

SIXTH EDITION

**THE SOCIOLOGY
OF EDUCATION**
A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS

Jeanne H. Ballantine
Wright State University

Floyd M. Hammack
New York University



Upper Saddle River, New Jersey 07458

CONTENTS

Preface *xiii*

Chapter 1 Sociology of Education: A Unique Perspective for Understanding Schools 1

Sociology and Education 1

Why Study Sociology of Education? 2

Questions Asked by Sociologists of Education 5

U.S. Schools in the Early Twenty-First Century: Applying Sociological Findings 6

Demographic Trends 7

Family, Economic, and Social Trends 8

Schools in the New Century 10

Reform and Policy in Educational Systems 11

American Sociology of Education 11

Theoretical Approaches in the Sociology of Education 12

Functionalist Theory 13

Conflict Theory 17

Interaction and Interpretive Theories 19

Recent Theories in the Sociology of Education:
*Critical, "New," and Postmodern
Theories* 21

Feminist Theories in Sociology of Education 23

The Open Systems Approach 24

Research Methods in Sociology of Education 29

Organization of the Book 31

Summary 31 • *Sample study questions
in sociology of education* 33 • *Putting
sociology to work* 33

Chapter 2 Conflicting Functions and Processes in Education: What Makes the System Work? 35

Conflicting Functions of Education 35

Unanticipated Consequences of Functions 37

| | |
|--|----|
| The Importance of Processes in Educational Systems | 37 |
| The Function of Socialization: What We Learn and How We Learn It | 38 |
| The Early Childhood Education Controversy | 38 |
| Role of the Media and Commercials in the function of Socialization | 41 |
| The Function of Cultural Transmission and Process of Passing On Culture | 45 |
| Literacy, Illiteracy, and Cultural Transmission | 45 |
| Some Factors Affecting Learning | 47 |
| How to Pass On Culture | 48 |
| What Culture to Pass On | 49 |
| The Function of Social Control and Personal Development | 58 |
| Violence and Discipline in Schools | 59 |
| The Function of Selection and Allocation: The Sorting Process | 63 |
| The Testing Game | 64 |
| Achievement Tests | 66 |
| The Function of Change and Innovation: Looking to the Future | 69 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 72 |
| <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 73 |

Chapter 3 Education and the Process of Stratification 74

| | |
|---|----|
| The Crisis in Schooling | 74 |
| Education and Stratification in America | 74 |
| Education and Stratification Around the World | 76 |
| The Process of Stratification: Is Inequality Inevitable? | 77 |
| Determinants of Social Class | 78 |
| Major Explanations of Stratification | 81 |
| Stratification and Equality of Educational Opportunity | 87 |
| The Meaning of "Equality of Educational Opportunity" | 87 |
| Social Class Reproduction: The Debate over Public versus Private Schools | 88 |
| The Controversial Issue of "Choice" | 91 |

Ability Grouping and Teacher Expectations 94

Financing Schools in the United States 105

Summary 107 • *Putting sociology to work* 108

Chapter 4 Race, Class, and Gender: Attempts to Achieve Equality of Educational Opportunity 109

Gender and Equality of Educational Opportunity 109

Sex-Role Socialization 110

Sex Differences in the Educational System 113

Combating Gender Differences 121

Class, Race, and Attempts to Rectify Inequalities in Educational Opportunity 122

Trends in Public School Enrollments 122

The Underclass and At-Risk Students 123

Research on Equality of Educational Opportunity 124

The Battle over Desegregation 126

Court Cases on Desegregation 126

Effects of Efforts to Desegregate Schools 129

Student Goals, Aspirations, and Future Prospects 130

Integration Attempts 134

Educational Experience of Selected Minorities in the United States 136

Hispanic Students 137

Immigrants 139

Asian American Students 141

Native American Students 142

Special Education Students 143

Gifted Students 146

Improving Schools for Minority Students 147

Summary 153 • *Putting sociology to work* 154

Chapter 5 The School as an Organization 155

Social System of the School 156

Goals of the School System 157

Societal, Community, and Educators' Goals 158

School Goals 160

Individual Goals 161

- The School as an Organization 162
 - The School as a Bureaucracy 162
 - Characteristics of Bureaucracy 163
 - Development of Schools as Bureaucracies 168
 - Problems in Educational Bureaucracies 169
 - Understanding Schools as Modern Organizations:
Structures and Models 171
- Centralized versus Decentralized Decision Making:
 - The Fight over Control of Schools 175
 - Centralization of Decision Making 175
 - Decentralization of Decision Making 177
 - Small Schools and Classrooms: Are They Better
for Student Achievement? 178
 - Summary 180 • Putting sociology to work 181*

