



SECTION-A

1. a)

Discuss Merton's four institutional imperatives of science.

Robert Merton, in his Sociology of Science, discusses science as a methodology, its characteristics and emerging trends.

Institutional Imperatives of Science

Merton gives the following four imperatives:

1) Communism of Knowledge: Scientific body of

knowledge is collectively owned and built upon by the scientists. However, he also noted

the trend of fragmentation as nation-states grew stronger.

2) Disinterestedness: Scientists work on their research dispassionately to rid it of bias. However, due

to the reward mechanisms in capitalist society,

they were becoming attached to the success of their research.

3) Universalism: The scientists collaborated universally and the knowledge thus produced was universally valid.

4) Organised Skepticism: Modern scientists question everything to understand it clearly. Merton believed, this feature was still valid.

Thus, Merton took a distinct view on science itself and analysed its nature sociologically.

(v) Idiographic and Nomothetic approach

Idiographic and Nomothetic approach were given by Neo-Kantians - Windelband and Rickert who built upon Kant's typology of statements of value and statement of fact.

Idiographic Approach

- 1) It refers to a way of study which describes an unique phenomenon. eg. ethnographic study of a social word.
- 2) It is qualitative in nature and help in understanding the object.
- 3) Qualitative methodology in Sociology is
 - idiographic in nature.
- 4) Generalization is poor.

AR Radcliffe Brown calls History an idiographic discipline.

Nomothetic Approach

- 1) It is aimed quantitative study of a phenomenon. eg. study of gravity.
- 2) It is aimed at deriving generalizations to build universal theories.
- 3) It is mostly applicable to natural sciences.

Radcliffe Brown called sociology a nomothetic discipline as it engaged in theory building. In present times, the debate has instead morphed into a collaboration as both approaches are used to give comprehensive understanding.

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

Economics studies the relationship between pure economic variables to come up with theories. eg. rule of demand and supply.

As hand maid of Sociology

Sociology is the study of society - its structure, institutions and processes. Economics help sociology in the following manner:

1) It provides quantitative data to sociologists.
eg. Survey on consumption and production.

2) Economic theories can be used as hypothesis for sociological research. eg. Marx used theory of production to come up with historical materialism

3) Sociology could also make use of concrete economic vocabulary and concepts in its studies.

4) Economic Analysis serves as a limited ideal type of any sociological phenomenon.

Collaboration

However, a better synthesis is a collaboration between the two disciplines.

1) It will give comprehensive view of reality. eg.

Thorstein Veblen's study of leisure class, Pierre

Bourdieu's suggestion of factoring in social externalities in economic analysis.

Today, the disciplines of feminist economic, Economic Sociology are helping realise this collaboration.

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

R K Merton was a structure-functionalist who brought a shift in traditional functionalism through his middle-range theory and research.

Views on contributions of research

- 1) Scientific Methods: Merton saw decline in scientific methodology's relevance owing to dilution caused in it.
- 2) Focus Group Technique: Merton popularised it to understand multiple perspectives on any sociological phenomenon.
- 3) Use of empirical data was important to Merton to test his middle range theories.

4) Serendipity: Apart from research, Merton also admitted the role of chance in development of sociological theory, through strategic anomaly which may have occurred.

Criticism

- 1) Merton seems to be confusing guided research with external interferences which don't necessarily play a role in research.
- 2) Merton overplays the role of serendipity, especially in quantitative methodology.

Nonetheless, Merton has provided a working research methodology which has helped in advancement of sociological ~~and~~ theory building.

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

Durkheim, in his 'The Elementary forms of Religious Life, 1912', uses the concept of sacred and profane to understand religion.

Idea of Sacred and Profane

Sacred: Sacred are things set apart and forbidden, which are deemed to have a religious value by the followers. eg. totems

Profane: are the day to day items which lack any religious value attached to them. eg. daily cloths etc.

Understanding Contemporary Society

1) Civic Religion: Sacred explains civic religion

where by certain symbols are given a divine status and worshipped by people. eg. respect towards National flag

2) Populist leaders have propelled themselves to the status of sacred, as their opponents are considered to be profane by the supporters.

3) Religious revivalism can also be understood as attempt by believers to stop conversion of sacred into profane.

The typology of sacred and profane can be used to explain the dual reactions of people towards objects of similar nature otherwise.

