

Why are People Poor?

- ❖ Social Structure
- ❖ Features of Society
- ❖ Characteristics of Individuals





Poverty and Wealth

- ❖ Who is Horatio Alger?
- ❖ Social Functions of a Myth



Minority Groups

- The term minority group
 - Does not refer to a group's numerical representation
 - Refers to a group's relative power and status in society

Minority-Group Characteristics

Group members may or may not identify with group

Feels a sense of spoiled identity

Identifiable by distinguishing physical or cultural traits that are held in low esteem

Membership is an ascribed status

Receives unequal treatment as a group

Racial and Ethnic Groups

- **Race**

- A categorization in which a large number of people sharing **visible physical characteristics** regard themselves or are regarded by others as a single group on that basis

- **Ethnic group**

- A group of people who **share a common** religion, nationality, culture, and/or language

Ethnicity & Race: Diversity

- No such thing as “Race” – it is based only in discourse (Census/General Social Survey).
- Ethnicity is specific in time & place: shared history, shared geography, shared meaning
- No such thing as “European, Asian, African, Native American, Latinos, etc.” – multiple & diverse.

Ethnocentrism

- Ethnocentrism: A view of things in which one's own group is the center of everything, and all others are scaled and rated with reference to it
- Often an ethnocentric attitude is not deliberate but rather an outgrowth of growing up and living within a familiar environment.

Ethnic Stratification

- How does ethnic stratification continue in a democracy where supposedly all have an **equal opportunity** for **upward mobility**?
 - **Functionalists**
 - Suggest that the ethnocentrism of those in the societal mainstream leads to discrimination of those in out-groups, as determined by racial & ethnic differences
 - **Conflict theorists**
 - Stress the subordination of minorities by the dominant group because that group benefits from such ethnic stratification

Minority, Ethnicity & Race

- **Minority Group** is about comparative power between perceived statuses.
- **Race** – it is based only in discourse about how people look and is an ever-changing ascribed status.
- **Ethnicity** is specific in time & place: shared history, shared geography, shared meaning, family background and is part of a person's biography.



What's Gender Stratification?

**“Unequal Access to Power, Prestige,
and Property on the Basis of Sex.”**

Issues of Sex and Gender

❖ Sex - Biological Characteristics

❖ Female and Male

❖ Primary and Secondary

Sexual Characteristics

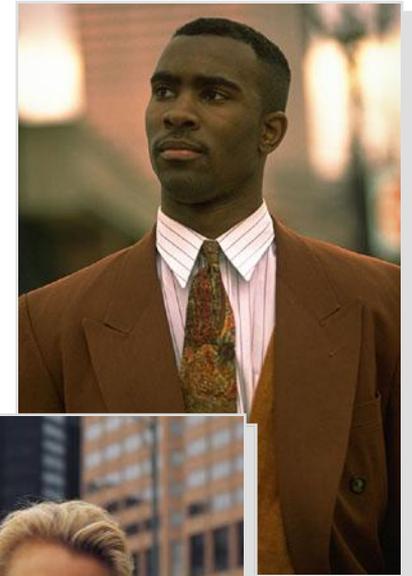


Issues of Sex and Gender

❖ Gender - Social Characteristics

❖ Masculinity and Femininity

❖ Appropriate Behavior



Gender Differences In Behavior Biology or Culture?

- ❖ Dominant Position in Sociology
 - ❖ Social Factors Primary, Not Biological
 - ❖ If Biological Should Be Less Variation in Male and Female Behavior across Cultures

How Females Became a Minority Group

- ❖ Origins of Patriarchy
 - ❖ Early On, Life was Short
 - ❖ Females Limited by Childbearing
 - ❖ Men Became Dominant as Hunters and Warriors
 - ❖ Weapons, Trade, and Knowledge gained from Contact with Others Gave Men Power

Gender Inequality in the U.S.

