

1. (a) Idiographic and nomothetic approach
- (b) Briefly discuss “Social Capital theory” of Robert D. Putnam
- (c) Bureaucracy and Rational Action
- (d) Analyze Durkheim’s concept of “Moral Individualism”

Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words. 12.5 x 4 = 50

5. (a) Gender and social mobility
 - (b) Impact of “modernization” on the “institution of marriage”.
 - (c) Social composition and policies for informal sector
 - (d) Critically evaluate the concept of “elite exclusion”.
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4. (a) “The theory of stratification by Davis and Moore was (and remains) highly influential, but has generated enormous controversy”. In this context, give a brief overview of its criticism. 20
 - (b) Critically examine the “Nature and scope of feminist method” in social science research. 15
 - (c) Write a short note on “resource mobilization theory” in context of study of social movements. 15

SECTION-B

7. (a) Compare and contrast Parson’s and Pluralist perspective in context of “Power”. 20
- (b) Briefly analyze the role of “political parties” in strengthening of democracy. 15
- (c) “Globalization leads to homogenization of culture”. Critically Comment 15

8. (a) Critically examine the “conflict theory “ of social change. 20
- (b) Write a short note on “Social consequences of science and technology”. 15
- (c) “Family diversity has emerged as a global trend”. Substantiate 15

~~Idiographic~~ ^{Nomothetic} approach banks on specific events and draws inference from facts. for ex: history is a discipline that uses ~~idiographic~~ ^{nomothetic} approach.

~~Nomothetic~~

Idiographic approach meanwhile derives generalisation from ideas and observations of trends. for ex: sociology is an idiographic discipline

To study world war I would require an ~~idiographic~~ ^{nomothetic} approach as specific cause-effect relation is studied while studying the reason as to what leads to wars in general would require idiographic approach.

Nomothetics deploys quantitative means like facts, data analysis while idiographic uses qualitative means to create a hypothesis that can be used for ~~analysis~~ statistical correlation.

Weber suggested Verstehen (interpretative understanding) for idiographic approach.

1(b) Putnam was a human development enthusiast who views society as a product of developing education, health and social relations.

In his social capital theory, Putnam highlights the role of housing, government decentralisation and marital relations over mechanisation and specialisation.

He believes means of production in a capitalist society do not necessarily cause exploitation but it is the danger to individual empowerment and social relations that is worst-affected.

Putnam proposes a hyper-local model where family should start the change to build social capital and gradually cover the society.

Amartya Sen and Jean Drèze cite Putnam's theory to promote social equity over economic growth in India. Increased spending on Social Progress Indicator more important than GDP.

Putnam is criticised by Marxists for his lack of understanding of means of production as relation and factors of prodⁿ forming the society.

The Social Capital theory is seen as a torch-bearer to modern planning of nations giving importance to social construct - housing, education over mere economic growth.

1(c) Weber in his book Economics and Society says sociology ought to be studied and not explained. However it can be generalised. He suggested means like verstehen, ideal type, causal plurality and value neutral to separate social sciences from natural sciences.

Bureaucracy, as a structure of administration, is studied through ideal type. It must have a hierarchy, rules & regulations, technical skills and impersonality. However, Weber is criticised by Merton as bureaucrats become ritualists without any creativity.

Selznier in his study of Canada concluded a strong bureaucracy undermines democracy. It can also lead to more delay due to regulations.

Narayan Sethi in fact noted an informal set-up makes employees more integrated to system than bureaucracy.

Weber further called social action as subject matter of sociology that is directed towards an individual. Rational Action (Zweck) is a type of social action that is aimed at achieving tangible goal. ex: achieving rank 1 in Civil services exam requires rational action while aiming to be happy is a Value Action (Wert).

Rational authority like judge, police derive legitimacy due to fulfilment of rational actions.

Parsone criticises this as actions may not always people but people may also shape norms. Pareto feels an action may not necessarily need two action.

1(d) Durkheim notices that as society becomes more modern there is decreased integration of individual with society.

In economic terms, it leads to greater specialisation of labour as people work individually without integration.