2. a)

Emile Durkheim had argued that the function of division of labour in society is promotion of social solidarity. Discuss the statement and critically analyse Durkheim's Division of labour theory, with reference to contemporary trends.

Division of labour refers to the splitting of activities into many parts and each undertaken by a specialist. eg. division of manufacturing can be into research, ~~or~~ assembly lines, marketing and sales.

Durkheim's Division of Labour Theory

Durkheim, in his 'Division of Labour, 1893', studied it from sociological perspective. He says division of labour helps bring social solidarity in modern complex societies.

Simple Societies: have simple division of labour.

Mechanical Solidarity prevails due to similarity

and likeness among members.

Complex societies: Due to specialization, people get dependent on each other. This leads to Organic solidarity in the society. Such society has reformative laws.

Durkheim says division of labour has two functions to play:

- 1) Provide autonomy to individuals, as they can now explore multiple specialized trades.
- 2) Social Stability: due to inter-dependence and economic connections.

Understanding Contemporary trends

- 1) Globalization represents increased division of labour which binds the entire world now.

2) Portfolio workers have emerged. These are autonomous individuals who have multiple skills which they sell for payment.

3) Gig economy highlights extreme division of labour in present times where workers are paid per delivery / task. eg. Uber drivers, Zomato delivery people.

4) Anomic division of labour is seen in new emerging fields which don't yet have established norms. eg. Chinese researcher's use of gene editing in a way which is still unregulated

5) Forced division of labour and poorly organised setup leads to violence on the part of workers. eg. violence in Apple's plant in Karnataka

Criticism

1) Durkheim has ignored economic motivation of individuals. Goldthorpe and Lockwood say work is of instrumental nature to workers in their study.

2) Marr believed anomic division of labour couldn't be restored by mere occupational associations. It required a revolution as it was exploitative.

Nonetheless ~~thus~~, Durkheim's conception helps understand division of labour as a sociological phenomenon.

6) Examine how Weber's characterization of capitalism is different from that of Marx.

Weber studied Capitalism in his 'The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism, 1904' where:

he uncovered the role of values in establishing Capitalism.

Perspectives on Capitalism

Weber	Marx
1) Weber viewed Capitalism as <u>rationalization of economic production process</u>	1) Marx viewed <u>Capitalism</u> as an <u>exploitative arrangement of bourgeoisie</u>
2) Defined capitalism as an economic system aimed at <u>mass production</u> and <u>realization of profits</u>	2) Defined capitalism as tactic to <u>deprive workers</u> of their <u>fruits of their hard work</u>

3) Witnessed multiple classes under capitalism

- a) Propertied upper class
- b) White Collar workers
- c) Petty Bourgeoisie
- d) Proletariat / workers

4) Identified earlier forms of capitalism - booty capitalism, pariah capitalism and adventurerist capitalism.

5) He expected proliferation of middle class in capitalism.

6) In his trinitarian view, status and power

3) Viewed only two classes

- a) Bourgeoisie - have
- b) Proletariat - have not

4) He distinguished capitalism from earlier forms of feudal society, slave society and primitive Communism.

5) He envisaged class polarization due to bourgeoisie and proletarianization.

6) Class was the sole criteria of stratification

also played a part in stratification in capitalist society

7) He highlighted the role of values in advancing capitalism.
eg. Protestant ethics

8) He ~~the~~ envisaged capitalism to thrive as society underwent increasing rationalization

9) His theory on capitalism used Verstehen to under-

stand Marx's capitalist society.

7) He said it was the economic infrastructure which shaped the social superstructure instead.

8) He expected workers to ~~more~~ mobilize as true class consciousness arose in them, leading to a revolution which would end capitalism and usher in communism

9) Marx was a positivist who used quantitative

and the meanings
underlying.

data and methods
in his study.

However, both expected disenchantment
to grow - Weber in his iron cage of rationality
and Marx in his alienation - in capitalism.

It is suggested that the different
perspectives are a testimony to centrality of
lower class in Marx's world view and
upper, middle class in Weber's view. Hence,
Weber is also called Bourgeoisie Marx.

c) What is the importance of Merton's Middle Range Theory in Sociology? Critically discuss.

Robert King Merton termed Parsonian grand schemas as futile and instead focused upon middle range theories in his work.

