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Sociology - Test - 2  
(2024)

Comments;

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1. @

Sociology is the systematic and scientific study of Society, social institutions and social process. While sociology deals with present society.

History is narrative of events which has been occurred in the past.

It has been observed by many scholars that Socio-logy is present history and History is past sociology. As both study Sociology about Society, Socio-economic conditions and political conditions therein.

Karl Marx, in his historical materialism traced how changes in Society has occurred in different historical epochs with changes to economic conditions.

Max Weber, started department of Historical Sociology and did comparative analysis of different religious studies.

Sociology which study about Society has evolved over multiple centuries, so without proper studies of History, Sociology cannot have any base.

Similarly, History which depicts only about political conditions and glorification of rulers doesn't give insights to Social Conditions, in that case it doesn't have any fault. In this regard, Sub-altern studies which provides history from bottom gives insights.

However, DURKHEIM argued History is just idiographic which gives specific insights while Sociology as nomothetic approach gives generalized view of society.

Both contribute to studying the present society as society doesn't exist in isolation but a product of many centuries.

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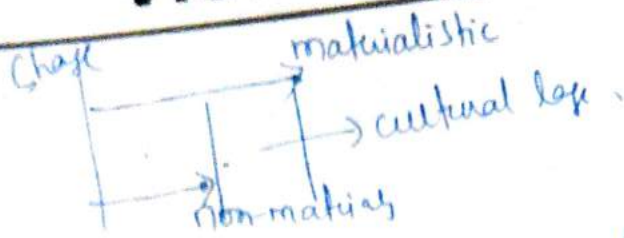
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Social change is transformation of Society, different Social institutions and Social processes. It is in both structural and cultural Sphere.

Ogburn gave <sup>his</sup> social change theory as a reaction to economic determinism prevailing at those times.

He said change is technology will lead to changes in Society. But this change is not uniform across all Spheres of Society. He termed this as cultural lag.

Cultural lag refers to the change in materialistic Sphere always will be ahead compared to non-materialistic Sphere. This is because change of values, belief systems which are existing in Society as product of centuries of civilization are hard to change.



Eg:- with industrialization and urbanization, there is complex division of labour, and women enter to work sphere, but still cultural values did not change. Even with new contraceptive methods, only few uses this.

~~This theory~~ Because of these cultural lag, there are some dysfunctions in society like conflicts arising due to contrasting values, inability of institutions to bring changes.

Criticism

- William J Goode showed nuclearisation is preceding faster than industrialization due to fast cultural transmission.
- In era of Globalization, there is fast dissemination of ideas.

1(d)

Idiographic and Nomothetic approach :-

Idiographic approach refers to studying of events in a specific and detailed manner without generalizations, while Nomothetic approach stress upon generalization of things without any specificity.

When Sociology emerged with the influence of intellectual forces and prevailing natural science effect, forefathers like COMTE, DURKHEIM gave nomothetic approach to understand the Society.

COMTE proposed even in Sociology, there ~~are~~ is Cause and effect, people respond to external Stimuli and there are invariable laws in Society.

DURKHEIM gave concept of social facts and tried to generalize and give grand theories. His Study of suicide, ~~character~~ Division of labour all

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based on social facts.

PARSONS gave Grand theories of action system to give Generalized approach.

However, later Sociologists disapproved strict nomothetic approach and stressed upon idiographic, where subjectivity of the actor counted is.

Phenomenologists said the social construction of reality is different for different individuals and need to be studied upon from specific point of view.

Methods:-

Nomothetic: Quantitative methods, Structured Interviews, Closed ended Questionnaire.

Idiographic: Qualitative methods, Ethnographic Studies, participant observation, Case Study.

Both are equally important in exploratory, explanatory and descriptive methodology of Sociology

1②

Covid-19 created havoc across the Society and impacted and disrupted everyday life and hindered Socio-economic gains.

Studying impact is extremely crucial to design best policies to counter. In this regard, following research methodologies based on Triangulation which involves both Quantitative and Qualitative tools.

### Quantitative methods

- Can help gauge the macro-impact on Society.
- Social survey methods like periodic labour force survey can help in unemployment caused due to pandemic, which needs overall analysis of Society.
- Questionnaire methods can help in gauge changes in Consumer Spending and amount of poverty levels.

- Migrant data can be best &  
However, Quantitative tools can just give narrow  
perspective, but to study impact from people's  
perspective Qualitative tools need to be employed.
- unstructured Interviews can help in disproportion-  
-rate impact on women caused due to  
Shadow pandemic.
- Participant observation can help in assessing the  
behavioural changes induced and methods and  
methodology used by people to fight the virus.

