

BOOK-1 - INTRODUCING SOCIOLOGY

CHAPTER 1

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIETY

Points To Remember

1. Sociology is the study of human social life.
2. Sociology studies human society as an interconnected whole and how society and the individual interact with each other.
3. The social esteem for an individual depends on the culture of his/her 'relevant society'.
4. Sociology is a systematic and scientific study of society, distinct from philosophical and religious, reflection as well as our everyday common sense observation about society.
5. Distinct way of studying society can be better understood when we look back historically at the intellectual ideas and material contexts within which sociology was born and later grew.
6. Global aspect and the manner in which sociology emerged in India is of great significance.
7. Society, is the name given to social relationship by which every human being is interconnected with his fellow men.
8. But society is not limited to human beings alone. There are animal societies of varying degrees. It is not man only who wants to live in society and exhibit natural sociality but ants, termites, birds, monkeys, apes and countless other animals also are moved to live in society by the requirements of their nature.
9. So, what differentiates a '**Human Society**' from '**Animal Society**'



- It is based on reason or rational behaviour.
- It has a system of law and order.
- Humans live in society and are conscious of it.

- It is mainly based on instincts reflex behaviour.
- There are no rights and duties in animal society.
- Animals live in society but are not conscious of it.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have intelligence, reason, culture and are capable of transmitting culture to the next generation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They lack intelligence, reason, culture and incapable of transmitting culture to the next generation.
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Introducing Sociology

- Sociology is the study of human social life, groups and societies. Its subject matter is our own behaviour as social being.
- Its concern is with the way norms and values function in actual societies.
- Empirical study of societies involve observation and to collect findings.
- Sociology has from its beginning understood itself as a science. Sociology is bound by scientific cannons of procedure. Statements that the sociologist arrive at must be arrived at through the observations of certain rules of evidence that follow others to check or to repeat to develop his/her findings.

C.W. Mills Sociological Imagination

- The Sociological Imagination is a book written by sociologist C. Wright Mills in 1959.
- According to him, personal problems and public issues are interrelated.
- E.g. Homeless Couple.

Sociology as a scientific discipline

- Based on experimentation
- Value neutrality
- Evidences

Father of Sociology

Auguste Comte is considered as the father of sociology as he not only coined this term but was responsible for establishing sociology as a separate social science.

Meaning of Sociology

The word sociology is derived from both Latin and Greek origins. The Latin word - 'Socius' means 'companion', the suffix - logy, a Greek origins meaning 'The study of' - Logos, word, 'knowledge'. It was first coined in 1780 by the French essayist Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès (1748-1836) in an unpublished manuscript. Sociology was later defined independently by the French philosopher, Auguste Comte (1798-1857), in 1838. Comte used this term to describe a new way of looking at society.

Definitions of Sociology

- The science of society, social institutions, and social relationship; *specifically* : the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behaviour of organized groups of human beings.

- Merriam Webster

- Max Weber defines Sociology as “the science which attempts the interpretative understanding of social action in order thereby to arrive at a causal explanation of its cause and effects”.

Pluralities and Inequalities among Societies

- In the contemporary world, we belong to more than one society.
- When amidst foreigners refer to 'our society' may mean 'Indian society', but when amongst fellow Indians we may use the term 'our society' to denote a linguistic or ethnic community, a religious or caste or tribal society.
- Inequality is central to differences among societies.
- Some Indians are rich, others are not.
- Some are educated, others are illiterate, some have great opportunities for advancement in life : others lack them altogether.

Sociological Perspective and Common Sense Knowledge

- Sociological Perspective is a rational knowledge whereas common sense knowledge is based on general understanding.
- Sociological Perspective is objective in nature whereas common sense knowledge is subjective.
- Sociological Perspective has a body of concepts, method and objective data whereas common sense knowledge is unreflective since it does not question its own origins.

The Intellectual Ideas that went to the making of sociology

- Influenced by scientific theories of natural evolution and findings about pre-modern societies made by early travelers, colonial administrators, sociologists and social anthropologists sought to categorize societies into different types and to distinguish stages in social development.
- Auguste Comte, Karl Marx and Herbert Spencer made efforts to classify different types of societies.
 - (1) Pre-modern societies such as hunters and gatherers.
 - (2) Modern societies such as industrialised societies
- Darwin's ideas about organic evolution were a dominant influence on early sociological thought.
- The Enlightenment, an European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th century emphasised reason and individualism.
- Thinkers of the early modern era were convinced that progress in knowledge promised the solution to all social ills. Auguste Comte, the French scholar (1789-1857), founder of sociology believed that sociology contributes to the welfare of humanity.

