Cheatography

Marxists view of the family Cheat Sheet

by asweetnam673 via cheatography.com/203589/cs/43387/

Introduction

-Many views have come from Karl Marx, his ideas inspired for the foundation for communist society

-Marxists is a structural conflict perspective

-The traditional Marxist view on families is that they perform a role not for everyone in society but for capitalism and the ruling class (the bourgeoisie)

-In many ways Marxism and functionalists say very similar things about families: both recognise that the family passes on idea and values and both see the family members as part of a economic unit.

-Difference is that marxists think the family is bad for society.

Conclusion

To conclude, Marxist views have strengths such as offering an explanation as to why families first developed in society as to fit the needs of a capitalist society.

-The main idea is that the family is in place in order to benefit the capitalist society.

-it can’t be criticised as a family is seen in terms of an economic relationship to society, and this may be seen as to simplistic.

-Family acts as a unit of consumption and teachers passive acceptance of hierarchy. It is also the institution through which the wealthy pastor and their private property to their children Thos reproducing class inequality.

-Nuclear family performs ideological functions for capitalism.

Criticism

-focused on class inequality and overlooks other inequalities.

-only looks at economic relationships and overlooked the range of reasons for their actions.

Socialise children into a capital society

family is a unit of consumption (cont)

2. Pester power, ads by companies in media targets children.

Criticisms: Feminists critise the view of the family serving only the interests of the bourgeoisie, believing that the family serve the interests of men rather than the bourgeoisie.

Ensure women are controlled

Men can relieve frustrations (cont)

-Through this children are also taughtthe passive acceptance of the hierarchy and socialised into accepting capitalist values

-Zaretsk's cushioning effect is similar to Parson's theory of the Warm Bath Theory in the family acts as a relief from social stress and tension.

Critisisms: Zaretsky's theory is clearly outdated, it assumes the worker is amle and that there is only one worker in the family. It also ignores other benefits that the family gets from family life e.g emotional support, comfort and generally the positive benefits.

Inheritance of wealth

They believe that the purpose of the family is to socialise children into th norms of capitalist society through the acceptance that the father is dominant and in control.

-through this they are learning that there are positions of power in the capitalist society e.g principle, teacher, pupils in education.

-teaching children to accept inequality (Althusser).

-Althusser argued the key function of the family is to teach the next generation to obey and submit to the upper class i.e the bourgeoisie.

-Proletariat families are taught norms and values that correspond to this for example they will never be rich they have no chance of social mobility and they must obey their employers i.e the bourgeoisie in order to keep their jobs and survive.

-Althusser believes that the role of family is to produce a submissive workforce.

- the family is described as an ideological apparatus, it socialises people to think in a way that justifies inequality and encourages people to accept the capitalist systems as fair, natural and unchangeable- simuular to roles in family which mirrors hierarchy.

criticisms: it is too deterministic as it assumes people accept socialisation and family life and that future is pre-determinded. There are plenty of families who bring their children up as idependent.

family is a unit of consumption

family is a unit of consumption as they purchase goods and services.

-Marxists believe that the nuclear family performs ideological functions for capitalism because of this, also generate profits for the bourgeoisie.

-in order to make profit capitalists must create demand for their products, family builds demand for goods in number of ways:

1. Families must keep up with material goods/services aquired by their neighbours&peers e.g holidays.

Marxist theory believe the purpose of the family is to ensurethat women are controlled.

-Women carry out many unpaid jobs in daily life, common examples being cooking, cleaning and childcare.

-This labour us unpaid but families still support other workers therefore benefitting capitalism.

-Marxist feminists explain that the unpaid labour of women is a way to exploit them and it is done for free thereofre benefits both men and the capitalist society.

-Capitalism would not exist withoutn this unpaid labour because workers would not be able to take care of their children and the house.

-This prevents women from having a personal life, so they are therefore controlled.

Critisisms: this is outdated, the idea of the 'New Man' who helps with housework and childcare; more women going out to work.

Men can relieve frustrations

Marxists believe that the family has the purpose of being the place where men can relieve their frustrations after a stressful and unpleasent day at work.

-This is so they are able to return to work feeling refreshed and therefore contribute to capitalism.

-This is known as the functionalist 'warm bath theory.'

-Fran Ashley who is a Marxist Feminist believe when wives play their traditional troles as 'takers of shit' they often absorb their husbands legitimate anger and frustration in a way which poses no challenge to the system.

Engels argued that the family had a clear economic function for capitalism by ensuring that wealth remained in the hands of the bourgeoisie.

Family relations, based on the clear legal contrast facilitate inheritance and therefore when rick people die it is their children who keep hold of their wealth.

-For Engels, family is all about blood lines and proof of parentage,

-Engels believes family has developed to become monogomous to ensure that family wealth is inherited.

-A monogomous relationship ensures child paternity and therefore assurance that the wealth will remain within the family.

-This enables Bourgeoisie families to remain wealth and continue to rule over the proletariat and maintain class injustice.

Criticisms: This can be criticised as nowadays achieved status through hard work and determination is more valued than ascribed status that has been passed down. Functionalists would also critixised this as they believe the family performs positive functions.

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