
UNIT 26 INDUSTRIAL CLASSES

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26.0 OBJECTIVES

After reading this Unit you should be able to:

- provide the origin of class systems;
- give the nexus of class and industrial society;
- indicate features of capitalism and socialism; and
- outline Marx's and Weber's views on industrial classes.

26.1 INTRODUCTION

Social class as a term became important in the 18th century. People often used the notion of estate to define class. Since the American and French revolution, class a stark embodiment of the principle of inequality has been object of scientific study. Saint Simon was the first to use the term 'Class' as an alternative to 'Estate'. Thus, the idea of Class is pre-Marxian. Social class refers to achieved position and its regular rewards associated with it, i.e., it tends to promote Individual merit, Skill and Ability. Social classes are de-facto groups. Groups not legally or religiously defined and sanctioned groups. There are characteristic groups of Industrial societies. Social classes refer to achieved social position. It tends to promote the value of Individual merit and its regular rewards.

Among Scholars, there is a considerable difference in recognising the membership precisely. However, most Sociologists would agree in recognising the existence of :

- i) Upper Class (Owners)

- ii) Middle Class – or White-collar workers
- iii) Working class

In some societies, the existence of the fourth class, the Peasantry, is also recognised.

26.2 ORIGIN OF CLASS SYSTEMS

Almost all class systems are based on assumptions that “All men are born free and equal”. We find a sharp contrast between what a class system actually is and what it pretends to be. Thus, few argue that class system has no ideological base - Thus, they are residual category. Classes originated in society due to number of reasons. Some of the important ones being :

- i) Expansion of productive forces beyond the level needed for subsistence.
- ii) The extension of division of labour outside the family
- iii) The accumulation of surplus wealth
- iv) The emergence of private ownership of resources.

26.2.1 Characteristics of Class Structure

There are specific characteristics of caste. They are :

- i) Vertical order of social classes - there is a hierarchy in terms of privileges and discrimination.
- ii) There is also a permanent idea of class interest.
- iii) Idea of class-consciousness, awareness of class, hierarchy, identity and solidarity is present.

Existence of class implies that there is an idea of social distance. Class distinctions get expressed in the form of inequalities and class boundaries.

There are two ways of conceiving class structure.

- i) Schemes of gradation
- ii) Schemes based on Relations of dependence
 - a) One-sided dependence
 - b) Mutual dependence

As a system of social relations class is understood usually as a subjection of one over the other. Some sociologists view the idea of class as conquest where victors are the upper class and the defeated classes are lower.

With regard to the idea of development of class, the question usually asked is - Are social classes distinctive of modern contemporary societies, i.e., industrial societies only or does one find them in all known societies? For this Marxist would argue that they exist in all historically recorded societies but other Sociologists argue that social classes exist only in contemporary societies where economic activities pre-dominate and where industrialisation progressively transforms the totality of existence.

People who belong to the same social class have more or less the same “life chances”, i.e., the probability of securing the good things of life. Such a freedom, high standard of living, Leisure or whatever things are highly valued in a given society. Association of different classes is between people of unequal society social class affects the “life-style”. Thus, one can conclude by saying that class is implied as an opposition to hereditary privileges, and to an immutable hierarchy of ranks.

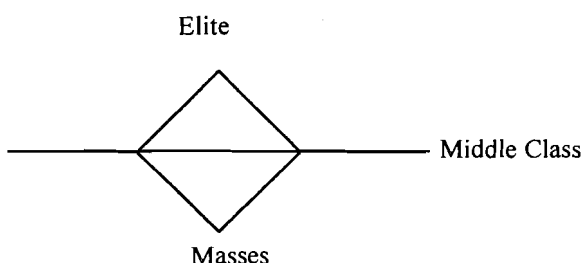
26.3 CLASS AND INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

There are three features of stratification in industrial societies :

- i) Differentiation
- ii) Consistency
- iii) Social mobility

i) **Differentiation** : In industrial societies, there is a tendency towards homogeneity, i.e., increase similar in population in terms of standard of living, wealth and power. More and more people are becoming middle-class, i.e., a population with similar standard of income, style of life, status.