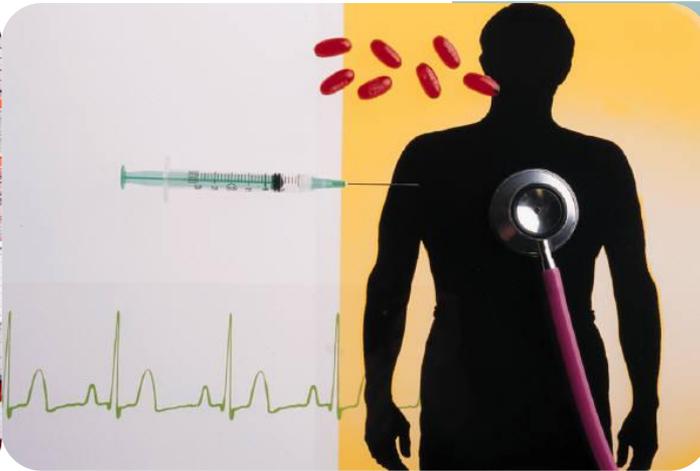
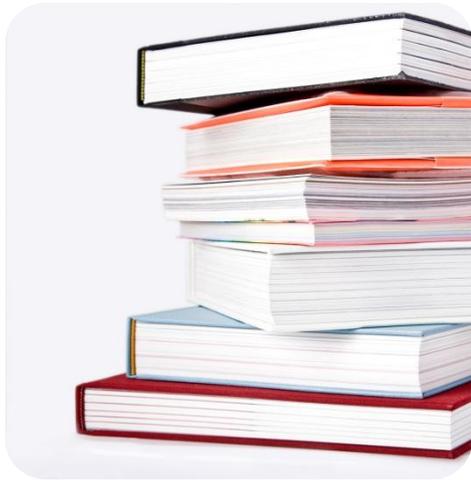
❖ Fighting Back: The Rise of Feminism

❖ First Wave - Early 1900s

❖ Second Wave Began 1960s

❖ Third Wave Emerging Now

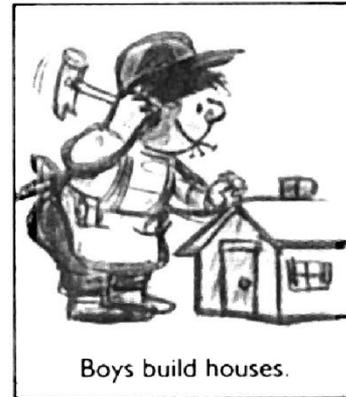
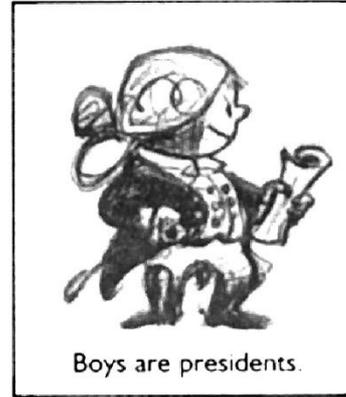




