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Name: ISHAN BHATNAGAR

Reg no: 46007892

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Question No.

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"Common sense is sociological nonsense." How far do you agree with the assertion in context of 21st century sociology? 10

I partially agree with the statement that 'common sense is sociological nonsense'. This is because common sense is simply the set of unquestioned assumptions and conventional wisdom that allows us to live our lives. Sociology, on the other hand, is the science of society.

Common sense as sociological non-sense

1. Common sense is based on assumptions and intuitions. [Durkheim] pointed out that sociology studies "social facts as things" using empirical methods.
2. Common sense is unreflective. However, sociology is subject to endless debates, offering self correction. For instance, [feminist sociologists] have questioned the "malestream" ~~research~~ research on family.

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3. Common sense veers towards individual & biological explanations. e.g., people are poor because they are lazy.

Sociology, on the other hand requires placing individual problems in their larger social context, enshrined in

C. W. Mills' sociological imagination.

Common sense is not entirely useless

4. Ethnomethodologists like Schutz and Berger argue that common sense denotes frames of meanings people actually use in their daily lives.

5. Common sense aids sociological research by providing initial hypothesis to be subject to testing.

Hence, Anthony Giddens argues that common sense is relevant to, but not determinative of, sociology.

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1.(b) अनौपचारिक कार्य के एक नए स्वरूप के रूप में गिग इकॉनमी के विकास का परीक्षण कीजिए। नौकरी की सुरक्षा और श्रम अधिकारों के लिए इसके क्या निहितार्थ हैं?

Examine the growth of the gig economy as a new form of informal work. What implications does it have for job security and labor rights? 10

(b)

Gig economy involves informal jobs where companies work with professionals, do service providers as independent contractors.

It is a form of informal work that brings flexibility to the worker and lowers labour law compliance costs for company.

Implications for job security

① Gig economy denotes post-fordist trend of flexible work, with no tenure of employment as per an employment contract.

② It leads to the creation of a precarious (gig standing) with workers facing low job security, no social security, limited labour law protections.

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Implications for labour rights

③ Marxist thinkers point out that gig economy represents the neoliberal model of "race to the bottom" where labour law protections are diluted.

④ Keith Hart had pointed out that such informality leads to limited labour rights in terms of sickness leave, social security etc.

⑤ ILO had pointed out that gig work can lead to dilation of labour rights.

None despite economic opportunities generated by gig work, it can compromise workers' welfare in the absence of labour law coverage and social security mechanisms.

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- 1.(c) "आधुनिकीकरण अनिवार्यतः विकास का कारण नहीं बनता है।" विश्लेषण कीजिए।
"Modernization does not necessarily lead to development." Analyze.

10

Modernization refers to the transition of a traditional, feudal, agrarian and rural society driven by religion to a capitalistic, industrial, urban, secularized society.

Modernization theorists like Rostow argued that underdevelopment of Global South was due to internal attributes like fatalism, feudal order, lack of work ethic, large families preventing savings etc. Rostow promoted the airplane take off model

whereby integration with global markets, foreign aid and technology transfers would lead to development.

