**Origin of disparities**

* Explain disparities and inequities that occur within countries resulting from ethnicity, residence, parental education, income, employment (formal and informal) and land ownership.

Income inequality:

**Gini coefficient:** Measures the extent of income equality within a country and analyses change of inequality over time. Can be used on several scales. A lower Gini coefficient means that income is distributed more evenly. Generally more affluent nations have a lower income gap. Lowest value is Denmark with 0.232.

1. Means perfect equality.
2. Means perfect inequality.

Economic recessions often impact people on low incomes more heavily and therefor the wealth gap increases. Education availability also influences the wealth gap. A too high wealth gap can cause social unrest.

In most countries the economic gap has increased, with the rich benefiting from economic growth more than the poor. The income gap generally increased between the rural and urban population.

Residence:

Focuses on regional disparities, urban/rural disparities and intra-urban contrasts.

**Cumulative causation:**

* Pre-industrial stage when regional differences are minimal
* Period of rapid economic growth characterized by increasing regional economic divergence
* Wealth generated in affluent regions spreads to other areas of the country

Intra-urban variations:

Growing population and economic inequality lead to the urbanization of poverty. Urban poverty has its main causes in **low income**, **low human capital** (health and education), **low social capital** (exclusion) and **low financial capital** (lack of productive and helpful assets).

Slums (heavily populated urban areas with substandard housing and insecurity) occur mainly in peripheral towns and inner cities. 32% of the world’s population (almost 1 billion) lives in slums, mainly in developing countries but also in large cities in developed countries. Without significant global action the number of slum dwellers will double over the next 30 years.

Ethnicity:

Discrimination limits the economic, social and political opportunities available to the disadvantaged groups. These status differences can cause tensions between majority and minority groups, resulting in social unrest, migration or new political movements. In South Africa, the inequalities originate from the Apartheid era.

Employment:

**Formal sector:** Jobs known to the government, usually established companies. They pay taxes have a high job security and better wages.

**Informal sector:** Operating outside official recognition (no tax payments), usually services. Characteristics are low wages, low job security and temporary or part time jobs.

As seen in the example of Bolivia, people with less economic opportunities, low skills and a less developed background tend to work in the informal sector, as there are no skill or educational requirements.

Education:

Investment in education results in better paid employment and decreasing family size (especially in developed countries). Smaller families make saving and investing easier.

Disparity in educational attainment and availability is one of the main causes of disparity in wealth and income.

Land ownership:

Even a small area of land provides a certain level of security and economic possibility. The distribution of land has a major impact on disparities in many countries.

Gender:

Global gender gap index 2006:

* Health & survival
* Educational attainment
* Economic participation
* Political empowerment

Top 5: Nordic countries

Bottom: Chad

Shows trends in societies. For example, Saudi Arabia has the most change in economic participation.

Criticism:

Measured in numbers. Life expectancy doesn’t represent quality of life and social status is difficult to quantify.

Female genital mutilation includes procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Tackling Gender inequality: **HERProject**

Education for female factory workers in Bangladesh on nutrition, hygiene and health.