In societal terms, low degree of social integration leads to high-degree of moral individualism. People become more inward. There is rise in atheism as religion is no longer sought to seek relief.

Durkheim also sees it as cause for rise in suicide. Egoistic suicide caused by depression is a result of greater individualism.

However, this moral individualism does not affect production level integration as organic solidarity is witnessed in individualistic division of labour.

Lockwood and Malinowski have criticised Durkheim for over-emphasising the role of society and social facts.

Durkheim's ideal of sui-generis holds that individual needs a society to exist and not vice versa. He sees moral individualism as a decay sign where collective effervescence is ignored leading to depression and sees it as a pathological social fact ¹⁴ causing anomie.

5(a) Gender is a cultural concept unlike sex which is a biological term. Men and women are the two commonly referred genders.

Since time immemorial, gender has been used as a concept to foster inequality and exclusion. Harvard Business Review (2013) noted gender as the second most global form of discrimination after race.

Gender is seen as a tool to create false consciousness of weakness in the fairer sex. Parsons said women are biologically weak hence confined to household.

But feminist like Ann Oakley refuted that saying it was imposed by society not nature.

Sigmund Freud blamed socialisation by family for gender bias.

This phenomenon of gender has hampered social mobility. Social mobility is the movement of an individual from one social strata to another.

Sorokin notes that it can be vertical or horizontal.
ex: son of a farmer becomes an IAS officer.

Patriarchy and sexual division of labour use gender as a propaganda to obstruct social mobility since women are designated traditional roles.

Margaret Mead in her study of Pacific Islands notices exactly opposite gender roles.

However, with industrialisation and globalisation boundary of gender become diffused as women become essential part of economy and uplift their status.

(b) Industrialisation was the process of mechanisation of production and specialisation of labour. It resulted in large-scale migration to urban areas.

Urban lifestyle needed high living cost thus encouraged more working hands. This has led to women joining workforce.

Marriage as an institution legitimises sexual relation for procreation. However, with industrialisation women are more career-oriented.

According to National UN Population Fund, most women in India now marry in 19-24 yrs as against below 18 yrs before independence.

Apart from increasing marriage age, industrialisation has promoted smaller family size. Married couples produce their first offspring after 2 yrs of marriage.

There is also rise in new forms of marriage - same sex couples are prominent in west [Fred & Beeg]

Jesse Beemond notes in 'Future of Marriage' that industrialisation has brought gender equality in marital relations.

But A.R. Desai noted an increase in divorce rates due to modern industrialised society.

Industrialisation has fast-paced the society and marriage as a social institution has become more equal and less obligatory.

5(C) The Informal sector comprises of parallel economy that does not fall under government regulation or ambit of social security

The social composition consists of mainly migrant labours who are ethnically diverse from host place. ex: sanitation workers in US are mainly from Mexico.

They are mostly less educated and women form majority. NSSO noted an increase in women participation in usual casual labour due to agrarian stress.

Informal sector generally deploys less technological advancement and is paid low wages. Nala Kabeer studied garment industry of Bangladesh and found them highly impoverished

Informal sector does not get social security like wage regulation, pension or insurance. However the recent Atal Pension Yojna is a welcome step for pension to informal sector.

They are also exploited on basis of ethnicity and gender. Rainwater & Paliyarki noted black women in the US mainly forming the informal sector and exploited not only economically but also excluded.

The Informal sector has contributed to formal economy through background processes. They must be slowly integrated, not excluded, in mainstream society

5(d) Elites are cherry-picked few who dictate terms of a sector.

while exclusion is a practice of inequality in exacerbated form that discriminates between two sections of people.

Exclusion is mostly experienced on the basis of ethnicity, race or economic deprivation. However, elites too get secluded owing to their high-profile life which is glaringly different from others. ex: An Indian cricketer cannot enjoy simple pleasures of life like walking alone on a beach as he will be flooded with fan and media. Hence he chooses to exclude himself from common lifestyle.

De-sanskritisation is a forced form of elite exclusion. Lynch in 'Politics of Untouchability' notes Jatans refused to be seen with high caste as a form of exclusion.

