

VISION IAS.

SOCIOLOGY TEST CODE 1532

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Q.No	Maximum marks.	Marks obtained.
1a)	10	
b)	10	
c)	10	
d)	10	
e)	10	
2a)	20	
b)	20	
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3a)	20	
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6a)	20	
b)	20	
c)	10	
7a)	20	
b)	20	
c)	10	

8a)	20	
b)	20	
c)	10	

Overall macro comments

1a) Discuss Merton's four institutional imperatives of science

Robert K. Merton presented the four institutional imperatives of science in his book Sociology of Science.

They are - CUDO.

- i) Communism - scientific goods should be communally owned. There is no question of secrecy and intellectual property right.
- ii) Universalism - here scientific claims hold universal truth free from any socio-political biases. Universalism also means generalization of results.
- iii) Disinterestedness - scientific institutions shall be guided by scientific principles and there is no role for self interest.

iv) Organizational Skepticism - Science should be opened to scrutiny - similarly scientific claims should be allowed to be verified for its validity.

Merton attempts to make sociology a scientific discipline and adds the importance of fact, objectivity and value neutrality.

b) Idiographic and nomothetic sociology

Idiographic and nomothetic sociology  
deals with micro and macro  
theoretical strands of sociology respectively

Idiographic sociology

This branch of sociology deals with  
micro analyses through case study,  
participant observation. Symbolic  
Interactionism, Ethnomethodology are  
some of the subcomponents of idiographic  
sociology.

They do not attempt generalization  
rather present a micro sociological  
insight. G.H. Mead's self and identity;  
C.H. Cooley looking glass self;  
Howard Becker's labelling approach are  
some of the theories through Idiographic  
sociology.

## Nomothetic sociology

This branch presents a macro-sociological understanding. Positivist like Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim and conflictist like Marx use this method in sociology.

The aim of this strand is generalization. Durkheim's social fact is a methodological tool of nomothetic sociology; Merton's Middle Range theories, Parson's - social systems theories offers under scope for nomothetic sociology.

Ethnographic and Nomothetic sociology thus provides two diverse strands for social research.

c) Economics must be made the handmaid of sociology. Critically analyze.

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of society studied through sensory observation and without prejudices and biases

Economics, on the other hand, is the scientific study of production and distribution of resources.

Economics and

1. It is one of the oldest social science.
2. It deals with economic relation of demand and supply.
3. It has a narrow scope.

Sociology

- It is of recent emergence.
- It deals with social structure, norms and values.
- It has a wider scope.

## Economy and sociology complementing

Karl Marx's Historical Materialism offers a link between society and economic determinism. There are also several attempts in the past and present to integrate sociology & Economics.

World system's theory by

Immanuel Wallerstein regards that entire world as one system. Dependency theory aims to understand relative deprivation because of developed countries.

Thus sociology and Economics help in the holistic understanding of society when studied in a complementary manner.

e) Critically assess R.K. Merton's views on the contributions of research to the development of sociological theory

R.K. Merton hailed from the American school of sociology. His greatest contribution to sociology was the Middle Range theories.

According to him, research played an important role to the development of sociological theory. He critiqued Parson's grand theoretical framework. On the other hand, he welcome middle range theories.

He himself developed the theories of reference groups, function, dysfunction etc

Merton set the precedence for middle range theories in sociology.



c) How Durkheim's idea of sacred and profane be used to understand the contemporary society.

According to Emile Durkheim, religion was born based on the division between sacred and profane.

He defined religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices which integrates people into a single moral community.

Religion created a demarcation of sacred which was pure and demanded reverence and profane associated with mundane things.

Sacred and profane in contemporary society

Sacred and profane demarcation has increased during covid pandemic. The ideas of social distancing, sanitizers have created objects of sacred nature.

and objects which are profane.  
eg mask is advertised as human  
shield against covid-19 virus.

On the other hand, the distinction  
between sacred and profane has also  
diluted eg 1 manual scavengers and  
consentancy workers garlanded in many  
places.

eg 2 flower shower for health-care  
professional to reiterate their sanctity.

sacred and profane in the present  
day context moves beyond the  
realm of religion

2a) 8 D had argued that the function of DoL in society is that of the promotion of social solidarity. Discuss the statement and critically analyse Durkheim's DoL theory, w.r.t contemporary trends.

