

Social Diversity

Sociology promotes understanding and tolerance of others and instructs us to look beyond intuition, so-called common sense, and limited individual past experiences. The sociological perspective, while acknowledging that we are all unique individuals, holds that we are shaped by our social environment and our various group memberships. The sociological perspective also advances the notion that we can best understand ourselves, and our place in society, if we understand diverse groups. It is important to note, however, that if we only focus on the differences between people, we will fail to take note of the similarities between them. By acknowledging such similarities, it may become possible to achieve greater harmony among the diverse people of the world.

Many social constructs lead to the formation of diverse groups, including religion, gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, social class, and so on.

For now, it is important to note that the examination of diverse groups provides insights into how society is socially arranged and whether some group members or individuals are being treated fairly. People who are not treated equally experience social marginality. **Social marginality** refers to members who are not fully entrenched in society. Such people are excluded from full participation in mainstream society

As we have seen in this discussion, sociology originated in the ideas of the Enlightenment and empirical science, which challenged the traditions and faith that had previously dominated European thinking. In the eighteenth century, political revolutions and the Industrial Revolution brought about social changes that inspired the commitment to moral reform that would become the cornerstone of sociology. The commitment among sociologists to ensure that the rights of all people are protected has led to sociology's appreciation of social diversity and equality for all.

Connecting Sociology to our lives: An introduction to Sociology, by: Tim Delaney