

SOCIOLOGY

DSC - SOC - IA

COURSE TITLE: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

SEMESTER: 1ST

❖ UNIT - 1ST : NATURE AND SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY:

➤ NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY :

- ✓ Sociology - A hybrid term compounded of Latin and Greek parts - Latin word "Socius" or "Socious" means "Society" or "companion or association", Greek word "Logos" means "study" or "science" - Etymological meaning. Hence science of society.
- ✓ Alex Inkeles - sociology is the study of systems of social actions and of their interrelations.

Robert Bierstedt in his book "The Social Order" - 1957 gave the nature of sociology as follows:

- Independent science - science with its own field of study, boundary and methods.
- Social science - studies human society and its various aspects.
- Generalizing science - studies human activities in general. Posses' Nomothetic character that is, focuses on general statements that account for larger social patterns that form the context of single events or individual behavior or experiences.
- Abstract science - proceeds on the plane of abstraction.
- Categorical science - believes in questions like what, when, why, where and how about man and society. Not believes in what ought to be etc.
- Pure science - engaged in acquisition of knowledge and not its application.
- Both rational and empirical - as empiricist collects the facts and as rationalists co-ordinates and arranges them.
- Generalist science - not specialist like other social sciences. The focus may be special one but area of study is general.

➤ SUBJECT MATTER OF SOCIOLOGY :

- Sociological analysis - analysis of human culture and society, time to time historical transformation of society.

- Primary units of social life – social facts, social relationships, individual personality, groups of all varieties, communities, organizations, associations and populations.
- Development, structure and functions of basic social institutions – family, marriage, religion, property, economy, legal, educational, recreational, welfare, aesthetic and expressive activities.
- Fundamental social processes – differentiation, stratification, cooperation, accommodation, assimilation, conflict, socialization, communication, social values, social control, deviation, social integration, social change.
- The method of research - empirical and rational – use of scientific method.
- Formulating concepts, propositions and theories.
- Sociology have ventured to make specializations – sociology of religion, sociology of knowledge, sociology of history, sociology of literature, sociology of culture etc.

➤ EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY:

August Comte (1798-1857), Father of sociology, recognized the absence of a general science that deals with society as a whole. Humans have always sought to examine themselves and their social life. In the course of time several intellectual disciplines were developed to explain different aspects of human enterprises. These subjects study different areas of social phenomena; there must be a general science to deal with society as a whole and to examine the interrelationship among them. He also felt that there was no science yet to deal with such social institutions as marriage, family, community, religion as well as numerous social structures and processes. That is why sociology came as a separate discipline.

August Comte first called it as “Social Physics”, because he wants it to be hard as physical sciences. Later when he thought that the term had been stolen from him by the Belgian social statistician, Adolphe Quetelet, he coined the word sociology (1838-1839) as a hybrid term.

August Comte defined sociology as an abstract and theoretical science of social phenomena “subject to natural and invariable laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation”.

- ✓ Following are the factors responsible for the emergence and development of sociology as a separate discipline:

- o FRENCH REVOLUTION:
Comte was greatly disturbed by the anarchy that pervaded French society and was critical of those thinkers who had spawned both Enlightenment and the revolutions.
Europe in the 18th century was not the state but a Catholic Church. One of the main doctrines of the Church at that time was that the natural and social orders were creations of God and therefore, not the affair of men.
- France was ruled by Directory - members of profession inhabitants of town.
- In 1774, **Louis- XVI** of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France.
- He was 20yr old and married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette.
- Upon his accession the new king found an empty treasury.
- There were three estates in French society - Clergy, Nobility and Peasants, which almost constitutes the ninety percent of the population. Sixty percent of the land owned by Church, Nobility and other riches and enjoy certain privileges by birth.
- Peasants - obliged to render services to Lord to work in his house and field and to serve in the army or to participate in building roads.
- To meet the needs, regular expenses, as maintaining an army, the court, running govt. offices or universities, they had to pay taxes more and more.
- Even Church too extracted its share of taxes called "Tithes" from peasants.
- Population growth was on an increase from 23 million to 28 million between 1715 to 1789.
- Food grains were less than the demand. Also, price of bread, which was staple food rose rapidly.
- Workers employed as laborers in workshops had fixed wages which did not keep pace with the rise in prices. So, gap between poor and rich widened.
- John Locke, J. Jacques Rousseau, and Charles Montesquieu - all educated middle class, enlightened the people about their rights.
- They believed that no group in society should be privileged by birth, rather a person's position on merit.
- They envisaged a society based on freedom, equal laws and opportunities for all.
- John Locke refuted the doctrine of divine and absolute right of Monarch. Rousseau proposed the idea of the govt. based on social contract between people and their representatives. Montesquieu