The system of class differentiation is becoming or taking a shape of a diamond in recent years.



This expansion of the Middle Class is mainly due to :

a) Expansion of Division of Labour

A set-up where specialised skills are required for every individual in the occupation becomes important. Each occupation is accorded, i.e., it is according to ones achievement, skill, talent, etc.

b) Increased Role of the State

The state has to maintain bureaucracy. For this, technically qualified people are required. For welfare activities, it requires personnel/population which is often fulfilled by middle-income.

ii) **Consistency** : There is a tendency for the relative position of an individual or group in one stratification order to be same or in similar position in other orders.

Status Oriented
(Traditional societies
without any consistency

Vs Achievement Oriented
(Consistency - Your position is
dependent on your talent, skill)

iii) **Social Mobility** : Closely associated with the idea of industrialisation is class mobility. Once societies reach a certain level of industrialisation their overall rates of mobility will increase, i.e., they will become more and more open - will become achievement oriented, will encourage merit, ability and talent.

26.3.1 Industrial Classes

The logical of industrialism leads to similar pattern of classes. The industrial societies are societies where large scale production is carried out, there is a separation of economic enterprise and family. The high degree of technological division of labour along with rational calculation of profit is seen as a central feature. The industrial societies that will be discussed are Capitalist (USA and UK) and late Socialist societies (USSR). These societies present a number of similar features in their Occupational structure, i.e., they employ people in the industry and in their general shape of social stratification. But they differ

widely in terms of their Political structure or regimes, their social doctrines and policies as well as their historical changes.

26.3.2 Features of Capitalist Society

- i) The means of production are privately owned. The notion of private ownership predominates.
- ii) The regulation of the Economy is decentralised, i.e., the balance between Production and Consumption is not decided according to Planning, but is governed by regularities in the Market. It is according to the guess-work in the market; influenced by the Demand and Supply factor.
- iii) A separation between employers and employees are seen. So that labourers possess labour power for which they are paid. And the owner owns means of production and is in a position to pay the labourer.
- iv) The profit motive pre-dominates. The main aim is to maximise profit.
- v) Since the distribution of resources is not determined by planning, supply and demand causes price to fluctuate in each part of the market and even in the economy as a whole.

Often the critics of capitalist society argue that Capitalism involves exploitation of the worker because it is based on the desire for profit. This exploitation is seen in terms of surplus value which results in extreme inequality of incomes. Since the capitalist societies are not planned economies, it always faces a danger of crisis of breaking down. Also, the surplus income is used for buying luxuries. This often involves a high degree of inequality in the distribution of income.

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) Write a note on the features of the Capitalist Societies in about ten lines.

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- 2) In a (a) _____ (b) _____ the means of production are (c) _____ by the State.

26.3.3 Features of Socialist Societies

In the Socialist Societies it was found that :

- i) The means of Production were owned by the State.
- ii) The regulation of the Economy was done by the Central Planning Authority. The Distribution and Consumption is controlled by Planning authority.

- iii) In the Soviet Economy, the surplus values created by the worker, over and above, went to the whole society, as the main aim is welfare.

26.3.4 Classes in Capitalist Societies

Most scholars use economic factors as the basic criteria for differentiating classes. Adam Smith was the first person who spoke of society being divided into groups based on economic criteria and he calls them orders and according to him, there are three kinds of orders.

- i) Those who live by rent (Rentiers)
- ii) Those who live by wage (Wage earners)
- iii) Those who live by profit (The capitalist)

According to Aristotle, there are three classes in Society. The Upper class, Middle class and Poor class. According to him, out of these three classes, the Middle class is least ambitious and good for the development of any society. The upper class wants to earn profit and maintain its position. The poor class is too poor, their ambition being to improve their position. Thus, between the two ambitious classes, the Middle class is the best.

According to Bergel, Classes represent different sub-cultures which are related to each other and are derived from different roots. According to him, existence of class implies that there is idea of Social distance.

