

NCERT Solutions for Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 Introducing Western Sociologists

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 NCERT Textbook Questions Solved

Question 1.

Why is the Enlightenment important for the development of sociology?

Answer:

- During the late 17th and 18th centuries, Western Europe saw the emergence of radically new ways of thinking about the world. It is referred to 'The Enlightenment'.
- The ability to think rationally and critically transformed the individual human being into both the producer and the user of all knowledge, the 'knowing subject'.
- Only persons who could think and reason could be considered as a complete human being.
- To become the definite features of the human world, it was necessary to displace nature, religion and the divine acts of gods from the central position they had in earlier days of understanding the world.

Question 2.

How was the Industrial Revolution responsible for giving rise to sociology?

Answer:

- Production moved out of houses and went over to factories. People left their rural areas and went over to urban areas to find jobs in newly established industries
- Rich people started to live in large mansions and labour class started to live in slums.
- Due to modern administrative system, monarchy was forced to take the responsibility of public subjects and public welfare.

Question 3.

What are the various components of a mode of production?

Answer:

A mode of production has the following components:

- First is the means of production which means the labour class who produces.
- Second is the capitalist class who owns the means of production.
- Labour is sold in the market like commodity.
- The capitalist class has wealth and means to get his production done by the labourers.
- The capitalist class becomes richer at the cost of labourers.

Question 4.

Why do classes come into conflict, according to Marx?

Answer:

Karl Marx has studied two classes. Two opposite groups exist in each society.

First who does exploitation and second is that who is being exploited.

Conflict is always going on between these two classes from the very beginning.

- Bourgeoisie owns all the means of production and it suppresses other groups with his means of production.
- Second class is the labour class which was given the name of Proletariats.

Conflict is always going on between the exploiters and the exploited because capitalist hardly wants to give anything to labourer.

According to Marx, economic processes generally tend to generate class conflicts though this also depends on political and social conditions.

Question 5.

What are social facts? How do we recognise them?

Answer:

- Social facts are collective representations which emerge from the association of people.
- They are not particular to a person but of a general nature, independent of the individual.
- Durkheim called the 'emergent level', that is the level of complex collective life where social phenomena can emerge.
- One of Durkheim's most significant achievements is his demonstration that sociology, a discipline that dealt with abstract entities like social facts/could nevertheless be a science founded on observable empirically verifiable evidence.
- The most famous example of his use of new kind of empirical data is in his study of suicide.
- Each individual case of suicide was specific to the individual and his/her circumstances.

Question 6.

What is the difference between 'mechanic' and 'organic' solidarity?

Answer:

Durkheim says that in every society some values, ideas, beliefs, ways of behaviour, institutions and laws are there which binds the society in a single knot. Because of the presence of these elements, the relations and unity or solidarity exist in society.

He classified a society by the nature of social solidarity which existed in the society which are as follows:

Mechanical Solidarity

- It is predominant in less advanced societies.

- It is segmental in nature.
- In this social bonds are relatively weak.
- It exists more where population is less.
- In it, collective authority is absolute.
- It is highly religious.
- It is concrete and specific.

Organic Solidarity

- It is predominant in more advanced societies.
- It is organized in nature.
- In this, the social bonds are strong.
- It exists where population is more.
- In this, there is more room for individual initiative.
- It is highly secular.
- It is abstract and general.

Question 7.

Show, with examples, how moral codes are indicators of social solidarity.

Answer:

- The social solidarity was to be found in the codes of conduct imposed on individuals by collective agreement.
- Moral facts are phenomena like others; they consist of rules of action recognizable by certain distinctive characteristics, it must then be possible to observe them, describe them, classify them and look for certain laws explaining them.
- Society, for Durkheim, was a social fact which existed as a moral community over and above the individual.
- Social solidarities exerted pressure on individuals to conform to the norms and expectations of the group.
- Moral codes are manifestations of particular social conditions.
- The moral code that is appropriate for one society is inappropriate for another.
- The prevailing social conditions could be deduced from the moral codes. This has made sociology akin to the natural sciences and is in keeping with his larger objective of establishing sociology as a rigorous scientific discipline.
- By observing behaviour patterns it is possible to identify the norms, codes and social solidarities which governed them.
- The existence of otherwise 'invisible' things like ideas, norms, values and so on could be empirically verified by studying the patterns of social behaviour of the people.

Question 9.

What are the basic features of bureaucracy?

Answer:

- Officials have fixed areas of official jurisdiction governed by rules, laws and administrative regulations.