proposed a division of power within the govt. between the legislative, executive, and the judiciary.

- Finally, in 1789, people came out like anything. Hence, a world shaking revolution called as “French Revolution”.

✓ IMPACTS OF FRENCH REVOLUTION:

- Destruction of Feudalism in France.
- Building up of new economic system – Capitalism.
- Gave the term “Nation” its modern meaning, i.e; idea of sovereignty, law or authority.
- It was for the first time in history, workers, peasants and other similar classes were given equal political rights.
- A world shaking event. The new ideas of freedom, justice and equality were the results.

o ENLIGHTENMENT PERIOD:

- ✓ A term used to describe trends in thought and letters in Europe and the American colonies during the 18th century prior to French revolution. The phrase was frequently employed by the writers of the period itself, convinced that they were emerging from centuries of darkness and ignorance into a new age enlightened by reason, science and respect for humanity.
- ✓ More than a set of fixed ideas, the Enlightenment implied an attitude, a method of thought.
- ✓ It was a period of remarkable intellectual development and change in philosophical thought.
- ✓ A number of long standing ideas and beliefs, many of which related to social life were overthrown and replaced during the period.
- ✓ Prominent thinkers were – French philosophers like Charles Montesquieu (1689-1755) and Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1788)

Ritzer summarizes the effects of the Enlightenment period as follows:

- People can comprehend, change and perhaps control universe.
- Philosophy and Science – combination of reason and empirical research.
- Abstract system of ideas that made rational sense, but with study of real social world.
- Application of scientific method to social issues.
- Social analysis and social scientists should be useful to world – create a better world.

- Criticism of traditional authority, institutions and beliefs – irrationality of these.
- Human growth and development of society occur if tradition gives way to reason.
- Emphasis on individual rather than society.

Zeitlin – conservative reaction to Enlightenment which results in providing the basis for the development of classical French sociological theory:

- Enlightenment tended to emphasize individual, but conservative reaction emphasized society and large scale phenomena.
- Society is important than individual. Society produced individual by socialization.
- Individuals' not basic elements but components of roles, positions, relationships, structures and institutions.
- Parts of society were seen as interrelated and interdependent, so changes in social system should be made with extreme care.
- Change was seen as a threat not only to society and its components, but individuals also.
- There was possibility or tendency of more changes – industrialization, urbanization, and bureaucratization as having disorganizing effects. These changes were viewed with anxiety and fear.
- Due to changes there would be possibility of rational society, but conservative reaction emphasized importance to non- rational factors in life – ritual, ceremony worships etc.

o INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:

- ✓ Refers to the series of dramatic technological and economic innovations in England during the period from about 1760 to 1830 or 1770 to 1840.
- ✓ Also refers to the application of power driven machinery to manufacturing.
- ✓ The term was coined by Arnold Toynbee.
- ✓ Took place in Manchester, England – major industrial city – later called as “Hell upon earth”.
- ✓ First there was mechanization of the textile industry (Cotton), the expansion of iron, the harnessing of steam and other related developments of that period revolutionized the English economy and the nature of work and family life.