Activity 1

Visit a large factory in a town or city. What do you observe about division of labour and classes? Write down your observations and discuss them with other students in your study centre.

26.4 KARL MARX : CLASS, INEQUALITY AND CAPITALISM

Class, as a form of inequality, gained prominence with the work of Karl Marx. Marxian concept of class is explained with reference to capitalist society. He defined class as “any aggregate of persons who perform the same function in the organisation of production in any society”. Thus, “Freeman and Slaves (Slavery), Lords and serfs (Feudalism) in a word oppressor and oppressed are the names of social classes in different historical periods. According to Marx, Class is defined as “a Social group whose members share the same relationship to the forces of Production”. A class is any aggregate of persons who perform the same function in organisation of production. It is determined not by occupation or income, but by the function performed in the process of production. For example, two carpenters, one of whom is the shop owner and the other his paid worker, belong to two different classes even though their occupation is the same.

According to Marx – Organisation of production is not sufficient condition for the development of social classes, there must be :

- i) Physical Concentration of masses of people
- ii) Easy communication
- iii) Growth of class consciousness.

For example, small peasant forms a vast mass and live in similar conditions but they are isolated from one another and are not conscious of their common interest, they do not constitute a class in Marxian sense.

What characterises a class is its economic status in the organisation of production in any society. According to Marx, except for primitive communism where there was no concept

of private property, no classes were present.

Marx believed that Western society had developed through four main epochs.

Primitive communism	—	No classes
Ancient Society	—	Masters and Slaves
Feudal Society	—	Lords and Serfs
Capitalist Society	—	Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

These classes are distinguished from each other by the difference of their position in the economy.

26.4.1 Mode of Production

The mode of production of each epoch determines the social, political and religious feature of society at that particular state in history, as well as the nature of class relations. Classes in society arise from a particular mode of production. For example, in capitalist mode of production, high level technology and capital comprise the means of production. This creates a system where in one section own the means of Production and others do not. This gets bifurcated into two classes, namely the Capitalist and the workers.

Box 26.01

Classes polarise because they stand in relation of antagonism to each other and class identities are strengthened because of common interests and common economic status in the system of production. Within this system are present inherent contradictions which lead to class-class struggle, a new society evolves, with new mode of production and subsequently, a new class reflecting it.

26.4.2 Class Struggle

Class struggle is a recurring feature according to Marx in all societies. This struggle, he says is inevitable because the ruling class in every society sows the seeds of its own destruction, sooner or later. Oppression – economic, political and ideological is a feature of this class-struggle. Exploitation leads to rise of opposed class. Thus, they feel alienated from a system which they help in treating, without labour, for instance, capitalism can never subsist. Yet, the workers are alienated. A consciousness develops around which working class is formed and when they clash, with the oppressions they overthrow the system leading to a new stage of social formation and the abolition of private means of ownership, as a consequence of which class-lessness emerges.

From the above, it becomes clear that only when class consciousness evolve and the class organises itself towards the pursuit of its own does a “class exists in the Marxian sense”. So, from a class in itself, it becomes a class for itself.

Thus, for Marx, the essential feature of social inequality is Power – the economic power. Society is divided into those who have it and those who do not, i.e., the oppressors and the oppressed. Marx’s economic interpretation is an explanation of what accounts for this inequality in power. Those who own the means of production have the power to rule and oppress those who do not own it. Class controls the prevailing ideas in a given society.

26.4.3 Class Consciousness

Marx specified a number of variables for the formation of class-class consciousness:

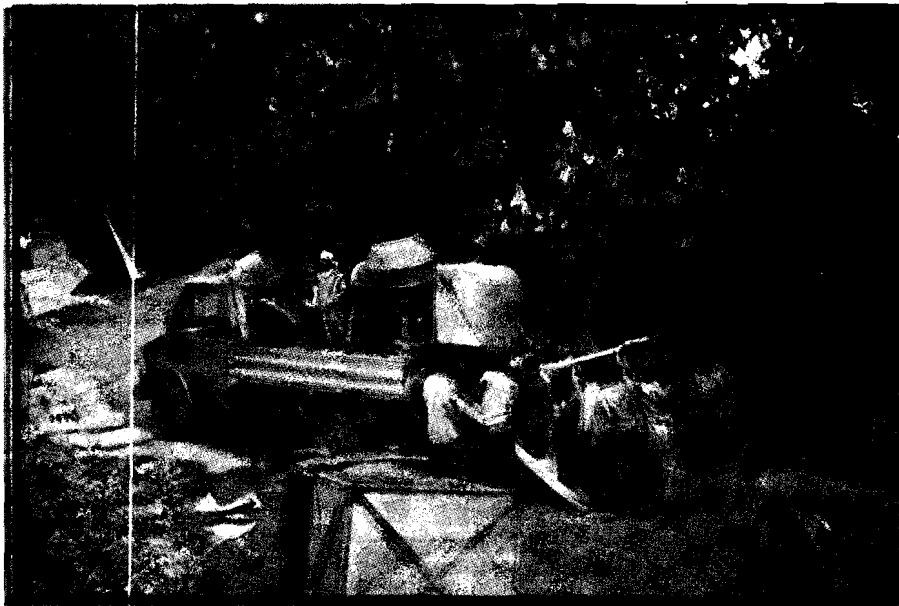
- i) Conflicts over the distribution of economic rewards between the classes.
- ii) Easy communication between the individual in the same class position so that ideal and programmes are readily disseminated.

- iii) Growth of class – Consciousness in the sense that the members of the class have a feeling of solidarity and understanding of their historical role.
- iv) Profound dissatisfaction of the Lower Class over its inability to control the economic structure of which it feels itself to be the exploited victim.
- v) Established of a political organisation resulting from the economic structure, the historical situation and maturation of class-consciousness.

The ideas of the ruling class in every epoch determine the ruling ideas, i.e., the class, which is the ruling material force of society, is at the same time its ruling intellectual force. The existence of revolutionary ideas in a particular period pre-supposes the existence of a revolutionary class. Of all the instruments of production, the greatest productive power is the revolutionary class itself. Thus, he sees classes, as distinct sub-divisions whose interests often diverge. From the Marxian perspective, we can conclude that the relationship between the major social classes is one of mutual dependence and conflict.

26.4.4 Capitalist Industrial Society

Thus, Marx in capitalist industrial society, identifies two main classes. The capitalist who pays the wage (Bourgeoisie) and the workers, who receives the wages (Proletariat). Marx predicted that as capitalism develops these two classes become more and more homogeneous, but as compared to him Dahrendorf argues that classes will become more and more heterogeneous, i.e., dissimilar and the working class get divided into three distinct levels – Unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled manual, workers with divergence interests.



Industrial Society is Capital intensive and technology based

Courtesy: B. Kiranmayi

Unlike Marx, who talked about two classes, Weber talks about the middle class also. According to him, as capitalism develops the middle class expands. In the 19th century, Marxist predicted that a stage will come in capitalist development when the middle class would sink into the Proletariat (Pauperisation). But during 1950's and 1960's, a number of Sociologists suggested that just the opposite was happening.

They said a process of embourgeoisement was occurring whereby increasing number of manual workers were entering the middle class. According to them, the classes in Industrial society was acquiring the Pentagon shape where the mass of population was middle class

rather than working class. According to Clark Kerr, this was the requirement of the advanced industrialism which requires a highly educated, trained and skilled workforce.

26.5 MAX WEBER : INDUSTRIAL CLASSES

Weber argues that classes develop in Market economies, in which individuals compete for economic gains. He defines – “class as a group of individuals who share a similar economic position which influence both the material standard of their existence and what sort of personal life they are able to enjoy-by virtue, their standard and style of living is determined. Thus, according to Weber, “a person’s class situation is basically his Market situation” whereas for Marx, the class relationship is one of interdependence and conflict.

Like Marx, Weber sees class in economic terms. But he sees important differences in their Market situation. Say, different occupations have different market values. For example, Engineers and electricians have different market value. Thus, for Weber, a person’s class situation is basically his Market situation.