Middle Range Theories

They are empirically verifiable - not too abstract, not too specific, generalizations about sociological phenomena. eg. Deviance theory

Importance

- 1) They ~~are~~ are reliable and valid as they can be verified empirically.
- 2) New sociological phenomenon have been uncovered through middle range theories.

eg. Self fulfilling Prophecies

3) They provide a guide to sociological research.
eg. researcher could look into latent functions
and dysfunctions.

4) They provide a defined scope to sociological
research. eg.

Criticism

1) Middle Range theories of Merton were often
rephrasing of old work. eg. Relative deprivation
from Samuel Stouffer's work, Latent functions
from Freud's latent content of dreams.

Still, Merton's middle range theory
provide the scope to concretely describe a
sociological phenomenon.

Section-B

5. a) Write a short note on 'resource mobilisation theory' in the context of study of social movements.

Social Movement are defined by Blumer as strands of sustained and spontaneous collective activity aimed at bring a change in society.

Resource Mobilization Theory

Social Unrest theory proposed that social movements happened due to unrest in society and address these. However, the limitation was that unrest is often present but that doesn't necessarily give rise to social movement.

Charles Tilly added to this explanation through his resource mobilization theory. He

says social movement occurs in a society at unrest when people are able to mobilize various resources required for the movement. This includes, ideology, leadership, material resources etc. This helps them in sustaining the movement till the change was brought.

It is criticised because people can devise their own new symbols and ideology. The arab spring highlights this, where people resisted against the might of state.

But Tilly's theory does add to understanding of social movements from a new vantage point:

b) Human Relation school of thought by Elton Mayo

Elton Mayo, in his Hawthorne studies, discovered various motivations of people at work which gave rise to Human Relation School of thought.

Human Relations School

Mayo found that money was not the sole motivation behind work. Workers would work hard when other needs were and above instrument wants were catered.

These other needs were:

- 1) Congenial work culture
- 2) Sense of ownership among workers
- 3) Good leadership.

4) Satisfaction with their work

5) Relations with other workers and management should be harmonious.

In his work, Maslow called them higher needs which a human sought to fulfill after basic needs were filled.

Criticism

* Mayo may have overestimated the human needs. As ~~God~~ Goldwood and Lockwood and Goodthorpe found in their study, workers regard work as fulfillment of material needs and rely on home for other needs.

But Mayo's work provided a new school of thought to economic determinism of organization at work.

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

Critical Social Research aims at accumulation of emancipatory knowledge through sociological research which could help people. eg.

Praxis of Marxists

Features of Critical Social Research

D) Parth Nath Mukherjee identified following features:

a) A community which wants to alleviate its condition.

b) An interventionist researcher who works in conjunction with the community under study.

c) Ownership of research by the community to help improve its ~~st~~ situation.

2) Dorothy Smith: gives the method of institutional ethnography and stand point theory which suggest to study social institutions from the point of view of the marginalised to understand their condition.

3) Habermas distinguishes emancipatory knowledge from instrumental and hermeneutic knowledge and emphasized on use of critical thought to uncover it.

Criticism

1) It is biased and value-laden

2) It often highlights 'what ought to be' than 'what it is'.

But critical social research plays an important in increasing unequal and polarized world,

d) Write a short note on 'Industrial conflicts and strikes.'

Industrial conflicts and strikes are a feature of industrialized society where workers mobilize against the owners and management. eg. recent conflict at Apple's plant in Karnataka

Features

- 1) It is a manifestation of conversion of false class consciousness into true class consciousness as workers begin to identify as an exploited class. (Morse)
- 2) They help clarify the working conditions and often lead to their improvement.
- 3) At times, they are also done at the

debust of competitors, eg. Intelligence Bureau's report on foreign involvement in some strikes.

Recent trends

1) In globalized world, workers are increasingly becoming aware of striking lest the industry moves to other place.

2) As noted by Arijun Sengupta, the rise of service sector has dented the prospects of strikes as they identify themselves as others.

~~However~~ Nonetheless, strikes have formed an important part of worker's movement through out history.

e) Discuss the importance of 'Pilot studies' in sociological research.

Pilot studies refer to preliminary small scale studies undertaken before the descriptive research. eg. pilot studies during randomised control trials to understand the efficiency of poverty alleviation measures.

Importance

1) It helps identify any lacuna in research methodology. eg. Kevin Clancy found through pilot study that different classes ^{showed} ~~attached~~ different levels of acceptance of mental illness.

2) It clarifies the scope of research.

3) It helps further narrow down the hypothesis and make it more specific.

