SOCIAL CLASSES AND CULTURE OF POVERTY: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT: *Disparities in social classes and their cultures prevail in all societies. There is an inequality in our society on the basis of resources, wealth, power and means of production. The aim of the study was to explore how the culture of the poor is influenced by class struggle. The method of the study was qualitative. This study used data from 100 semi structured questionnaire to better understand the effort of people. The locale of the study was in different areas of Rawalpindi. The conclusion of the study is that everyone is trying to raise their status. The people are struggling from dawn to dusk to gain status high in society.*

Key words: *Social classes, culture of poverty, economic resources, groups, wealth, power, production, status.*

INTRODUCTION

The society that has same wealth, power and economic capitals or assets is called social class. All these things impact on their mode of life and categories them in different classes. A social class is demarcated as an extensive grouping of individuals "who share common economic resources that in turn influence their lifestyle" [1]. "The two class's bourgeoisie (owner) and proletariat (working class)" [2]. Classes which are vary from each other by resources of manufacture their character in the social group of labor and the range of their share of social means of production and income and property.

The emergence of class in early civilizations may be on the basis of resources or power which people have at that time. "In ancient states, where the fishing and hunting sites people start domestication of plants and animals it create hierarchy and class society among them" [3]. "Max Weber's categorization on the basis of wealth, prestige and power" [4]. Socio economic position is a sign for class adversity. "Socioeconomic rank is determined by level people typically according to expenditure, education and profession levels, and grouping them into corresponding high average and low socioeconomic position groups" [5].

"People in culture of poverty manufacture tiny wealth and get little in return. Chronic unemployment and underemployment, low income, lack of food capital in the home and chronic shortage of cash lock away and family and the person in a violent circle"[6]. Due to the economic recession the lack of resources and unemployment occurs in the society and when this recession acute the poverty prevails in the society. People who live in slum area have their own culture which varies from the culture of elite. Mostly in culture of poverty the people claim that their values resemble with middle class but in reality the scenario is quite different. "Poor people claim to have some of the middle class values, but on the whole, they do not live "Once the culture of poverty begin it maintain itself. When the children of slum reach at the age of six or seven they have mostly absorbed the foundational values and attitude of their subculture" [7].

Culture is transmitted from one generation to another. The culture in slums area also spread throughout generation to generation. "Culture of poverty opinions emphasis on group variances in culture, Values, and inheritances causing the situations and results of poverty like low learning levels, and high unemployment and crime"[8].

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The nature of the study was both qualitative and quantitative. A random sampling of 100 respondent using the tool of semi structure questionnaire. The study was conducted in satellite town, commercial and Iqbal town.

RESULTS

FREQUENCIES Table#1

Income amount					
		5000 - 20000	21000- 40000	41000- 60000	61000- 150000
School of children	government	4	13	9	0
	private	6	27	26	15
Housing?	owned	5	12	12	5
	rent	5	28	23	10
Mobile they have	normal	5	8	14	7
	android	5	32	21	8

The cross analysis between two variable income and in which school do you children study? Reflect that the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class sent their children to private school. It means there are four groups. 40% government and 60% private, 32% government and 68% private, 26% government and 74% private, 0% government and 100% private respectively.

Cross analysis between two variable income and housing? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class live on rent. It means there are four groups.50% owned and 50% rent, 30% owned and 70% rent, 34% owned and 66% rent, 33% owned and 67% rent respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and which mobile do you use? Express that majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class

had android phone. There are four groups according to income.50% use normal and 50% android, 30% normal and 70% android, 34% normal and 66% android, 33% normal and 67% android respectively.

FREQUENCIES Table#2

Income amount					
		5000-20000	21000-40000	41000-60000	61000-150000
Bought?	new	6	19	21	11
	second hand	4	21	14	4
Electronic machine?	yes	10	39	33	14
	no	0	1	2	1
If yes? Then on?	installment	3	21	14	8
	full payment	7	19	21	7
Do you travel?	own vehicle	3	18	15	13
	local	7	22	20	2
Branded clothes?	yes	3	19	18	9
	no	7	21	17	6
Bought?	occasionally	7	36	33	13
	routine	3	4	2	2

The cross analysis between two variable income and you ought this mobile? Reflect that the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class had bought new phones. as we know there are four groups. 60% new and 40% secondhand, 48% new and 52% secondhand, 60% new and 40% secondhand, 73% new and 27% secondhand respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you own new electronic machine? (Washing machine, fridge, TV, micro wave)? Reflect that the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they have all electronic machines. There are four groups. 100% yes and 0% no, 98% yes and 2% no, 94% yes and 6% no, 93% yes and 7% no respectively.