Emile Durkheim, a functionalist was concerned with what holds the society together. He disagreed with Comte's moral consensus and Spencer's individual contract relationship that held society together.

### Function of Division of Labour.

Durkheim finds that there are two types of society in history

- 1) mechanical solidarity - homogeneous society with simple specialization
- 2) organic solidarity - heterogeneous society with specialized division of labour.

In organic solidarity, division of labour performs the function of social cooperation, integration and social cohesion

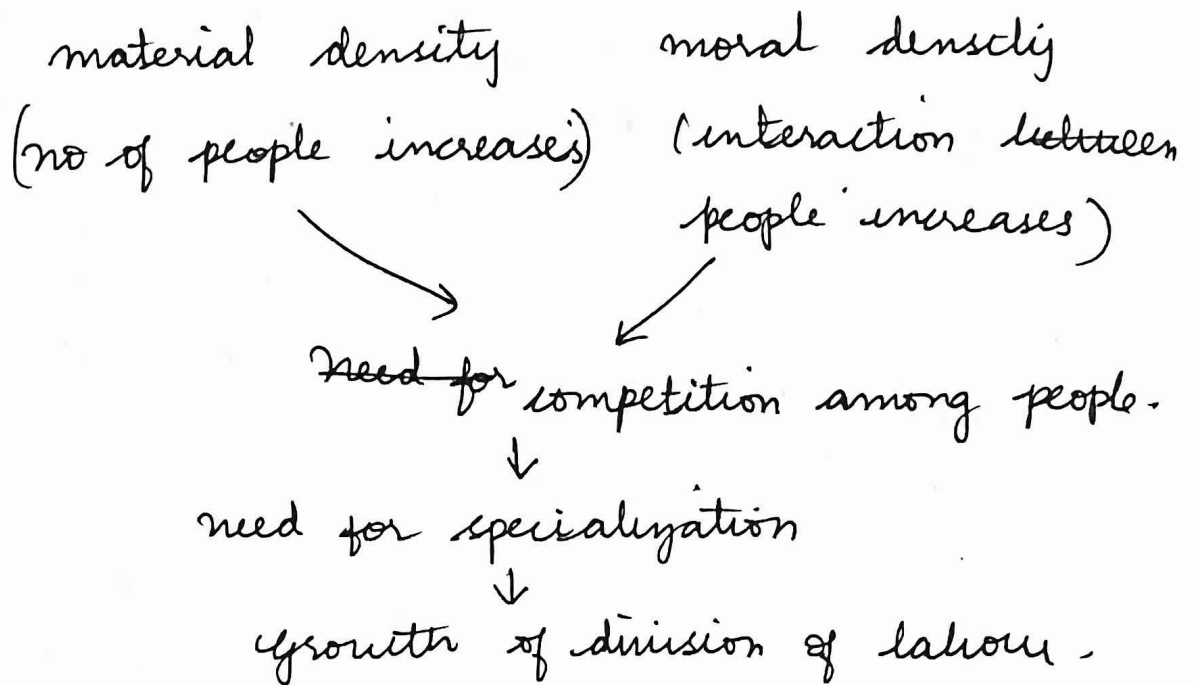


Fig: causes for division of labour.

Promotes solidarity

Unlike Marx who saw division of labour as a source of alienation, Durkheim viewed the functional aspect - society is increasing in size and the needs are also multiplying. Division of labour becomes inevitable in this case. In fact, Division of labour is characteristic feature of modern organic solidarity.

Division of labour reduces the need for repressive laws as it inherently promotes cooperation.

### Division of labour in contemporary times

Taylorism and Fordism expanded the scope of division of labour. Hyper-specialization of labour became the feature of Ford automobile unit.  
eg fitting of left mirror in a car.

The informalization of work is on the rise. Jan Breeman calls the migrants the footloose labour as they are forced to move out in search of unskilled jobs. Division of labour in service and manufacturing sector demands high specialization.

Charles Handy labels people who have required skills to work in a big firm as portfolio workers. A person who has high status of labour ladder - enjoys social honour and prestige.

The theories of social stratification point out that division of labour causes social inequality, ~~so~~ exclusion and relative deprivation. Occupational differentiation is determined through caste identities  
eg Valmiki tribe as manual scavengers.

