

consequences of things like romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behavior, ageing and religious faith. At the societal level, sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, business firms, urban community, and social movements. At the global level, sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development

SOCIOLOGY AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES

1. Sociology and political science

Sociology is a social science that studies human interaction and inter-relations, their conditions and consequences while political science is a social science of state and government. It studies power, political processes, political systems, types of government and international relations. It deals with social groups organized under the sovereignty of the state.

Political science is directed to the growth and development of the state as an organization and the measures that may be taken for making the organization effective. 'Historically, sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history,' Morris Ginsberg.

Sociology and political science are closely related as both are concerned with the study of society from different points of view. It is rightly said, without the sociological background the study of political science will be incomplete. The forms of the state and activities are determined by the social processes. It is because of this that Barnes wrote: 'the most significant thing about sociology and modern political theory is that most of the changes which have taken place in the political theory in the last years have been along the line of development suggested and marked out by sociology.'

Sociology gives to political science knowledge of the origin of political authority. The state in its origin was more of a social rather than a political institution. Each and every social problem has a political cause hence sociology depends on political science to comprehend itself. To understand different political events sociology takes the help from political

2. Sociology is abstract while history is concrete. The primary interest of the sociologist is to find out the general laws of the society but the historian has to narrate the events in chronological order.
3. History confines itself to the study of the past whereas sociology shows more interest in the contemporary or recent past.
4. History is a fact-finder and has no power to change but sociology collects material accumulated by history and place them in one human perspective and that of human relations.
5. The scope of sociology is very wide whereas the scope of history is limited. Sociology includes history within its scope.
6. Sociology is an analytical science while history is a descriptive science.
7. History takes individual as a unit of study whereas sociology takes group, institutions and community etc. as the unit of enquiry.

3. Sociology and Economics

Economics is the study of production and distribution of goods and services. According to Alfred Marshal, Economics is the study of activities connected with human life in general. Also, Economics can be defined as the study of man's activities devoted to obtaining the material means to satisfaction of his wants. According to Robbins, economics is a social science which studies human behaviour in relation to his unlimited ends and scarce means which have alternative issues. It also studies the structure and functions of different economic organizations like banks, markets etc. it is concerned with the material needs of man as well as his material welfare.

Economic activities to a great extent are social activities. For instance, in order to solve economic problems like underemployment, inflation etc. an economist has to take into account the social phenomenon existing at a particular time.

Economics plays an important role in man's social life. Man's happiness depends upon the economic factor to a remarkable extent. Sociologists while dealing with social problems always take into account economic factors in order to find out the cause and explanation of social problems e.g. a sociologist cannot study crime properly unless he understands the role of economic factor in crime. Marx and Weber studied society through its economic institutions.

2. New ideas and modification of old ideas in a new context bring wide-scale changes in society.
3. Change occurs from the demographic transition in society.
4. Social change is also caused by tension and conflict.
5. Social movements generate new identities and a new perspective.

MODELS OF SOCIETY IN SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The terms “model” and “theory” are sometimes used interchangeably. A model can generate a number of theories, but one theory can be powerful enough to be a good model.

Model refers to a general image of some major phenomenon including ideas of the nature of its units and the pattern of their relations. Theory on the other hand is a device for organizing what we know or think we know at any particular time about some issue. A theory is therefore more limited and precise than a model. While a theory can be proved wrong, a model can only be judged as incomplete, misleading or unproductive.

For example, the germ theory of disease is a general model while explanation of particular diseases will yield specific theories from the model and this leads to search for specific organisms that cause particular diseases. Most sociologists are guided by models which are relatively constant and form fairly clear-cut orientation or even ideology. These models help us to put sociological studies in proper perspective and also help to identify the main intellectual currents in sociology.

The Models

The models include: the evolutionary, the organismic, equilibrium and conflict models. Each of these models is briefly explained below.

Evolutionary Model

The thinking of early sociologists was dominated by a conception of man and society seen progressing up steps of evolution to some stage of perfection.

Auguste Comte, for example, saw society as progressing from stages of theological, metaphysical to positive stage.

The anthropologist L.H. Morgan sought to prove that all societies went through fixed stages of development each succeeding the other from savagery through barbarism to civilization.

Marx and Engels maintained that each stage, e.g. feudalism prepared ground for the next—that is it contained within itself seeds of its own destruction and would be succeeded by a stage higher in evolution. For example, the stage of capitalism had advanced the rationalization of production and its concentration in large units as to make socialism historically necessary and inevitable. They also added the idea that each era resisted the birth of the new and concluded that the next step in the social evolution could be attained only through violent revolution.

Both Comte and Marx's theories were termed unilinear theories of evolution in the sense that each society was seen as passing through a fixed and limited number of stages in a given sequence.

The next category was the quasi-evolutionary theories. For example, Durkheim saw society as evolving from a low to a high degree of specialization, that is, from mechanical solidarity to organic solidarity types of society. Mechanical was a small community where people held together in tight bonds and with strong primary institutions such as the extended family and local religion. In organic solidarity, there was less intimate relations and members were tied in common interests and there was a high degree of specialization. Similar models were advanced by the German and American sociologists, Ferdinand Tönnies and Robert Redfield.

The third category are cyclical theories of evolution which set out a number of stages or cycles which any long enduring culture had to go through more than once or repeatedly. Example was Pitrim Sorokin's theory of social and structural dynamics which sees societies as passing through three stages each dominated by a system of truth. In the ideational stage truth is revealed by the grace of God and based on faith. The sensate culture is dominated by testimony of our senses and in idealistic culture there is a synthesis of both dominated by reason.

A fourth category are the universal theories of evolution which hold that every society does not go through the same fixed stages of development—that the culture of mankind taken as a whole has followed a definite line of evolution as for example Spencer's view that men had progressed from small to large groups, simple to compound and doubly compound or homogenous to heterogeneous groups.