

# AGE STRATIFICATION



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# AGE STRATIFICATION

**In sociology, age stratification refers to the ranking of people into age groups within a society.**

**Age stratification could also be defined as a system of inequalities linked to age. This is a sociological concept that comes with studying aging population.**

### **IMPORTANT AGE GROUPS**

- **Childhood**
- **Adolescence**
- **Adulthood**
- **Middle age**
- **Old age**

## Key Points

- Age is socially constructed because concepts of age vary around the world.
- Different cultures fix age with different meanings and different values.
- Eastern cultures tend to highly value age and wisdom, while Western cultures tend to highly value youth.
- In Western societies, people take extra measures to appear younger than their biological age.

## Key Term

- **social construction:** A concept or practice that is the construct of a particular group, meaning that the concept or practice is understood differently by various groups and institutions.



**Attitudes to age vary between cultures. In some societies like Chinese, Indian or Pakistanis, old people have high status as elders of the family.**



**In modern industrial societies pursuing youthful looks or looking younger is a common practice.**



## **Q: What is ageism?**

Ageism is the stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups on the basis of their age; ageism can take many forms, including prejudicial attitudes, discriminatory practices, or institutional policies and practices that perpetuate stereotypical beliefs.

# **Class Inequality**

**Social class: In modern industrialized societies, the dominant form of social stratification is social class. It is an open system of division consisting of broad groups of people who share a similar economic situation such as occupation, income and ownership of wealth.**

**In modern industrial societies, the class structure is divided into three broad groups**

- a. The upper class**
- b. The middle class**
- c. The working class**

# The Upper Class





# **The upper class**

**The highest or the most superior class of the society that is wealthy enough not to need to work. There exist further groups within upper class and it appears all groups in upper class possess similar wealth or possession and same life style. These groups are:**

- The traditional aristocracy / the landlords**
- Media and entertainment personalities/pop aristocracy**
- The owners of industry and commerce**

# The traditional aristocracy / the landed class



# Media personalities





# The business class/ Owners of industries and commerce





**These extremely rich groups remain rich over a long time as they share these attributes**

- They are powerful in terms of wealth and influence**
- Pass on wealth from one generation to the next**
- Are linked with each other due to intermarriage and mutual benefit**
- Pass on cultural and social capital**
- Appointments of family members in senior positions because of strong family backgrounds / schooling in the best institutes due to same reasons**



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# Middle Class

The following factors are associated to describe this class more clearly.

- Attainment of higher education
- Holding professional qualification in law, engineering , accounts, medicine or so on
- Belief in middle class (bourgeois) values such as house ownership, good life style, secure jobs etc. There are various subdivisions within the middle class.

- 1. The petty bourgeoisie (old middle class)**
- 2. The upper middle class**
- 3. The lower middle class**

# petty bourgeoisie



**I ❤️ MY  
BOSS!**  
(I'm self employed)



# UPPER MIDDLE CLASS

ECONOMISTS GROSS HOUSEHOLD  
SUBDIVISIONS OPTIMISTS TRUSTS VIL LIVES DEMOCRATIZING  
PARANCISS CONFERENCE MAJORITY DEGREE OF GREAT  
EDUCATION IN LEARNING CHANGING COURSE WORK PARTNERS UNCLE SURE  
RESULT EMPLOYMENT BOROUGH SUPERPEOPLE DOMINANT  
POLITICAL LOW INFLUSTRAL STATUS  
SOLUTION RED TOP



# Lower Middle Class



**Proletarianisation has led to the poverty of this class as well as deskilling**

## **The working class**

The working class or labour class means the people employed for wages especially in manual labour occupations and in skilled industrial work. Sometimes, the jobs done by working class are also referred to as