Industrial revolution was not a single event, but a number of interrelated developments that culminated in the transformation of western world from a

largely agricultural to an overwhelmingly industrial system. Scientific and technological advances laid foundations for transformations as:

- Rural agricultural manual way of life to industrial “mechanized pattern of living”.
- Machines replaced muscles. Increase in productivity led to increase in demand for more machines, which further led to increase in demand for more raw materials.
- Invention and development in the methods of production led to increase in improved means of transport and better communication.
- Better educated workers and more specialized division of labor were witnessed more and more.
- Changed the scale and location of production and work from the land and small enterprise to the town and city and large scale enterprise like factories.
- Greater variety of occupations arises.
- Migration took place on large scale.
- Led to urbanization.
- The rise of Capitalism – economic and political system dependent on private capital and profit making.
- In this economy the ideal was free market place where the many products of an industrial system could be exchanged.
- This revolution brought a new society with great productive potential and more sophisticated and complex ways of living.
- For the first time in history rapid change became the normal rather than abnormal state of affairs and people could no longer expect their children would live the same lives as they had done.

o EFFECTS OF INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:

The industrial revolution, capitalism and the reaction against them all involved an enormous upheaval in western societies, an upheaval that affected sociologists greatly as:

- The directions of social change were unclear and the stability of social order seemed threatened.
- It destroyed or radically altered the medieval customs, beliefs and ideals.
- It generated extensive disruptions in traditional patterns of life and relationships.
- Religion began to lose its force as source of moral authority.

- Urbanization – cities increased in an unprecedented way providing an anonymous environment for people.
- Migration – created new problems of overcrowded and unpleasant urban conditions.
- Poverty and unemployment became the major social problems.
- Slum culture came into being.
- The foremost repercussion was witnessed in the form of exploitation of workers – work for long hours but for little pay.

➤ RELATIONSHIP OF SOCIOLOGY WITH OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES:

o SOCIOLOGY V/S ANTHROPOLOGY:

Etymological meaning of Anthropology - Greek word, “Anthropos” means “man’ and “logos” means “study”. Hence, Anthropology is comprehensive study of man or it is a science of culture. Kroeber – two divisions of Anthropology:

- Physical / Organic Anthropology – studies man as a biological being i.e. as a member of the animal kingdom. It is concerned with evolution of man, his bodily characteristics, racial features and the influence of environment and heredity on the physical characteristics of man.
- Socio-cultural Anthropology – studies man as social animal. Deals with origin and development of man’s culture. Three subdivisions:
 - Ethnology – the science of people and their cultures and life histories as groups, irrespective of their degree of advancement.
 - Archaeology – science of what is old in the career of humanity, especially as revealed by the excavations of prehistorically importance.
 - Linguistics – the study of languages, main accent on the languages of the primitive people.

✓ DIFFERENCES:

- Both have quite different origins – Sociology originated from philosophy of history, political thought and positive science, while Anthropology has descended from biology.
- Sociology studies modern, civilized and complex societies, while as Anthropology is concerned with simple, uncivilized or primitive and non-literate societies.
- Sociologists often study parts of society and generally specialize in institutions such as family, marriage or processes such as social change and social mobility. Anthropology studies in all their respects as

wholes - they concentrate their studies in a given "cultural area" such as Melanesia and Nagaland.

- Sociology studies small as well as large societies, while Anthropology concentrates on small societies - Naga, Khasis, Gonds, Bhils etc.
- Makes use of observation, interviews, social surveys, questionnaires and other methods and techniques, while Anthropology directly go and live in the communities they study, they make use of direct observation, functional approach and interviews.
- Studies social problems and make suggestions for solutions but, Anthropology does not go for solutions of problems.
- Discoveries social facts and guides change but, later does not guides change.

✓ RELATIONSHIP:

Both grew up in close cooperation with each other in terms of concepts used, areas of interest and their methods of study.