However, mostly elites are excluded for the fear of being harmed by common mass. This exclusion also leads to suicide. Gabriel

Tarde notes high suicide rates in celebrity is due to elite status that in turn breeds imitation by commoners. Durkheim calls this 'egoistic suicide' due to low social integration.

Elite exclusion can also lead to depression in the elites¹⁸ and also promote 'glass ceiling' social inequality.

4(a) Davis and Moore presented a functionalist perspective of stratification by proposing effective role allocation. Only the efficient should be allowed to hold important roles as it is a demanding role.

Parsons supports this view since high-paying jobs require high degree of skills.

However, Melvin Tumin ~~Merton~~ criticises the functionalists asking how does one decide which role is more important than other? ex: ~~or~~ a doctor does need help of a nurse to treat people yet both treated unequal.

He further argues that money should not ~~remotely~~ be the only motivation to empower one self. ex:

An artisan may develop expertise in textile embroidery yet be paid less than a worker in assembly line manufacturing despite being more skilled.

Duncan and Blam note that it is training that make people 'deserving' and economically well-off automatically have better access to training.

Robert K Merton further adds that social stratification need not always be functional. Caste system is functional for a Brahmin but is dysfunctional for a Dalit.

André Betelle further noted in his book 'Inequality among men' that caste based stratification hampers mobility unlike class based

Louis Dumont in Homo Hierarchus noted hierarchy in caste stratification that was oppressive and not reciprocity based.

Marx believed stratification between proletariat and bourgeoisie has led to the exploitation of former by latter [The Communist Manifesto]

Amartya Sen further noted in the Argumentative Indian that stratification in Indian society is due to unequal participation. People at the top participate more, get better roles.

~~Marx~~ Robert Michels gave the Iron Law of Oligarchy criticising functionality of stratification. The elites ensure that power is perpetual only within them.

Mosca says there is hereditary transfer of power and the important ranks are always circulated among few.

Davis and Moore tried to legitimise social stratification based on meritocracy, but conflict theorists believed in an skewed access to opportunities to every section of society leading to biased role allocation.

(b) Social science research deploys a unified method that is based on data collection and observation. Unlike positivism, it does not solely bank on quantifiable facts.

Feminist method in social science implies using ideology and perspective of the fairer sex devoid of gender inequality.

Durkheim was the pioneer of feminist method as he discarded natural inequality between genders. In his book 'Religion' Elementary Forms of Religion, he used feminist method to study Asunta tribe of Australia and described a gender neutral religious practice.

Margaret Mead, as a feminist, observed the Pacific Islander society from gender perspective. She noted complete reversal of division of labour.

Feminist method also highlights the lacuna of traditional studies that are biased against women. Ann Oakley refuted the claim that working women spend less time with their children.

Harvard Business Review in its study of MBA graduates noted a bullish bent towards female board members of media houses as they deploy a 'feminist' perspective to market research.

Euromonitor International conducted a survey in Asia Pacific to study luxury brands of Hong Kong and adopted a feminist method by removing gender-based leading

questions ex: what would you mean to your children's parent-teacher meet instead of what would you mean to a date.

Feminist method serve dual purpose of gender bias removal and rectifying value consciousness of society.

4(c) Resource Mobilisation Theory was proposed by liberals like Robert Dahl that see social movement as a cause to achieve economic mileage.

Social movements are collective action of organised group of people for a common objective.

Resource mobilisation theory is seen as a concept that social movements aim to change ownership of resources by selected few to the common good.

ex: Socialist movement of October 1917 in Russia was aimed at freeing the Duma from Petrograd Soviet to the Bolshevik which in turn represented the common good.

However, the aim of masses may not always be aimed at common good ex: movement of Jats reservation to reserve seats in central government witnessed rape of passengers on highways.

Neil J Smelser criticises the theory as a threat to social stability. While Maoists view it as a means to create false consciousness while no relief from suffering is actually massanted.

Ralph Dahrendorf sees this theory flawed since only 'few' even in the masses get to hold the resources.

Neo-liberals also do not see much utility because they propose 'peaceful' globalisation as a means to enhance social mobility and resource distribution.