**Chapter 6 Formal School Statuses and Roles:
"The Way It Spozed to Be" 183**

- The Meaning of Roles 183
 - Statuses and Roles in the System 183
 - The School Organization and Roles 184
 - Role Expectations and Conflict 184
- Professionals in the Educational System 185
- Roles in Schools 187
 - School Boards: Liaison Between School
and Community 187
 - Superintendent: Manager of the School System 193
 - The Principal: School Boss-in-the-Middle 195
 - Teachers: The Front Line 199
 - Support Roles in the School: Behind the Scenes 211
 - Summary 214 • Putting sociology to work 215*

Chapter 7 Students: The Core of the School 216

- Student Characteristics 216
 - Expectations for the Student Role 218
 - Learning the Student Role 220
 - Conflicting Expectations for the Student Role 221
 - Student Coping Mechanisms 222
- School Failures and Dropouts 223

| | |
|---|-----|
| Who Drops Out? | 223 |
| Why Students Drop Out | 227 |
| Gangs and Schools | 228 |
| School Crime and Violence | 230 |
| Retention and Suspension: School Reactions to Problem Students | 231 |
| Adolescent Employment and Dropping Out of School | 232 |
| The Future for Dropouts | 233 |
| Criticisms of the Student Role | 235 |
| Students and the Informal System | 237 |
| Student's Self-Concept | 237 |
| School Value Climate and Student Achievement | 238 |
| Teacher and Student Expectations | 240 |
| Peer Groups and Student Culture | 240 |
| Student Coping Strategies | 244 |
| Students and Their Environments | 247 |
| Effects of Home Environment on Educational Achievement | 247 |
| Family Background and Parental Involvement | 249 |
| Social Class Background | 250 |
| Parenting Styles | 251 |
| Family Aspirations | 251 |
| Single-Parent Homes | 252 |
| The Role of Mothers | 252 |
| The Number of Siblings | 253 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 254 |
| • <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 256 |

Chapter 8 The Informal System and the "Hidden Curriculum": What Really Happens in School? 257

| | |
|---|-----|
| The Open Systems Approach and the Informal System | 258 |
| The Hidden Curriculum | 259 |
| Reproduction Theory and the Informal System | 260 |
| The Educational "Climate" and School Effectiveness | 262 |
| The Value Climate | 263 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| The School Climate and Effective Schools | 264 |
| Classroom Learning Climate | 266 |
| Student Friendship and Interaction Patterns in the Classroom | 268 |
| Power Dynamics and Roles in the Informal System | 275 |
| Theoretical Explanations of Power Dynamics in the Classroom | 275 |
| Teacher Strategies and the Informal System | 277 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 280 |
| <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 281 |

**Chapter 9 The Educational System
and the Environment: A Symbiotic
Relationship 282**

| | |
|---|-----|
| The Environment and the Educational System | 283 |
| Types of Environments | 284 |
| The School Systems' Environments: Interdependence Between Institutions | 286 |
| Home and Family Influences on Schools | 286 |
| The Institution of Religion: Church and State | 288 |
| The Economics of Education: Financing Schools | 295 |
| The Political and Legal Institutions | 301 |
| Communities and Their Schools | 304 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 306 |
| <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 307 |

