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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 816)

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Center	DISTANCE LEARNING	Date	25/8/2016

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
2 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
3 (a)	20	
(b)	15	
(c)	15	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	15	
(c)	15	
5 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

Signature of Examiner

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (Viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are FIVE questions printed in ENGLISH.
3. All questions are compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

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Q1) a) Impact of industrialisation on kinship relations. (10)

Ans Anthropologists like Malinowski considered that kinship was the earliest societal institution and was bound to stay in every society, primitive or modern.

However, industrialisation has greatly changed kinship relations. Macionis propounds how geographical mobility and urbanisation have led to disintegration of joint family towards nuclear / ~~joint~~ conjugal family → this has in turn weakened kinship relations.

Moreover, ~~society~~ ^{family} has transitioned from being a unit of production to a unit of consumption → again reducing the economic functionality of ~~large~~ kinship group (relations based on consanguinity, affinity, adoption).

With greater automation, power imbalance between males and females is being reduced and institution of marriage is

transitioning to household based on line in relationships, women headed / single parent households, etc.

Rajni Paltiwala rightly suggests how modern societies (especially Scandinavian countries) have seen a transition from kinship to friendship oriented social relations.

Q1) b) Case studies and life histories

Ans Case studies and life histories or biographies offer a ~~great, effective~~ ^{important} data source for sociological research.

→ Both case studies through situational ~~an~~ analysis of given cases. (based on responses from subjects, etc) and biographies based on life events of important personalities offer an important data source for qualitative research.

- Both lay significant emphasis of on subjective understanding of objective reality and help in liberating sociology from epistemological and methodological anarchism (as emphasized by Paul Frykberg)
- They also help overcome imitation of objective or anarchism, which as sociology cannot be value-free (Habermas).
- ~~Case~~ They support ideographic goals of social sciences as laid out by Windelband.
- Case studies ~~can help in~~ and biographies help in building cumulative subjective knowledge and are potential source for analysing issues like crime, consumer behaviour, etc.

Q1) c) Content Analysis

Ans Content analysis constitutes an important step in the process of following scientific methodology.

The content analysis phase begins ~~from~~ after data collection through various sources like Questionnaires, sample surveys, Participant Observation, ~~Field~~ Interview, & Focussed Group Study, etc. ~~work~~ has been completed.

~~While~~ ^{in case of} ~~data~~ ^{more} qualitative ~~research~~ ^{data} collection methodologies like Participant Observation, content analysis by researcher could affect ^{as} ^{higher} objectivity of the research as subjective bias comes into play while interpreting content or eliminating it.

theories or generalisations can be made.

- Hypothesis is a very useful tool in formulation of sociological theories as
- 1) it helps to explain all the facts connected to the hypothesis
 - 2) it guides/directs sociological enquiry along the lines
 - 3) it helps in discovery of laws or ^{arriving at} conclusions which may significantly contribute to advancement in research.

For eg: A hypothesis may be framed that religious values affect economic sphere and this then helped develop Weber's theory of Protestant Ethic & Spirit of Capitalism.

When 2 or more hypothesis can explain a phenomena, the one offering right explanation is arrived at by using the critical question or critical instance?

Q1)c) Objectivity as a sociological goal

Ans. Objectivity as a goal in sociology implies that sociological research is based on factual, observable and empirically grounded in veridical and reliable facts.

Moreover, it implies the research being value neutral or value free.

However, many sociologists have asserted ~~that~~ that value freedom is not possible in sociology (Habermas). This is because:

1) Care is taken to ensure that ^{independent interests of} institutions funding research (like state) are ~~not~~ not affected by the outcome of research.

2) A researcher being a human being, his preferences and prejudices are bound to enter research starting from selection of topic to investigating the same & goal of sociology should be value relevance.
For eg: Marx lined among the oppressed and thus wrote Das Kapital.

3) Weber believed that political ideology of the researcher is bound to be reflected in his work.

A. Giddens advocates that both social structure (objective) and social action (value laden) are two sides of the same coin.

