

A Brief Analysis of the Standard System of Social Stratification in Contemporary China

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Abstract

Social stratification is one of the most important phenomena in social structure. After entering the 21st century, with the improvement of the market competition mechanism, social differentiation has become more and more serious. This paper discusses the social stratification in China from three aspects: main stratification standard, composition and characteristics and practical significance of contemporary society, takes occupation as the standard of social stratification, takes resource occupation as the basic dimension to divide the social class, and emphasizes the significance of contemporary social stratification in the construction of harmonious society.

Keywords

Social stratification, China society, stratification standards, hierarchical characteristic.

1. Introduction

Social stratification is an important topic in current social research. As a system of every society Social stratification also exist in China society. At present, Chinese society is in a period of transition which including political, economic and cultural. The distribution of strata under the market economy system is rich, and the value orientation and behavior orientation of different social strata are different. The contradictions and conflicts between various social strata have become more apparent. In order to avoid the intensification of conflicts, the government has been trying to narrow the differences between classes through the state's macroeconomic regulation and control.

2. The Main Stratification Standards of Contemporary Chinese Society

Since modern times, western social scholars have carried out a lot of discussions on social stratification, and there are many theories. While quoting and introducing the theory of mature social stratification in the West, domestic scholars have also put forward many theories of stratification in combination with the reality of Chinese social strata. Among them, Standard has always been the focus of academic research and debate. What kind of standard is used to distinguish the class is the primary factor to correctly describe the status of the class and determine the position of the class in the whole hierarchical system.

The word stratification comes from geological research, which originally refers to different levels of geological structure. Sociology borrows the word "stratification" to analyze and explain the longitudinal structure of society. The so-called social stratification is a process in which social members are divided into hierarchical sequences or levels according to certain standards. That is, the arrangement of people different positions or positions in society. The purpose of today study of social stratification is to reveal the economic and social relations and their internal relations in the primary stage of socialism, and to cultivate and develop the main

body of productive forces under the condition of socialist market economy. To allocate various factors of production at different levels and links, to coordinate and resolve contradictions and conflicts among different interest groups and interest strata, to protect and standardize various forms of economic development forces in the whole society, and to take into account efficiency and fairness. To maintain social stability and other aspects, to provide theoretical basis for decision-making departments.

According to different stratification purposes, there can be different stratification standards. Social stratification standard is the core of social stratification theory, and it is also the most controversial issue. What kind of standard is used to divide the strata is not only related to whether our description of the social strata in China is accurate and scientific, but also related to the position of the strata divided according to the standard in the whole hierarchical system. In essence, social stratification is about how social resources are distributed among various groups, and social members form different strata due to their different possession of social resources. However, social resources are rich in content and diverse in form, among many social resources. What kind of possession of social resources has a direct impact on the level of people class status? In this regard, different scholars have different views and forms different theories because of their different research purposes, key points, perspectives or methods. In this respect, the most representative and influential classical theories are two schools, Marx social stratification theory and Weber social stratification theory.

Marx believed that means of production are the most important social resources, and their importance is manifested in two aspects: on the one hand, whether or not the means of production are occupied and how much they occupy directly determine the different positions of people in the system of relations of production. That is to say, it determines the different position and role of people in the production process, and determines the different distribution mode and how many of them. On the other hand, whether or not the means of production are occupied and how much they possess directly determine the difference in people survival or way of life, that is, the people who possess a large number of means of production exploit others to support themselves by possession of the means of production. Those who possess a small amount of means of production feed themselves through their own labor, and those who have no means of production feed themselves by selling their own labor force. Thus it can be seen that the possession and possession of means of production not only determine the amount of people economic income, but also determine the level of people social status.

Different from Marx, Weber believes that the important social resources are not one but three, that is, material wealth, social prestige and political power are the most important social resources. There is a social connection mechanism between wealth (economic standard), prestige (social standard) and power (political standard). These three are interactive and interactive. At the same time, Marx univariate stratification theory and Weber pluralistic stratification theory are also related, that is, the possession of means of production is closely related to wealth, prestige and power. Generally speaking, the quantity of means of production is proportional to the amount of wealth, prestige and power, that is, the level of economic, social and political status. However, Marx theory of univariate stratification is only applicable to the society of class antagonism, while Weber theory of pluralistic social stratification is applicable to all societies where there is a phenomenon of stratification.

