ECSO4001

- Apply a theory to explain social exclusion in a real-life situation

Assignment 2. 2308058

Introduction

Hello, My name is Christine.

Today, in this presentation we will be exploring Conflict Theory in order to explain social exclusion in a real life situation.

The chosen real life situation we will be looking at it homelessness.

Keypoints

- What is Conflict theory
- Karl Marx and Max Weber
- What is social exclusion
- Homelessness – who are most vulnerable, why people are homeless and some statistic and legislation

What is Conflict Theory

Karl Marx first developed this theory.

He believed that rather than social order being maintained by consensus and conformity, it is led by power and domination, such as those with wealth will oppress the poor. The wealth being seen as powerful, whereas the poor as seen as powerless.

(Hayes, A. 2023)

Marxism

- Marx’s Explanation!

(Giddens, A. and Sutton, P. 2020. P. 486)

Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

- Haralambos and Holburn (2008. P. 26) explain that during this capalist era these classes were also known as Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.

Max Weber

- Dillon, M. (2014. P. 119-145) states that Max Weber, also shared views on the structure of capitalism and inequality, much like Karl Marx.

What is Social Exclusion

‘Social exclusion refers to ways in which individuals may become cut off from full participation in the wider society’ Giddens, A. and Sutton, P. (2020. p543)

Some examples of Social Exclusion

Some examples of social exclusion may be:

- Homelessness
- Racism
- Discrimination
- Gender Bias
- Homophobia
- Caste systems and classism
- Stigmatization

(Helpful professor, 2023)

Homelessness

Giddens, A. and Sutton, P. (2020) express that one of the most severe types of social exclusion is HOMELESSNESS!

Crisis also state how the public's attitude and understanding towards homelessness is impacted hugely by media.

Who are most vulnerable?

Giddens, A. and Sutton, P (2020. P. 545) state those who are most vulnerable are those of lower working class backgrounds. Incomes tend to be lower and they potentially have no specific job skills.

Frances, M (2018) relates this to conflict theory in terms that the homeless are seen by those who are better off as less educated and less motivated and happy to live off the welfare.

Frances states it is seen in a capitalist society that hard work, determination and most importantly education is the way to secure wealth.

Why are people homeless?

- There are many reasons people become homeless and there are two different aspects of being homeless.

Statistics

Geraghty, L. (2023) states the most recent count taken in August 2023, of people sleeping rough in Wales is 167.

Welsh Government (2023) States that in February 2023 the amount of individuals in temporary accommodation was 9601. They state that this is an increase of 191 from the previous month.

Legislation

- Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 it is stated that suitable accommodation needs to be available to occupants via an application if that the applicant is homeless and eligible for help. The act states Local housing authorities must help to secure this.

Conclusion

- To conclude we have seen how conflict theory can be related to homelessness currently.
- Capitalism can be seen particularly in relation to lack of affordable housing for the lower class people. There is an increase in prices of rental properties , making those on lower incomes poorer and potentially loosing their homes, therefore resulting in them becoming homeless.

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