- Post colonial period witnessed a new trend towards the convergence of two - one major factor responsible for this has been the rise of the new nation-states, which as result of process of nation building, have acquired a "dualistic" character. They have come to acquire the features of both modern industrial societies as well as traditional small scale societies. Therefore, the study of these "Developing societies" requires the use of both sociological as well as anthropological approach.
- Even sociologists working modern industrial societies like America have increasingly started to rely upon the methods of Anthropology, e.g. Talcott Parson and R.K. Merton attempted towards an adaption of Functional approach to study industrial societies. Also, William White has adopted Participation observation for the study of modern industrial society.
- Besides this, the diffusion of Marxist approach in Anthropology acts as bridge between the two.
- Evans Pritchard considers Anthropology as a branch of Sociology.
- Kroeber - both are twin sisters.
- Sociology is greatly benefited by anthropological studies. Sociologists depend upon Anthropology to understand the present day social phenomena from our knowledge of past which are often provided by Anthropology.

- Sociological topics such as origin of family, the beginning of marriage, private property, the genesis of religion etc, can better be understood in the light of anthropological knowledge.
 - Sociology has also borrowed many concepts like cultural area, culture traits, interdependent traits, cultural lag, culture pattern, culture configuration etc.
 - An understanding of society can be gained by comparing various cultures, particularly, the modern with the primitive.
 - Anthropologists too are making a study of the present peoples and their societies.
 - The conclusions drawn by sociologists have also helped the anthropologists in their study. Anthropologists like, Morgan and his followers have to the conclusion regarding the existence of primitive communism from the conceptions of private property in our modern society.
 - Anthropologists now study even urban social system in modern complex societies. Thus both are merging into each other.
- o SOCIOLOGY V/S HISTORY:

History seeks to establish the sequence in which events occurred. It is the arrangement of behavior in time. History is the reconstruction of man's past. It is the story of the experience of the mankind.

- ✓ DIFFERENCES:
 - Sociology study present social phenomena, while History studies past events.
 - Sociology is young; History is age old social science.
 - Sociology is analytical; History is descriptive.
 - Sociology is abstract; History is concrete.
 - Sociology is generalizing; History is individualizing.
 - Sociology is homothetic; History is idiographic – Radcliffe Brown.
 - Sociological approach – studies events from sociological point of view i.e. from the view point of social relationships. Historical approach – study events in accordance with time order.
- ✓ RELATIONSHIP:

Despite the differences, the subject matter overlaps in following ways:

- Both Sociology and modern historiography had their origin in 19th century; even share a common parent in “Philosophy of history”. The later established the conception of historical periods and thus

bequeathed to historiography, theoretical ideas and concerns which were entirely absent from the work of earlier narrative historians and chronicles. It bequeathed to modern sociology the notion of historical types of society and thus enabled the sociologists to build classification of societies.

- The historian frequently provides material which the sociologists use. In fact, historical sociology depends on data which only a historian can supply.
 - Even comparative method which sociologists use, often require historical data.
 - Sometimes sociologists have concerned themselves with the study of unique events like history does e.g. R.H Tawney's work - "Religion and rise of Capitalism" which appears more nomothetic than Weber's work - "The Protestant ethic and spirit of Capitalism".
 - Historical accounts for phenomena like Industrial revolution are quite general in nature and have served as a source of data for sociological studies.
 - But the dependence is twofold. Sociological research also provides information which the historians need.
 - History is now studied from sociological point of view.
 - Sociology provides social background for the study of history.
 - Rostovtzev, G.G Coulton, and Jacob Burkhardt have written social history i.e. history which deals with human relations, social patterns, mores, customs and important institutions other than monarchy and army.
 - Historians describe unique events - this holds true for traditional history but is only partly true for modern historiography - which have nomothetic character.
 - History would be boring, monotonous, prosaic and uninteresting unless the social events are narrated, which holds true for sociology.
 - G.E Howard - History is past Sociology and Sociology is present History.
- o SOCIOLOGY V/S ECONOMICS: Economics is the study of production and distribution of goods and services. Economics deals with economic activities of man. It can be understood as the science of wealth in its three stages namely - production, distribution and consumption.
- ✓ DIFFERENCES:
- Sociology studies all kinds of relationships; Economics studies only those relationships which are economic in character.
 - General social science; while special social science.

