

# Socio economic inequality



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Today, there is still an increase in the socio-economic inequality all over the world. Countries big or small experience this certain issue despite of the development they have already attained. For all countries, it is true that there will always be a problem which would be a hindrance to their economic success and development.

The need for it to be catered to and solved is a call not only to those who are in high authority but mainly society.

To further explain socio-economic inequality as an issue, we are going to illustrate the history, the evolution, the current situation and the effect of socio-economic inequality specifically in China and its general regions and cities. As CAD students, the important keys needed in taking and pursuing in this career is knowledge and awareness. We need to understand how everything around us is interrelated and significant with one another. In this paper, we will also explain how the role of geography affects the emergence of socio-economic inequality in China.

II.

Background of the Topic Based on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [COED] (2008), the issue evolved in the mid 1980s when two unequal and poorest countries were observed a substantial increase in inequality, and eventually throughout 1990s in the United Kingdom, became stable and fell again in the 2000 to 2005. According to Sending and Catchalls (1995) as cited in Moss), despite the rapid increase in the number of economic developed countries, the gap in income between the richest, poorest societies and countries still continued to widen.

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Proving this case based on the United Nations Development Program (LIKED), (1999), in fact, 20% of the world's people had 30 times the income of the poorest 20% and almost doubled until 1997 when it goes 74 times higher. The concentration of wealth at the very top is part of a much broader rise in disparities all along the income distribution.

The best-known way of measuring inequality is the Gini coefficient. It indicates and shows the gap between the people's income into a single measure. If everyone in a group has the same income, the Gini coefficient is 0; if all income goes to one person, it is 1. (Bodies, 2012) Figure 1. Source: COED Income Distribution Database, via [www](http://www.coed.org)'.

[Coed. Org/social/ inequality. Tm](http://www.coed.org/social/inequality); except top 1% income shares from World Top Incomes Database. [Http://www. Coed. Org/social/inequality](http://www.coed.org/social/inequality).

Tm III. Case study Socio-economic inequality has been a global issue as far as it could be traced back in history. To give better explanation of the emergence and existence of this problem, we chose to illustrate and present the country of China. China, also known as the Asian giant country that has a relatively good economic progress, and is one of the richest countries in the world experiences socio- economic inequality.

According to Lines (2008), despite the better economic standing and performance of China, severe poverty still remains and exists at this time. In fact, 300 million people in China living with a less than 1 \$ per day on a APP. (Kidded, 2007; DAB, 2007; p. 24) Additional information that proves China experiences this kind of inequality is the uneven economic development that happened in ' post- Mao China' because of a new reform that prioritize the <https://assignbuster.com/socio-economic-inequality/>

coastal provinces and the beginning of the declining support for the central and western provinces were the poorest regions. Tuberculin, 2006).

Figure 1. 2 Cited in: The Economist (2012) Website: [http://www. Economist. Com/ node/21564414](http://www.Economist.Com/node/21564414) Based on the International Monetary Fund [IMP] and Organization for Economic and Co-operation Development [COED], (2012) data above, China is rd in the standing among the countries next to South Africa and Brilliant experiencing Income Inequality measured by Gin Coefficient.

From the 2010 and the latest data, the income inequality is increasing by reaching now of 0.420 from 0.390 in the sass and so on. It seems that the income distribution in each household do not vary causing an inequality issue. However, regional disparity became a problem in China beyond its gigantic size being the third largest nation in the world covering 9.

6 million square kilometers (Shantung, 2006). According to United Nation Development Programmers Human Development Report (1994), (as cited in Tuberculin, 2006), China is one of the countries that has widening regional gaps on its own state.

China is divided into three regions namely the coastal, central and western regions. Since, the coastal provinces income tripled because and its geographical location became helpful to its development and attraction in foreign trade and relations (Gogh, Lou and GHZ, 2009, p.

33). Additionally, the fastest growth rates were all observed in the coastal regions such as Jiangsu, Guangdong, Fujian, Jiangxi, Henan, Shandong and Shanghai respectively.

However, central provinces is in the middle, slower than the Coastal regions but faster than the western regions. In contrast, the poorer region is in the western provinces where poverty is widespread and remains because of abundant remote and mountainous area and there the minorities group dwell mostly (World Bank, 2009). Source: Image courtesy from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), (2006) website: [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org).

FAO. *China's Rural Development Strategy*. Rome: FAO, 2006. p. 14.