The material issues that went into the making of Sociology

- The industrial revolution was based upon a new dynamic form of economic activity-capitalism.
- Capitalism involved new attitudes and institutions.

Entrepreneurs engaged in the sustained, systematic pursuit of profit.

The markets acted as the key instrument of productive life : goods, services and labour became commodities.

- It led to degradation of labour, the wrenching of work from the protective contexts of the guild, village and family.
- Urban centers expanded and grew.
- The industrial cities gave birth to completely new kind of urban world.
- Marked by the soot and grime of factories, by over crowded slums of the new industrial working class, bad sanitation and general squalor.
- It was also marked by new kinds of social interactions.
- The factory and its mechanical division of labour were seen as a deliberate attempt to destroy the peasant, the artisan, as well as family and local community.
- Another indicator of the emergence of modern societies was the new significance of "clock-time" as a social organisation.
- Labour increasingly came to be set by the clock and calendar.
Work-rhythms were set such as the period of daylight, break between tasks.
- Factory production implied the synchronisation of labour.
- Time is now money, it is spent.

Origin of Sociology in India

- Formal university teaching of sociology began in 1919 University of Bombay and later in Calcutta and Lucknow.
- The detailed study of society was first begun during the colonial period.
- Reviewers of Indians society generally trace its origin to work of several British civil servants, missionaries and western scholars during 18th and 19th century.
- They wanted to know more about Indian culture so that they could easily rule over the country.
- Christian missionaries were interested in learning local languages, folklores and culture to carry out their activities.

Scope of Sociology

1. Scope of sociological study is extremely wide. It offers a specific way of looking at society and helps us to understand it in a better way.
2. It can focus its analysis of interaction between individuals or groups.
3. It can focus on national issues such as unemployment and even global social issues.
4. Sociology is interrelated with all other social sciences. Hence it is called the sum total of all social Sciences as it cover not only one or two aspects but study the society in its totality.
5. It can focus its analysis of interactions between individuals such as that of

a shopkeeper with a customer, between teachers and students, between two friends or family members.

6. Sociology is a discipline that expands our awareness and analysis of the human social relationship, cultures, and institutions that profoundly shape both our lives and human history.
7. Sociology looks beyond normal, taken-for-granted views of reality, to provide deeper, more illuminating and challenging understanding of social life.

Sociology and its relationship with other Social Sciences

- The scope of sociological study is extremely wide. It can focus its analysis of interactions between individuals and examine global social processes.
- Sociology is one of a group of social sciences which also includes anthropology, economics, political science and history. All share a certain range of common interests, concepts and methods.
- To differentiate the social sciences would be to exaggerate the differences and gloss over the similarities.
- There is a greater need of interdisciplinary approach.

A. Sociology and Economics

- Sociology is a generalised science whereas economics is a special science.
- Sociology studies all kinds of relationships whereas economics deals with only those relationships that are economic in character.
- Sociology is abstract in nature and less precise. Economics is concrete in nature, and more precise.
- In sociology, social variables are very difficult to measure and quantify. In economics, economic variables can be measured accurately and can be quantified.

B. Sociology and Political Science

- Sociology is a science of society; political science is a science of state and government.
- Sociology studies both organised and unorganised societies whereas political science studies only politically organised societies.
- Sociology has a wider scope whereas political science is a narrow field.
- Sociology studies man as fundamentally a social animal whereas Political science studies man as a political animal.
- The approach to sociology is sociological. It follows its own methods in addition to scientific methods. The approach to political science is political.
- Sociology is a general social science, hence it studies all kinds of forms of social relations in a general way whereas political science because it concentrates on human relationships which are political in character.

C. Sociology and History

- Sociology is interested in the study of present social phenomena whereas history is interested in the past events.
- Sociology is analytical and interpretive science. History is description science.
- Sociology is general science. History is a specific science.
- Sociology makes use of questionnaire, surveys, interview methods etc. History uses chronology, coins etc. to know about the unknown.
- Test and re-test is possible for the facts which are generalised by sociology whereas test and re-test is not possible for the events mentioned in history.
- Sociology has a wide scope. History scope is narrower.
- Sociology is a young science. History is the oldest science.