"modernization" does not lead to development

Dependency theorists from Latin America

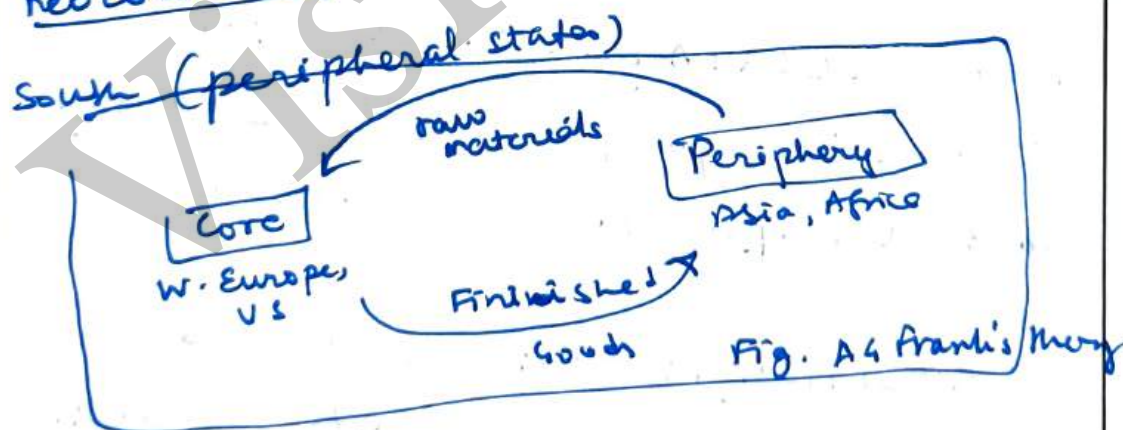
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argued that the cause of underdevelopment of Global South lay in its colonization and neocolonial exploitation by the Global North.

(A.G. Frank) argued against the modernization thesis, stating that the notion of modernization involves economic integration into a global capitalistic system. This would lead to the Global North ("core states") practicing neocolonialism and exploiting the Global South (peripheral states).



Hence, even Wallerstein argued that capitalist modernization framework would further underdevelopment since it would embed the underdeveloped countries in an exploitative World System.

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- 1.(d) काल्पनिक नातेदारी की अवधारणा और सामाजिक बंधनों के निर्माण में इसके महत्व की व्याख्या कीजिए।
आधुनिक समाजों में यह कैसे कार्य करता है?

Explain the concept of fictive kinship and its significance in forming social bonds.
How does it operate in modern societies?

10

d

Fictive kin refers to extended kinship networks based neither on descent or alliance. These networks provide support and solidarity to individuals and embed them in larger social contexts.

Fictive kin in modern societies

① Cheshire Colhoun has pointed out that LA B T P I A + individuals form "chosen family" providing cohabitation, mutual support to one another.

2. Cohabitation: Westermarck has pointed out the prevalence of "live in relationships" forming family outside marriage.

3. Virtual kinship networks formed through online networking like reddit and

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LinkedIn allow for networking, advice and pooling of shared experiences.

4. Professional associations like Civil Services Associations, as well as alumni groups have become new fictive kin with a role in regulating individuals, as predicted by Dirkheim.

Significance in social bonds

5. Source of support: newly married woman may create fictive brother who ensures her safety.

6. Source of knowledge and training, as in professional associations.

7. Mental health and reducing isolation.

Hence, in a more mobile, interconnected world, fictive kin are crucial for boosting social connectedness.

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1.(c) चर्चा कीजिए कि सूचना क्रांति ने विकासशील समाजों में सामाजिक परिवर्तन को किस प्रकार प्रभावित किया है?

Discuss how has the information revolution impacted social change in developing societies?

10

Information revolution heralded by the growth of the internet and social media has brought in far-reaching changes in developing societies in the domain of ~~use~~ reconfiguring tradition, use of individualism, dissemination of ideas and emergence of a material culture.

Information revolution and social change

1. Exposure to new ideas such as democratization, relationships, reproduction outside marriage, and new gender roles.

2. Globalization of ideas through the internet has led to perpetuation of the post-modern family (Stacey), leading to nuclearization, cohabitation etc.

3. Rights awareness has fostered new

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movements in developing societies like
Me Too and # Dalit Lives Matter.

4. Material Culture owing to western
modern society being taken as the reference
group (R.K. Merton)

5. It has increased Westernization in
dressing style, food habits, lifestyle
etc. (M.N. Srinivas)

However, as Yogendra Singh pointed out,
these influences have led to both
modernization & tradition but also
traditionalization & modernity. For instance,

despite changes in gender roles, marriage
remains salient. People have been using
information technology like Jeevan Saathi.
com to practice caste-based endogamy.