Durkheim's division of labour gives a positivist functional perspective. In this era of automation and computerization it becomes important to study division of labour.

2b) Examine how Weber's Characterisation of Capitalism is different from those of Marx.

Capitalism is the mode of production dominated by minority ruling class who exercise hegemony over the majority working class.

Both Karl Marx and Max Weber attempted an in-depth analysis of capitalism.

Marx's capitalism

Weber's capitalism

1. He adopted the conflict approach to study capitalism.

He adopted the interpretative (verstehen) method.

Theoretical basis

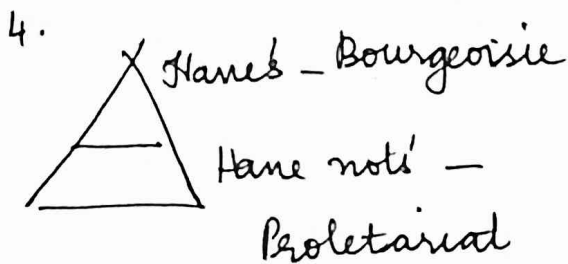
2. Capitalist society is the fourth stage in the historical materialism of Marx. The first

capitalism emerged due to the trinitarian factors of class, status and party.

three being  
Primitive Communism,  
Ancient society and  
feudal society.

It gives rise to the  
modern rational  
state.

### Stratification in capitalism



4 class present

- i) bourgeoisie
- ii) property less white collared worker
- iii) petty bourgeoisie
- iv) manual working class.

### 5. Type of Authority

Authority is now part  
of the superstructure.  
It is used to  
legitimize the  
ruling class ideology

Bureaucracy becomes  
the organizational  
apparatus of the  
modern rational  
state.

6.

### State of working class

Capitalism drives the working class towards alienation and exploitation

Capitalist society's apparatus (a) bureaucracy leads to iron cage of rationality - ~~there~~

7.

### consequences of capitalism

class in itself.



class consciousness  
+  
class solidarity

class for itself.

There is rise in rationality among people. He did not subscribe to proletarianization

8.

### Future of capitalism

Social change by proletariat will establish the communal ownership of production where there is no need for capitalism.

He is nonchalant about the future of capitalism and modern industrial state

Karl Marx and Weber's theory on capitalism is criticized by many.

Robert Dahl argues that capitalist class is present even in communist society.

Milonan Djilas terms Marx an utopian thinker whose idea of communism never materialized.

G.W. Mills admires the mental process of Weber however he claims that he has not applied it. Lachman the ideal types as a methodological tool is subjective and difficult to understand.

Capitalism, today is the most dominant economic system of the world. labour laws dilution, gig economy, contractualization etc are some of the issues which can be studied through Marx and Weber's work.

c) What is the importance of Merton's MRT in sociology critically analyze.

In critique of Talcott Parsons' grand theoretical study, R.K. Merton's student propounded the middle-range theories (MRT).

Importance of MRT.

Sociology has not reached the stage of developing an overarching discipline of all social sciences. So the need was felt for middle range theories instead of grand theories.

MRT can be applied to micro and macro sociological analysis.

For example: Reference group MRT can be used to study-

universalization - modernization and  
parochialization - Sanskritization

MRT of functionality and dysfunctionality attempt to give a multi dimensional approach of social system, social action and structures  
eg religion functions - social integration  
dysfunctions fundamentalism.

The theories of conformity and obedience is specific to American society. Similar MRT can be developed based on a region's cultural goals and institutionalized means.

Merton's MRT has inspired many sociologists beyond the American school of thought

3a) Rk goes beyond the boundaries of traditional functionalism and added to traditional one his new insights - elaborate.

R.K Merton was a neo functionalist from the American school of sociology.

His pragmatic approach forced him to adopt new dimensions to the existing functional theories.

### Postulates of functionalism

#### ① Postulate of functional unity -

Every subpart and part of a system is inter related and interdependent. Each of it performs a function that keeps the social system in order.

Merton deferred and argued that a part can have a dysfunctional role as well.

eg religion functional - social integration  
dysfunctional - fundamentalism

## ②. Postulate of functional indispensability

Every component of a social structure is indispensable. However, according to Merton nothing is indispensable. There are functional alternatives / functional

equivalents to any structure

eg Family according to G.P. Murdock has the following functions

<u>Functions</u>	<u>Functional Alternatives</u>
1. Economy.	→ Factor based production
2. Sexual regulation	→ Contraceptives
3. Reproduction	→ Adoption, surrogacy.
4. Socialization	→ Day care centres

## ③. Postulate of Universalism

Every part in a society in total is functional for the society. According to

Merton universalism cannot be guaranteed  
The net function and dysfunctions has  
to be taken to draw a general  
conclusion.