Going a step further, Gouldner advocates that researcher must have values & must declare them so that people can see for themselves to what extent is the research objective.

Q2) a) Examine relevance and significance of theories of development & dependency in present globalising society.

Ans. Theories of development and dependency ~~offer~~ ^{are of} great relevance to study the impact of globalisation in the world today.

Andre G. Frank gave the theory of satellite metropolis. According to this theory, the rich, capitalist nations of the world who

represent the 'metropolis' have achieved their growth, technological ~~progress, etc~~ progress, etc by exploiting the poorer nations or third world countries which represent the 'satellite'.

~~They~~ Proponents of this theory believe that ~~from~~ history of the world ~~from~~ colonialism to globalisation is based on advanced nations achieving development using resources from 'satellite' nations and making them their dependents.

For eg: ~~Rich~~ Mineral rich countries of Africa remain poor themselves while western countries extensively import ~~the~~ resources from the same. Similarly, 'Brain Theory' explained how ~~India~~ Britain became rich by exploiting India.

This theory modified as core-periphery theory (core being ~~cap~~ industrialised nations and periphery being third world nations) is supported by scholars like

Shamir Amin, Gunnar Myrdal
and others.

However, Wallerstein
in his World System's Theory
contradicts the above. ~~A~~ World
System refers to an inter ~~and~~ ^{reg-}
ional and trans national system
of division of labour. He advo-
cates that ~~core~~ ^{core} nations do ~~not~~
exploit ~~periphery~~ ^{periphery} and ~~semi-periphery~~
nations as trans national and
globalised economy offers scope
for movement from core to periphery
and vice versa. His theory charts
the course of history from ~~the~~
mini system ^{to} world empire ^{to} world system.

Macionis also supports
the above view and argues that
rich nations greatly ~~to~~ help poorer
nations grow through diffusion,
transfer of technology, skills, aid,
etc.

Moreover, modern day
instruments of ~~social~~ ^{social} cartelization
(like OPEC), new institutions like
BRIC Bank, etc. are changing
the development-dependency relations
among nations.

Q2) b) Alternatives to institution of marriage is leading to its disintegration. Comment on validity of statement.

Ans. Third wave feminists consider marriage as ~~source~~ institutionalising patriarchy and perpetuating perpetual gender inequality leading to subordination of women.

Feminists like Shulamith Firestone, B. Miller advocate ~~challenging the institution~~ marriage and ~~reproduction to technology~~ ~~as~~ ~~to~~ counter the biological disadvantage women face.

With increasing economic independence, rise in conjugal relations, ~~or~~ ~~ambitions~~ and ^{appeal of} feminist ideology, the society has seen a transition from marriage to household based on live in relationships, same sex marriages/relationships, single parent/women headed households, etc.

This has allowed women to break free of ^{traditional} patriarchal ideology and ^{sex} role stereotyping that marriage and culture propagate, as explained by Cynthia Walby.

Moreover, David Popenoe states how change in societal institutions is also dependent on state ideology/support/policies. For eg: Scandinavian countries have seen a rise in live in/come sex households due to liberal state policy.

In India, on the other hand, homosexual relations ~~have~~ are still criminalised of Article 377.

William Goode ~~has~~ in his cross cultural comparison of change in institution of family ~~of~~ finds how women headed households are on the rise in Philippines (which is a matrilineal society), ~~and~~ rise in nucleated households in

South Africa, and limited ^{almost} ~~no~~ change in countries like Iran.

It is thus important to account for role of culture and state policies in analyzing the degree of disintegration of marriage caused by alternatives. For eg: India being a strong has been less affected due to patriarchy being ^{strongly} endorsed by culture and state as opposed to countries like US, Sweden, etc.

Q2) c) Relationship b/w Reliability and Validity.

Ans) Reliability refers to the accuracy and precision of a measurement procedure used in a study.

It implies that measure whether the same result is produced when the test/scale is applied to the study

again.

Reliability ^{comes in} is of 2 types:

- 1) Temporal: ^{same test} test applied by ~~later~~ ^{later}
- 2) Comparative: ^{same} same result using ^{another} ~~another~~ ^{similar} test later.