In the process of social stratification, especially intergenerational mobility, the possession of the three major resources of politics, economy and culture plays a decisive role. Chinese society is a typical government-led society. Political resource standards, also called rights standards, still occupy a major position in today's Chinese social stratification standards system. Political resources are the foundation of the class system. It profoundly affects the position and flow of the class by determining institutional arrangements and policy orientations. The reform of the market system has not shaken the leadership position and unit system of the party. The power

advantage class still controls the distribution of resources, especially the allocation of economic resources. Therefore, the civil servant group with power has a detached status in the current social system, and the intergenerational inheritance orientation is obvious.

Economic resource standards, also known as wealth standards. In the traditional Chinese social stratification system, the "business" that possesses the most wealth is at the bottom of the civilian class, and its status is only higher than the lowest level of the social structure. Since the reform of the market system, wealth has gradually become the mainstream standard of social stratification. At present, the government still controls the distribution of economic resources, and power dominates wealth. This also leads to the fact that in the status of social groups, the "businessmen" who fully occupy economic resources are still lower than the "civil servants" who have political resources. But with the continuous advancement of market reforms, the market competition mechanism is becoming more perfect, and economic resources will be out of control of power.

Cultural resource standards can be referred to as knowledge standards. Culture is a very big concept, and knowledge is only a typical part of it. Here, the author exists as a simplified cultural resource for easy explanation. The acquisition of knowledge is mainly done through education. Bourdieu believes that the socially advantageous class, through education and its institutionalized system, allows social groups, especially the disadvantaged, to accept their culture, accept the dominant and dominant power relations, and complete the production and reproduction of cultural capital.

In general, political resources, economic resources, and cultural resources are still the three basic standards in the current Chinese social stratification standard system. Professional standards, consumption standards, etc. are only their branch standards, and can not explain the current status of social stratification.

Nowadays, there are many hierarchical standards used according to different theoretical systems and different hierarchical purposes, such as the possession of means of production, wealth and income, organizational power, social prestige, knowledge and skills, consumer preferences, The possession of vocational and social resources, the level of education, family background and so on. The more consistent view is that in order to fully grasp the situation of social stratification, it is necessary to use a more comprehensive standard, rather than a single standard. However, in order to improve maneuverability and simplify the method of social stratification, the mainstream view of academic circles now tends to regard "occupation" as a standard that includes the possession and use of information of various economic and social resources. It is easy to accept occupation as the standard of social stratification, resource possession as the basic dimension, and the measurement of the comprehensive index of social and economic status. [1] Why should we adopt the pluralistic standard of occupational differentiation to layer? Because class differentiation is completed through professional differentiation, social occupation is the product of social division of labor, which to a large extent affects people source of income, social status, power size, value orientation. There are many aspects such as lifestyle and development opportunities. These aspects can be clearly and accurately reflected through people social profession. The higher a person professional status is, generally speaking, the income, prestige, education, power and social status of a person are also high. Otherwise, the opposite is true. Daniel Bell, a famous sociologist of the functional school in the United States, believes that in the post-industrial society, to a large extent, occupation is the most important decisive factor in the division of social classes and strata. [2] (p53) in this sense, Occupational stratification and economic stratification, power stratification, prestige stratification, educational stratification and other stratification methods can be unified. The difficult choices people make in finding a job fully demonstrate the importance of the occupation they choose and the work they will do to their living conditions and the path of development of their lives.

3. The Main Hierarchical Composition and Characteristics of Contemporary Society

According to the pluralistic standard of occupation as the main factor in this paper, the author divides the contemporary Chinese social strata. At the same time, according to Xueyi Lu, a famous sociologist in China, he puts forward "based on occupational classification and organizing resources." The theoretical framework for the division of social strata according to the possession of economic resources and cultural resources ". [3] (P2) the contemporary society of our country is divided into the following main layers:

3.1. The State and Social Managers

The state and social managers refer to the leading cadres who exercise the actual administrative functions and powers in the party and government, undertakings and social organizations. They hold the most critical resources in Chinese society-organizational resources (power resources). Because the national organization system holds the most important and largest resources of the whole society, the state and social managers with organizational resources are in a dominant position in the allocation of resources. They are not owners of means of production, but they can control or dominate part of the means of production, so they actually share some of the economic resources. At the same time, they also have more cultural resources.