Cross analysis between two variable income and If yes? Then on? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class whether they bought new or on installment they have. 30% on installment and 70% full payment, 53% installment and 47% full payment, 40% installment 60% full payment, 53% installment and 47% full payment.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you travel? Convey us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they have their own vehicle. 30% own vehicle and 70% public transport, 45% own vehicle 55% public transport, 43% own

vehicle and 57% public transport, 87% own vehicle and 13% public transport respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you wear branded clothes? Convey us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they buy branded clothes. 30% yes and 70% no, 48% yes and 52% no, 51% yes and 49% no, 60% yes 40% no respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Branded clothes are bought? Convey us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they wear branded clothes. 70% occasionally 30% routine, 90% occasionally and 10% routine, 94% occasionally and 6% routine, 87% occasionally and 13% routine respectively.

FREQUENCIES Table#3

Income amount					
		5000-20000	21000-40000	41000-60000	61000-150000
Hoteling as entertainment?	yes	5	27	21	12
	no	5	13	14	3
Go for hoteling	weekly	0	5	2	2
	monthly	4	11	10	6
	occasionally	6	24	23	7
Wear	normal	9	19	13	7
	good	0	15	12	5
	bad	1	6	10	3
Classes and specific location	yes	8	18	15	9
	no	2	22	20	6
Lower class effect circle?	yes	7	30	23	11
Location show identity	yes	5	12	12	5
	no	5	28	23	10

The cross analysis between two variable income and Hoteling is preferred as an entertainment? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they prefer hoteling. 50% yes and 50% no, 68% yes 32% no, 60% yes and 40% no, 80% yes and 20% no respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you go for hoteling? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 even they were middle class they go for hoteling. 0% weekly 40% monthly and 60% on special occasions, 13% weekly 28% monthly and 59%

occasions, 6% weekly 29% monthly an 65% occasions, 13% weekly 40% monthly and 47% occasions respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and People were wearing? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000. The clothes they were wearing. 90% normal 0% good and 10% bad, 48% normal 38% good 14% bad, 37% normal 34% good and 29% bad, 47% normal 33% good and 20% bad respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you think economic class living specific locality? Convey us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 and they were belong to middle class. 80% yes and 20% no, 45% yes and 55% no, 43% yes and 57% no, 60% yes 40% no.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Do you feel that lower socio economic status affects the social circle people move in? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 they were belong to middle class. 70% yes and 30% no, 75% yes and 25% no, 66% yes and 34% no, 44% yes and 56% no respectively.

The cross analysis between two variable income and Location of house is decided to create social identity? Tell us the majority of the respondents also had their incomes between 5000-20000, 21000-40000, 41000-60000 and 61000-150000 they were belong to middle class. 50% yes and 50% no, 30% yes and 70% no, 34% yes and 66% no, 33%yes and 67% no respectively.

DISCUSSION

Social classes and culture of poverty basically explore that the society is divided into parts on the basis of economic status, property wealth power and valuable things that they have. In culture of poverty what is the culture of poor. The study see that poor people are copying the middle class. They sent their children in private school although they can't afford to send their children in private school but they sent them because they want to show their status high and another reason is that they said the education system of government school is not good. They live on rent on big houses and good locations to show their status high another reason is that they want to marry their children in upper class if they live in good location it shows their identity.

According to Marx (1818-1883) theory Class struggle there is a completion in different socio-economic classes of society. It creates social change in society. It also generates conflict between the owner and working class. Working class struggle to gain the recourses. They forget their needs and wants. To increase their social circle people do the things that they can't afford. People can't afford branded clothes but they wear whether on routine or occasionally but they wear. They go for hoteling whether monthly or occasionally. Everybody is trying to uplift their status. From where the data has been collected in that areas in many houses there are multiple earning heads. In many houses people have opened their own tuition center they are struggling because they want to wear branded clothes they want to have android phone. They want to show their economic status. They are not only struggling economically but also culturally. They copy middle class doing this they leave there on culture for away. "Numerous low income people contain various adults who are relating their work struggle to encounter the house hold economic desires"[9]. People also think that the location of the houses affect them so they live in good areas to express them economically. They have all electronic machines in their houses. There is no sense in them what is their need and what is want. In their circle they want to tell people they buy branded clothes, they go for hotel ling to show off but in actual they can't afford they struggle from dawn to dusk to gain all these things which raise their status high. They can tell proudly to people they belong to high socio economic class. "Identity and dress are intimately linked. Clothes display, express and shape identity, imbuing it with a directly material reality" [10].They have low income but they want to show their status.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study is that the poor people are copying the middle class doing this they leave their culture. They have no idea how they are leaving their own culture. They exploit their values and belief. They can't afford branded clothes but they wear. This study shows that everyone is struggling to raise one's status. There is no distinction between their needs and wants.

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