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(4) (a)

The Positivist school champions the use of scientific method in sociology. Positivists like Durkheim and Comte advocate the empirical study of observable social phenomena. On the other hand, Interpretivists advocate the sociologists ought to study subjective social phenomena such as the meanings and motives attributed by individuals to social action (Weber).

Contrasting the two schools

	POSITIVISM	INTERPRETIVISM
Def ⁿ	Study of social facts external to the individual (Durkheim)	Study of social action with reference to meanings and motives of individual (Weber)
methodology	Quantitative methods such as survey, census, statistical analysis.	Qualitative methods such as interview, ethnography

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Assumptive

Power and social forces and institutions

Human beings as conscious beings understand and interpret their world (Dilthey)

Comparative Strengths

① High reliability - since their experimental results and studies can be replicated.

① High validity - since it takes into account the interpretation of the subjects.

② objective and data-driven.

② subjective and insight-driven

③ lead to overarching theories of society, like functionalism and marxism

③ some approaches, like Post-modernism are skeptical about such "grand narratives" and "language games".

④ lead to social facts and discovery of social laws, like Comte's law of stages.

④ lead to observations about structure of power (Foucault) and reality (Baudrillard)

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Differences in methodologies

1. Positivum stresses the scientific method leading to methods such as:

- Statistical analysis (Durkheim)
- Surveys and censuses
- Sampling
- Questionnaire

These methodologists helped sociology emerge as a science distinct from metaphysics & philosophy.

However, Alvin Gouldner has critiqued the emphasis on scientific method as it gives false neutrality. Atkinson and

Licoursel argue that all quantitative data is derived from arbitrarily constructed categories (eg. juvenile delinquent), and is thus neither reliable nor valid.

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2. Interpretivist techniques use qualitative methods such as -

- Interviews (empathic interviews)
- Case studies
- Ethnographic studies
- Projection analysis, Eg > Rorschach test

These methodologies shed light on subjective human experience of human beings interacting with societal institutions.

However, Habermas has pointed out the "performative contradiction" of some of these approaches, stating that they discard the notion of objective knowledge, rendering the approaches "just another version" of reality.

(b)

Judith Butler's theory of Performativity of gender in her book Gender Trouble mirrors the idea that "one is not born a woman, but becomes one". Feminist sociologists have long argued against traditional, "expressive", "domestic" roles attributed to women within kinship systems. They argue that such roles restrict the autonomy of women, and arise out of society, not biology.

Feminist challenge to kinship

1. G.P. Murdock had defined the family as the sexual union of two adults of opposite sexes, raising children.

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[Kathleen Gough] in her study of the Nayars critiqued his patrilineal, patrilocal definition of kinship.

2. Scholars like [M.S. Gore] had pointed out that the joint family ideal type is patriarchal, patrilineal and coparcenary.

[Irawati Karve] critiqued this unidimensional understanding by highlighting kinship systems of South, which may be matrilineal, and East, which may be matriarchal.

Feminist challenge to marriage

3. Functional theorists like [Parsons] had posited that the gender-based division of labour of men in "instrumental" bread-winner roles and women in "affective" care-oriented roles was efficient, natural and functional.

[Ann Oakley] critiqued this understanding,

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stating that the housewife-career role allocated to women was dysfunctional since it impeded their autonomy and led to the subjugation of women.

4. Marxist Feminists point out that the exploitation of women within the family is to the benefit of the bourgeoisie. This is because unpaid care work done by women leads to raising new workers and providing emotional stability to existing workers.

5. Hoschilde has pointed out the persistent exploitation of women owing to gender roles even when both partners are working in her concept of The Second Shift. Here, she noted that despite working similar hours as the male counterpart, a woman spends 30-70% more time on household chores.

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6. Patriarchy as systemic subjugation :

Prof. Sylvia Walby in 'Theorizing Patriarchy'

has pointed out the dual exploitation of women :

(i) at the workplace, women are clustered in under-paying jobs in informal industries.

(ii) within the household women are saddled with unpaid and undervalued care work and emotional labour.