- Scope seems to be wider with comprehensive viewpoint; while in economics scope is narrower.
- Of recent origin; while economics has attained an advanced degree of maturity.
- Abstract vs. concrete.
- Social variables are very difficult to measure and to quantify; while economics variables can be measured and quantified more easily and accurately.

✓ RELATIONSHIP:

Both are separate disciplines; however, attempts have made to link the two disciplines with each other.

- Recently economists have shown more interest in motivation and in the institutional context of economic action.
- Now studies of the role of values and preferences in affecting the supply of labor, the influence exerted by prestige custom on the price of goods, the origins and motivations of entrepreneurs and managers and the contribution of education to productivity have been largely left to sociologists.
- Economists are known for their precision of their terminology, the exactness of their measures, the ease with which they can communicate with one another in a standard technical language, the extent of their agreement about certain basic principles and their ability to translate the results of their theoretical work into practical suggestions having major implications for public policy.
- Economists think as do sociologists, in terms of systems and sub-systems. They stress the relations between the parts, especially pattern of dependence, dominance, exchange and the like.
- Both are interested in the measurement often precise and in the relationships of variables.
- Both are impressed with mathematical models as aids in analyzing data.
- Talcot Parson – economic behavior can never be understood adequately if it is divorced from the social milieu.
- Of late, the interactions between two disciplines have been on increase e.g. numerous sociological studies have directly concerned themselves with the problems of economic theory. The recent e.g. is Barbara Cotton’s book – “The Social Foundations of Wage Policy”, which

attempts a sociological analysis of the determinants of wages and salary differentials in Britain.

- Similarly, a shift is being noticed in economics also increasingly the role of sociological factors in the study of economic behavior is being realized e.g. the study of problems of economics development in the developing countries – Gunnar Myrdal.
- Social interpretation of economic changes – some economists like Max Webber, Pareto, Oppenheimer, Schumpeter have explained economic changes as an aspect of social change. According to them, the study of economics would be incomplete without understanding human society. Economic system is embedded in the social structure as a part of it. The society, its structures, its organizations, its institutions, its strength and weaknesses etc are bound to affect the economic activities of its people.

Max Weber, a German sociologist, made classical attempt to show how social factors and particularly religious beliefs and practical ethics influence economics activities of people.

- Economic interpretation of social changes – economists like K. Marx and Veblen explained that social phenomena are determined by economic forces. According to them, social realities or social change can be explained in terms of economic forces. According to Marx, the infrastructure of a society is nothing, but economic relations among its people.
- Sociologists have contributed to study different aspects of economic organizations. Knowledge of property, division of labor, occupations, industrial organizations etc is provided by sociologists to economists. Such matters as labor relations, standard of living, employer-employee relations, social classes, socio-economic planning, socio-economic reforms etc are common to both sociologists and economists.
- Cooperation is widening – economists are analyzing social factors influencing economic growth.
- Certain socio-economic problems of greater importance to be studied by both economists and sociologists, like poverty, beggary, unemployment, over-population, unregulated industrialization have both social and economic implications.
- Thomas regarded economics as branch of sociology.

o SOCIOLOGY V/S PSYCHOLOGY:

Psychology is the study of human behavior. In the words of Thouless – Psychology is the positive science of human experience and behavior. In

general, Psychology as the science of behavior, occupies itself principally and primarily with the individual. It is interested in his intelligence and his learning, his hopes and his fears and the order and disorder of his mind.

✓ DIFFERENCES:

- Sociology studies society and social groups. It has no primary interest in the individual not in his personality or in his individual behavior. Psychology studies the behavior of individual in group situation or in society. Its focus of interest is individual and not the society as such.
- Sociology analyses social processes; while Psychology analyses mental processes.
- Interested in the social forms and structures within which the behavior of man takes place. Psychology is primarily concerned with the behavior of individuals as such.
- Sociology studies the groups themselves and the larger social structures within which both individual and group process occurs. Psychology studies the individual and Social-Psychology in his social groups.
- Studies society from the sociological point of view. Psychology studies the individual's behavior from the viewpoint of psychological factors involved.