Hence, COVID-19 impact best studied with  
Combining both Qualitative and Quantitative  
methods.

5. (a) Scope of Sociology changed from its inception - where positivists gave strict sociological explanations and formed macro perspective.

Later micro-view of Sociology took it closer to other disciplines like psychology (mead's self). Also, it is integrated with History, political science and Economics with rise of modern welfare state, welfare Economy.

Specific reference to Pandemic period :-

- Sociology can be closely integrated with psychology to study effects of Pandemic, deviant behaviour, to study migrant crisis from the point of view of actors.
- with rise in poverty and unemployment levels, disproportionate impact on poor, marginalized, welfare Economy combining with

Sociologists to study detailed case studies to chalk out research analysis.

New problems and opportunities like work from home impact of formal, informal sector, on women, Rise in shadow pandemic, new types of delinquent behaviour like social stigma, stereotyping all which needs distinct Sociological Analysis.

The rise of protectionism, vaccine nationalism, globalization, detrimentalization all woven with societal and nations interests need to be studied from sociology.

Social change with pandemic also need Specific sociology analysis.

S(b)

Ethnography approach:-

Ethnography refers to the studying of society from what people do, based on their actions. They study what society is instead of what is ought to be as emphasised by positivists.

Ethnography approach involves:-

- 1) Participant observation.
- 2) Field studies.

It involves qualitative research methodology where researcher observes the actors in a given social setting and closely note down all the actions, reactions performed.

Eg:- Margaret Mead in Samoa Islands observed Gender differences of primitives and how they react during puberty.

Field studies in India by MN Srinivas,  
SC Dube gave the new sociological insights  
into village and caste system.

They can help in observing indexicality  
and reflectivity where actors act according  
to the context of situation and according to  
other actors.

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5(c) Feminization of work involves the ~~to~~ increasing female participation in labour market, though it tried to establish Gender equality but is successful only to a certain extent.

↳ led to Gender Equality

- It led to Economic empowerment with paid work, increased dignity of women and financial independence,
- Economic empowerment is closely related to political participation, increase in health condition, decision taking capabilities, ~~leads~~ to all can pave way for Gender equality.

However, many structural flaws and entrenched patriarchy acting against it.

- Females are paid less for the same work men do (30% less ILO Report)

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- Sexualisation of work like pink collared jobs, clerical, care, cabin work which are enforcing Gender stereotypes.
- Sexual Harassment at workplace, Glass ceiling effect to higher positions.
- Most of the women are employed in primary Sector (around 70% in South-Asia, ILO Report) which are low paid, devoid of Social security, no property rights.
- Violence in public place also inhibiting work opportunities.

Thus, even though feminization of work has capability to create gender equality but due to structural weakness, it is still far way to go.

5(d) Social pathology refers to abnormal (or) negative affects arising due to certain acts.

Though, Marriage is considered universal social institution with certain functions like reproduction of children, increased Solidarity, Strengthening kinship system.

But in contemporary times due to flawed modernisation, there are several pathologies exist:

① domestic violence where 1 in 3 women experience it worldwide

② Marital rapes which are ~~is~~ only illegal in ~40 countries.

③ No democratisation of authority, still women are subordinated to men and devoid of Reproductive and Sexual rights.

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④ Marriage transformed from sacred to  
Contract marriages, Sham marriages which  
is hampering social institution.

⑤ ~~the~~

Marriage though universal institution,  
Several pathologies impacting its efficacy

5. (c)

~~State~~ Social change refers to the transformation of Society, Social institutions and Social process.

Means available for Social change

→ Education  
Technology  
Religion  
individual ideas  
Economic changes  
State → laws, public policy

Public policy governs the direction in which Society moves, what are the initiatives taken by the Government. It gives the broad picture of changes that can be brought in.

Eg:- ~~Russia's~~ USSR public policy during cold war made them technological prowess in defense and space research, but neglected socio-econ. conditions.

Thus it gives thrust to the Society.

• Public policy of Governments sets priorities of the Governments.

Eg: Scandinavian Countries focus on social indicators  
China's economic policy brought change in economic and gave rise to Capitalist Society

Though public policy gives direction to the social change, but ultimately it is the people who follows it and social values that finally govern the social change.

Eg: change in downy laws did not bring down downy incidents.

