Notes for Sociology – 2010-02-22

- I. Families
- A. Symbolic Interaction
 - 1. Self-fulfilling prophecy; labeling affects outcome
 - a. Visitation (does it affect views toward children if just a "visitor")
- II. Same Sex Relationships
- A. Legal marriages
 - 1. First country to legalize Gay marriage
 - a. Netherlands 2001
 - 2. Belgium, Ontario, British Colombia 2003
- B. Registered Partnership
 - 1. Sweden, Finland, Norway, Germany, Iceland
- C. Civil Solidarity Pacts
 - 1. France
- D. U.S. 1996 federal Defense of Marriage act
 - 1. One woman and one man
 - 2. 38 states verified
 - 3. First state to legalize marriage
 - a. Massachusetts
- III. Violence and Abuse in the Family
- A. Spousal Abuse
- B. Child abuse
- C. Sexual abuse
- D. Elder abuse
- IV. Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence
 - A. Cultural factors
 - 1. American culture tolerates/promotes violence
 - a. Linked to cultural factors such as violence in media, acceptance of corporal punishment, gender inequality, women and children as property.

V. Divorce

- A. Factors for rising divorce rate
 - 1. 90% of men lack a good male friend
 - 2. Rising debt load
 - 3. Lack of role models
 - 4. Less family and friend support
 - 5. Changing family expectations
 - a. Marriage emotional support, intimacy, affection, and love
 - b. Increased individualism → more concerned with getting than giving
 - 6. Women less dependent on men
 - a. Unhappy wives more likely to leave marriage
 - b. Most divorces are initiated by the wives

VI. Consequences of Divorce

A. Health

1. Anxiety, psychological distress, unhappiness, loneliness, depression, illness, suicide

B. Economic

- 1. Women drop in income
- 2. Children most likely to suffer economically
- C. Effect on children,
 - 1. Less supervision, greater delinquency, failing school, teen pregnancy, higher suicide rates, violence drug use more likely to divorce

VII. Decrease in divorce rates since the 1980s

- A. 20-29 years olds 94% look for a "soul mate"
- B. You have a 50% chance that your marriage will last
- C. Can change depending on factors (more if this, more if that, et cetera...)

VIII. Defining & Measuring Poverty

A. Poverty

- 1. Lacking resources to for "adequate" standard maintain well-being
 - a. Absolute poverty = life-threatening

Notes for Sociology – 2010-02-22

- b. Relative poverty = comparative; with perspective to society
- IX. International Measures of Poverty
 - A. 1.2 billion people 1 in 5 people in the world
 - 1. survive on less than \$1 per day
 - 2. South Asia greatest # of poor people
 - 3. Sub-Sahara greatest proportion of poor people
 - B. The Gap between poor and rich nations has doubled
 - C. Average Income Rich Nations
 - 1. 37 times that of poor nations
- X. International Measures of Poverty
 - A. Human Poverty Index (HPI)
 - 1. Measures differences between nations
 - 2. Three measures of deprivation
 - a. Life
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Living standards
- XI. U.S. Measures of Poverty
 - A. Poverty Threshold
 - 1. 3 times the minimum cost of adequate diet
 - 2. Should be 5 times
 - 3. Poverty threshold higher in Alaska and Hawaii
- XII. Theories: Economic Inequality and Poverty
 - A. Structural-functionalist
 - 1. Inequality is functional
 - a. Davis-Moore Thesis: Low-paying jobs
 - i. "Poverty industry" jobs
 - ii. Market for inferior goods
 - B. Criticisms of structural-functionalism
 - 1. Important roles poorly paid

- 2. Nonessential roles earn high incomes
- 3. Ignores role of inheritance

XIII. Economic Inequality and Poverty

- A. Institutional breakdown
 - 1. Lack of jobs
 - 2. Lack of access to adequate education
 - 3. Lack of intact families
 - 4. Lack of government support
- B. Culture of poverty (Lewis)
 - Female headed homes
 - 2. Instant gratification
 - 3. Lack of participation
 - 4. Critique
 - a. Blames the victim
- XIV. Theories: Economic Inequality and Poverty
 - A. Social conflict
 - 1. Economic inequality
 - a. Bourgeoisie exploiting proletariat
 - 2. "Wealthfare"
 - a. Low interest loans, subsidies and tax breaks
- XV. Theories: Economic Inequality and Poverty
- A. Symbolic interaction
- B. Labeled Stigmatized
 - 1. "Poor" and "on welfare"
 - a. lazy, irresponsible, lacking motivation, ability, and morality
 - 2. Wealthy persons
 - a. capable, hard working, motivated, deserving of wealth
 - 3. Wealth and poverty differ across societies and time
- XVI. Wealth, Economic Inequality and Poverty in the US

Notes for Sociology – 2010-02-22

- A. Wealth in the US
 - 1. Wealth total assets of individual or household, minus liabilities (debts)
 - 2. Not "rich" or "poor", but rather "total debt is more than total assets" or "total assets is more than total debt"
- XVII. Wealth, Economic Inequality and Poverty in the US
 - A. Age and poverty
 - 1. Children
 - a. 2006: 35% of US poor people are children (DeNavas et. al)
 - b. Highest of all Western industrialized countries
- XVIII. Poverty and Economic Inequality
 - A. Substandard housing
 - B. Homelessness
 - 1. Over 2 million homeless in US
- C. Intergenerational poverty
- D. Feminization of poverty -----slide 37
- E. Education problems and
- XIX. Welfare Myths and Realities
 - A. (see page 239 in book)

XX.

XXI. End.