✓ RELATIONSHIP:

In spite of differences, there is interdependence of the two social sciences as:

- Social-psychology - serves as a bridge between the two.
- ✓ Krech and Crutchfield define social-psychology as science of the behavior of the individual in society.
- ✓ R.W. Pickford - social-psychology analyses the framework of social relationships in such a way as to show the interaction of individuals and groups now and in the past, and by study of the dynamics of these interactions to reveal how they lead to the establishment of that framework and to the personality patterns of participant individuals.
- ✓ It deals with the mental processes of man considering him as a social being.
- ✓ It attempts to determine the character of his social behavior involving various aspects of social behavior - social interaction, interaction between an individual and a group and interaction between one group of individuals and another group of individuals.

- ✓ It also studies how an individual's personality is a function both of his basic physiological and temperamental equipment and of the social and cultural differences to which he is exposed.
- Social -psychology has to depend on sociology to understand properly human nature and behavior, as it is sociology which provides the necessary material regarding the structure, organization, and culture of societies to which individuals belong.
 - Similarly, sociologists have recognized the importance of psychological factors in understanding the changes in social structure.
- Common topics of interest for both; such as, individual disorganization, crimes, juvenile delinquency, social disorganization, public opinion, propaganda, leadership, war conflicts, socialization, suggestion, imitation, fashion and so on.
- Social-psychology helps to face social problems e.g. problems like, racial conflict, religious prejudice, communal tensions, crimes, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, gambling, alcoholism, are not totally isolated cases in society, in fact, they are inseparable from social processes and normal social behavior.
- ✓ Social-psychology helps to bring solutions. Deviant patterns such as stealing suicide, divorce and prostitution are normal consequences of our social institutions.
- ✓ Social behavior and misbehavior are closely interrelated. Social-psychologists are experts in knowing the curing practices of social evils.
- The expressed views of some thinkers on the mutual relationship of the two sciences -
 - ✓ Lapiere - social-psychology is to sociology and psychology as biochemistry is to biology and chemistry.
 - ✓ Maclver - sociology in special gives aid to psychology, just as psychology gives special aid to sociology.
 - ✓ Murphy -social-psychology is the study of the way in which the individual becomes the member of and functions in a social group.
 - ✓ T.B. Bottomore - social psychology is that part of general psychology which has a particular relevance to social phenomena, or which deals with the psychological aspects of social life.
 - ✓ Maclver and Page - when we study the nature of individual consciousness which expresses itself in social relationships we are taking the psychological point of view. When we study relationships themselves we take the sociological point of view. Both are concerned with different aspects of an indivisible reality.

Individuals cannot be understood apart from their relations with one another, the relations cannot be understood apart from the units of the relationships.

- If in the combination of sociological and psychological factors the stress is placed on the psychological, then we have social-psychology, but if the sociological factors or approach stressed, we shall have what is called psycho-sociology.

❖ UNIT - 2ND - SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT:

➤ SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT / SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY:

Every science has its own areas of study or field of inquiry. It becomes difficult for anyone to study a science systematically unless its boundaries are demarcated and scope determined precisely.

Almost all earlier sociologists agreed on this view that the proper subject matter and scope of sociology is the study of social interactions and social relationships. But their approach of study has led them to form into groups. They have distinguished two major approaches of sociology to study society, viz. Formal Sociology and Synthetic Sociology.

➤ FORMALISTIC / SPECIALISTIC SCHOOL OF THOUGHT OR SOCIOLOGY:

- There is a group of German sociologists who have distinguished the forms and contents of social relationships.
- ✓ According to them sociology is the study of special forms of social relationships.
- ✓ They regard sociology as pure and independent.
- ✓ They say that like economics, psychology, it has special scope.
- ✓ They insist that sociology should delimit their study of the forms of social relationships (competition, assimilation, conflict, cooperation etc). The contents of relationships should be left to be studied by other social sciences.
- For example, competition may be viewed as a relationship with distinct formal characteristics, no matter what the setting - whether

occurs in the market place, or in the sports field, or in the political arena.

