

# Sociological imagination essays example

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Simply put, sociological imagination refers to the unique insight that is often given by the sociological discipline. The sociological imagination dictates that in the process of making decisions, the thinking process should be done in a manner that does not reflect the familiar routines of the day to day activities. As such, the thinking process must be made by individuals through detaching themselves from the expectations of the society. To some extent, this term has a similar meaning to sociological perception. In the modern world, many people have given several meanings to sociological imaginations. However, they all connote a situation whereby individuals get to make decisions independently in a unique manner.

Sociological imagination is defined a process through which a sociologist sees something that is common in a different manner from the societal expectations. In essence, this theory is against the generalization of issues in the society and stereotyping. Providing a unique insight to an issue by concentrating on the individual uniqueness to give a different perspective gives the society a chance to discover the factors that are always ignored when making decisions. In the day to day activities that humans engage themselves in, sociological imagination plays a crucial role. One of such uses of the sociological imagination is that the sociologists get a chance to look at the generalized concepts and develop a more concrete one against the people's expectations. This uniqueness in perspective gives rise to new thinking methods in the society, which may be positive in the long run. Of major importance to sociological perspective is personal choice, which helps an individual develop the sociological imagination.

Despite the fact that sociological imagination is based on the personal choices that the people have, external factors sometimes play a crucial role

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in shaping it. In essence, all sociologists, and human beings in that matter, belong to one society or another. Societal norms have the impact of shaping the manner that people think about certain perspectives. In most cases, the social norms interfere with individual decision making. This is because exposing one to certain aspects of life at their early lives will enhance their beliefs in it, hence it becomes difficult for them to think contrary to what they are already aware of. Despite arguments proposing that situations should be interpreted free from any interference, environmental and societal factors have always determined the manner in which people make decisions.

For a long time, sociologists have found it difficult to agree on a common definition of sociological imagination. However, all those that have been given tend to meet a certain threshold, in that the concept should give rise to a certain insight detached from the group way of thinking. Because of this license to wander, a sociologist might interpret a situation in a different manner from another sociologist interpreting the similar situation. This therefore calls for individuality in decision-making process and the conclusions should be based on the individual's way of thinking.

As a concept in sociology, sociological imagination is shaped by a number of factors which are unique in nature, depending on individual take on some societal issues. For this reason, social imagination is essential in interpreting the relationship between experience and the wider society. Different methods and mechanisms will be employed by different individuals to describe a given situation. The awareness that the interpretation people develop is based on their individual take on an issue encourages them to ignore aspects of generalizing the interpretation process. Most sociologists

tend to separate themselves from the routines of life. Making a sociological imagination should be based on certain sociological questions which should help them to make better decisions.

All said and done, some different sociological questions are taken into account as regards to sociological imagination. The type of social norms that an individual is exposed to plays a crucial role in determining a person's future perspective on certain issues. Due to this reason, for instance, the manner that a Christian will make a decision on a given issue will be very different from that of a non-Christian. Christians will most likely interpret that problems and suffering is brought up by man's failure to live according to God's teachings. This could be due to the reason that they were brought up in a Christian setting and relate everything to religion. A non-Christian, on the other hand, may interpret the similar situation above to have happened in form of accident or bad luck. In essence, the sociological norms and culture that humans are surrounded with play a key role in shaping the sociological imagination.

Decision making by sociologists ought to be independent and the decisions the sociologists make ought to be based on individual interpretation of an issue. Of importance is that this is consistent to the early argument that looking at issues from a unique perspective is essential for sociological imagination. Making a decision depending on the outer look may not be accurate, since looks have tended to deceive at times.

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Sociological imagination has, and can be used in a number of circumstances to relate to the social class inequalities. In essence, the social class inequalities in a particular society determine the manner that an individual is

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treated by the other members in the society. In most cases, the inequalities see members in a given society get undermined because of their low status. For instance, the members who are considered to be poor in the society may see their rights to voting and the freedom to speech challenged by the well doing ones in the society. Sociological imagination plays a major role in determining a society's social inequalities. This is because of the power that different people have to imagine in a unique way, which, as argued early, should wander away from the common beliefs. Sociological imagination means that whereas some people may have a negative perception to some members of the society, some members may have a different opinion. This brings balance within the society. In most cases, the society has different people, who belong to different levels in the economy. Whereas some of the members may be rich, some may not match them. Those that are richer may end up discriminating against the poor ones. All this depends on the individual imaginations that every member has towards a certain issue. The sociological imagination means that all members of a community cannot think equally, each of them will have a different opinion about something. The sociological imagination thereby plays a key role in determining social class inequalities in a given society.

Racial inequality and racial discrimination, in most cases, are as a result of sociological imaginations. As already argued, although sociological imagination means that individuals may interpret different issues independently, there are several factors that may determine or shape a person's way of thinking. The societal norms and the culture that one finds themselves in plays a key role in shaping a person's perception about something. Due to this nature of the sociological imagination, one of its

results is the impact it has on racial inequalities. Racial inequalities mean that some race in the society will either be considered to be superior or inferior to the others, depending on the perception people have towards it. The society in which an individual is born shapes the manner they will consider other people. In such a case, if a child is born to a society in which the racial inequalities are rampant, then they will, in most cases, have the tendency to promote the social inequalities. Those born in societies where all races are treated equal will adopt that tradition and carry that in their imaginations. The role that the sociological imagination plays in shaping the perception that people may have towards the racial inequalities cannot, therefore, be ignored.

On a similar note, gender inequalities and discriminations are also affected. People born in communities in which people from a given gender are considered superior will, no doubt, take that into account when making perceptions to something. It is because of this reason that gender discrimination still exists in the society. In the ancient times, women were considered inferior to men. However, with the modern developments taking shape, different opinions by different people on the gender inequalities have been acted on. Effectively, people from all genders have been considered as being equal. This, to a large extent, can be attributed to the development of the sociological imaginations that gave the people a chance make their own opinions, different from the public expectations.