Resource mobilisation theory has proven instrumental in proposing liberal theory to social change. The movement starts from agitation and gradually musters mass support since concentration of wealth is seen as an oppressive agenda.

7(a) Talcott Parsons views power from variable sum view where power is attributed to a person through collective decision to achieve common goals. ex. student union elect leaders to further their cause in front of college administration.

While pluralists like George Stimmel and Lendeborn see power as a coercive instrument to make individual exercise control over others. ex: Khap Panchayat ordering honour killings to restore supremacy of community.

Parsons advocates power may be exercised by an individual or a group but pluralists believe power is exercised by a small group of elites.

Parsons believes with changing times, the epicentre of power changes. As a monarchy people invest power in traditional authority but in modern times, power is wielded by economic centres like corporations. Pluralists however believe power does not pass to masses but is concentrated only in a small elite group. ex: Nepotism in political party.

Parsons sees power as a means to establish social equilibrium through adaptation, goal-orientation, integration and latency (AGIL model).

while Pluralists see power as functional as well as dysfunctional. It is not necessary that a powerful macroeconomy may mean power to society.

Parsons views power as a means to social mobility ex: an able MBA graduate may lead the product development team of a company. Pluralists do not see power as a means to social mobility. The company CEO would employ his elite daughter/son as the head of product development.

However both Parsons and pluralists believe that power circulates in the society and do not subscribe to the constant sum view of marxists.

Power is also seen by both as turning to legitimised form through authority in modern times. X

Unlike conflict theorists, both view power as a means to change but not necessarily an oppressive existing society.

7(b) Almond and Coleman describe political parties as organised body of individual with homogenisation of ideology.

The main objective of political parties is to achieve political power. 70% of member countries of UN General Assembly have democracy as form of polity.

Political parties help to provide options to representative form of democracy. Elected representatives exhibit the will of common public.

Abraham Lincoln noted political parties are a means to derive common aspirations to the special house.

They as opposition scrutinise performance of government. Political parties also educate public opinions about policy implementation.

However, they are rendered dysfunctional due to social handicaps. Rajni Kothari in Caste in Indian politics writes political parties promoting caste consciousness in backward class. Mosca further adds political parties are elites who defeat democracy by creating false consciousness.

In modern times, political parties are guilty of muscle and money power, promoting leader cult over party's beliefs.

Coalition government also seem to diffuse aim of democracy as internal dynamics of a political party is compromised. Pg (17)

Narmadeshwar Prasad notes that in Bihar caste-based voting has increased caste-conflicts. Also, political parties promote use of religion. This completely defeats democracy in a secular country.

Bipin Chandra in 'Communalism in Modern India' notes that most riots are triggered by political motives instead of religion.

However, political parties have succeeded in providing voice to the depressed. The rise of BAMCEF as Bahujan Samaj Party in Uttar Pradesh is seen as face of Dalits.

Political parties have also mobilised resource from epicentre of powers to common masses. Communist regime in Cuba has brought down Gini coefficient in the country from 1959 era.

Democracy ideal of political and social justice are achieved through a representative form of political elections. Political parties, when divorced from religion/caste, provide face of aspirations of the masses.

pg (18) 7(c) Globalisation, as defined by Paul Krugman, is the process of domination of the capitalist culture on the world. Schiller further calls it the culture of imposing McDonalds, Hollywood and Coca-Cola.

As a concept, globalisation emerged in the 20th century when technologically advanced West wanted to market its goods in the Oriental.

In order to create a market, a taste for western goods is created and this leads to a melting-pot culture where the superior one dominates. ex: maggi has become quick breakfast option over traditional idli in India.

A notable increase in service sector of India is a result of globalisation. This has helped move India from an agrarian society to a developing one.

However, Globalisation causes erosion of cultural values through homogenisation. Grispen notes that a hegemony of the US is created through globalisation. ex the Lehman Brothers crash of 2008 led to a global economic crisis.

Prebisch in his Theory of Dependence notes that the satellite country stands to lose from the homogenisation. ex: Indian cotton is tested for GM variant by Monsanto who gains immensely.