Merton, a contemporary sociologist  
added his reasoning to the existing  
functional postulates and making it  
fool proof.

### Relevance

Although functionalism pushes for  
hyper positivism; Merton offers a check  
on this issue. There can be manifest -  
function - explicitly known.

latent function - which have unintended  
consequences

This expands the scope of sociology.

For example

- lockdown increased cases of violence against women (National Commission for Women) → latent dysfunction
- Increase in female literacy increases child's nutrition levels (~~NFHS-4~~) NFHS-4 → latent function
- Direct Benefit transfer increases transparency → manifest function
- Alcoholism leads to marital breakdown → manifest dysfunction

Merton attempted to create Middle Range theories which was useful in micro and macro analysis of society.

to contemp

Ideal type is a mental construct a systematic body of scrutiny to examine a reality. Weber uses ideal types in his interpretative understanding of society.

Functions of ideal types

1. It gives a causal explanation  
eg protestant ethics and capitalism
2. It analyzes historical phenomena.  
eg traditions of religion and capitalism
3. It explains abstract elements  
eg social action.

The following are the features of ideal types

1. Ideal type is ~~the~~ not the general and typed type.

2. It does not present total reality
3. It does not make any generalization -  
but helps in description
4. It helps in empirical research -
5. It explains social reality though not  
in a deterministic form
6. It is useful to make comparative  
analysis of society -

Welter uses ideal types to study

- 1) Types of authority
  - Traditional
  - Charismatic
  - Rational legal -
- 2) Types of social action
  - Traditional
  - Wert rational
  - Zweck rational
  - Rational legal.
- 3) Protestant ethics and the spirit of  
capitalism and (PE and SP)
- 4) Bureaucracy.

## Illustration of PE and SP.

Ideal types of Protestant ethics

Ideal Types of Spirit capitalism

CAUSAL PLURALISM

1. Doctrine of predestination and calling  $\Rightarrow$  Nobody known who is called to heaven so one must work hard to secure a place.
2. Doctrine of Ascetism  $\Rightarrow$  No wastage of money; reinvest profit back into business.
3. No priestly-class  $\Rightarrow$  rise in rationalism.
4. read one's own Bible  $\Rightarrow$  increased literacy and scientific thinking.
5. No holiday  $\Rightarrow$  work for extra hours to earn profit.

Thus Weber established a causal pluralistic relationship.

## Criticisms

1. R. H. Tauney critiqued Weber's ideal types saying it was highly subjective
2. Michael Foucault comments that ideal type is a complex methodological tool.
3. There is dichotomy in his study as there are 3 types of authority and 4 types of social action
4. Weber criticizing positivist was himself attempting generalization through ideal types
5. G. W. Mills points out that Weber had good mental process but he applied it little

Despite many criticisms Weber's ideal types aided creating the most celebrated theories of bureaucracy and Protestant ethics and the spirit of capitalism.

c) Ageing is a demographic reality for many countries including India. Which method of data collection is suitable for understanding the situation of elderly ppn. Critically examine

Data collection is a process of sociological research initiated after hypothesis, sampling and pre-testing

The problems of ageing can be studied in sociological research through interview schedule. Lindsay Gardner defines interview schedule as a set of questions asked by the interviewer to the respondent in line with the research subject

Unlike questionnaire ~~and~~ where the questions have to be answered by the respondents themselves. Interview schedules offers greater flexibility and reliability. The interviewer gets to meet the respondent in person. He/she can

make observations on the body.  
language, gestures etc.

It provides scope for collecting extra information about old aged people and their uses. Questions related to their psychological health may demand greater sensitivity for an interviewer.

Interview schedule is the best tool to identify the demographic reality for many countries including India.

5 a) Write a short note on resource mobilization theory in the context of study of social movement.

M.S.A. Rao defines social movements as the substantive collective mobilization through formal and informal organization in order to achieve a transformation in the society.