Thus, public policy though effective it depends on societal conditions

2. (a)

Sociology which is Scientific Study of Society emerged in the aftermath of French and Industrial revolution due to rapid Socio-economic, political changes and influence of intellectual forces due to Renaissance and enlightenment period.

Socio-Economic background:-

- Socio-economic changes which took rapid turn in 18th century can be traced back to Commercial revolution during Renaissance period.

The rise of middle class, mercantilism finally paved the way for Industrial revolution overthrowing feudal society. with Industrial revolution, major economic changes took place with increase in economic productivity

and change of production from farm to factory. with this it has major social impacts. The traditional society with its rural setting, joint families, stability and continuity in life paved the way for urbanization, change to nuclear families and there is fear of uncertainty due to rapid social change.

The economic conditions in urban areas are contrasting, while industrialists had lavish life style, workers faced exploitation, discrimination, ~~new~~ New problems like urban crime, poor living conditions emerged which gave the subject matter for sociology to study rapid changes happening in society.

### Political background

French revolution changed the nature of state, Religion is separated from the state

and gave new values like liberty, equality and fraternity which paved the way for modernisation, consequently arose the modern concept of welfare state.

### Intellectual background

while socio-economic conditions gave subject matter, intellectual forces gave methodology to sociology based on natural science. The period of Renaissance characterised by Realism, Humanism and empiricism. The contributions of Copernicus on Heliocentric theory, Shakespeare, Leonardo da Vinci, in humanism.

The thinker Rousseau's Social contract theory, John Locke's rights, Adam Smith's laissez faire economics also paved way for socio-economic and political changes.

The influence of natural science started with

Scientific methods, Theory of evolution, notion of perfectability of society and also methods like Social Survey all gave the positivist orientation in sociology.

with rapid changes counter-enlightenment thoughts of de-Boland against problems occurring due to social changes and contributions of DURKHEIM - who studied transitions in society with diversion of labour from simple to complex societies.

Thus, sociology emerged as a distinct discipline - line to understand the rapid social changes, predict them and also to find solutions.

2(b)

Participant observation

Participant observation used to study the social reality from the actors point of view. It stress upon the observation through eyes, rather than believing in words and answers.

Malinowski introduced participant observation to Sociology in his work of Social Anthropology on Trobriand Islands.

Convenient approach to gather information:-

- ~~It can~~ ~~is~~ The observer stays with the group on which he is performing and note down all the actions of the actors. This is convenient because the research involves noting down everyday life of actors without specifically asking them any questions and the

Researcher can get all the inputs for his research.

Eg:- field studies in India by MN Srinivas,  
Andre Betelle where they studied about village life by being one of the member and staying in the village.

However, the data can be grossly misleading because it is difficult to check reliability and validity of the information.

### Advantages of participant observation

- It gives complete picture of the social reality, and the way actors lead their life.
- It can help in avoiding ethno-centric bias of the researcher as he is able to appreciate the culture of society.
- ~~It is~~ In Questionnaire, interviews, the researcher already pointed out what is important.  
But in ~~part~~ this,

Researcher discretion will be less.

- Participant observation gives new insights and helps in falsification.

Eg:- Margaret Mead study of Samoa Islands, gave views of gender norms which are distinct from mainstream society.

- Ethnographic studies employ these to study what people actually do.

### Disadvantages

- There is a problem of reliability and validity as there is no valid data to check but only observations.

- Participant observation may mislead the researcher and disrupt the whole study.

Eg:- William Foote Whyte study on Italian Gangster, where he started as non-participant observer but ended with ~~observing~~ participating non-observing participant.

- Social desirability bias of the actors kicks in.
- when observed, ~~per~~ actors natural action may disturb.

~~Polit~~ Cannot give any generalizations.

Most of the times, Researcher cannot able to access all sections of the society, happened in Indian field studies.

Participant observation has been extremely successful in Qualitative research and gave new insights into Sociology with field studies giving new concepts like dominant Caste, Sanskritization. Evans Pritchard Study on Kinship systems which cannot be observed through Quantitative methods

20) Objectivity in Sociological research refers to the results ~~are~~ from research are independent of values of race, colour, Creed, Religion, Nationality, political and moral predisposition of the ~~actor~~ researcher (- Robert Kiersteadt)

Positivists based on natural science methodology tried to establish absolute objectivity in social research as they believe that society is governed by cause & effect and external realities.