But not all is bad with globalisation causing homogenisation. It was the Washington Consensus led New Economic Policy of 1990s that saved India from Balance of Payment crisis. Pg. 19

Globalisation has also brought the world closer. UNCTAD notes that as countries depend on each other for necessities, an eminent of war is lull.

Homogenisation of culture through advanced technology and integrated trade is welcome as long as it modernises but not if it encroaches.

8(a) According to Gillen and Gillen, social change is a change in social relations caused by geographical, cultural and economic factors.
ex: a decrease in fertility among Indian women has resulted in social change of increased participation in labour force.

However, change may not always be a welcoming one. Conflict theorists believe social change was a result of struggle of the oppressed. Coser in his book 'The Nation of Power' merits conflict is necessary for social change. ex: it was urbanisation that resulted in high cost of living and in turn caused breaking up of traditional ^{joint} family.

pg 20 V. Allen further notes that social change through a conflict is initiated if the oppressed feel they would be denied of justice under the incumbent regime. For ex. the workers party of Brazil caused toppling of Lula due to high unemployment and corruption.

Marx championed the conflict theory and said economic deterministic nature leads to change. The Proletariat is exploited by the Bourgeoisie. It causes alienation of the working class, its sole aim is profit-maximization and these oppressive form change a class-in-itself to a class-for-itself.

Marx says that "history of mankind is history of class struggle". The oppressed class of capitalist society would rise to establish a communist society.

Oppenheimer further advocates that conflict theory has its origin in relative deprivation. for ex. the women movements in 1920 of england demanded universal suffrage just like men.

Conflict theory is seen as good by George simmel who believes it exposes the wrong being done in the society.

Former liberals like Montesquieu and Locke felt social change does not necessarily mean conflict. ex: The Green Revolution in India did transform the agrarian society but caused no conflict. Pg 21

8(b) Science and Technology are modern fields that rationalise the society. Increased digital literacy has created better employment and advancement in scientific research has shunned superstition.

Science has promoted rationalisation and promoted secularism. The Spirit of Logic questioned authority of Pope as the West became scientifically advanced.

Technology has increased social mobility. People gain better employment, education at the click of a button.

Science and Technology has enabled better usage of demographic dividend. The young can be skilled and educated for greater economic growth.

It has promoted gender equality as women become equally skilled and contribute to workforce.

The World Economic Forum credits technology for creating an enabling environment for the minorities.

It has diffused role of middlemen and enhanced transparency. The National Agriculture Market provides access to nation-wide market for farmers.

Pg 22

Advanced technology has reduced corruption. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of subsidy has reduced pilferage.

Technology has promoted greater ^{economic} ~~gender~~ equity. Owing to Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) higher education can be availed for free.

It has also promoted greater ideals of democracy through people's participation. Twitter, SEVA and My Gov. In are portals where citizenry voices its grievances and pleasures alike.

However, it has also increased threat to social fabric. Cyber crimes like espionage, child pornography and cyberbullying cause damage to selected section of society.

Marxists further feel advancement in technology as cause for greater labour exploitation due to increased working hours.

Religious fundamentalism is seen as a by-product of process of secularism promoted by technological advancement.

Cultural lag (Ogburn) is observed as traditions are not able to keep pace with technology.

810) The institution of family, according to Malinowski is the founding stone of society. However with changing global trends of globalisation and greater geographical mobility, family components have become diverse.

There is diversity in units' structure. Parson notes that earlier there were traditional joint families now there are functional isolated nuclear families.

The role of family members have also changed. Anthony Giddens notes earlier women of family had no economic role but now they do.

Family size has also undergone variation. K P Chattopadhyay notes most prominent form as composite - nuclear family with a dependent.

Marriage as the unit of family has also changed. same-sex marriages, co-habiting couples have increased.

It is also noted that all family members may not reside in same house at most of time. William Goode in 'Geography and Family Patterns' calls pre-eminence of role-sharing as people seek more from relations.

Irawati Karve in 'Kinship Organisation in India' notices an interesting variation

Pg (24) of family with inter-caste marriages.
Family relations no longer defined by inter-generations but largely diversified.

Jesse Bernard notes rise in single-parent family and increased man-woman equality.