Those who share a similar class situation also share similar life chances. Their economic position will directly affect their chances of obtaining those things defined as desirable in their society. For example, access to higher education and good quality housing.

Like Marx, he also agrees that property owners and propertyless, are two classes. But he sees important differences in the market situation of the propertyless groups in society, i.e., there are more classes within non-property owner classes with differences in skills, occupational capacity, talents. These classes are:

- i) The propertied Upper class
- ii) The propertyless white-collar workers
- iii) The petty Bourgeoisie
- iv) The manual working class

These were placed according to their value of skill in the market. Those whose skills were scarce on the market commanded high salaries and constituted a separate class. Weber rejects the polarisation of two classes and talks of Middle class of white-collar or skilled workers. Middle class expands as capitalism develops. He argues that modern nation state requires a “rational bureaucratic set-up” which requires clerks and managers.

Box 26.02

Unlike Marx, Weber argues that those who belong to the same class need not necessarily produce a communal action or develop a class consciousness. They might behave in a similar way and have same attitude like similar voting behaviour or drinking habits. Weber rejects the inevitability of class revolution. They need not necessarily be a revolution. Class-consciousness may be there but it would be of different nature. For example, Caste groups in India.

Those who belong to lower class may try for reforms. For this purpose, they come together to demand but never have drastic revolution to change the system. Another example, in industrial strikes, there may be lock-outs but revolution to change the system may not be there.

According to Weber, for workers to change the entire system, is not possible. For, to attack any system an ideological formula is essential. An intellectual class is essential, i.e., elite group, uneducated people cannot bring about a revolution without an ideological set-up, therefore, to do so.

26.6 GIDDENS, PARKIN AND BERGEL

Anthony Giddens identifies three major classes in industrial society. Particularly, in a capitalist society based on economic criteria:

- i) Upper class — Ownership of means of Production
- ii) Middle class — Owners of technical qualification
- iii) Lower class — Owners of manual labour

According to Frank Parkin, who provides occupational classification of social class, in modern capitalist society, the power to acquire rewards is directly related to the demands of the market for occupational skills. It is difficult to assess the claims that Upper classes are superior in intelligence and achievement. But a close look shows that tests measure the performance rather than intelligence and performance depend not only ability but on specific training. In other words, it requires highly educated workers which in turn leads to higher pay – higher status occupation. Market which has high consumption requirement required and helps in the growth of middle market.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) Write a note on mode of production and its relation to class struggle. Use about ten lines for your answer.

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- 2) Say True or False.

According to Marx a person’s class situation is basically his market situation.

True False

According to Bergel, classes are seen as natural, economic, political and cultural groups. He presents four views on class.

- i) Classes emerged in society as a result of breakdown of estate system in Europe, i.e., after the legal system was abolished a free society with achieved criteria developed.
- ii) Classes have no ideology – they are residual category.
- iii) He views the idea of class as conquest where the victors are the upper class and defeated classes are lower.
- iv) Stratification system represents biological differences as well, e.g., white superiority over black.

According to him, classes represent different sub-cultures which are related to each other and are derived from different roots. He argues that almost all class systems are based on assumption that “all men are born free and equal”. However, we find a sharp contrast between what a class system actually is and what it pretends to be.

26.7 CLASS STRUCTURE IN SOCIALIST SOCIETIES

Here the system of stratification is not the result of market economy rather it is a creation of the political elite where in Capitalist society there is plurality of elite’s, e.g., C.R. Mills

concept of three categories of elites in American Society. However, in Soviet society there was only one elite that is political elite. These elites form an interest group. Stratification is a product of the state imposed by bureaucracy. This uniform elite divides the society into ruling intellectuals Vs peasants. Scholars who have studied classes in socialist societies say that instead of using the word "class" one must use the word "strata". The main stratas being:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------|----|-------------------------|
| i) | Intelligentsia | a) | Ruling elite |
| | | b) | Superior Intelligentsia |
| | | c) | General Intelligentsia |
| ii) | Ruling Class | a) | Aristocracy |
| | | b) | Rank and File |
| | | c) | Disadvantaged worker |
| iii) | Peasants | a) | Well to do |
| | | b) | Average Peasant |

Marx predicted that public ownership of the forces of production is the first step towards the creation of an egalitarian society. All members would share the same relationship that of ownership to the forces of production. He believed that with state going away, the consumption of goods and services would be based each according to his needs. However, those who studied Soviet societies have talked about its class structure — Frank Parkin identifies different classes which can be distinguished in terms of differential economic rewards, occupational prestige and power.

