

## **A Details of Sociology and its Relation to Human Society**

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### **Abstract**

Sociology referring social science is in important course for study. In this article we will discuss about some introductory topics. We will learn some terms of sociology. Thus we will discuss about basic elements of sociology.

**Keywords:** Subject; Types; Control; Stratification.

## 1. Introduction

Sociology is the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships; specifically: the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction, and collective behavior of organized groups of human beings. It is the study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society.

## 2. Definitions

The study of social problems. Kingsley said, Sociology is a general science of society.

Emile Durkheim defines that Sociology is the science that deals with social groups.

Marshal Jones defines sociology as the study of man-in-relationship to men.

## 3. Origin

The word sociology (or "sociologie") is derived from both Latin and Greek origins. The Latin word: socius, "companion"; the suffix -logy, "the study of" from Greek "word", "knowledge"

It was first coined in 1780 by the French essayist Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès (1748–1836) in an unpublished manuscript. Sociology was later defined independently by the French philosopher of science, Auguste Comte (1798–1857), in 1838. Comte used this term to describe a new way of looking at society. Comte had earlier used the term "social physics", but that had subsequently been appropriated by others, most notably the Belgian statistician Adolphe Quetelet. Comte endeavored to unify history, psychology and economics through the scientific understanding of the social realm the study of the development, structure, and functioning of human society.

## 4. Nature of Sociology

1. **Independent Science** not a branch of other science
2. **Social Science is not a physical Science** (Discusses about Social Behavior, Social rules, Social life which are not physical.)
3. **Related to other sciences** (Astronomy, Economics, Anthropology, Political Science, Psychology)
4. **Categorical** not a Normative Discipline (Ethically Neutral)
5. **Pure Science** not an applied Science
6. **Abstract Science** not a Concrete Science
7. **General Science** not a special social science (It only studies human activities in society)
8. **Empirical Science** (Dependent on experience)

## **5. Subject Matters of Sociology**

Scope refers to the field of sociology or area of sociological investigation. There are two main schools of thought among the sociologists about the scope of sociology – Specialist or Formalistic school and Synthetic school.

### **5.1 Specialist or/Formalistic School**

George Simmel, Max Weber, Small, Von Wiese and Tonnies.

(Behavior of man, Social relationships)

These sociologists want to keep the scope of sociology distinct from other social sciences. According to formalistic school sociology should deal with ‘forms of social relationships’. According to George Simmel, sociology in order to develop as a ‘special science’ of society should deal with ‘forms’ of human relationship and not with their content. He says, sociology should confine its study to forms of behavior instead of studying actual behavior. Weber defines social action or behavior as an activity which is the intention of the actor, has reference to and is determined by the behavior of others. According to Von Wiese, the scope of sociology is the study of forms of social relationships. He has divided these social relationships into many kinds. Ferdinand Tonnies is also another supporter of formalistic school. He has differentiated between community and society on the basis of forms of social relationships.

#### **5.1.1. Criticism**

- a) Narrowed the field of sociology
- b) This is not the only science which discuss about the social relations.
- c) No clear idea between forms and social relationships.

### **5.2 Synthetic School**

According to synthetic school, sociology is a synthesis of social sciences or a general science. This conception of sociology is held by the second group of sociologists, best exemplified by Durkheim, Hobbes and Sorokin.

Durkheim said about three divisions of inquiry. They are-

### **5.3 Social Morphology**

This includes all those subjects which are fundamentally geographic, such as population, its size, density, distribution etc. This also comprehends the study of social structure or a description of the main forms of social groups or institutions as well as their classification.

#### **5.4 Social Physiology**

It includes all those subjects which are studied by particular social sciences such as economy, language, morals, law etc. Religion, economy, morals and language are studied by sociology of religion, sociology of economic life, sociology of morals and sociology of language respectively. All of them are special sociology or branches of sociology.

#### **5.5 General sociology**

This can be regarded as the philosophical part of sociology. Its function is the formulation of general social laws. Karl Mannheim divides sociology into two main sections – (i) Systematic and General Sociology and (ii) Historical Sociology. Systematic and General Sociology describes one by one the main factors of living together as far as they may be found in every kind of society.

According to Durkheim, sociology has three principal parts of fields of enquiry – social morphology, social physiology and general sociology.

#### **5.6 Social Morphology**

It deals with the quantity and quality of population. It also includes social structure, social groups and institutions.

#### **5.7 Social Control**

This consists of the study of factors such as law, religion, fashion and modes etc. which exercise some kind of control over the individuals in society.

#### **5.8 Social Processes**

Interactions like cooperation, assimilation, conflict etc. are studied in this branch.

#### **5.9 Social Pathology**

This includes the study of various social problems like poverty, unemployment, crime, prostitution, social disorganization etc.

### **6. Social Control**

Society is a collectivity of groups and individuals. It exists for the welfare and advancement of the whole. The mutuality, on which it depends, is possible to sustain by adjustment of varied and contradictory interests. The structure pattern continues to exist because of its inbuilt mechanism and sanction system.