Thus, it is not the biological attributes, but the social construction of gender that

restricts women by imposing a narrow gender identity on them. It diverts them of resources and entitlements, and perpetuates their dependence on men.

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Ulrich Beck has theorized "risk society" as contemporary society which is overrun by several risks, such as global warming, threat of war and nuclear weapons, climate change, breakdown of the marriage and family. Beck argues that these changes have been initiated by scientists, governments, civil society organizations etc. that no longer have complete control over the future trajectory of these changes. This introduces systemic risk and puts enormous strain on social institutions and relationships.

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Influence on Contemporary Society

1. New forms of warfare, like Prox Warfare, Shadow warfare and Cyber warfare have emerged, leading to rising clash such as recent India - Pakistan conflict.
2. Systems are off loading risks to individuals. This can be seen in the realm of work, where Rif economy involves the off loading of social security risks from employers to workers.
3. Ulrich Beck and Elisabeth Beck-Gernsheim have argued that growing individuation is leading to breakdown of family and marriage systems.

Thus, Ulrich Beck argues that we have now entered a "risk society" characterized by unpredictable, and unmitigated risks.

5

(a)

While scientific methods can be used to effectively study social phenomena, I believe that they must be Triangulated with various interpretive techniques to draw a deeper understanding.

Utility of the Scientific Method.

1. Francis Bacon pointed out that scientific method is characterized by objectivity, self correction and organized

Skepticism.

The use of empirical and objective methods in sociology would lead to greater reliability

and a scientific and logical basis,

distinguishing sociology from mere common sense.

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2. Scientific method can help dispel social myths (eg> studies on poverty), reduce prejudice and bring informed opinions to debates on abortion, religious conversions etc.

3. Durkheim argued that the study of social facts "as things" allows us to observe them objectively.

Need for triangulation

4. Anthony Giddens points out that since the object of study in sociology is distinct from that under natural sciences, positivist methods must be supplemented with interpretive methods.

Hence, census or data collection may be accompanied by in-depth interviews or verstehen (seeking to place oneself in shoes of the subjects while investigating social phenomena like Domestic violence etc.)

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b

Karl Marx argued that under capitalism, workers were made to work not for the expression of their creativity, but for their survival and the profit of the capitalist.

This led to their alienation, or feelings of disconnectedness, from the process of work, product of work, fellow workers and themselves.

Applicability to digital workspace

1. Outdated theory: some scholars argue that alienation thesis of early capitalist exploitative system does not apply to digital workspace owing to:

(i) knowledge work being innately creative

(ii) flexibility in post-fordism

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(iii) work from home allowing better work-life balance.

2. Enduring Applicability : McKinsey's study of workers during Covid revealed greater dissatisfaction owing to feelings of disconnection with workplace owing to limited face to face interactions.

3. Producers : the digital workspace is embedded in the larger "media economy" where employees must constantly market themselves, leading to alienation from their true selves.

C. Wright Mills had aptly predicted increasing white collar alienation from the requirement of image creation. This has been accelerated in the 24x7, always visible digital workplace with new systems of supervision and control.

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E

Phenomenology, formulated by thinkers like Alfred Schutz and Peter Berger strikes at the fundamental assumptions of the scientific method, and thus represents a "radical departure".

1. The scientific method predumes the externality of social fact, while phenomenology stresses internal processes and interpretation.
2. The scientific method takes for granted the stability of meanings of various terms. However, Alfred Schutz argues that all definitions involve arbitrary classification of information, making them inherently subjective.

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3. The scientific method relies on collection of statistical data. However, (Atkinson) and (Cicourel) have argued that there is no objective data, and all data reflects the subjective interpretation, for instance, suicide rates reflect views of police, coroners and judges on suicide.

4. The scientific method seeks to formulate generalized laws about society. Phenomenology discredits this approach since it militate against the idea of a discernible, objective truth. Rather, phenomenologists advocate studying the subjective meanings given by individuals to their social world. Hence, phenomenology attacks at both the basis, methodology and even the aims of the scientific method.