3.2. The Manager Class

The manager class refers to the senior and middle managers who are not owners in the enterprise and the grass-roots managers who are some of the heads of the department. The social source of this class is mainly three parts of the people. The first part is the original cadres of state-owned and collective enterprises, the second part comes from large-scale private enterprises or private enterprises in the field of high-tech industries, and the third part is the middle and senior managers of foreign-funded enterprises. In this class, due to the different sources of its members, there are some differences within the class, that is, there are obvious differences in the social and economic status of managers with different ownership.

3.3. The Class of Owners of Private Enterprises

The class of private enterprise owners refers to people who have a certain amount of private capital or fixed assets and invest to make profits and employ others to work at the same time. The most important characteristic of this class is the possession of means of production, that is, the possession of economic resources.

3.4. Professional and Technical Staff

Professional and technical personnel refers to those who specialize in all kinds of professional work and scientific and technological work in institutions with various economic components. Most of them have passed the training of middle and higher professional knowledge and specialized vocational and technical training, and have the professional knowledge and specialized technology to meet the requirements of the professional division of labor in modern society.

3.5. The Working Class

The administrative staff level refers to the full-time office staff who assist the responsible persons of units and departments in handling daily administrative affairs, mainly by civil servants at the middle and lower levels of the party and government organs. The grass-roots managers and non-professional civilian personnel in enterprises and institutions under various ownership.

3.6. Individual Industrial and Commercial Household Class

Individual industrial and commercial household class refers to the person who has a small amount of private capital (including real estate) and invests in production, circulation, service industry and other business activities or financial bond market and makes a living by it.

3.7. The Working Class of the Business Service Industry

The business service industry employee class refers to the non-professional, non-physical and physical staff engaged in the business and service industries. The employee class of commercial service industry can be divided into three groups: one is the grass-roots managers of commercial service industry, the other is quasi-white-collar staff of commercial service industry, and the third is blue-collar staff of commercial service industry.

3.8. The Industrial Working Class

Industrial worker class refers to the production workers, construction workers and related personnel engaged in physical and semi-manual labor in the secondary industry.

3.9. The Agricultural Laborer Class

Agricultural laborer class refers to farmers who contract collective cultivated land for family management, with agriculture (forestry, animal husbandry, fishing) as the only or main occupation, and agriculture (forestry, animal husbandry, fishing) as the only source of income or the main source of income. The agricultural laborer class is one of the largest strata in China at present. Although the number of these strata is large, the homogeneity within the strata is high and the differences in social and economic conditions are small. Therefore, there is no obvious group division within the agricultural laborer class.

3.10. Unemployed, Unemployed and Semi-Unemployed in Urban and Rural Areas

Unemployed, unemployed and semi-unemployed in urban and rural areas refer to people of working age without fixed employment. The formation of this class is mainly caused by the following factors: system transition and industrial structure adjustment lead to a group of workers and commercial service personnel in a state of unemployment and semi-unemployment. The lack of employment opportunities has left many young workers entering the labour market unemployed for a long time. The large expropriation of agricultural land in the city left a large number of farmers without land to grow, and these farmers could not find a suitable job in the town for a while. Unemployed, unemployed and semi-unemployed constitute a class, which is the product of this special historical transition stage in China. On the one hand, unemployed, semi-unemployed people are relatively large; on the other hand, these people have a similar socio-economic background, many of their members are in poverty.

4. The Practical Significance of the Main Stratification in Contemporary Society

Social stratification is to objectively describe the actual differences between people because they have various resources in social real life, reveal the social mechanism of resource allocation and status acquisition, and analyze the social impact of differences between people. The social significance, as well as the value judgment of the society to this kind of difference, and provides the theoretical basis for the society to formulate the corresponding social policy in the face of this difference. Specifically, the significance of social stratification lies in:

4.1. Objectively Describe the Basic Composition of Social Members

Because of the different resources, the social members form practical differences, including material wealth, political status, cultural level, social reputation and so on. This difference exists objectively and has universality. Every member of society is related to economy, politics, culture and social resources, so every member of society occupies a position in a certain aspect. For members of society, the status differences in many aspects can be summarized as necessary, and eventually a comprehensive hierarchical structure of social members can be formed. For example, we often see a ranking table of professional prestige. It is a sequence structure map in which all kinds of occupations occupy economic, political and social status in people minds. Whether in terms of the single structure formed by the possession of a certain aspect of social resources by members of society, or as far as the hierarchical structure of comprehensive members of society is concerned, it is objectively described clearly, in order to understand the society we face, It is very important to understand the relationship between social members and society, and it is very important to reveal the essence of society, so social stratification is a valuable work.