There are several causes for social movements - Resource mobilization theory presented by Kathleen Gough, McCarthy and Zald based its ideas on mobilization of resources and utilization.

Resource mobilization

Social movements were based on its ability to mobilize resource as

- material - money, equipment
- non material - humans, skills.

In the contemporary times, social movements are directed towards meeting the standards of living rather than capturing power.

Resource mobilization essentially characterises the feature where collective mobilization is made possible  
eg public donor forum  
fund raise events for social cause.

Social movements are a means to improve political participation of people in society

5b) HR school of thought by Elton Mayo .

Human Relations school of thought by Elton Mayo was developed through Hawthorne studies

Mayo made an experimentation and observed that employer-employee relationship affects productivity than physical constraints (eg: lighting)

Observations

1. Leadership should create a liaison with the workers.
2. Informal social groups have greater control on labour unions
3. Increase the responsibility of workers
4. The company should strive for social well-being of the employee-
5. Regular engagement with employee and grievance redressal.

6. Periodic training and performance appraisal needed for higher productivity.

Mayo revolutionized the social organization of work post his study. Human relations became an important schools of management - HR department in many companies took over the role of training, recruiting and employee well being.

However Mayo theory is labelled as sociology in many American trade unions. He is criticized for creating

But Mayo's theory still remains relevant in a post industrial society.

5c) Critically examine the features of critical social research.

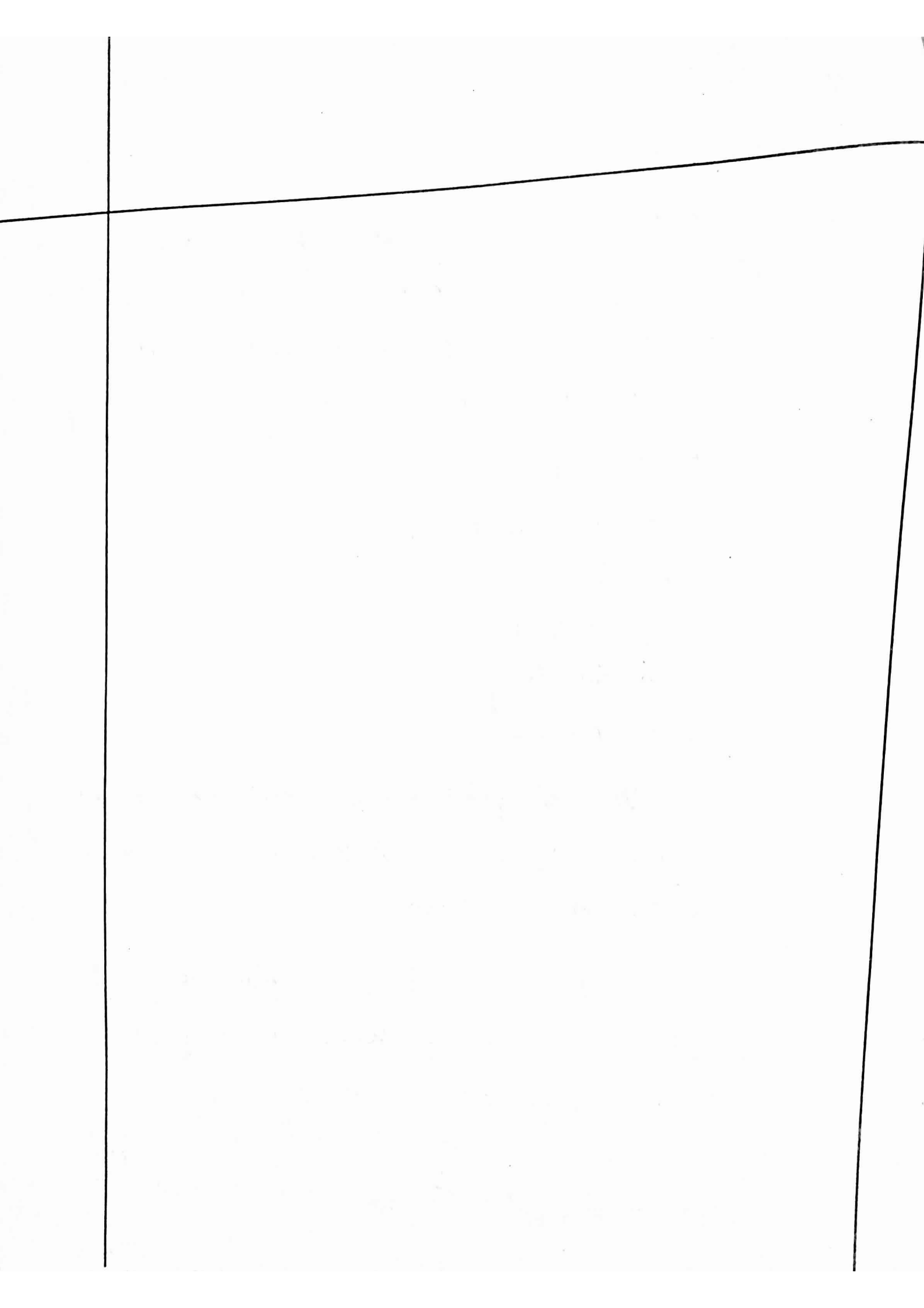
Max Horkheimer first propounded the concept of critical social research. It is based on the assumption that structures are not necessarily functional in a society.