**'blue collar jobs'**. The working class is usually divided into three categories.

- Skilled
- Semiskilled
- Unskilled

The division in working class has also occurred

- 1. The new working class (Affluent worker)**
- 2. The Underclass**





**Blue collar worker**





# The new working class



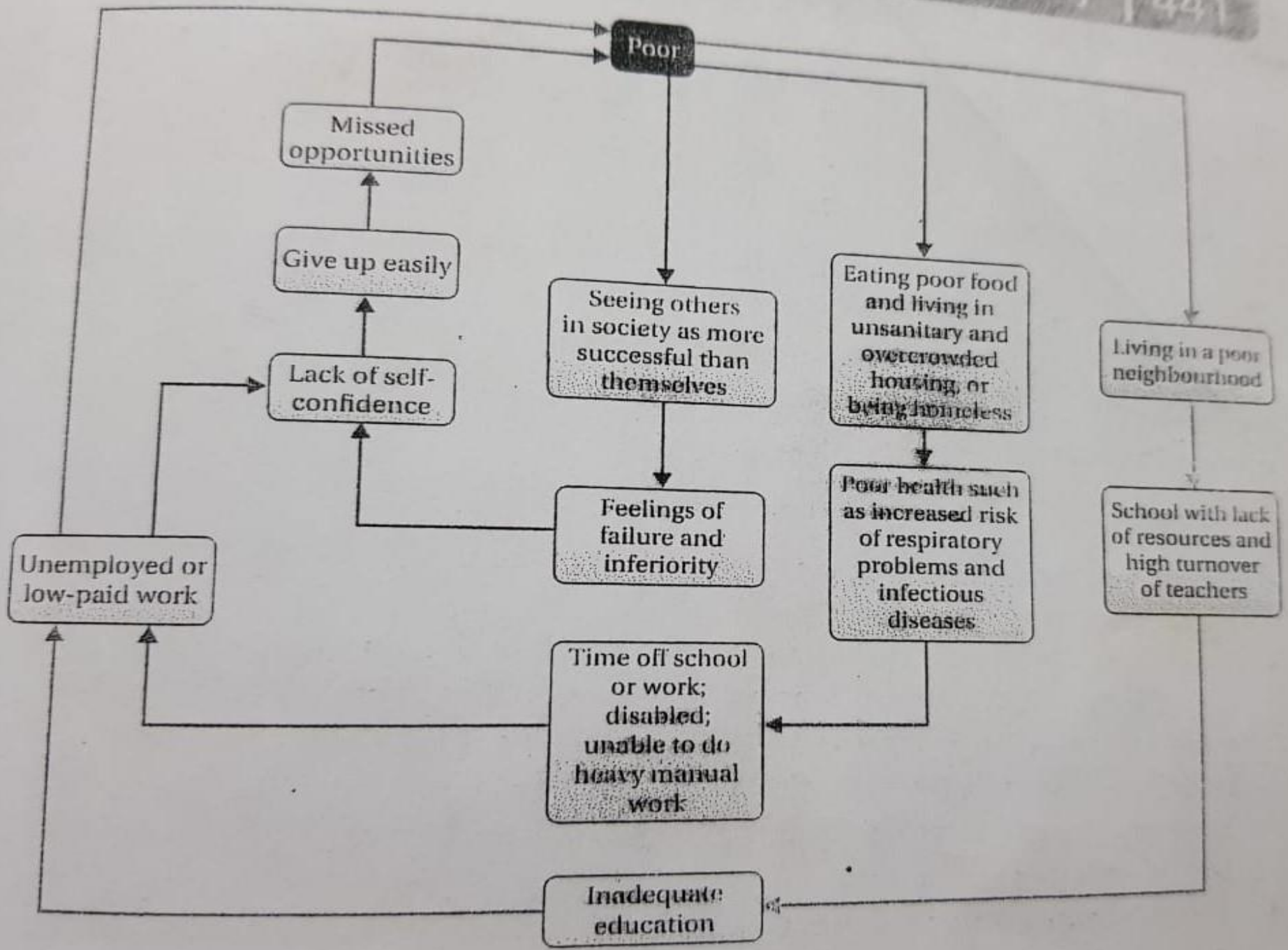
**EMBOURGEOISEMENT**



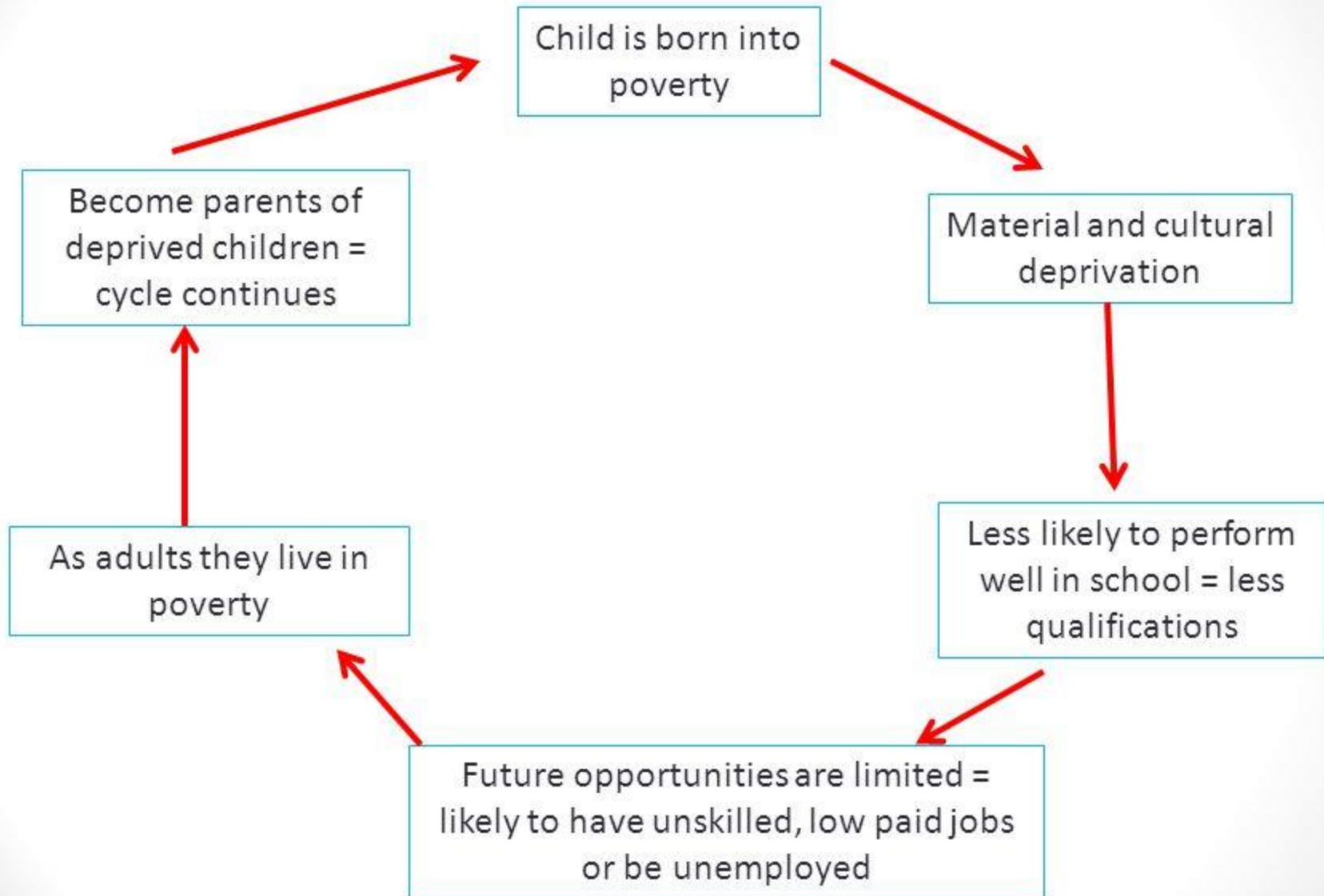


# The under class





# Cycle of deprivation





# IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION



**The desire to experience pleasure  
or fulfillment without delay**