D. Sociology and Psychology

- Psychology pertains to the study of the human mind, whereas sociology pertains to learning human behaviour.
- Psychology deals with individuals or small groups, sociology deals with a larger group or the society itself.
- Psychology can be termed as an experimental process, whereas sociology as an observational process.
- Psychology deals with human emotions whereas sociology deals with the interaction of people.
- In psychological studies, it is perceived that the individual is singly responsible for all the activities, whereas in sociology, it is not an individual act. Sociology assumes that an individual's act is influenced by his surroundings or to the group he belongs to.

Sociology and Social Anthropology

Sociology and social Anthropology are considered as "sister disciplines" because:-

- Sociology is the study of existing society whereas social anthropology tends to study small and simple societies, which are relatively unchanging and lacking in historical records.
- For social anthropologists the field is small whereas for sociologists field can be large.
- Social anthropologists generally lives in the community that they study in order to record what they see.
- On the other hand, sociologists rely on collected data.
- In spite of obvious differences between the two, in 19th century, there had been a great deal of convergence between the two disciplines because with rapid development the areas of study of anthropologist is shrinking.
- To some extent sociology and social anthropology are similar as their areas of study are culture and society. Anthropologist studies culture as it developed in the past and sociologists studies as it exists in the present.

BRANCHES OF SOCIOLOGY

Micro Sociology

- The study of everyday human behaviour in context of face to face interaction.
- It occurs at the level of individuals or small group.

Macro Sociology

- The study of large scale groups and organisation like political system or the economic order.

TERMS AND CONCEPTS

1. **Capitalism:**

- A system of economic enterprise based on market exchange.
- “Capital” refers to any asset, including money, property and machines, which can be used to produce commodities for sale or invested in a market with the hope of achieving a profit.
- It rests on the private ownership of assets and the means of production.

2. **Dialectic:**

- The existence or action of opposing social forces, for instance, social constraint and individual will.

3. **Empirical Investigation:**

- A factual enquiry carried out in any given area of sociological study.

4. **Empirical Investigation:**

- Factual or Descriptive Inquiry. It is aimed to obtain facts needed for understanding and resolving value issues.

5. **Social Constraint:**

- Group and societies of which we are a part when they exert a conditioning influence on our behaviour.

6. **Values:**

- Ideas held by human individual or groups about what is desirable, proper, good or bad.

7. **Ethnicity:**

- Ethnicity refers to shared cultural practices, perspectives, and distinctions that set apart one group of people from another.

OR

ethnicity is a shared cultural heritage. The most common characteristics distinguishing various ethnic groups are ancestry, a sense of history, language, religion, and forms of dress.

8. **Colonialism**

- It refers to the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically.

9. Factory production:

- A factory production or **manufacturing** plant is an industrial site, usually consisting of buildings and machinery, or more commonly a complex, having several buildings, where workers **manufacture** goods or operate machines processing one product into another.

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What is a capitalism?
2. Define social Constraint.
3. What are values?
4. What is empirical investigation?
5. What do you understand by the term 'capitalism'?
6. What is meant by empirical investigations?
7. List any two consequences of urbanisation?
8. Differentiate between micro and macro sociology?

4 MARKS QUESTION

1. Explain the main characteristics of society?
2. What do you know about the emergence of sociology in India?
3. Bring out the relationship between sociology and history?
4. Discuss the changes that occurred in society due to industrialisation.
5. What were the reasons for the critical condition of Indian craftsmen during colonialism?
6. Differentiate between sociology and economics.
7. State how sociology is different from political science.
8. Differentiate between sociology and psychology.
9. Differentiate between sociology and social anthropology.

6 MARKS QUESTION

1. Explain the relationship between sociology and other social sciences?
2. Describe the material issues that contribute to the making of sociology.
3. Trace the growth of sociology in India.
4. How is sociological knowledge different from common sense observations Explain with suitable example.

HOTS

- **Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)**

In the modern society "the clock injected a new urgency to work". Do you agree with the statement Explain with suitable examples.