It is based on

- i) Structure
- ii) Content
- iii) Ideology
- iv) Praxis

Unlike positivism, critical social research offers a different side to sociological analysis.

The critical role played by social structures — politics, economy, education, religion and family; social norms, values and meanings, are analyzed through this method.



5d) Write a short note on Industrial conflicts and strikes

Industrial conflicts and strikes are tools of dissent for the working class members.

According to Karl Marx, working class develops collective consciousness and aims to overthrow the bourgeoisie. However, the industrial conflicts of recent times

are just for reasons like :-

wage hike, social security, dissent

against management policies.

working class

- Demand wage hike
- social security
- Better amenities

Ruling class

extract surplus value  
exploitation

TENSION.

↓  
Conflict

The recent rampage at iPhone manufacturing unit at Bangalore was based on the demand for giving pending wages.

The code of Industrial relations aims to establish a harmonious relation between the ruling and the working class. It provides forum for dispute redressal and resolution.

Industrial conflicts are result of risk society [Ulrich Beck] - [Jan Breemay] says that needs of the labour and capitalist are never compatible.

But industrial conflicts in the present days are not a result of antagonism but in search of better livelihood.

5e) Discuss the importance of pilot studies in sociological research

Pilot studies as the name indicates are initiated before the actual sociological research.

In other words, it is a precursor to big sociological research studies

### Importance of pilot studies

1. It helps identify the method of sampling
2. It also identifies the relevance of hypothesis and checks if there is scope for improvement
3. It also provides opportunity to test the questionnaire/interview schedule or other tools of data collection. Necessary addition or deletions can be made after that.

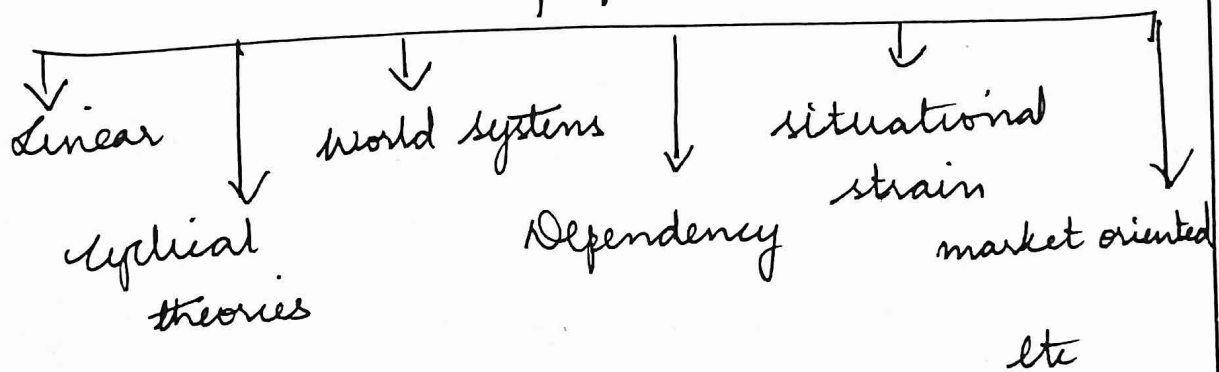
4. It provides the vision for sociological research. It can help remove the individual manifestations and conception to present an objective reality.
5. Pilot studies help define variables, small scale multi-variate analysis
6. It helps make generalization for a small sample and can check the accuracy of such generalization.