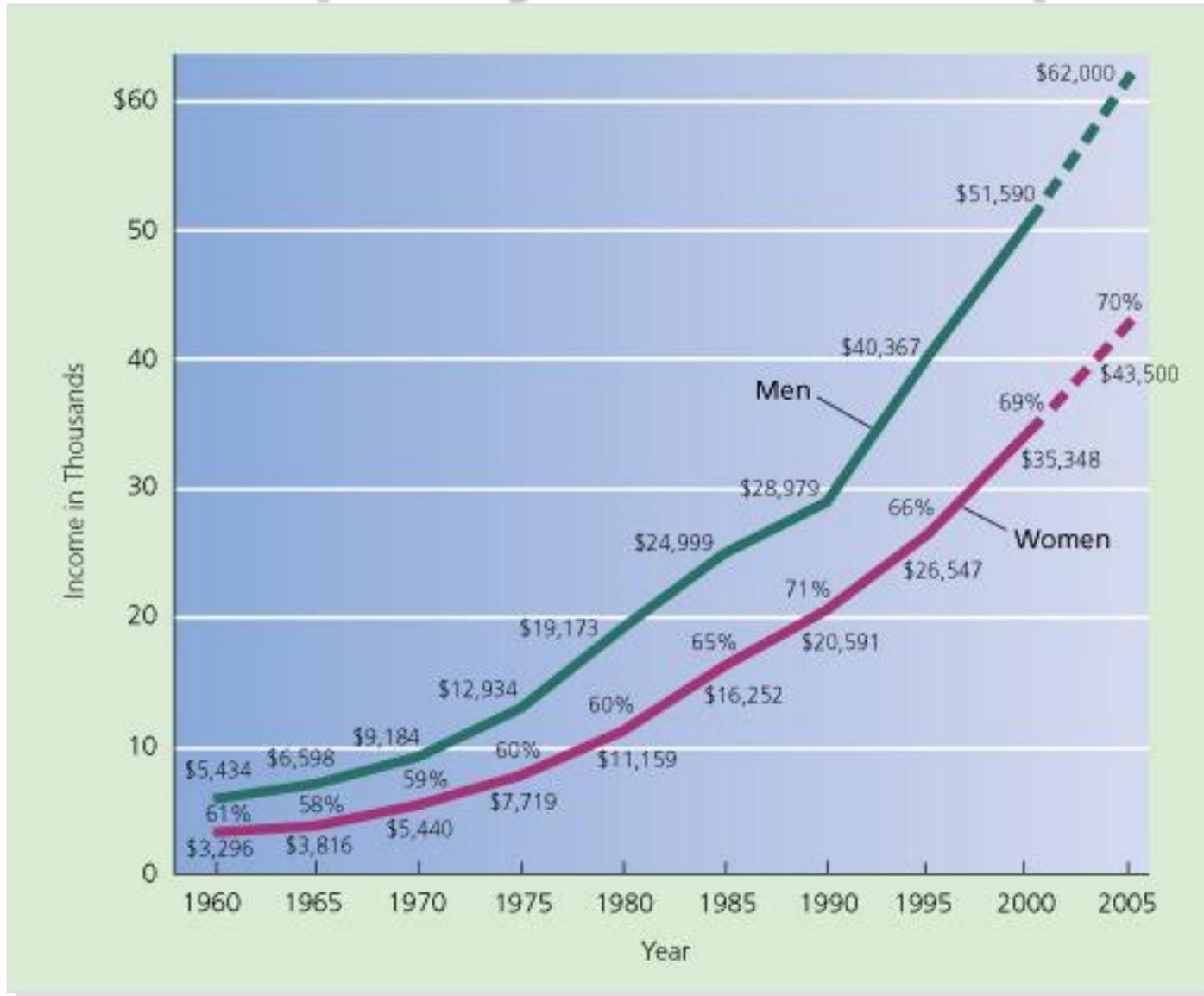
Gender Inequality in the U.S.

- Gender Inequality in Education
- Gender Inequality in Health Care
- Gender Inequality in Work