- Commands are issued by higher authorities for implementation by subordinates in a stable way, but the responsibilities of officials are strictly delimited by the authority available to them.
- Official positions in a bureaucracy are independent.
- Authority and office are placed on a graded hierarchy where the higher officials supervise the lower ones.
- Management of a bureaucratic organisation is carried out on the basis of written documents (the files) which are preserved as records.
- Full time attention of officials irrespective of her/his delimited hours in office, hence an official's conduct in office is governed by exhaustive rules and regulations.

Question 10.

What is special or different about the kind of objectivity needed in social science?

Answer:

Refer to Question . no. 6.

Question 11.

Can you identify any ideas or theories which have led to the formation of social movements in India in recent times?

For self-attempt.

Question 12.

Try to find out what Marx and Weber wrote about India.

Answer:

- Marx argued that people's ideas and beliefs originated from the economic system of which they were part.
- Marx laid great emphasis on economic structure and processes because he believed that they formed the foundation of every social system throughout human history.
- Marx believed that class struggle was the major driving force of change in society.
- Weber argued that the overall objective of the social sciences was to develop an 'interpretative understanding of social action'.
- The central concern of the social sciences was with social action and since human actions necessarily involved subjective meanings, the methods of enquiry of social science also had to be different from the methods of natural science.
- The social world was founded on subjective human meanings, values, feelings, prejudices, ideals and so on.
- Social scientists had to constantly practise 'empathetic understanding'. But this investigation has to be done objectively.
- Sociologists are meant to describe, not judge, the subjective feelings of others.

Question 13.

Can you think of reasons why we should study the work of thinkers who died long ago?

What could be some reasons to not study them?

Answer:

For self-attempt.

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 NCERT Extra Questions

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 Very Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Explain the term 'Bourgeoisie'.

Answer:

According to Marx, Bourgeoisie are those few people who own the means of production in a capitalist society. They enjoy both economic and political power.

Question 2.

Explain the term 'surplus value'.

Answer:

The term 'surplus value' refers to the quantity of value produced by the worker beyond the necessary labour time, i.e., the marking time required to produce a value equal to the one he has received in the form of wages.

Question 3.

List two suitable grounds on which Marxian theory of class struggle has been criticised.

Answer:

Karl Marx has absolutely ignored the middle class. Middle class has a great importance in modern society especially that society which can be called the supreme capitalist society. The class struggle cannot be accepted as constructive. Hence, it is always destructive and it leads to fascism which any society is unable to bear.

Question 4.

Explain briefly social fact as interpreted by Durkheim.

Answer:

Social facts are those ways of thinking, doing work and feel which has the special characteristics to maintain its existence exterior to the individual consciousness. Durkheim also writes, "Social facts are those ways of working, thinking and feeling which are exterior to man and which controls the man by their power of constraint".

Question 5.

Why is Emile Durkheim called the 'key classical theorists in sociology'?

Answer:

Emile Durkheim is one of the 'key classical theorists in sociology'. He is best known for founding sociology as a scientific discipline and for defining the boundaries of its subject matter.

His key theoretical statement lies in his claim that social phenomena are realities that can only be explained by other social facts.

Question 6.

Differentiate between the sacred and the profane.

Answer:

The sacred is that which is considered holy and dreaded. It includes religious beliefs and

rites, duties or anything related to religious treatment par excellence.

The profane relates to the ordinary, utilitarian aspects of life, dull or routine, full of impurity.

Question 7.

What is social fact, according to Durkheim?

Answer:

Social facts are those ways of working, thinking and feeling which are exterior to man and which controls the man by their power of constraints.

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Discuss main contributions of Karl Marx.

Answer:

Karl Marx was born in Trier, Germany on May 5, 1818. Marx was educated at the Treves school. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Jena in June, 1841. Marx's personal life was a difficult struggle. Marx died on 14th March, 1883.

Karl Marx says that each society has two opposite classes:

1. The exploiters (means capitalists) and
2. The exploited (means workers).

The term 'surplus value' refers to the quantity of value produced by the worker beyond the necessary labour time i.e., the working time required to produce a value equal to the one he has received in the form of wages.

The term 'alienation' refers to the work alien, which means foreigner, and therefore alienation would mean becoming stranger to one's own people and the product etc. In a capitalist society, alienation dominates every institutional sphere such as religion, economy and polity.

Question 2.

Write short note on Max Weber.