(d)

The formal sector today, with the advent of various guidelines on sexual harassment such as Vishaka Guidelines, is seeking to promote a gender-neutral work culture.

However, this has not fully come into fruition since women continue to face barriers in equal pay, employment and promotions.

Enduring Gender Inequality

1. Ellyak Wallyky pointed out the horizontal segregation of women in low paying, informal sectors like textile and agriculture as well as the vertical segregation of women as clerical staff, nurses etc. within the same organisations.

2. Unequal Pay where pay gap is about

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30% between male and female workers (WEF).

3. Despite efforts at "gender neutral workplace", incidence of workplace discrimination and sexual harassment continue, as seen in the #MeToo movement -

Gender Neutrality as non accommodation

4. Women continue to bear a huge "career

"cost" owing to family and pregnancy (as Claudia Goldin)

5. "Neutrality" is weaponized to not provide essentials like clean toilets, privacy, safety measures as was seen in the

Kolhate rape case recently.

The persistent work done by the women's movement has opened various work

avenues for women. However, a "gender neutral workplace" has not yet been achieved.

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e

Cultural factors in ~~some~~ traditional societies can both be a retardational influence or a modernising influence to social change.

Yogendra Singh in 'Modernization of Indian Tradition' has pointed out this dual role of cultural factors in social change.

Cultural Factors as Impeding Change

1. Pervasive gender roles, as that of the caretaker-housewife (Oakley) may prevent the education of women or their entry into employment. This is borne out by the low women's work participation rate in India at about 30%.

2. Traditional beliefs may interfere with

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the inculcation of new values. Richard Dawkins has long argued that religion as a traditionalizing influence impedes scientific temper or critical rationality.

Cultural factors as Driving change

3. Evolution of Culture: Culture itself can change by intermixing, as seen in India's Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb upon mixing of Hindu and Islamic cultures (Romila Thapar)

4. Religion as driver of modernity: Max Weber in Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism argued that protestant beliefs in value of work, saving, and "this worldly asceticism" led to emergence of modern capitalism.

Thus cultural factors and social change exist in a dialectical relationship, influencing one another?

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The rise of single-parent and cohabiting families in contemporary society reflects Judith Stacey's thesis of fragmentation of family forms in post-modern society.

Social Implications

1. Redefining family: The very ideal typical understandings of families is being changed. The prevalence of single-parent mother-headed families among Blacks led Kerner to advocate that the fundamental unit of family is the mother-child bond.

2. New forms of kinship: Westermarck argues that cohabitation redefines kinship outside descent and alliances.

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3. Questioning Heteronormativity : Cheshire
Cob Coulton argues that LGBTQIA+
partnerships form a "chosen family"
performing many of conventional functions
of traditional families like raising children.

Economic Implications

4. Rising welfare costs : Patricia Morgan
has critiqued family fragmentation as
abandonment by fathers leads to poverty
and increased welfare burden on the state.

5. New economic roles in LGBTQIA+ family
where both partners may be working.

6. Prevalence of "Double Income No Kids"
(DINK) families with higher economic
consumption of leisure goods.

None, emergence of these new forms of
family have led to multiple social and
economic impacts.

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(b)

John Harris has argued that it was the emergence of modernity and its accompanying crisis that led to the development of Sociology as the science of society.

Modernity and the intellectual development of sociology

Modernity in Europe was marked by the rise of rationality, critical thinking and ideas of human progress and perfectibility. These had the following impacts on development of sociology:

(i) Renaissance stressed the primacy of the individual (humanism), the belief in knowing the world through data (Hume's empiricism) and faith

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in rational thought.

This was reflected in early sociologists' attempts to formulate sociology. Thus, Durkheim championed empiricism through ~~his~~ the concept of social facts. Simmel emphasized the importance of understanding the individual's place in society.

(ii) The enlightenment brought political modernity through the social contract theory, a reinvestigation of the relationship between religion and the state, and economic thinking pioneered by Smith and Ricardo.