Pilot studies increase the reliability and validity of sociological research

2a) Cyclical theories examine pattern of social structure & culture that recur at regular intervals. Discuss.

Mac Iver and Page define society as a web of social relationship and - social change is the change in the system of relationship

Theories of social change -



Unlike linear theories which propagate unidirectional flow (or) evolution of society; cyclical theories examine pattern of social structure and culture at regular intervals. Cyclical theories also offers alternatives to study the consequences and limitations of previous stage and evolve better.

Two important cyclical theorists  
 are Arnold Toynbee - Challenge and Response  
 & Pitrim A. Sorokin - socio cultural  
 dynamics

Social structure through cyclical theory

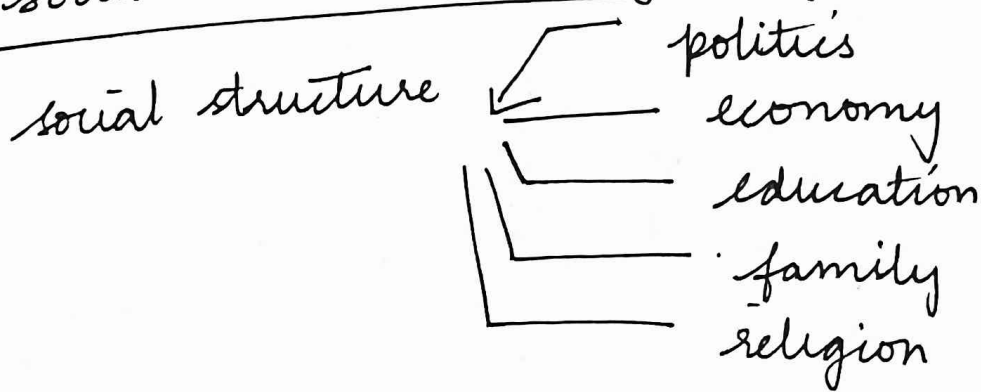


Fig: components of social structure.

Cyclical theories portray how every  
 structure witnesses changes in social  
 meaning and evolves in the process of  
 social change. Arnold Toynbee says in

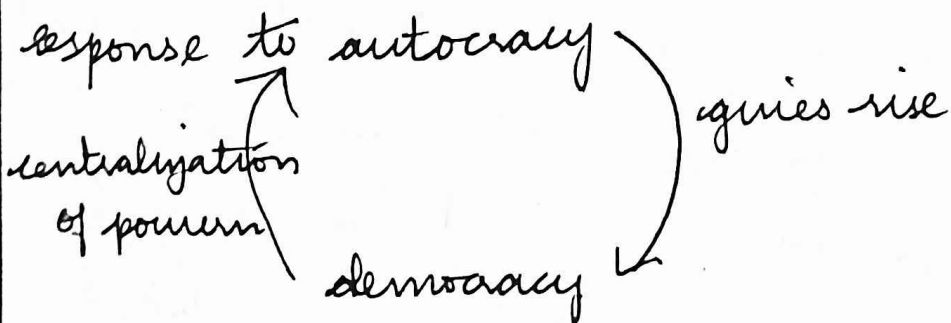
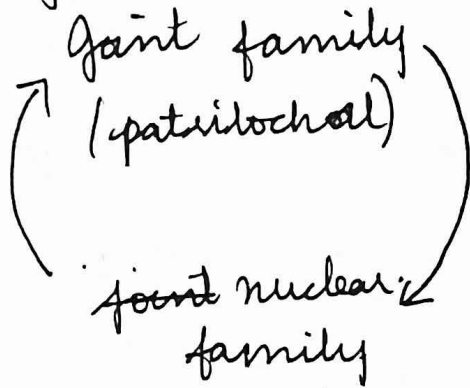


Fig: cyclical change in politics.

Fig: Family - cyclical change.



according to M.S.A. Rao.

universalization

little tradition



great tradition

re-socioialization

according to Robert Redfield

Culture through cyclical theories

Pitrim A. Sorokin studies society based on socio-cultural dynamics

SOCIETY.

