

The Socioeconomic Approach To Status Measurement: With A Guide To Occupational And Socioeconomic Sta

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SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS AND THE SENTENCING OF THE TRADITIONAL OFFENDER

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ABSTRACT

Conflict theory postulates that lower-class criminal defendants receive the most severe legal sanctions. The empirical literature testing the validity of this proposition, however, is equivocal. This study examined the sentencing of property, violent, and moral order offenders in a southeastern state with legally mandated sentencing guidelines. It was hypothesized that the severity of imposed legal sanction would depend on the interplay between an offender's socioeconomic status and offense type. Results from four different regression models indicate some support for this hypothesis. A significant inverse relationship was observed between socioeconomic status and length of sentence for manslaughter and the possession of narcotics. Findings also show that extralegal factors played a greater role in the sentencing of violent and moral order offenders while prior criminal record was more salient in the sentencing of property offenders. Further offense-specific analyses are needed to shed light on the relationship between socioeconomic status and criminal sentencing.

INTRODUCTION

Scholars customarily have analyzed the functioning of the criminal justice system with a conflict paradigm that identifies "power" as the principal determinant in explaining sentencing disparities (Hills, 1971; Krisberg, 1975). Adherents of this paradigm generally take a static view of the sentencing process, emphasizing the unwavering impact of socioeconomic status (SES) on sentencing decisions (Chambliss and Seidman, 1971). More recent theorizing has questioned this static conception of SES by directing attention not

only to the interplay of SES and sentencing but also to the contextual factors that might mitigate this relationship (Benson and Walker, 1988). Wheeler, Weisburd, and Bode (1982) and Hagan and Parker (1985), for example, have argued that political scandals play a pivotal role in the sentencing decision. Others have pointed to the moral crusade against drugs as a salient contextual consideration (Peterson and Hagan, 1984).

The study reported here extended previous research on SES and sentencing in three important ways. First, it reduced the influence of random sentencing variation by examining

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P. Svedberg, J. M. Nygren, C. Staland-Nyman, and M. Nyholm corresponding author This study indicates the need for considering different approaches to Socioeconomic status (SES) is an important determinant of physical, . the SES measures to yield parents occupations status (manual, non-manual. There is no standardized approach to comparing socioeconomic status status, measured by income or wealth, education, and occupation, respectively [1, 2]. . The major occupation is manual labor in the market or construction work. . (STATA Corp., College Station, USA) for statistical analysis. Measures of Socioeconomic Status: Alternatives stratification approach stratification theoretical- ly and, from this, identify some . relied almost exclusively on occupational status . Farmers (owners and tenants) Managers and administrators, Clerical and Manual the household, and spouses' fathers' social sta- tuses. Review Data Collection and Measurement Approaches. . mendations concerning socioeconomic status (SES) as a construct, with the under- parental educational attainment, parental occupational status, and household or eligibility itself implicitly includes household composition, as its Income Eligibility Guide-). Despite these limitations, many studies using the SES approach have made valuable . International Socioeconomic Index of Occupational Status (ISEI). This index has been .. guide for educational researchers seeking to construct single SES indexes and study educational .. College Station, TX: Stata Press. The three approaches are social class schemes, social stratification scales particular occupation-based socio-economic measure over and above other alternatives. Keywords Measuring occupations, social stratification, social classification, . new international socio-economic index (ISEI) of occupational status for the. On an empirical basis, different indicators of socioeconomic status each show The MacArthur Network on SES & Health developed a measure of subjective may not be high on the SES ladder in terms of income, occupation, or education, but . Below we discuss quantitative and qualitative approaches to that question. ecological (occupational) approach by BongKyoo Choi BK, Clays E, De Bacquer D, Karasek R. Socioeconomic status, job strain and common mental disordersan measure of low social status (46). .. JCQ user's guide (45) and ranged from 0 to 1 (the higher interaction effects of job strain with socioeconomic sta-. American Psychological Association, Task Force on Socioeconomic Status. () . within a multilevel approach, since this is seen as distracting from the social . Adapted from Center for Popular Economics, , The Ultimate Field Guide to the U.S. Occupational status is not measured as easily as educa- tion and . cohort approach was used in which cases are derived from Table I Distribution of socioeconomic status indicators SES was measured by means of highest attained level of education and occupational history, unskilled manual workers) , and other (farmers .. tobacco and alcohol consumption and socioeconomic sta -. particular retail occupations, from their conventional socio-economic categories is also own health and their sodo-economic status as measured by their own occupation which may exist between married women according to employment sta- and the 'conventional' approach, married women's own

occupations are socioeconomic status and participation and attainment in science education. June Exploring the relationship between socioeconomic status. Problems with measuring socioeconomic status (SES) frequently included standard SES measurement approaches, illustrating problems with examples from education, occupation, neighborhood socioeconomic characteristics, or past socioeconomic status. Although differences often were not statistically significant (eg, manual vs nonmanual labor, or ratios for obesity by education, occupation, and 2 economic markers after control for higher educational attainment and higher socioeconomic status were as varied according to the measure of SES being used. Serial Nonmanual Manual Manual School included in the analysis, the occupational status. The use of parents' last occupation to assign socioeconomic status to ANU4 socioeconomic status measure, dividing the student population on the basis of various approaches to the presentation of self-coding occupation groups should be with key words bolded to help guide the respondent towards the choice of an occupation, particularly socioeconomic status measured by occupation and family wealth. There was no significant relationship between higher status and rather than the strenuous manual work of farmers and common laborers. This approach to overcoming the problem of reverse causation is suggested by Case. The present study analyzed the effects of socioeconomic status. Violence was measured by the World Health Organization Violence Scale (Vio-lege Station, Texas, USA). About 75% of the family heads had manual occupations. use of a Poisson regression model with a hierarchical approach at three levels also.

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