Answer:

Max Weber was born on 21st April, 1864 in Erfurt, Germany. He studied and received his degree in law. After the completion of his doctoral and the post-doctoral dissertations in 1897 he joined Heidelberg University as a Professor of Economics. He started his works in sociology in 1916 and was appointed Professor of Sociology at Munich. He died on July 14, 1920. His main works include:

- The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism
- The Religion of India.
- Economy and Society
- Essays in Sociology

Question 3.

How Durkheim interpreted suicide?

Answer:

According to Durkheim, all deaths which are the direct or indirect results of any function of dead person about which he himself knows that thin act will cause death to him.

Durkheim suggested four forms of Suicide:

- Egoistic Suicide: Characterised by excessive reflection on personal matters.
- Altruistic Suicide: When the individual is over integrated with society. For example, Jauhar Pratha in Rajputs.
- Anomic Suicide: The state, which results from the weakening of powers in society that regulate social equilibrium. Individual meets frustration, which they are not able to cope with.
- Fatalistic Suicide: Due to excessive degree of regulation e.g. suicide of enslavement under the master.

Question 4.

Explain in detail Karl Marx's theory of class struggle.

Answer:

Karl Marx was of the view that:

- Human society passed through different stages of development viz primitive, communal, ancient, feudal and capitalist.
- Each stage is defined by a mode of production.
- The factors of production are in the hands of the "oppressors", they control them; the "oppressed" are deprived of them.
- There is a conflict between the "haves" and the "have-nots".
- When the proletariat becomes conscious and acquires revolutionary character, there is an overthrow of those in power or the bourgeoisie.

Class 11 Sociology Chapter 4 Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Write a short note on Emile Durkheim.

Answer:

Emile Durkheim was bom on 15th April, 1858 in France. His elementary education was completed at Ecole. After graduation from the Ecole, he started working for the doctoral degree. He obtained his doctorate in 1893, and was appointed Professor in the Paris University. Durkheim founded L 'Anne Sociologique, the first social science journal in France. He died on Nov. 15,1917. His works include :

- Division of Labour in Society
- The Rules of Sociological Method
- Suicide
- The Elementary Forms of Religious Life.

According to Durkheim, social facts are the substance of sociological study. Durkheim was strongly concerned with outlining the nature and scope of sociology.

- They are general throughout society.
- They are external to individuals and exist independently on their will.

- They exercise external constraint over individuals.

Question 2.

Explain “theory of suicide” as stated by Emile Durkheim.

Answer:

Emile Durkheim identified four types of suicide:

1. Egoistic Suicide: A person gives too much importance to his own self or ego; is not properly integrated in society; excessive self- reflection on personal matters leading to withdrawal from the outside world; as a result there is weakening in the bonds of solidarity in the family, religious and political organizations.
2. Altruistic Suicide: In this the person is over-integrated with the society. They commit suicide for the cause of society or a kind of self-denial, e.g. Sati, Jauhar.
3. Anomic Suicide: In societies that experience sudden changes. Anomic is a state which results from the weakening of the powers in the society that regulate social equilibrium. The person meets frustration and he cannot withstand it, he puts an end to his life.
4. Fatalistic Suicide: When there is excessive degree of regulation and an overly developed regime, e.g. seeing no alternative to enslavement under the master a slave takes his life.

Question 3.

Highlight the basic characteristics of religion.

Answer:

The basic characteristics of religion are:

- Belief in supernatural power.
- Emotional state of mind associated with the beliefs, happiness, fear, reverence etc.
- Material objects involved in the religious practices-altar, cross, sacrifice, flower, . incense sticks, special clothes, banana leaves etc.
- Variations in the types of material objects used in religious ceremonies-differ from culture to culture.
- Specific rituals – fasting, chanting, dancing, specific types of food etc.
- Specific mode of worship.
- Concept of heaven and hell; sacred and profane etc.
- A special place of worship.
- Generally rituals are performed in isolation but occasionally it is performed collectively.

Question 4.

How did Max Weber explain “social action”? Elaborate on the types of social action seen in society. (HOTS)

Answer:

According to Max Weber

- An action is social when it is oriented or directed to others in society.

- It is social in so far as by virtue of the meaning attached to it by the acting individual or individuals.
- All human behaviour to which the actor attaches a subjective meaning is social action.

Types of social action

- Goal-Rational Action: Both means and goals are rationally selected by the individual.
 - Value-Rational Action: These are performed under the influence of ethical values and religious beliefs of the individual.
 - Emotional Action: The means and ends of the action are selected on the basis of emotional criteria. They may not be rational.
 - Traditional Action: Tradition and customs guide the selection of the means and ends.
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