep-2024, DOI: 10.4172/JSocSci.10.3.007

***For Correspondence:** Yi Loxley, Department of Geography, National Technical University, Athens City, Greece

E-mail: loxerly@gmail.com

Citation: Loxley Y. Globalization, Technology and Social Inequality: A Sociological Analysis. RRJ Soc Sci. 2024;10:007.

Copyright: © 2024 Loxley Y. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

DESCRIPTION

Sociology, as the study of human societies, social behaviors and interactions, provides important insights into the structures and dynamics that shape our everyday lives. It examines how individuals and groups form social relationships, create institutions and develop cultural norms, all of which profoundly impact societal development. Through this lens, sociology uncovers the hidden mechanisms that govern our behaviors and offers an understanding of the broader societal forces influencing our experiences.

The foundations of sociological thought

The origins of sociology lie in the desire to understand the rapid changes in societies brought about by the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment. Early sociologists, such as Karl Marx, Max Weber and Émile Durkheim, sought to explain the consequences of modernization, industrialization and capitalism. Their work laid the groundwork for modern sociology, establishing core concepts such as social stratification, class conflict and the division of labor.

Sociology is distinct in its approach to understanding society because it emphasizes the role of social context in shaping human behavior. Rather than focusing solely on individual actions or psychological factors, sociology looks at how broader social structures, such as race, class, gender and institutions, influence behavior and societal outcomes. This sociological perspective enables us to understand the collective patterns in human interactions and the systematic inequalities that arise from these structures.

Research and Reviews: Journal of Social Sciences

Institutions are central to sociological inquiry as they provide the framework within which societies operate. Key institutions, such as family, education, religion and government are the building blocks of social order, shaping norms, values and behaviors. Through the process of socialization, individuals learn the expectations and rules of their society from these institutions, which govern their conduct from childhood to adulthood.

The study of institutions also highlights the perpetuation of power structures and inequalities. For example, sociologists examine how educational systems may reinforce social stratification by providing unequal access to resources, leading to disparities in socioeconomic status. Similarly, sociologists investigate how the criminal justice system may disproportionately affect marginalized communities, reflecting broader societal inequalities. By scrutinizing institutions, sociology sheds light on the mechanisms that maintain social order and inequality.

One of sociology's most significant contributions is its analysis of social stratification and inequality. Social stratification refers to the hierarchical arrangement of individuals or groups in society based on factors such as wealth, power and prestige. Sociologists explore how these divisions arise and how they affect individuals' access to resources and opportunities.

Class, race and gender are central axes of inequality that sociologists study to understand the structural barriers individuals face. For instance, conflict theory, rooted in the work of Marx, argues that societies are inherently unequal because they are structured to benefit the ruling class at the expense of others. Feminist theory, meanwhile, examines how gender inequality persists through patriarchal institutions and norms. Critical race theory focuses on the intersection of race and social structures, analyzing how racism is embedded in laws, policies and everyday practices.

Sociology's emphasis on inequality is important for fostering social change. By identifying the root causes of inequality, sociologists help to inform policies aimed at creating more equitable societies. Issues such as poverty, discrimination, and access to healthcare are examined through a sociological lens, contributing to efforts to address these challenges.