- Basically, competition is a process having many expressions as the struggle between plants for space and food and light, animals for food and shelter, businessmen for customers, athletes for a place on the team, politician for votes and so on.
- Sociologists study only formal characteristics of competition.
- Its different manifestations i.e. competition in the market place (field of economics), in the political arena (field of political science), etc, is left to be studied by other sciences.
- As such sociology would be a specialist science dealing only about the forms of social relationships.
- To illustrate the difference between form and content a simile can be given.
 - 🌈 A glass or a plastic bottle can be seen from two angles - form and content. The shape of the bottle - round, square, triangular or octangular is its form and the water, wine, fruit juice or anything else can be its content that is filled in the bottle. If we fill round shaped bottle with water, it will not turn into wine nor will the water change the shape of the bottle. The contents of the bottle do not change the form of the bottle. Form and content of the bottle remain unaffected by each other.
 - 🌈 Similarly, the forms of relationships do not affect the types (content) of relationships (politics, family, education, religion, industry etc).
 - 🌈 Forms of social relationships do not change with the change in the content of social relationships.
 - 🌈 For example; the study of cooperation - a form of social relationship, which will not make any difference whether we study it in the religion or in politics or economics.
 - 🌈 Sociology has been compared with geometry which only studies about the forms of physical things.
- Thus according to Formalistic school of thought, Sociology studies one specific aspect of social relationships i.e. their forms in their abstract and not in any concrete situation.

This school of thought is led by German sociologist George Simmel. The other main advocates of this school are Small, Vier Kandt, Max Weber, Von Wiese, Ferdinand Tonnies etc.

- o George Simmel - is known to be the main champion of formal sociology.

- ✓ Formal sociology is an attempt to determine the basic forms of social interactions that underlie more complex forms and contents of social behavior.
 - ✓ He suggested that one could isolate the forms of interactions from the content, so that apparently very difficult interactions (with different contents) could be shown to have the same form.
 - ✓ For instance, the relationship between the aristocrat and writer in the 18th century England and the relationship between a peasant and his landlord in the 20th century India are apparently different reactions. However, they do have the same form, in that they are both examples of patronage relationships.
 - ✓ To him sociology should confine its study to formal behavior instead of studying actual behavior.
- o Small – his way of thinking concurs with Simmels.
 - ✓ Sociology does not undertake to study all the activities of sociology.
 - ✓ Every science has a delimited scope.
 - ✓ The scope of sociology is the study of genetic forms of social relationships, behaviors, activities etc.
 - o Vier Kandt – sociology can be a definite science only when it abstains from a historic study of concrete sciences.
 - ✓ Sociology studies the irreducible forms of mental relationships like love, hatred, cooperation, competition etc.
 - ✓ In this way the scope of sociology is the study of the ultimate forms of mental or psychic relationships. Which links men to one another in society.
 - ✓ He maintains that in dealing with culture, sociology should not concern itself with the actual contents of cultural evolution but it should confine itself to only the discovery of the fundamental forces of change and persistence.
 - ✓ It should refrain itself from making a historical study of concrete societies.
 - o Max Weber – scope of sociology consists in the interpretation of social behavior. But social behavior does not cover the whole field of human relations.
 - ✓ Social behavior is that which is related by the intention of perpetrator to the behavior of others and is determined by it.
 - ✓ Sociological laws are those empirically established generalizations of social behavior whose meaning can be determined.

- o Von Wiese – to study the forms of relationships.
- ✓ He has divided these social relations into several kinds which make a material contribution towards the understanding of the contentions of formalistic school.