4.2. The Division of Social Strata Is Conducive to Mobilizing Positive Factors

The significance of social stratification lies in objectively and realistically recognizing the existence of the largest and most general social differences. The existence of these most general social differences makes people at different social levels in terms of income level, professional status, power status, social prestige, educational level, family background, living environment and so on. The differences in social level determine the differences in life style, living habits, living conditions, social functions, social needs, interest requirements and social psychology. When the state formulates the social policy and the political policy, it is not enough to rely on class analysis alone, but also to carry on the deep stratification analysis to the society according to certain standard. We must understand and study the interests, requirements, opinions and attitudes of people at all levels in order to formulate social policies that reflect the interests and requirements of all aspects and levels.

4.3. It Is Conducive to Constructing the Expression Mechanism of Interests of All Classes and Classes and Promoting Social Harmony

The state should maintain social order, avoid some members of some social strata from destroying social justice order, and especially protect the interests of vulnerable strata from being damaged. There is a basic premise here to create an interest expression mechanism that allows all sectors of society to freely express their own interests and aspirations and to encourage the government to listen to its own voice. As the executor of the fundamental interests of the broad masses of the people, the government is of course obliged to listen to and discover the interests of all classes, but it also requires institutional arrangements for protection. Due to the social status of different social classes and the differences in social resources, there is a big difference in the strength of their expression of interest. The dominant class can often use its rich resources and social influence to continuously transmit its voice to the government and exert influence on government behavior. However, the disadvantaged class often lacks the necessary channels of interest expression, and it is difficult to timely and effectively Express your own interests. In this way, once the bureaucracy of government officials is serious, when dealing with the conflicts of interests of different classes, it is easy to damage the interests of the vulnerable classes whose interests and aspirations are not fully expressed. Therefore, as the executors of the fundamental interests of the broad masses of the people and the social justice order, the government has the obligation and help all sectors of society, especially the vulnerable classes and groups, to establish normal and standardized interest expression mechanisms, and at the same time establish standardized dialogues and

exchanges between various classes. The social consultation mechanism enables the desires of all walks of life to be expressed in a timely manner through normal channels, and then through the dialogue, negotiation and consultation between the various levels to seek consensus.

4.4. It Is Beneficial to Adjust Social Differences, Resolve Social Contradictions and Realize Social Harmony

In the more than 20 years since the realization of reform and opening up, profound, great and positive changes have taken place in China social class structure. However, compared with the ideal state and operation mechanism of the modern social class structure, there is still a big gap between the social class structure of our country and the ideal state and operation mechanism of the modern social class structure, which requires us not only to keep pace with the times in the theory of social stratification. And in practice, we should also make further efforts. "to change the view and practice of simplifying and formulaic class and class struggle in the past, it is necessary to conduct a new study on the issue of class and class struggle according to the very different historical situation and reality compared with more than a hundred years ago. Make a new judgment. The analysis of the general situation of the contemporary world and the situation of various countries can not leave the Marxist class point of view, but can not stay at the original level of understanding ". [4] (P381)

4.5. Actively Guide Citizens to Participate in Social Governance

Public participation is the main feature of the modern social governance model, and the inevitable requirement for the development of democratic politics. It is also the most important form of realization for the people to be the masters of the country, and is the most ideal means to effectively avoid the bad stratification of society. However, due to various reasons, the enthusiasm of Chinese citizens to participate in social governance is not high, and the sense of participation is not strong. To this end, to build a new social governance structure and promote the modernization of social governance, we must work hard to actively guide citizens to participate in social governance.

At the Fourth Plenary Session of the 16th CPC Central Committee, Jintao Hu put forward the goal of "building a socialist harmonious society." The so-called "harmonious society" is the harmony of social relations, and the basis of harmonious social relations is the harmony of social class structure. This actually sets clear goals for us to promote the rational differentiation and change of the social class and to form a healthy, harmonious and ideal social class structure. To achieve the goal of "building a socialist harmonious society" and to adhere to and develop Marx's social stratification theory with the scientific attitude of advancing with the times, it is very important to form a social stratification theory with Chinese characteristics. We must also carefully analyze the changes in the relationship of interests between the various classes and classes in the period of social transformation, correctly resolve social contradictions from the height of building a harmonious society, regulate social differences, establish integration mechanisms for class interests, resolve mechanisms for conflicts and conflicts, and society. The stability mechanism of the hierarchical order. [5] (P5) Enhance the social identity of different social classes or groups to achieve social harmony and promote the development of Chinese social modernization.

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