



# SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY AS A CENTRAL PROBLEM OF MODERN SOCIETY

Sarsenbayeva Mariya Agatovna

The teacher of the

Department of Foreign Languages and

Humanities at Cyber state university

[msarsenbayeva@bk.ru](mailto:msarsenbayeva@bk.ru);

+99890 353 34 37

## Annotation

In particular, this article covers the following: The importance of Social Justice and Equality in Social philosophy; Social justice; social philosophy; equality; substantive equality; Economic inequality issues of social justice; Gender and racial inequalities reflect long histories of discrimination and exclusion.

*Key words:* Social Justice, Equality, Social philosophy, Individuals, extreme inequality, Gender, Economic inequality, racial justice.

## Annotatsiya

Xususan, ushbu maqola quyidagilarni qamrab oladi: Ijtimoiyadolat va tenglikning ijtimoiy falsafadagi ahamiyati; Ijtimoiyadolat; ijtimoiy falsafa; tenglik; moddiy tenglik; Ijtimoiyadolatning iqtisodiy tengsizlik masalalari; Gender va irqiy tengsizlik kamsitish va chetlashtirishning uzoq tarixi.

*Kalit so'zlar:* Ijtimoiyadolat, Tenglik, Ijtimoiy falsafa, Shaxslar, o'ta tengsizlik, Gender, Iqtisodiy tengsizlik, irqiyadolat.

## Аннотация

В статье рассматриваются следующие вопросы: значение социальной справедливости и равенства в социальной философии; социальная справедливость; социальная философия; равенство; содержательное равенство; экономические проблемы неравенства в контексте социальной справедливости; гендерное и расовое неравенство отражают долгую историю дискриминации и исключения.



*Ключевые слова: социальная справедливость, равенство, социальная философия, индивиды, крайнее неравенство, гендер, экономическое неравенство, расовая справедливость.*

Social justice and equality are central concerns of social philosophy. They address how resources, opportunities, rights, and responsibilities should be distributed within society. Philosophers such as John Rawls, Karl Marx, Amartya Sen, and Simone de Beauvoir have offered influential views on what makes a society just and how equality should be understood. Moreover, social justice refers to fairness in social arrangements, ensuring that institutions protect rights and reduce unjust inequalities. It focuses on correcting disadvantages faced by marginalized groups and promoting inclusive participation in social, economic, and political life. Equality recognizes the equal moral worth of all individuals. While it includes equal legal rights, it also requires addressing structural barriers that prevent real fairness.

In social philosophy Social Justice and Equality play important role and these following questions remained crucial relevance: What does a just society look like? Should everyone be treated the same, or should inequalities be corrected? Issues include: Economic inequality Gender and racial justice.

What Does a Just Society Look Like? A just society is one in which basic rights and freedoms are guaranteed to all, and social arrangements are structured to promote fairness and human dignity. According to John Rawls, a just society ensures equal basic liberties for everyone and arranges social and economic inequalities so that they benefit the least advantaged members of society. Justice, in this view, is not merely about legal equality but about fairness in social outcomes [1].

From another perspective, Karl Marx argued that a truly just society would eliminate exploitation and class domination by transforming economic structures that produce inequality. For Marx, justice requires changing the material conditions of life, not merely formal legal rights [2].

Should Everyone be Treated the same, or should inequalities be corrected? Treating everyone exactly the same does not always lead to justice. While formal equality demands



equal treatment under the law, substantive equality recognizes that historical disadvantages and structural barriers prevent certain groups from competing on equal terms.

Amartya Sen argues that justice should focus on expanding people's real freedoms and capabilities, not just providing identical resources. This may require corrective measures such as affirmative action, social welfare programs, and targeted policies to reduce inequality [3].

Thus, inequalities may be justified only if they improve the lives of the disadvantaged, but unjust if they reinforce privilege and exclusion [Rawls].

Economic inequality is one of the most pressing issues of social justice. Large disparities in wealth and income can limit access to education, healthcare, and political influence. Karl Marx viewed economic inequality as the root cause of social injustice, arising from capitalist systems that concentrate wealth in the hands of a few [2]. Modern theorists argue that while some inequality may motivate productivity, extreme inequality undermines social cohesion and democratic equality [1].

Gender and racial inequalities reflect long histories of discrimination and exclusion. Simone de Beauvoir emphasized that women's inequality is socially constructed rather than biologically determined. Feminist and critical race theorists argue that justice requires dismantling systems that perpetuate sexism and racism, not merely declaring formal equality [4]. Achieving justice in this area involves equal legal rights, fair representation, and addressing structural biases in education, employment, and political institutions.

**Equal Opportunity vs. Equal Outcomes.** The debate between equal opportunity and equal outcomes is central to discussions of equality. Equal opportunity ensures that everyone has the same starting conditions, such as access to education and employment. Equal outcomes, however, focus on reducing disparities in results, such as income or social status.

John Rawls supports equal opportunity while allowing unequal outcomes only if they benefit the least advantaged. In contrast, Amartya Sen emphasizes improving people's actual capabilities rather than strictly equalizing outcomes.

Social justice and equality require more than identical treatment; they demand fairness, inclusion, and attention to structural inequalities. A just society protects basic rights, reduces unjust inequalities, and ensures that all individuals have genuine



opportunities to flourish. Balancing equality with freedom remains an ongoing challenge, but it is essential for social stability and moral legitimacy.

### References

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