**Contributing Factors** In understanding this case, we would need to lay down information and shareable factors that would give way for us to not only grasp the gathered data but to also sufficiently explain the emergence of socio-economic inequality as an issue in China. We found many factors that influenced and has greatly affected the emergence of socio-economic inequality in China.

First would be the geographic features and division of regions in this country. Having three divisions which is the coastal, central and Western regions, caused an inequality in terms of the progress in the inter-provincial development.

Next would be the cultural aspect of China and the income inequality among the regions. Discussing about the society and economy is important for us to grasp why there is an increase in the inequality that is still

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happening today. In addition to this, an issue in the urban-rural disparity along the province exists.

Rural-urban gap, just like income level is greater in 'inland provinces' (the central and western regions) compared to coastal provinces where almost rural developed places exist anywhere (Gogh, Lou and GHZ 2009, cited in Hannah, E.

C. & Wang, M. , 2010).

The last factor that we found was that the political aspect of the country has an effect to the emergence of this problem. As one of the greatest English essayist, G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936) once quoted "The poor have sometimes objected to being governed badly. The rich have always objected to being governed at all." In other words, the system of the society and its official has a direct effect since the rich class has always the power to govern its state and yet the poor is never (as cited in Inequality.

Org). V.

The Issue from the Geographic Perspective Theory Definition Analysis  
Environmental Determinism Environmental conditions (landforms, climate) strongly affects the way humans think. In the remote and mountainous region, particularly the inland provinces (central and western provinces) became much poorer than those in the coastal region because of the less developed and mere infrastructures in the place. Moreover, the cold climate (particularly in Tibet and Gaining) is also a hindrance to the survival of the people there. (Shantung, 2006).

Environmental Possibility Social conditions primarily drive the evolution of human culture whereas humans have a free will to make his/her own 'choice', while the environment sets only the limitation if they will respond to it. Because of the densely populated urban along the coastline, more Han people are now migrating to the west part of the country where they mix with the other minority nationalities in the region particularly in the Gaining, Gazing (Tibet) and other southwestern provinces. (Tuberculin, 2006).

Cultural Determinism The human culture is affected by its economic, social, and political aspect of its environment.

The unequal distribution of income within the regions; the post- Mao period and the different campaigns, policies and reforms imposed by the government to reduce inequality failed.

( Edmonds, 2006) Cultural Ecology The human culture is developed by interacting with its physical and biological environment. The regions along the coastline in China, for example Beijing, is more productively contributing to the country's economy where they are developed in the skill of trading in the South China Sea (West Philippine Sea) and along the Yawning River.

VI. Strength and Limitations: Geography as we all know, is the study of the relationship between humans and the environment they live in. The advantages given in using the geographic features of a country in discussing issues is that it helps get to the tot or history of how it began. Geography involves not only the study of formation of landscapes and distance in location of countries, but it also branches out to topics that are interrelated to this such as the culture, the people and the political views of a country.

In analyzing issues, we realized that geography plays a big role in explaining how and why things were back then, and how they are now. We also understood that geography is a factor that influenced in the growth and evolution of society and culture. Having so, we learned that geography is very important because the knowledge you gain s a great understanding of how everything around us related and significant with one another. For us, the things that geography fails to entirely explain in this study are the political stand of a country, and inequality itself as an emerging issue.

The economy and the culture of a country are factors that influence the political stand of a country'. Meanwhile, adding the society into the list, it makes as a great factor in the emergence of inequality.

These factors can be supported by the use of the study of geography but it is not sufficient to entirely explain the political views of countries and the existence f inequality today. VI. Conclusion Geography is an important key-actor in explaining and understanding the issues around the globe.

It is not only a study that would be able to help us in locating specific places of regions and states, but it also illustrates or draws a bridge to the current situation Of a country to its past.

Through this, we are able to connect as to why and how things resulted to what they are. In this study, we have used the geographic features of China in order to show how it shaped not only its society and their cultural aspect but its effect also to their economy. It has affected it considering the unfair distribution of income in an urban, rural and ethnic society.



Because of this, arouse an issue which is the socio-economic inequality. The importance of having knowledge about geography, or the geographical locations and features of countries helps us in seeing and be better in analyzing problems and issues that we have in the world today. Having so, we would then know how to strategies and come up with a possible solution.

This knowledge can not only be of help to our everyday lives and in traveling, but in solving bigger problems, problems that until now are still unsolved. VII. Sources Works Cited Emily C.