- o Ferdinand Tonnies – all social relations are creations of human will.
- ✓ There are two types of human will. The first is Essential will: the basic instinctive organic tendencies which drive human activity from behind.
- ✓ The second is Arbitrary will: the deliberative, purposive form of violation which determines human activities with regard to the future.
- ✓ Essential will dominate the life of peasants and artisans or common people; while Arbitrary will characterize the activities of business people, scientists, and persons of authority and members of the upper class. Women and young are inclined to display the Arbitrary will.
- ✓ These two modes of will explain the existence of two basic types of social groups. A group which may be willed into being because, sympathies among the members make them feel that this relationship is a value in itself.
- ✓ On the other hand, a social group may arise as an instrument to attain a definite end.
- ✓ The first type of group, called as Gesellschaft in current terminology refers to association and Gemeinschaft for him, the community.
- ✓ For him, the concept of gemeinschaft refers not only to types of human groupings but to stages of growth whereby gemeinschaft type society, over time gives way to gesellschaft type of society. Here one can find elements of evolution.
 - CRITICISM:
 - Other social sciences also study forms of social relations. The International Law and Political science studies social relations as war, conflict, opposition, agreement, contract, sovereignty etc.
 - The conception of pure society is impractical – no science can be studied in complete isolation from other social sciences.
 - Forms of social relations differ from geometry – social relations are devoid of such shape as definite shape of geometry.
 - Separated from concrete relations, abstract forms cannot be studied.
 - This school of thought has extremely narrowed the scope of sociology.
 - SYNTHETIC / GENERAL SCHOOL OF THOUGHT:
 - This school of thought wants that sociology should study both the forms and content of social relations.

- It works on the ground that just as in case of human body different parts of social life interrelate and interdependence on each other – means that if there is change in one part of the society it affects the other parts also. Therefore, all relations found in the society should be studied on the general basis.
 - The followers of this school of thought are Comte, Durkheim, Pitrim A Sorokin, L.T. Hobhouse, and Morris Ginsberg.
- o Comte - the pioneer of sociology, proposed a synthetic view that could unite all the knowledge about human activity and society in terms of his contribution – social statics and social dynamics.
 - o Durkheim – sociology is a distinctive discipline. The social is not an autonomous datum but is constituted by the intersection of economics, politics, geography, history, psychology etc. according to him sociology has three main fields of enquiry:
 - Social Morphology – studies the territorial basis of the life of people.
 - Social Physiology – studies social processes. It has different branches as sociology of religion, of morals, of law, of economic life, of language etc.
 - General sociology – regarded as philosophical part. It deals with general character of the social facts to formulate general laws.
 - o Morris Ginsberg – main task of sociology can be categorized into four branches:
 - Social Morphology – deals with quality and quantity of population.
 - Social control – formal as well as informal means of social control. Deals with the regulating agencies of the society.
 - Social processes – tries to make a study of different modes of interaction.
 - Social Pathology – studies mal-adjustments and disturbances i.e. social problems.
 - o L.T. Hobhouse – also belongs to the evolutionist traditions.
 - He used the concept of social development to analyze and explain the social transformation.
 - Social development can be estimated in terms of four criteria:
 - ✓ Growing efficiency in man’s control over nature;
 - ✓ Extension in the scale of social organization;
 - ✓ Increasing cooperation in satisfaction of mutual needs;
 - ✓ The greater freedom or scope for personal fulfillment as manifested in the advance of human knowledge.
 - o Pitrim A Sorokin – offered explanation of social change.

- Instead of viewing civilization into terms of development and decline, he proposed that they alternate or fluctuate between two cultural extremes.
- The Sensate and the Ideational – the sensate culture stresses those things which can be perceived directly by senses and is practical, hedonistic, sensual and materialistic; while as the ideational culture emphasis those things which can be perceived only by mind and is abstract, religious, concerned with faith and ultimate truth.
- Between these two, there lies a third type – Ideastic culture – blend of two.
- But no society ever fully conforms to either type.

To conclude this discussion about the schools of thought, it can be said that sociology is a special and general science both. The older terrains of formal and synthetic sociology have now been transformed and broadened into various fields and subfields. This controversy does not exist in contemporary sociology.