4) They highlight possible biases one may encounter - social desirability bias, response bias etc - so that the research methodology could be modified accordingly.

5) Sometimes, they show a possible alternate hypothesis for the research.

Pilot Studies are important to fine tune the final ~~long~~ large scale sociological research.

6 a)

"In the sociology of deviance, no single theory has emerged as dominant." Discuss.

Sociology of deviance goes a long way before Merton as scholars sought to understand non-conformity by social actors.

Theories prior to R.K. Merton

1) Lombroso came up with atavism where he suggested that criminality was a result of certain biological traits. It was soon disregarded due to racist connotations.

2) Freud gave a psychological understanding.

He said human consciousness had 3 parts -

Id (creative), super ego (conformist) and

ego (rational). Deviance occurred when

Id dominated

Ric Merton's theory

Merton gave the social strain theory. He says anomie is present in society as structural means may not be sufficient to achieve culturally prescribed goals. Consequently, deviance may occur.

		<u>Goals</u>	
		<u>Accept</u>	<u>Reject</u>
<u>Means</u>	<u>Accept</u>	Conformist	Ritualist
	<u>Reject</u>	Innovation	Retreatist
		<u>New means</u>	<u>New Goals</u> Rebellian

Thus, conformists (majority of people) accepted both institutionalised means and goals. Deviant behaviours was of four types:

- 1) Ritualist: They reject goal but stick to means
eg. had baptism

2) Innovation: They devise ~~new~~ different ways of achieving goals. eg. thieves, scientists

3) Retreatist: They reject both goals and means of society. eg. drug addicts.

4) Rebels: They come up with new means and goals. eg. Lord Buddha.

Later Theories

1) Labelling Theory: Howard Becker says that one isn't a deviant, ~~one~~ but one is labelled as a deviant.

2) Laurie Taylor suggests that it is those in power who decide who are deviants.

3) Albert Cohen says deviance is a part of subcultures. Thus, it doesn't

occur at individual level. eg. culture of slum may be seen as deviant and not just some individuals from slums.

Thus, there have been a multitude theories which have tried to explain sociology deviance sociologically. As

Peter Berger notes, this presence of novel way of looking at our own social life is what makes sociology fascinating.

(c) Enumerate the characteristics of 'informally organised work' in certain types of societies.

Informal organization of work refers to work conditions which are governed by personal ties between employers and employees instead of formal rules and regulations.

Industrialized Societies

The industrialized societies have seen the rise of doing business. Thus, the voluntarist school suggests that informal organization occurs after rational evaluation of profits, and is opted by members freely.

The coercive school of Marxists however treats it as being forced by bourgeoisie to appropriate surplus value of

labour without providing commensurate benefits to them.

Industrialising and Unindustrialized Societies

1) J Keith Hart identifies following characteristics of informally organized work.

(i) Low skills are required to enter into work.

(ii) Less pay is given to workers

(iii) Immigrants are more employed in such organisations

(iv) Low barriers to entry because of low skills and less documentation.

2) Subramaniam and Papola in their

study of industries in Ahmedabad noted

that 91% workers were hired due to informal ties in informally organized work. Major deciding factors were - caste and religious affiliations, blood ties, regional affiliation.

3) The nationalist movement based on sons of soil doctrine lead to domination of local workers in certain societies when the work is informally organized

4) The legal school explains that informal organization exists because of cred tapism associated with becoming formal. It is especially true in India which ranks 164 in enforcing contracts

5) As identified by Economic Survey, the powers in centres of state also ~~to~~ incentivize MSME dwarfism in India which continue being informally organised.

Presently, it is also evaluated from a global standpoint as multi-national companies contract out various works to small industries which get tied to them.

Hence, informally organised work has several characteristics depending upon the social reality of the society.

c) What do you mean by Ethnocentrism? Discuss its advantages and disadvantages in Sociology.

Ethnocentrism refers to a world view which has ethnicity at its centre. It considers ethnicity to be the guiding light behind social reality.

Advantages

1) It has given rise to stand point theory which advocates understanding social phenomenon from the point of view of marginalised. This has highlighted their exploitation.

2) Feminist, Sub altern perspectives have emerged out of ethnocentrism based on

gender, race, caste etc

3) Disadvantages

1) It provide a colored and biased view of reality.

2) It gives one-sided image which is true only for some ethnicities. eg. French model of secularism is functional for some ethnicities, but dysfunctional for other ethnicity within the country.