Chapter 10 The System of Higher Education 308

| | |
|---|-----|
| History and Development of Higher Education | 308 |
| Historical Functions of Higher Education | 309 |
| Trends in Development of Higher Education | 310 |
| Theoretical Approaches to Higher Education | 315 |
| The Expansion of Higher Education | 315 |
| Access to Higher Education | 316 |
| Stratification and Equal Opportunity in Higher Education | 317 |
| Elite versus Public Colleges | 318 |
| Admissions and the Courts | 319 |
| Characteristics of Higher Education in the United States | 321 |
| Growth of Higher Education | 323 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| The School-to-Work Transition and the Credential Crisis | 323 |
| Functions of the Higher Education System | 324 |
| The University as a Community | 324 |
| The Function of Research | 325 |
| The Function of Teaching | 325 |
| The Function of Service | 326 |
| The Function of the “National Security State” | 326 |
| Conflicts over the University’s function | 327 |
| The Academic Function of Universities versus Business Functions | 327 |
| What Type of Curriculum? | 329 |
| Higher Education as an Organization | 331 |
| Higher Education Structure and the Bureaucratic Model: Does It Work? | 331 |
| Roles in Higher Education | 334 |
| Roles in Higher Education: The Clients | 334 |
| Gender and Race in Higher Education | 335 |
| The Graying of College Graduates | 342 |
| Roles in Higher Education: The Faculty | 343 |
| Faculty Issues in Higher Education | 345 |
| Roles in Higher Education: Administrators | 348 |
| Environmental Pressures on Higher Education | 349 |
| Funding of Higher Education | 350 |
| The Courts and Affirmative Action | 352 |
| Environmental Feedback and Organizational Change | 354 |
| Outcomes of Higher Education | 355 |
| Higher Education: Attitudes, Values, and Behaviors | 355 |
| The Value of a College Education | 356 |
| Problems and Reform in Higher Education | 358 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 359 |
| • <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 361 |

Chapter 11 Educational Systems Around the World: A Comparative View 362

| | |
|---|-----|
| Cross-cultural Educational Studies | 364 |
| Comparative Education as a Field of Study | 365 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Comparative Education and the Systems Approach | 366 |
| Cross-cultural Studies of Educational Systems: Achievement Studies | 367 |
| Comparative International Studies of Achievement | 368 |
| Theoretical Perspectives in Comparative Education | 372 |
| Human Capital Perspectives | 374 |
| “Legitimation of Knowledge” Perspective | 377 |
| Rich versus Poor: An Educational Typology | 378 |
| World System Analysis | 381 |
| Global Institutional Interdependence | 383 |
| Education and the Institution of Religion | 384 |
| Family, Social Class, and Education | 385 |
| Education and Economic Institutions | 386 |
| Political–Economic Divisions Between Societal Systems | 389 |
| Higher Education Around the World | 392 |
| <i>Summary</i> | 396 |
| <i>Putting sociology to work</i> | 397 |

Chapter 12 Educational Systems Around the World: Britain, China, and Postcolonial Africa 398

| | |
|--|-----|
| Education in Britain | 399 |
| Development of Education in Britain | 400 |
| Control and Decision Making in British Education | 402 |
| Structure of the British Educational System | 402 |
| Composition of British Schools | 403 |
| Exams and Credentials | 403 |
| Inequality in Education and Occupational Mobility | 404 |
| Higher Education in Great Britain: Elite versus Mass Education | 404 |
| Education in the People’s Republic of China | 406 |
| Recent Historical Events Affecting Education | 406 |
| The Drive Toward Modernization | 407 |
| Equality of Educational Opportunity | 408 |
| Status and Structure of Education in China | 408 |
| Higher Education in the PRC | 409 |
| Formal Education in Colonial Africa | 411 |

Education in Ghana 412
 History of Education in Ghana 413
 Forms of Education 414
 Nonformal Education in Africa 415
 Structure of the Ghanaian Educational System 416
 Equality of Opportunity in Ghanaian Education 416
 Higher Education in Postcolonial Africa 417
Summary 419 • Putting sociology to work 419

Chapter 13 Educational Movements and Reform 420

The Nature of Educational Movements 422
 Early Educational Movements 425
 Early European Education: Purpose and Function
 for Society 425
 Educational Movements in the United States 426
 Alternative Education and Related Movements 429
 Third World Alternative Educational Movements 430
 English Primary Schools 431
 Open Classrooms 432
 Back to Basics 433
 Private Schools 434
 Accountability Movements 435
 Effective Schools and Educational Reform 437
 Structural and Curricular Changes in the Schools 438
 The “School Choice” Movement 438
 “Multiculturalism” and “Political Correctness” 440
 Technology and the Classroom 442
 No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 443
 Other Movements, Reforms, and Fads 444
 A Look Into the Future 446
 Summary 447 • Putting sociology to work 448

References 450

Index 484