CONTENTS

Preface ix

Chapter 1 SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION: A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE FOR UNDERSTANDING SCHOOLS 1

Sociology and Education 2

U.S. Schools in the Early Twenty-First Century 6

Theoretical Approaches in the Sociology of Education 10

The Open Systems Approach 19

Research Methods in Sociology of Education 24

Organization of the Book 25

Summary 25 • Sample Research Questions in Sociology of Education 26 • Putting Sociology to Work 26

Chapter 2 CONFLICTING FUNCTIONS AND PROCESSES IN EDUCATION: WHAT MAKES THE SYSTEM WORK? 28

Conflicting Functions of Education 29

The Importance of Processes in Educational Systems 30

The Function of Socialization: What We Learn and How We Learn It 31

The Function of Cultural Transmission and Process of Passing on Culture 37

The Function of Social Control and Personal Development 48

The Function of Selection and Allocation: The Sorting Process 53

The Function of Change and Innovation: Looking to the Future57Summary58• Putting Sociology to Work59

Chapter 3 EDUCATION AND THE PROCESS OF STRATIFICATION 60

The Crisis in Schooling 60

The Process of Stratification: Is Inequality Inevitable? 62

Stratification and Equality of Educational Opportunity 71 Summary 87 • Putting Sociology to Work 87

Chapter 4 GENDER, RACE, AND CLASS: ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY 88

Gender and Equality of Educational Opportunity 89 Class, Race, and Attempts to Rectify Inequalities in Educational Opportunity 100 Integration Attempts 110 Educational Experience of Selected Minorities in the United States 112 Improving Schools for Minority Students 122 Summary 126 • Putting Sociology to Work 127

Chapter 5 THE SCHOOL AS AN ORGANIZATION 128

The Social System of the School 130 Goals of the School System 131 The School as an Organization 134 Centralized versus Decentralized Decision Making: The Fight over Control of Schools 143 Reform of School Organization 147 Supports for School Improvement 149 Summary 149 • Putting Sociology to Work 150

Chapter 6 FORMAL SCHOOL STATUSES AND ROLES: "THE WAY IT SPOZED TO BE" 151

The Meaning of Roles 151 Professionals in the Educational System 153 Roles in Schools 154 Summary 175 • Putting Sociology to Work 176

Chapter 7 STUDENTS: THE CORE OF THE SCHOOL 177 Student Characteristics 177 School Failures and Dropouts 183 Students and the Informal System 194 Students and Their Environments 202 Summary 208 • Putting Sociology to Work 209

 Chapter 8 THE INFORMAL SYSTEM AND THE "HIDDEN CURRICULUM": WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IN SCHOOL? 210 The Open Systems Approach and the Informal System 211 The Educational "Climate" and School Effectiveness 214 Power Dynamics and Roles in the Informal System 224 Summary 229 • Putting Sociology to Work 229
Chapter 9 THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND THE ENVIRONMENT: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP 230 The Environment and the Educational System 231 The School Systems' Environments: Interdependence between

Institutions 233

Summary 251 • Putting Sociology to Work 252

Chapter 10 THE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION 253

History and Development of Higher Education 253 Theoretical Approaches to Higher Education 258 Characteristics of Higher Education in the United States 264 Functions of the Higher Education System 266 Higher Education as an Organization 272 Roles in Higher Education 275 Environmental Pressures on Higher Education 287 Outcomes of Higher Education 292 Problems and Reform in Higher Education 295 Summary 296 • Putting Sociology to Work 297

Chapter 11 EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD: A COMPARATIVE VIEW 298

Comparative Educational Studies 300 Theoretical Perspectives in Comparative Education 308 Global Institutional Interdependence 316 Higher Education Around the World 323 Summary 325 • Putting Sociology to Work 326

Chapter 12 EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD: BRITAIN, CHINA, AND POSTCOLONIAL AFRICA 327

Education in Britain 328 Education in the People's Republic of China 334 Formal Education in Colonial Africa 339 Summary 345 • Putting Sociology to Work 346

Chapter 13 EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENTS AND REFORM 347

The Nature of Educational Movements349Early Educational Movements351Alternative Education and Related Movements355Structural and Curricular Changes in the Schools362Summary371• Putting Sociology to Work372

References 373 Index 422