3) Ethnicity becomes overriding concern and other influences may be left out.

Thus, ethnocentrism is a partial view of reality which needs to be supplemented with other views for comprehensive understanding.

7 a)

In India's cultural landscape, cults and sects professing a common way of life and shared ideals arose as an alternative to the discrimination perpetuated by traditional religious hierarchies. Discuss.

Sect Cults are small groups based around a charismatic leader with different religious values. Sect is a small group with religious views in contrast with mainstream society.

Traditional Religious Hierarchies in India

1) Hinduism: Nagendra SP highlights the presence of various varnas based on gunas (qualities) and sanctioned by Purusha Sukta hymn of Rig Veda. The caste based discrimination resulted from the notions of purity and pollution (Dumont)

2) Islam: Division between ashraf and ajlaf muslims, in addition to untouchable ~~or~~ arzal muslims exists.

3) Christianity: also has caste like discrimination among different denominations.

4) Sikhism: khatri, aroras etc. are ranked higher when it comes to marriage.

Rise of Cults and Sects in India

Welter calls the proliferation of sects as theodicy of the privileged. The lower class, caste, is excluded from mainstream and finds solace in such cults and sects.

1) Cults like Dera Sacha Sauda promise equality and have attracted people who

were discriminated against

2) These sects also engage in charitable works which attracts the marginalised towards them. eg. Anasaram Bapu's charitable trust.

3) Tradition religions promise alleviation of misery in after life or next birth. On the contrary, as Obridge notes, cults promise solutions to daily problems and instant connectivity with divinity. This leads to their proliferation.

4) The alienation in urban areas has led to people searching for solace. This meaninglessness of world is countered through spiritual experience provided by cults like

Isha foundation, Sadhguru etc.

5) The centrality of charismatic leader helps people to relate to him/her. Thus, leaders like Baba Ram Rahim, Sathy Sai Baba and others have attracted millions of followers who see divine in them.

Hence, the marginalized sections of societies, in order to find comfort, found themselves become a part of various sects and cults which professed a common way of life and shared ideals.

b) The institution of family, despite its 'functionality' has not been positively evaluated by many.

Discuss.

G.P. Murdock defines family as a group having two adults in sexual relationship, and their children who usually live together.

Functions of family

1) Murdock notes following functions

(i) Regulates Reproduction

(ii) Sexual Relations

(iii) Economic function towards members

(iv) Socializing children

2) Parsons says nuclear family have two important functions in industrial society.

(i) Socialization of children

(ii) Stabilization of adult personalities

Critical View

- 1) Rowbotham says family provides unpaid labour to capitalists, as it raises children. This also dissuades workers from revolting.
- 2) Fran Ansley says role of woman is subdued in family and she is just friend and emotional support to male worker.
- 3) Edmond Leach is critical of family as members take out too much on each other.
- 4) R D X Vogles and Bell suggest that family has a dysfunctional role for children.

who become a scape goat to take out other frustrations.

5) R D Laing says family act as gangsters, providing protection to each other from each other's violence.

6) Murray Strauss says family legitimizes violence against women.

7) David Cooper, in 'The death of family' says family facilitates capitalism. It is dysfunctional to society as it acts as a safety valve.

8) In India's case, the joint family has been berated by scholars as perpetuating

Patriarchy through eldest male authority,
curbing autonomy of individuals and
imposing itself on members.

Nonetheless Despite this, as Ronald
Fletcher has noted, the role of family
is becoming important in a world where
primary ^{social} institutions are getting specialised.
Kornblum also expects them to thrive
as emotional satisfaction is provided by the
family.

9) Briefly analyse the role of ideology as an essential component of social movement.

Ideology refers to a partial reality of social situation which is deemed as important by those professing it. eg. Capitalism, Communism.

Role of ideology in social movement

M SA Rao says ideology is an important component of social movement along side leadership and organization.

1) Ideology clarifies the goal of the social movement. eg. goal of classless society of communism

2) It also elaborates on means available

to the social movement. eg. ideology of non-violence dissuades violent uprising.

3) It bonds the members through a common understanding of the situation.

4) It attracts others to the social movement who believe in the ideology of the movement. eg. ongoing farmer's protests are a part of larger farmers' movement which keep attracting similar minded individuals.

However, Karl Popper criticizes ideology as it is totalitarian in character.

Despite this, it acts as a glue which bonds any social movement and keeps it together.