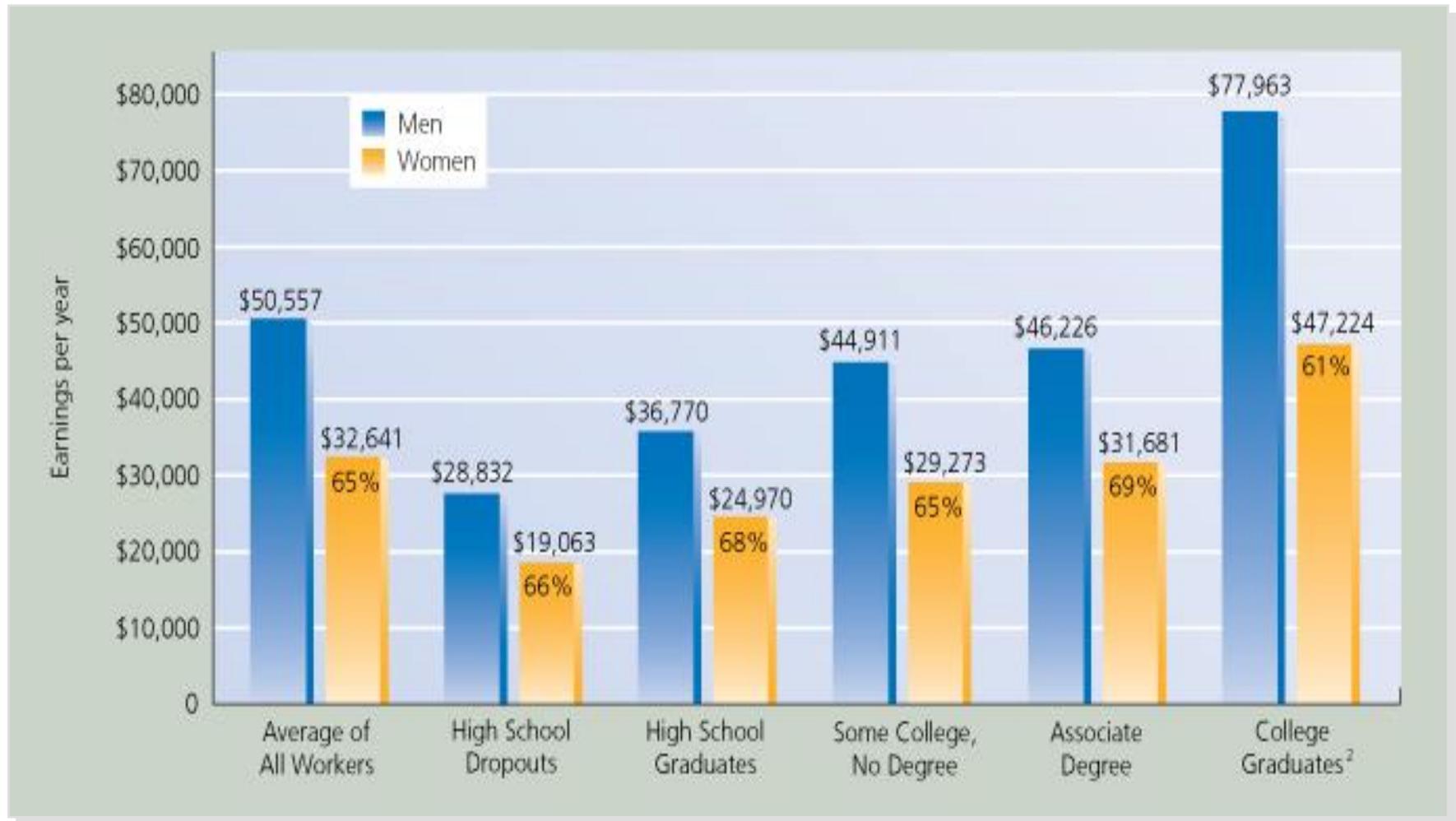
Man's Work and Woman's Work



Gender Inequality in the Workplace

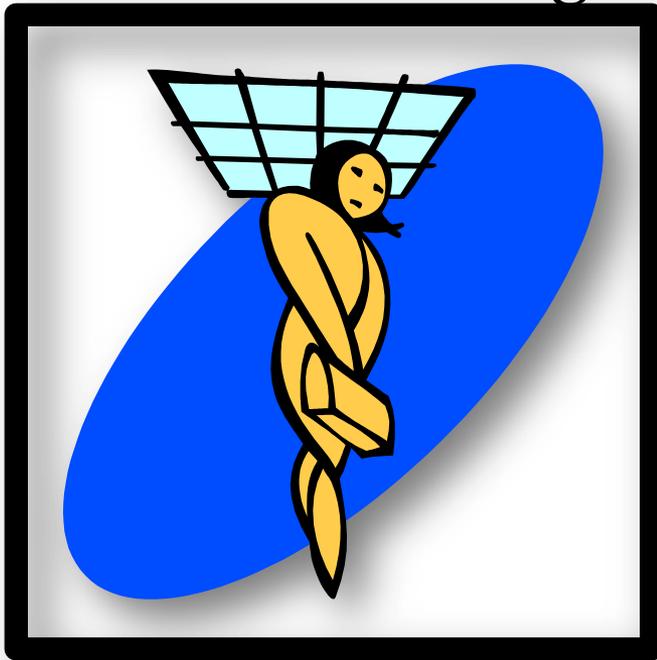


Gender Inequality in the Workplace



Gender Inequality in the Workplace

The Glass Ceiling



The Glass Escalator

Career Life Span

- **Early-Career** =
- Long Hours & Extra Work
- **Mid-Career** =
- More Leisure Time & Support Staff
- **Late-Career** =
- Eye for Retirement & Fewer Opportunities for Advancement



Other “Isms”

- The three main “isms” in sociological study of social inequality is classism, racism & sexism.
- Others include:
 - *ablism*
 - *ageism*
 - *anti-intellectualism*
 - *heterosexism*
 - *sizism*



Commonality among “isms”



- Power of Naming
- Stranger & Social Distance
- Four concepts: prejudice, discrimination, privilege & stigma (social relationships)
- Limiting life chances: non-violence, symbolic violence, violence
- **Functionalist:** inequalities eventually balance
- **Conflict:** social problem solving
- **Constructionist:** Language = “less than human”

Differences among “isms”

- History
- Group Identity
- Visible versus Hidden
- Criminalization
- Medicalization
- Organization