But later scholars like WEISER concluded that natural sciences are governed by facts, but in social sciences - there can't be fact-value dichotomy. So, complete objectivity cannot be achieved due to values of the researcher. Hence he advocated value-neutrality is problem identification,

but later proposed value-relevance.

However, phenomenologists argued sociology is subjective understanding of subjects reality hence objectivity is a myth in society and it's hard to maintain one.

Gunnar Myrdal advocated absolute objectivity is a illusion and cannot be achieved at any stage right from problem statement, methodology, interpretation of facts due to biasness of research.

Critical research scientists advocated there should not be objectivity and sociologists should fight for downtrodden, exploited in society.

Though absolute objectivity is not possible but as weber suggests value-neutrality should be maintained in the course of research.

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Work is the activity which involves expenditure of energy, whether paid or unpaid contributing to the Societal needs.

As work is mainly economic activity, but involves social relations as well, power differences, interactions between workers. The nature of work impacts the different social structures like family, kinship pattern, political system, Stratification, social mobility and also religious system.

So, social organization of work involves relations of workers between different modes of production, alienation levels.

Marx commented that Social structure which is dependent on the economic structure which gives rise to different social organization of

work in different societies.

## Feudal Societies (vs) Capitalist Societies

Nature of production:-

In feudal society, agriculture is the dominant activity ~~whereas~~ whereas in Capitalist it is the Industrial sector. Feudal Society - main forces of production is land, while its Capital in Capitalistic.

Social Stratification:

Feudal: Mainly consists of lords and serfs. Lords are land owning aristocratic class, serfs are workers employed. It also has other classes like clergy, knights.

Capitalists: As Marx defined, it consist of Bourgeoisie (haves) and proletariat (have-nots). while weber stated four classes mainly. propertied class, white collar workers, petite Bourgeoisie, manual workers.

• Social mobility: It is very low in feudal society as serfs are tied to land with little freedom, but in capitalist society high level of mobility based on meritocracy.

• Power relations: In both societies, there is exploitation of have-nots by haves and it is more severe in Capitalist society as stated by Marx.

• Family structure: Feudal society characterized by Traditional societies based on Joint families which takes economic production.

In Capitalist, Nuclearization of families due to geographical mobility, family is unit of consumption.

• Division of labour <sup>(DoL)</sup>: As Durkheim stated, Feudal simple DoL due to mechanical solidarity and it is complex in Capitalist due to organic solidarity.

degree of Alienation: - Its higher in Capitalist mode of emphasized by Marx, but Robert Blaauw concluded that with increase in Specialization and technology, Alienation decreases.

• Role of Religion decreases as Capitalist pave way for modernization of society and leads to disenchantment

• High level of technology in Capitalist society compared to feudal.

Marx concluded that Capitalist society is inherently stable due to covert exploitation of workers and predicted Communist society which is distinct from both feudal and Capitalist society.

(b) Social change refers to the transformation of Society, different social institutions and social processes, values and belief systems.

Technology has been an important agent of Social change, Digitalization which started with Industrial revolution 3.0 has brought notified changes in the society in all spheres ranging from rise of Gig Economy, IT sector in Econo-  
-mic sphere, change of Governance like adoption of e-Governance tools which took Govt. closer to the people, rise of social media which disrupted social interactions in a phenomenal way. ~~and~~

It also brought Cultural integration and paved the way for fast globalization - ion of values.

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Thus, it can be considered as ~~new~~ an agent of social change.

## New Social order in India :-

The new social order can be analysed with different institutions and impact.

Family Structure: It led to computer revolution in family, where the emotional bonding and social interactions are decreasing its significance, less cultural transmission of values.

Impact on women: Women are getting newer opportunities in work area, higher access to financial inclusion. But it also gave new threats like cyber-bullying and commodification on women.

Economic Structure:- Rise of Gig Economy providing newer opportunities to work in the society. It also led to 29 sector, which stole the middle class in India.

Political system & Governance: with e-Governance tools, ~~like~~ it's bringing Governance closer to people leading to increased public participation.

Social Movements: There is a new wave of social movements based upon on social media. E.g:- #metoo movement, Dalit movements. ~~Some~~ Recently, Farmer movements in India are globalized due to social media use case.

Religion: ~~It~~ The rise of online dargahs and spiritual leaders giving new definitions of religion.

Also, digitalization impacting society in a negative way

Digital divide: It can increase the inequalities as it is entrenched in urban-rural divide, across gender, caste and regions. Hence, improper use will hamper socio-economic development.

