

# Social Equality and Economic Justice: Evaluating the Role of Government and Institutions

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## Opinion Article

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## DESCRIPTION

Social equality is the fundamental principle of a just and fair society, where individuals, regardless of their background, gender, race or economic status, have the same opportunities and rights. It envisions a world where all people have equal access to resources, education, healthcare and political participation. In essence, social equality seeks to eliminate systemic discrimination and barriers that prevent certain groups from achieving the same standard of living or social status as others.

### The importance of social equality

At its core, social equality is essential for fostering social cohesion and ensuring that societies function harmoniously. When everyone is treated with fairness and respect, societies become more stable and prosperous. Economic inequality, social stratification and discrimination undermine the potential of individuals and limit a society's overall progress. Achieving social equality allows for the empowerment of marginalized communities and creates an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive.

From an economic standpoint, inequality can stifle development. When certain groups are denied access to education, employment or healthcare, the overall productivity of a society is hindered. Equality ensures that talent and innovation can come from all sectors of society, driving growth and development. It allows people to contribute meaningfully to their communities and economies, fostering a more productive and vibrant society.

### Barriers to social equality

Despite the ideal of equality, many societies are still deeply divided along lines of race, gender, economic status and other factors. Discrimination, whether overt or systemic, remains a significant barrier to achieving social equality. Institutional racism, gender inequality and economic disparities are just a few of the obstacles that need to be addressed.

For instance, women and ethnic minorities often face discrimination in the workplace, leading to wage gaps, fewer career advancement opportunities and unequal representation in leadership roles. Additionally, economic inequality perpetuates a cycle of poverty, with low-income families lacking access to quality education, healthcare and housing. As a result, children born into these conditions face significant challenges in breaking out of the cycle of poverty, further widening the gap between the rich and the poor.

Achieving social equality also requires dismantling social and cultural norms that perpetuate inequalities. This includes addressing issues like gender roles, the stigma surrounding mental health and the unequal distribution of unpaid care work, often shouldered by women. Changing these norms is essential for creating an equitable society where all individuals have the opportunity to succeed.

### Social equality and policy interventions

Governments play an important role in promoting social equality through policies that ensure equal access to resources and opportunities. Universal healthcare, education reforms, labor laws and social safety nets are examples of policy measures that can reduce inequalities. Social welfare programs that provide financial assistance to disadvantaged groups, such as low-income families, unemployed individuals and people with disabilities, are essential for leveling the playing field.

Education is particularly important in promoting social equality, as it opens doors to better job opportunities and social mobility. By ensuring that every child, regardless of their background, has access to quality education, societies can reduce the long-term effects of poverty and provide individuals with the tools they need to succeed. Similarly, healthcare access is another key area where policy interventions can reduce disparities and promote equality.