Social control which implies the social intercourse is regulated in accordance with established and recognized standards, is comprehensive, omnipotent and effective to stimulate order, discipline and mutuality; and to discourage, and if need be, to punish the deviance.

### **6.1 Meaning of Social Control**

Generally speaking, social control is nothing but control of the society over individuals. In order to maintain the organization and the order of the society, man has to be kept under some sort of control. This control is necessary in order to have desired behavior from the individual and enable him to develop social qualities.

### **7. Types or Forms of Social Control**

**Different social thinkers have categorised social control in different ways. A few classifications in regard to types and forms of social control are as follows:**

#### **(1) Forms of social control as given by Karl Mannheim:**

**Karl Mannheim, the famous social thinker, has categorised social control under the following two heads:**

- (a) Direct social control,
- (b) Indirect social control.

#### **(a) Direct social control:**

That type of social control which directly regulates and controls the behavior of the individual is called Direct Social Control. This type of control is to be found in family, neighborhood, play-groups and other types of primary groups. In these institutions, parents, neighbors, teachers, classmates etc., keep control over the behavior of the individuals.

#### **(b) Indirect social control:**

In this type of social control distant factors keep control over the behavior of the individual. Such a type of control is exercised by secondary groups through customs; traditions, rationalized behavior etc. and public opinion are important forms of indirect social control.

#### **(2) Forms of social control as given by Gurvitch:**

**According to Gurvitch social control is of the following four types:**

#### **(a) Organized social control:**

In this type of social control, the behavior of the individual is regulated either through voluntary means or through democratic ways. This is done through natural ways of social control.

**(b) Unorganized social control:**

This social control is exercised by values of culture and usages, traditions, fashion, symbol etc. This is an elastic type of social control and is related to day-to-day life.

**(c) Spontaneous social control:**

This type of social control is exercised by ideas, rules and regulations, values, norms etc.

**(d) More spontaneous social control:**

Social control that is exercised by direct social and group experience, such as, aspirations, decisions, desires, etc., is called more spontaneous social control.

**(3) Forms of social control as given by Kimball Young:**

Well-known social thinker Kimball Young has categorized social control under the following two heads:

(a) Positive social control, (b) Negative social control

**(a) Positive social control:**

In this type of social control positive steps such as reward, the policy of appreciation etc. are used for keeping the person under control. As a result of these steps man tries to behave in the best possible manner in the society.

**(b) Negative social control:**

This is just reverse of the positive form of social control. In this form of social control individual on the fear of punishment and recognition by the society is made to behave in conformity with the values of the society.

**(4) Hayes's classification of social control:**

**He has classified social control under the following two heads:**

(a) Control by sanction, (b) Control by socialization and education.

**(a) Control by sanction**

In this type of social control, those who act according to the values of the' society are rewarded, while to those who act against the norms of the society are punished.

**(b) Control by socialization and education**

## **10. Characteristics of Social Stratification**

On the basis of the analysis of the different definitions given by eminent scholars, social stratification may have the following characteristics.

### **(a) Social stratification is universal:**

There is no society on this world which is free from stratification. Modern stratification differs from stratification of primitive societies. It is a worldwide phenomenon. According to Sorokin “all permanently organized groups are stratified.”

### **(b) Stratification is social:**

It is true that biological qualities do not determine one’s superiority and inferiority. Factors like age, sex, intelligence as well as strength often contribute as the basis on which statues are distinguished. But one’s education, property, power, experience, character, personality etc. are found to be more important than biological qualities. Hence, stratification is social by nature.

### **(c) It is ancient:**

Stratification system is very old. It was present even in the small wandering bands. In almost all the ancient civilizations, the differences between the rich and poor, humble and powerful existed. During the period of Plato and Kautilya even emphasis was given to political, social and economic inequalities.

### **(d) It is in diverse forms:**

The forms of stratification is not uniform in all the societies. In the modern world class, caste and estate are the general forms of stratification. In India a special type of stratification in the form of caste is found. The ancient Aryas were divided into four varnas: the Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Sudras. The ancient Greeks were divided into freemen and slaves and the ancient Romans were divided into the patricians and the plebians. So every society, past or present, big or small is characterized by diverse forms of social stratification.

### **(e) Social stratification is Consequential:**

Social stratification has two important consequences one is “life chances” and the other one is “life style”. A class system not only affects the “life- chances” of the individuals but also their “life style”.

The members of a class have similar social chances but the social chances vary in every society. It includes chances of survival and of good physical and mental health, opportunities for education, chances of obtaining justice, marital conflict, separation and divorce etc.

Life style denotes a style of life which is distinctive of a particular social status. Life-styles include such matters like the residential areas in every community which have gradations of prestige-ranking, mode of housing, means of recreation, the kinds of dress, the kinds of books, TV shows to which one is exposed and so on. Life-style may be viewed as a sub-culture in which one stratum differs from another within the frame work of a commonly shared over-all culture.

## 11. Conclusion

Thus we discussed about sociology. Here we learned the fundamental elements of sociology. The fundamental parts of sociology are compulsory to know about sociology.

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