Validity refers to the extent to which a tool measures what we expect ^{intend} it to measure.

Validity is of 3 types:

- 1) Criterion validity → measures the closeness of the fit between the measure and reality
- 2) Construct validity → ~~measures~~ ^{to assess} how ^{the} measure relates to other variable.
- 3) Content validity → ~~to~~ is mainly judgemental.

Validity and Reliability are closely inter-related. Both feed on each other.

~~Greater va~~ The more reliable a study is, greater the validity and vice-versa.

Q3) a) Can digitalization of Indian society be considered as an agent of social change? In what manner can it establish a new social order in India?

Ans. ~~As~~ Post Modernist scholar Foucault asserts that knowledge is the source of power in the ~~21st~~ world today.

Digitalization, thus, helped turning India into a ~~new~~ 'knowledge economy' in today's ~~new~~ globalised ^{economy} order.

It thus follows from above ~~how~~ ^{that} power stems from digitalization has greatly contributed to social change in India, besides the obvious ~~new~~ economic benefits of a service led economy, etc.

→ In the sphere of gender relations, digitalization has helped reduce the power imbalance in favour of women. This is evident from the

increasing employment rates of women in the service sector. This in turn leads to economic independence which has ~~reduce~~ changed power relations in the household too.

→ Digitalization has significantly contributed to greater financial inclusion in the country thus contributing to empowerment of the 'voiceless underclass' of our society - the poor, tribals and so on.

Moreover, digital convergence brought about lately through 'Digital India' program has led to ~~e-governance~~ better service delivery through common service centers (CSCs).

→ ~~It~~ e-governance has helped reduce corruption in the economy.

→ Tele medicine, Tele education have greatly enabled basic ~~services~~ ^{these} empowering services to reach the grassroots, thus reducing inequalities.

→ Social media has further empowered civil society leading to ~~increasing~~ ^{furthering} their causes.

→ It has also led to secularization of cosmos, ~~in~~ reducing communal divisions (Peter Berger)

Digitalisation has thus greatly been an agent of social change in India.

It has the potential to establish a new social order which offers higher mobility, equality of opportunity and access, & further human development through skilling, etc. reducing the divisive tendencies of caste, gender, community, and overall citizen empowerment.

Q3) b) 'Gender roles and relationships have become more equal in modern family life?' Critically analyse.

Ans. Modern scholars advocate that gender roles/relations have become more equal in modern family life, ^{which is} a society that is based on rationality, achievement orientation, etc. Greater automation ~~reduced~~ made women equal participants in the work sphere; ^{resulting} a geographical mobility, industrialization ~~is~~ led to rise in

nuclear / conjugal families,
reduction in fertility rates
(due to ^{adoption of} birth control measures)
and increased economic inde-
pendence of women which
~~led~~ led to gender equality
in the household / family sphere
too.

However, feminist scholars
like S. Friedson, A. Philips,
B. Miller and others argue that
patrilarchy is universal and
advocate that women must shun
family and reproduction to
achieve ^{true} greater equality.

Their claim is not unf-
ounded as gender relations are
still unequal in family:

- ~~the~~ ~~house~~ Household refers to
a "second shift" that ~~women~~
~~must perform~~ working women
have to perform at home →
household work still remains
a woman's responsibility.
- In India, economic prosperity
of farmer from Green Revolution
can more women being
domesticated → ~~or~~ reinforcing the
traditional gender roles ^{relations} which are
unequal in family.

→ Fran Aslay, comparing a woman to a sponge, indicates how working women, ~~to~~ are solely responsible for child care/household work without male participation.

→ Recently passed Maternity Benefits Amendment Bill, 2016 ~~has~~ ^{doesn't} provide paternity benefits & provision for work from home only for women → again enforcing the patriarchal sex role constructs of child care only being a woman's responsibility.

Thus, it would be incorrect to say that gender roles/relations have become more equal.

Q3) (c) 'Education, is induction into the learner's culture?'
Examine statement in present society.

