

Short critical review of an article

Sociology



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Disgusted s: the Making of Middle Identities By Stephanie Lawler Critical Review The present paper aims to estimate the points raised by the authoress in the article under-investigation in order to elaborate the writer's views in the pretext of always existing class discrimination in all human societies since the establishment of very first society on the face of the earth. Lawler (2005, p. 431-32) is of the opinion that every ethno-racial community and social class has established specific body language, taste for dresses, edibles and other activities, which serve as the identification mark for that community, and hence distinguish them from others. The same is applied to the middle and lower strata, difference in style of which not only recognizes the individuals belonging to divergent social strata, but also appears to be distasteful and disgusting for the upper stratum at large. Consequently, the affluent individuals look down upon the strata that are comparatively poorer than them in wealth and resources. Hence, every step taken by them and every fashion and mannerism adopted and observed by the lower classes is abhorred and disliked by the elite due to the very reality that it reflects the style and smell supposed to be belonging to the lower classes. Even their body odour and tattoos etc are also sickening for their delicate aesthetic sense.

The author has cited Pierre Bourdieu's critical appreciation of the aesthetic sense mentioned by Immanuel Kant, according to which, the use of various commodities and wearing of dresses, tattoos and earrings etc represent the taste people have developed in their individual and collective mannerism. However, identification of a cultural trait and characteristics is acknowledged provided it has collectively been adopted by a large proportion of a specific community for a long period of time. The magnitude of the displeasure of the

<https://assignbuster.com/short-critical-review-of-an-article/>

upper stratum towards the lower classes is beyond the race and ethnicity the lower class belongs to. Thus, the white workers are treated in the same manner by the elites as they look down upon the black workers. Renowned writer George Orwell (1975, p. 47) also argues that class discrimination is an inevitable phenomenon for every culture of the globe, which cannot be neglected or eradicated altogether at any cost.

Lawler takes class as the product of long historical process; it is actually the professions of the people, which have given birth to difference in castes, clans, communities and classes. Since specific dress and metal earrings were the source of identity to the working class, the same things are still taken as their identity mark, which are exhibited on media as a mocking and an insulting way. Hence, Lawler also declares media as responsible for increasing the magnitude of such disgust in the mind of the elite class by projecting the activities of the lower class in such a ridiculous way that are the most distasteful for the privileged class. However, it is actually the reflection of the discrimination between the classes, which is presented through media. Raisborough & Adams (2008, p. 31) have also pointed out towards the same bitter reality that the middle and lower classes are the target of mockery at the hands of the upper class.

To conclude, it becomes crystal clear that Lawler has presented true picture of the cultural values prevailing in human societies since ever, where the haves always strive to let down the middle and lower classes by keep them at safe distance from them. The same is the case with the middle class, which treats the poor class in the same manner as the upper class deals with the middle stratum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

<https://assignbuster.com/short-critical-review-of-an-article/>

Lawler, Stephanie (2005) Disgusted Subjects: the Making of Middle-Class Identities. The Editorial Board of The Sociological Review

Raisborough, Jayne & Adams, Matt (2008) Mockery and Morality in Popular Cultural Representations of the White, Working Class. Sociological research Online Volume 13