- i) managerial, and administrative positions
- ii) skilled manual position
- iii) lower or unqualified white collar position
- iv) unskilled manual positions.

Although income equalities were not as great in Soviet societies as in capitalist societies, these were still significant.

According to Milovin Dijilas, a socialist society is not classless. The Bourgeoisie of the West have been replaced by a new ruling class in the East. This new class is made up of political bureaucrats, many of whom are high ranking officials of the communist party. They use power to further their own interest. Although in legal terms, the forces of production are communal owned, in practice, they are controlled by the new class for its own benefit. Political bureaucrats direct and control the economy and monopolise decisions regarding production, consumption, and production. As a result of this wide income differences between this class and masses is observed, associated with this is high privilege and status. According to Dijilas, the ruling class of the late Soviet Union is more exploitative than the bourgeoisie, its power is even greater because it is unchecked by political parties. He claims that in a single party state political bureaucrats monopolise power. He agrees with Marx, in practice their source of power is there because it controls the forces of production. Others reverse this and say that in Soviet societies economic power derives from political power. According to T.B. Bottomore, the new class controls the means of production because of its political power.

According to Polish scholar, Wesolowskis, although social stratification exists, the disappearance of classes in Marxian sense has removed the basic source of conflict. Again, in the society no small minority exploits the masses of population. Further, there are no serious conflicts of interest between the various strata since the forces of production are communally owned and everybody is working for the benefit of all. Although economic inequalities remain, they are determined by the principle — "To each according to his work", the society claims that, the share of the individual in the Division of the social product is determined by quality, quantity of his work, wages are function of quality of

work, this is, they are function of the level of skill and education necessary for carrying a given job.

Activity 2

In which way does a socialist society differ from a capitalist one. Talk to various people and describe what the Indian society is. Compare your notes with other students in the study centre.

The important difference between the "The New Class" and the bourgeoisie of the West is that in the West property can be passed from father to son, whereas in the East members/ sons have no legal claim to property. Their privilege rests largely on political office which cannot be passed directly to offspring.

Wesolowski argues that classes in the orthodox sense have ceased to exist in socialist society and have been replaced by what are better described as strata.

Whether it is a Capitalist or Socialist society, in both, the idea of Profit dominates, i.e., Profit must be made within the enterprise as a guarantee of its proper functioning. However, in planned economies, vast resources are devoted to a branch of industry which is not making profit.

26.8 CAPITALIST AND SOCIALIST SOCIETIES : A COMPARISON

Often the Planned economies, i.e. Socialist societies are criticised by arguing that total planning entails depotism or tyranny or at the very least the absolute power of the planners. There is concentration of authority. This would often create tension between the representatives of workers, peasants and diverse industrial sectors to determine their fair share of national resources. The critics argue that in such economies, consumer's choice is completely eliminated.

Thus we can present the differences between classes of capitalist societies and Soviet societies as under :

Capitalist	Late Socialist
In the Capitalist society, there is distinction between Property owners and Propertyless workers.	In Soviet society, the economic inequalities did not arise from difference in wealth; but inequality is based on income difference.
Difference between income from Property and income from work.	
Capital owners are also political leaders.	Separation between economic sphere and political sphere.
	Social distance between whole social groups are less obvious and less emphasised in. It is individual that reaches a Political elite/ standard.
Stratification is a product of economic system itself like one seen in American group between Whites + Blacks.	Conflict is generally suppressed by any kind of opposition (i.e., by intellectual leaders of society); but according to Dahendorf, Conflict is there between interest groups which is seen within imperatively coordinated elite.
In Capitalist society, there is a possibility of formation and establishment of organization, which opposes the elite in power.	Soviet societies claimed that there was no exploited class, no antagonism of the kind, that Marx speaks, of no political revolt of the kind, though there have been peasant

Distribution of resources is done through Capitalists themselves.