Impact on youth: It is leading to new forms of relative deprivation and many suicidal incidents are reported. New form of alienation from different market segments.

Radicalization: digitalization helping in Terrorist outfits to radicalize the youth and recruiting

Eg: In Kashmir, many youth were disillusioned in social media.

Thus, digitalization has been an important agent of social change with both positive and negative impacts in both structural and cultural values of society.

① Family is a social group based on common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction with two adults in socially approved relationship and their children.

G.P. Murdock advocated functions of family are universal like

- Economic production
- Education
- Reproduction
- Sexuality.

However, with modernisation there are several changes and dysfunctionalisation of family :-

- ① with industrialisation, family instead of economic production became consumption unit.
- ② Rise of welfare state, bureaucratic organisation, old age homes taking the functions of care, provision for social security.

Schools and media are helping in socializa-

-ation of the children

Scientific advancements like Surrogacy, Test tube babies also replacing reproduction function of the family.

Also declassification of marriage, Serial mono-  
-gamy, high divorce rates, Contractual,  
open marriages taking away the Sexual  
Control function.

However, as PARSONS indicated family is still relevant in

- ① primary socialization
- ② Stabilization of adults

in the time of extreme individualization.

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3. @ Sociology emerged as ~~distinct discipline~~ in the late 19th century.

Sociology is systematic and scientific study of society and different social institutions, social processes.

Positivist	Interpretative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of natural sciences and emphasis on Quantitative methods</li> <li>• Objective understanding of objective reality</li> <li>• <u>ComTE</u>: Cause and effect of society and invariable laws of society</li> <li>• External reality</li> <li>• Quantitative tools like Social survey, structured <u>interviews</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasized <u>Qualitative methods</u></li> <li>• objective understanding of subjective reality</li> <li>• Man has <u>Consciousness</u>, acts instead of <u>behavior</u></li> <li>• need to study meanings attached by actor to the reality</li> <li>• Qualitative tools, :- <u>observation</u>, <u>empathetic</u> <u>diario</u>, <u>unstructured</u> <u>interviews</u></li> </ul>

## Positivists Contribution to Sociology

- Early Sociologists laid down the methodology of Sociology based on natural science and tried to explain cause and effect and develop Grand theories which can ~~do~~ give generalizations and explain all the phenomenon in society.
- DURKHEIM, a strict positivist gave Social facts to understand the Society objectively and gave theories of Religion, suicide, division of labour with strict Sociological analysis.
- Karl Marx, a methodological positivist, explained the historical materialism which are governed by external economic factors.
- Positivists helped in giving a distinct discipline characteristic to Sociology and helped it to move from clutches of Theology and psychology.

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- This was later further enriched by PARSONS with action system, functional prerequisites of AGIL Model, pattern variables which can help in grasping macro-view of society.

Interpretivist approach

While positivism gave macro-view of society, Interpretivists focused on micro-view of reality and studying from the point of view of the actor. They gave emphasis on internal meanings attached and rejected cause and effect method.

- Weber's focus on social action with Zweck-rational help in understanding rationality of the society.

Phenomenological studies rejected grand theories and Peter Berger commented social reality made, remade from point of view of actor.

- Ethnomethodological tools gave like participant observations gave distinct view.  
Eg: Atkinson Study of suicides gave ~~diff~~  
Criticism to DURKHEIM'S suicide.
- Interactionist approach gave aspects of socialization and interactionism, and how the affect is two-fold with concept of self i.e. I + Me.

So, both Complementary both Positivist and Interpretive understanding of Sociology gives both macro and micro view of society and gives complete picture and further enrich the discipline of Sociology.

① Keith Hart, coined the term Informal Sector which is characterized by low skill, easy entry, low paid wages and easy removal from the jobs.

Both advanced form of Capitalism, Globalization and consequent removal of state from labour generation increased the informal sector in India. Presently 90% of employed in informal sector.

Functional aspect:-

- The Dualist school of informal sector analysis it is used for providing employment for unskilled labour
- It reduces the cost of operation and increase the profits of the company.
- It makes the goods more competitive, hence aids industrialists, MNC's.

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Dysfunctional aspect:

- No social security in informal sector, fear of eviction, low paid impacts labour and their life.
- low skills, impacts the production levels.
- Informal sector with no regulations and rules, employing child labour who are exploited and deprived.
- Impact on women: women are 70% employed in agri sector and around 95% in informal sector, facing issues of harassment, low paid labour.
- reinforces inequalities, increase alienation