SENSATE

elements that can be observed.  
eg rituals

IDEAL.

mix of sensate and ideate

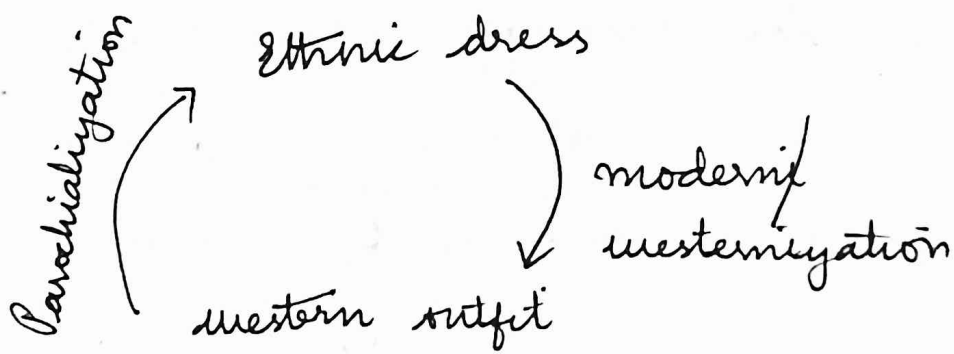
IDEATE

elements that cannot be observed  
eg civilization

eg coexistence of tradition and modernity

Cyclical theories offer a better perspective of social change. As Jan Robert comments that linear social change theories group society in irrelevant categories. But cyclical theories offer a better response to change, reason and consequence.

Cyclical theories have several application in modern days.



8b) Can digitalisation of Indian society be considered  
as an agent of social change? In what manner  
can it establish a new social order in India?

Digital penetration in India can be  
agent of social change according to  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Fig: linear scale of digitalisation

1960's	Invention of computers
1980's	introduction of computers and technology in India
1990's	increased penetration of <del>mobile</del> telephones
2000's	tele density <del>sea</del> increases
2020's	Digital India dream.

Digitization - agent of social change

Digitization affects the different  
units of social structure like the  
economy, politics, family, education  
and religion etc.

1. Economy - Digitization increased the ease of living and ease of doing business. Thereby increasing employment opportunities of growth. The culture of poverty (Oscar Lewis) can be mitigated.

2. Family eg Odisha opened a portal for uncentrizing inter-caste marriage. Families become better integrated and connected through video calls, voice calls etc.

3. Religion - lockdown has transformed the mode of worship

eg online darshan of Tirupati.

Digitization is a secular mode but still promotes religious beliefs and practices.

4. Education - Digital education has the capacity to transform the learning ecosystem in the country. However, there are problems of social exclusion and relative deprivation of weaker section  
eg only 60% of people student had access to e-textbooks - NCERT survey, 2020

5. Politics - It has helped collective conscience and mobilization of people.  
eg, #jallikattu movement in Tamil Nadu. Digitization also is used by civil society for public education and public policy making. Scholte

It can establish a new social order in the following manner:

1. Anonymity in digital usage - prevents social discrimination - Everyone gets a platform to raise their concerns
2. Resource mobilization becomes efficient and quicker
3. Reduces inequality - There is no chance of nepotism and particularistic behaviour in digital medium.
4. Feminization of new social movement  
eg #metoo, red dot campaign

Digitization as the potential tool for creating the new social order - for a transformed India.

8c) Protests and agitation are symptomatic of skewed development in society. Discuss in context of India along with relevant of 10

Protests and agitation are forms of collective action. Protest is the dissent expressed in society which is against the general ideas. Agitation is an intensification of protest.

Reasons of protest and agitations in India are skewed development in society. M.S.A. Rao identifies 3 factors

- 1) Revitalization - Marginal sections assert their identity fearing majoritarianism eg Shaheenbagh protests
- 2) Relative deprivation - On a comparative scale, some group demand certain provisions from government eg 1) Nanniyar reservation protest in Tamil Nadu.  
eg 2) Bhima Koregaon.

3. Structural strain - when the existing social norms and values are not in tune with demands of society

eg pride walk, rainbow rallies

4. Resource mobilization by Katleen Gough

protestors are capable of mobilizing material and non-material resources.

eg present farmer's protest in Delhi

5. Renationalism - there is call for renationalism of traditional institutions

eg Patthalghadi movement, Jharkhand.

In a democracy, protest and agitation are part of civil liberties guaranteed by the state.