Wages and income are determined by capitalist.

Co-relation between income and wages is greater and more rigid and closely related.

Status is determined by amount of capital you possess i.e. whether you are an owner or a non-owner.

Organisation — Market is a control place and individuals in Market determine the nature of economy. Economy is less planned and instruments of production are owned by individuals.

Profit motive dominates.

Inequality is not deliberate but is the direct consequence of the system itself. The nature of production, consumption and distribution can be controlled.

Economic activities determine the inequality.

revolts. e.g., 1930's revolt of peasant in USSR against governments' notion of collectivization. One can observe sources of conflicts other than class in soviet societies.

Unequal distribution of goods done through government agencies.

Wage/ income are determined by the government.

Co-relation between unequal distribution of income is less than in capitalist society.

Close relation between education and occupational status (Occupation status).

Organisation — "Central planning authority" is important for distribution of resources. Totalitarian planned manner. Instruments of production are communally owned.

Non-monetary motive i.e. welfare motive dominates.

Inequality in soviet structure is deliberately created to suit the needs of the political regime.

Consumer needs are important; this influences the allocation of resources.

Stratification is not economical but politically oriented.

26.9 LET US SUM UP

In both the industrial societies, recent years have seen/witnessed an attack upon their economies inequality. Societies are aiming at giving full employment to its members, trying to raise the level of income of the working class and provide an economic security to all which was until recently thought by the upper class as always their monopoly. Recent years have almost entirely eliminated the class of domestic servants. This is one of the greatest gains which the working class has made in the 20th Century. That is, they have escaped from subjection of upper class. The aim being mainly to eliminate the division of society into subjected and oppressed class.

In 20th Century, the relationship between various classes is, however, very different from that which was in the 19th Century. In the 20th Century, the concept of social services, as a whole, gave a much greater effect in diminishing class differences than that would appear from their economic consequences alone.

Social mobility has generally increased with economic development of the industrial societies but the increase has been largely due to changes in the occupational structure. That is, it is due to the expansion of white collar and professional occupational and continuation of manual occupations.

There is a persistent effort to re-distribute wealth, income through progressive taxation, estate duties and taxes on capital gains. Therefore, there is equality of living standard, a growth of middle class.

26.10 KEY WORDS

- Capitalist** : Means of production in such a society are privately owned.
- Industrial** : Where the accent is upon heavy machinery, factories and so on.
- Socialist** : In such societies most of the industries and planning happen to be in the control of the state.

26.11 FURTHER READINGS

Bottomore, T. (ed.) 1973, *Dictionary of Marxist Thought*, Blackwell, Oxford

Weber, M. 1964, *The Theory of Social and Economic Organisation*, (Trans. and ed. by Henderson A.M., and Parsons, T.), Free Press, Glencoe.

26.12 SPECIMEN ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

- 1) In a capitalist society the means of production are privately owned. Further the questions of production and consumption are governed by market forces. Again there is a distinction between employers and employees, the latter being paid for their work by the former. The entire system is geared to the profit motive and the attempt is to maximize the profits. Finally prices depend upon market forces of supply and demand. It may be pointed out that the antics of capitalism also talk of exploitation and alienation of workers and predict a break down in the system.
- 2)
 - a) Socialist
 - b) economy
 - c) owned.

Check Your Progress 2

- 1) The mode of production is a concept central to Marx's thought. In each type of society there is a particular mode of production. In capitalist society we have the capitalist mode of production and there is a use of heavy capital based industries. The bourgeoisie who own the means of production exploit the workers and a class struggle ensures upto the point of revolution when the workers overthrow the capitalists leading to the formation of new stage of classless society where ownership of the means of production is collective. A classless society emerges.
- 2) False.