Karl Marx was influenced by social contract ideas of political modernity, leading him to question the legitimacy of the capitalist state. The basis of rationality, and

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enquiries into relationship between religion and state continue to inform sociological thought even today.

modernity and sociology's focus on social order

(iii) modernity was heralded by the French Revolution which saw the end of the despotic rule of Louis XVI and the installation of constitutional monarchy, followed by the reign of terror.

Durkheim was influenced by the prevailing disorder in French society and sought to formulate sociology to deal with the anomie, or normlessness present in French society.

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Modernity and Sociology's focus on social change

(iv) The changes brought about through the scientific, commercial and industrial revolution, led to change in mode of production to capitalism, urbanization, slum-based living, exploitation of workers. The emphasis on scientific temper prompted Comte to conceive of stages of human society from theological, to meta-physical, to scientific.

At the same time, Marx was appalled by exploitation under capitalism and formulated historical materialism as a theory of social change to explain the emergence and possible demise of capitalism.

C

Ethnography seeks to study society through immersive participant observation wherein the researcher stays with the social group under study for a long period of time. This method has been used by anthropology and in village studies to yield rich and varied accounts of social life.

Advantages of Ethnography

1. Allows for detailed and rich accounts of subjective experiences of social phenomena.

Garfinkel advocated that the ethnographic method yielded the common symbols, references, values and perspectives of society.

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2. Ethnographic accounts can give alternate interpretations of reality by amplifying marginalized voices as done by subaltern studies through Dalit accounts etc.

3. Immersive village studies by M.N. Srinivas and others yield concepts such as vote banks and dominant caste.

Disadvantages of ethnography

4. Ethnography involves time and cost issues since studies take prolonged stay.

5. Problem of generalizability: Yogendra Singh argued against generalizing findings from limited ethnographic accounts.

6. Absence of quantifiable data and issue of reliability since ethnographic accounts are generally not replicable.

Kenan, Anthony Giddens advocates the triangulation of ethnography with quantitative methods to yield reliable and generalizable insights.

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max weber argued that modernity is characterized by disenchantment and rationalization.

Disenchantment refers to the diminishing significance of magic and myths in explaining the world. Rather, phenomena are increasingly explained through scientific principles.

Rationalization refers to weber's thesis that society as a whole will be increasingly structured by rationality. Rationality involves the use of logic in thinking and prioritizes efficiency and affective neutrality.

While weber viewed these values as having emerged from Calvinism, he argued that they had taken on an independent

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existence and were proliferating in the world.

Rationalization: Impact on social change

1. Rationalization has led to a diminishing role of religion in social life. This is

borne out by Peter Berger's secularization

thesis, which argues that rationality has replaced religion as the basis of knowledge. This can be seen by declining church attendance in the west.

2. Weber had argued that Bureaucracy driven by a rational-legal authority

structure was the most efficient organization

for the production of goods and services. He predicted that with rationalization, bureaucracy

would become ubiquitous. This has in fact

happened. Habermas traces the influence

of government bureaucracies in socialist

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States and industrial bureaucracies in large transnational companies, pointing to the ubiquity of bureaucracy in modern life. This can be seen in the "managerial revolution" characterizing white collar work today.

3. "Iron Cage" of Rationality and McDonaldization of society: Weber had predicted that over-emphasis on rational-legal principles in organization would lead to a decline in the human element. This is

well large in George Ritzer's McDonaldization thesis where demands of rationality have led to uniformization of various organizations and industries across the world.

4. Disenchantment with the world owing

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to rationalization can be seen in the mental health crisis, "the big resign" and "quiet quitting" seen in the aftermath of the covid-19 pandemic.

Non-linear rationalization

Despite its secularizing influence, the crisis of rationalization has led to a re-emergence of religion and a re-association with traditional, ethnic, and religious identities (Samir Amin). Ashish Nandy argues that present communalization of Indian society is a response to attempted rationalization.

hence, as Yogendra Singh observed in 'Modernization of Indian Tradition', rationalization is not a complete or uniform process, but is in constant interplay with traditional and pre-rational thought.