Ans. Education is greatly a product of the culture, religious and state ~~into~~ ideology of a society.

The system of education in a society ~~to~~ thus marks ~~as~~ ^{students} induction into the culture of that society.

For instance, India being a multi religious country offers secular education while Pakistan being a theocratic nation, education is mainly in the form of 'madrasa' education.

Thus, the course curriculum in the respective schooling systems transmits secular/religious values accordingly. ~~Francis~~ ^{as perpetuating} ~~consider~~ ^{ideology} education. Moreover, it is equally true to how education also becomes a part of the learner's culture, ~~in the~~ ^{therefore} helping to shape/modify it in the course of time.

Francis Brown called education a vehicle of social change by changing the behaviour of people in society. Similarly, Flaudé & Hasley speak at length about education's role in value transformation and individual empowerment.

It is through education that the learner is able to overcome the parochial ^{beliefs &} ~~divisions~~ hierarchies created by class, caste, gender, race and other forms of difference / inequality. Thus, education and culture both mutually affect / modify / reinforce each other.

Q4) a) Elaborate limitations associated with tools of measurement in social science research.

Ans, Positivists (like Comte, St-Simon, Durkheim) advocate pursuing nomothetic goals in sociology while anti positivists advocate pursuing ideographic goals in sociology.

The former includes use of objective and quantitative research methodology that is based on numerical data.

However, it suffers from the following limitations!

- 1) The Quantitative research in Sociology cannot be totally objective + researcher's bias bound to enter the study (Weber, Habermas, etc)
- 2) It tries to equate social life with matter and ignores ground level realities by controlling variables + called epistemological anarchism by Feyerabend
- 3) It ignores subjective dimensions of social actions such as emotions, meanings and reduces human beings to unthinking beings
- 4) Suffers from the problem of conflicting paradigms (Thomas Kuhn)
- 5) Ignores the vulnerabilities of theories
- c) Cannot provide interpretive explanation.

The Anti positivists advocate using qualitative research methodology which is based on non numerical data.

It suffers from the following limitations:

- 1) Qualitative research suffers from the problem of reliability and validity
- 2) It cannot be used to make generalisations and predictions
- 3) It lacks objectivity or value neutrality
- 4) It cannot establish or has limited ability to establish cause and effect relationships.
- 5) Sociological studies using qualitative methodology cannot be replicated.

Sociologists advocate using triangulation +, i.e., combining both methodologies to ~~combine~~ include the 'best of both worlds' as Byman advocated.

Q4) b) Critically discuss the reservation policy as an instrument of social change in India.

Ans. The effects of reservation policy as an instrument of change ~~have to~~ have been a matter of debate over the years.

What was perceived as a policy tool to undo the disenchantment and division created by the caste system in India, has ~~manifested~~ manifested many dysfunctions too.

Dr. Dumont called Indian caste based society as 'hierarchical' with no scope for social mobility. ~~This~~ Reservation was intended to break this hierarchy by ~~increasing~~ increasing the educational and employment opportunities to Dalits and backward classes and counter the 'social closure' or caste disadvantage that historically placed them in the bottom most rung of the society.

However, reservation today has created more caste divisions in the society today than bridging the existing ones through greater educational/occupational mobility!

The recent protest movements led by Patidars in Gujarat, Jats in Haryana, Gujjars in Rajasthan ~~and only jobs to show how~~ youth claiming reservation for their 'supposed' backward communities shows how Indian society is moving from caste to de-caste!

These protests have grievances ingrained in lack of employment opportunities for youth, caste aristocracy moving ^{from} towards agricultural to service sector, etc.

Moreover, ^{anti reservation} ~~and these~~ agitations ^{have} further strengthened caste consciousness and caste based atrocities (recent suicide case of Rohit Verma due to state/societal ~~indifference~~ ^{indifference}), have economic repercussions, weaken nation building (as BR Ambedkar had said) and help to reinforce Milton Singer's claim that caste couldn't disappear from India.