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(b)

G. P. Murdock in his functional analysis of marriage has argued that marriage fulfills several functional imperatives,

such as :

- (i) sexuality and reproduction
- (ii) economic division of labour
- (iii) social control over its members
- (iv) socialization and education of members

Talcott Parsons has observed that with the development of alternative institutions catering to some of these functions, there has been a functional specialization of marriage.

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Traditional functions of marriage being Replaced

① Sexuality - Traditionally, marriage was the only legitimate means of expressing sexuality.

However, with the arrival of "plastic sexuality" (Giddens), it is no longer tied to marriage.

② Economic Role - The dawn of the Industrial Revolution led to a change in mode of production from family-based production to factory-based mass production.

③ Social control - other institutions like law, police, judiciary and even religion have taken on more of a role in social control. This can also be seen in an evolution of style of parenting from authoritative to democratic.

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④ Socialization and the education of children: Schools have taken on a major role in socializing children and educating them about the norms in society. Durkheim argued that the school is a salient institution crucial for inculcating societal values in children like respect for law.

⑤ Cohabitation and Mutual Support:

Westermarck argues that live-in relationships are providing an alternative to marriage as far as cohabitation is concerned. Extended and even fictive kinship networks are now providing mutual support.

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Enduring Significance of Marriage

Pargsons concluded that marriage continues to remain significant for -

(1) Primary socialization of children into the norms and values of society. This is borne out by Patricia Morgan's observation of the relevance of marriage in providing stability for the rearing of the individual; and

(2) Adult Personality Stabilization - Edmund Leach argues that in an increasingly depersonalized world, people turn to family and marriage to be seen and loved.

Heine, as Ulrich Beck and Elizabeth Beck Gernsheim conclude, despite other institutions addressing the ~~see~~ similar functions, the value of marriage resides in the salience of love.

(C)

Dependency Theory argues that the current state of underdevelopment in the third world owes itself to ~~the~~ exploitation by the first world such that enrichment of the latter led to the impoverishment of the former.

Salience in Understanding social change

1. Explains colonial and neocolonial exploitation:
A.G. Frank argued that "metropolitan" areas of Global North formulated the "Satellite" Global South as suppliers of cheap labour and raw material.

In turn, the metropolitan states supply the satellites with finished goods and machinery - leading to a drain of wealth.

2. Limitations in explaining social change:

A.G. Frank advocates protectionism as a

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means of preventing exploitation. This is contradictory to India's experience since the 1990s and the experience of "East Asian Tigers" highlighting the benefits of integration.

Salvance in understanding global inequality

3. Wallerstein's World systems theory aptly explains the present stratified developmental order as high income countries (HICs), middle income countries (MICs) and low income countries (LICs)

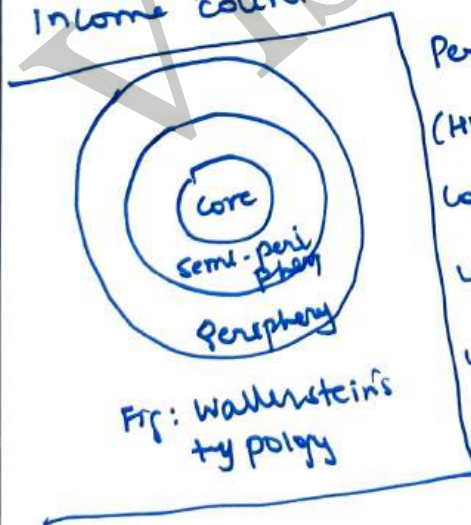


Fig: Wallerstein's
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Per Wallerstein, the Core of (HICs) is in colonial neo-colonial relations of domination with the semi-periphery, which acts as periphery for core, and core for the periphery.

However, this does not explain regional alliances like SAARC and MERCOSUR. Yet, the theory clearly demonstrates prevailing power and wealth imbalances in global economic order.