Q4)c) Nuclear family fits the needs of industrial society.
Critically analyse this statement

Ans. Macionis has asserted that ~~industrial~~ the processes of industrial location and geographical ~~mobility~~ have led to disintegration of joint families and rise in nuclear/conjugal families/households.

Nuclear family fits the needs of modern industrial society as it is more mobile, ^{has} less economic responsibilities, shared economic burden between marriage partners, endorses individualism and consumerism, etc.

~~However~~ ^{However}, the modern day nuclear family has many ~~dis~~ functions too.

Clifford Geertz ^{cites} ~~advocates~~ how traditional roles of family have been handed over to day care centres, ~~there has been increased~~

They are ~~reduced~~ ^{reduced} ~~so~~ intimate, emotional bonds, greater anxiety in the modern day family.

Scholars have called the modern day family as an 'overburdened emotional circuit'.

~~with~~ Moreover, there is an increase trend towards 'sexual monogamy' with increasing rates of divorce as witnessed in many European countries.

~~From~~ Gender relations have become more unequal as ^{working} women come back to a 'second shift' at home as propounded by Hochschild.

IP Desai & advocates that in case of India though families have become nuclear 'sentiment of jointness' remain. Despite this, increase in 'empty shells', disempowered elderly population with rise in old age homes, etc.

Thus modern day nuclear family has both functions and dysfunction.

Q5) a) Methodological pluralism is a panacea that can solve all research problems. Discuss

Ans. In order to overcome the limitations of both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, scholars now advocate use of triangulation which involves combining or adopting multiple methodologies to ^{cross} check the results, etc.

~~But~~ Quantitative methods - like questionnaires, etc. w/ use of statistics, etc. suffer from limitations of objective and epistemological anarchism as asserted by Habermas and Fryerband respectively.

They however, have advantages in the nature of greater validity, causal analysis,

reliability, greater potential to build generalisations, theories and more scope for replication.

Qualitative methodologies ~~suffer from limitations~~ of (use of interviews, Participant observation, etc) suffer from limitations of subjective bias; lower validity, reliability, replication, etc.

However, they do possess the advantages of an interpretive, comparative approach, accounting for meanings, emotions behind human actions and help perceive sociology as subjective understanding of objective reality (Weber).

this approach is advocated/used by Social Action theory (Weber), ~~Inter~~ Interactionism (Mead), Phenomenology (Berger), Reflexivity, etc.

Thus, methodological pluralism would help cross check the results created by the other methodology, and also help overcome the limitations of both approaches.

Eg: Weber's study of Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism used both methodologies.

Q5) b) Cyclic theory of Change
Weltanschauung.

Ans. P. Corokin's theory of Weltanschauung; is also called by some as many as ~~are~~ a cyclic theory of social change.

Corokin's theory talks about the following three cycles in the process of social change:

dynamic in the intermediate stage where further socio-cultural changes usher in the concrete stage which is marked by technological changes/ ~~and~~ scientific progress, etc → and then leading to Ideational change again [as evidenced today with rise in cults, sects leading to rise in religiosity → Creel]

However, theory may not be cyclic ~~has~~ as different societies may respond to changes differently. For instance, Marrist scholars foresee social revolution due to dialectical materialism while Conflict theorists (Schendinger, Gramsci) foresee internal adjustment due to change. Ogburn's 'cultural lag' theory also ~~is~~ talks about mismatch between material and non-material sphere.

Q5) c) "Comparative method in sociology."

Ans. Comparative method in sociology is used extensively and in fact by both Anti positivists and positivists.

Comparative method is a non-prescriptive approach that attempts to capture the essence of the problem at hand. Examples -

- 1) Durkheim's comparison of big mechanical solidarity and (primitive society) and organic solidarity (modern society)
- 2) Tonnies comparison of Gemeinschaft & Gesellschaft
- 3) Weber's comparative study of world religions.
- 4) Marx's comparative study of dialectic relations in different societies in course of human history from

Primitive Communism to a Socialist Order.

5) Goldthorpe and Erickson's cross cultural comparison of social mobility; and many others.

Thus, Comparative methodology has greatly advanced the ~~sa~~ depth of sociological research.