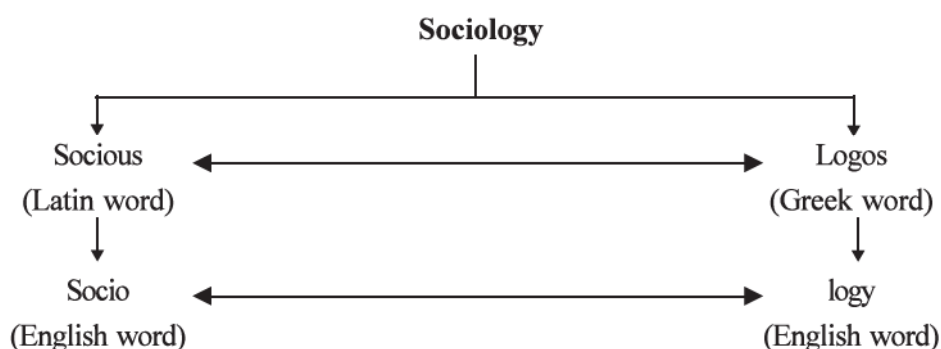


Preface

Student friends, in the 10th standard, you got familiar with social science as a subject. In this subject, till your 10th standard, you developed understanding about various aspects, from your surrounding environment to the great heritage of Indian culture, agricultural management, economic development and its problems, geographical features, judiciary etc. Sociology is one of the many sciences which social sciences comprise. Friends, one thing that needs to be clarified here is that the word 'science' includes two types of sciences: (1) physical or natural science and (2) social science.

Physical sciences include physics, chemistry, geology, space science etc. while social sciences comprise sociology, economics, psychology, political science etc. Here, we will make an attempt to understand sociology as a social science, its meaning and subject-matter, its origin and development and about other branches of sociology.

The word 'Sociology' is derived from the Latin word 'Socius' and the Greek word 'Logos'. This could be understood in the following way:



Thus, from the view point of origin, it can be said that sociology is a scientific study of social facts. As a social science, human social life is the focus of the study of sociology. It tries to understand and explain the warp and woof of human social relations and therefore MacIver and Page have referred to social relations or web of social relations, which we know as society, as a subject matter of sociology.

Definition of sociology

Kimball Young has mentioned that 'Sociology studies human behaviour in group'.

According to Young and Mac, 'Sociology studies social aspects of human life in a scientific manner'.

H.M. Johnson has mentioned, 'Sociology studies social groups, their internal forms or types of institutions, processes which maintain them or cause changes in them and relations between groups'.

Defining sociology, Vidyut Joshi has written in terminological dictionary that 'Sociology is a scientific study of human social behaviour. It studies processes of individual and collective interactions, forms and types of social groups or organizations, and effects of collective behaviour on mutual relations and individual behaviour'.

Thoughts about society expressed before the origin of sociology

The origin of sociology as a social science dates back to more than 175 years. This fact may lead you to the question that whether there was any systematic study of society before that? Answering this question, it can be said that the tradition of the study of society began with the writings of Greek thinkers Plato (427-347 B.C.) and Aristotle (384-322 B.C.). According to both these thinkers, society is a well integrated system and it is based on social inequality and division of labour. In 14th century, a scholar named IbnKhalidun (1332-1406), through a comparative study of nomadic and static groups of the Arab World, identified the human history as the process of evolution and presented the concept of social change. In addition, scholars like Thomas Hobbs (1588-1679), John Lock (1632-1704), Vico (1668-1744), Montesquieu (1689-1715), Rousseau (1712-1778) and Saint Simon (1760-1825) also expressed their thoughts about social system.

Origin of sociology

Though many scholars, from Plato to Saint Simon expressed their thoughts about society, sociology as a social science originated in Western Europe in the 19th century. Factors such as renaissance, industrial revolution in England, French revolution witnessed by Western Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries had sown the seeds of origin of sociology. Industrial revolution resulted in establishment of various new industries which started exploiting industrial workers. In France, unjust administration of Louis Kings led to the state of social disorder. Besides, owing to various novel scientific investigations, different nations began to come into each other's contact. In such circumstances, need for the objective and scientific study of society was felt. First of all, the French philosopher Auguste Comte made an attempt to understand the society from the objective and scientific perspective. He felt that like natural events, social events occurring in the society could also be studied scientifically and he presented various theories about scientific study of society in his book 'Positive Philosophy' which was written in six volumes during 1830 and 1842. Initially, he presented his scientific study of society with the title 'social physics' but then finding it not compatible with his study he changed it to 'sociology' in 1839. Because of this, he is known as the father of sociology.

The sociology which began with Auguste Comte further developed with the studies of Emile Durkheim in France, John Stuart Mill and Herbert Spencer in England and Karl Marx and Max Weber in Germany. All these sociologists of initial period became known as classical sociologists due to their distinctive contribution to sociology. Let us try to understand how contributions of these sociologists led to the development of sociology and which aspects of society can be incorporated in the study of sociology.

Auguste Comte (1798-1857)

In his two series of books, namely 'Positive Philosophy' and 'Positive Polity', Auguste Comte presented the scientific rules about the study of social system and its progress. According to him, rules made by the society cause unity among different components of the society and they are the social system in real sense. Absence of rules for maintenance of social system may

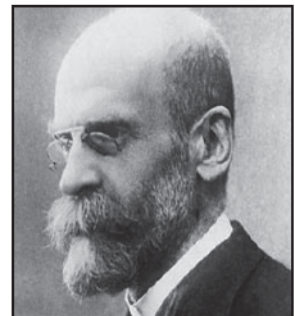


Auguste Comte

lead to the state of instability, social disorganization and collapse of social values. Thus, Comte explains that social progress (development) cannot take place at the cost of social system. Social system and social development are interdependent. Besides, Comte has given stage wise description of the progress of social system, at religious, supernatural and direct level. Through this explanation, he identified sociology as a science of study of social system and theories and rules of social progress. Along with this, he advocated for application of observation, comparison, experimental and historical methods for scientific study of society and emphasized on investigation of casual relations in relation to events occurring in society. Thus, with Auguste Comte, scientific study of society commenced.

Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

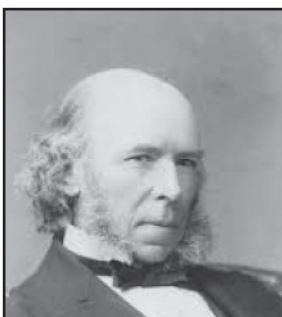
Through his substantial and scientific study, the French scholar Emile Durkheim sprouted the seed sown by Auguste Comte in the form of sociology. Durkheim believed that sociology does not attempt to classify the society alone; it is an art of living social life. Sociology is not a study of any invisible world, but it studies the group of living people and it was because of this that Durkheim got more interested in the study of sociology. His aim was to investigate the relations between individual and group. He also wanted to understand the effects of group on individual and therefore he emphasized the study of social facts. According to him, social facts emerge from group life.



Emile Durkheim

These facts are outside the individual and they compel the individual to behave in a certain way. Besides, these facts can be objectively observed. For example, customs and traditions of Indian society can be termed as social facts. Durkheim mentions that social facts should be viewed as objects so that they can be properly studied. Durkheim has contributed significantly towards sociological methods by explaining about social facts in his book 'The Rules of Sociological Methods'. In addition, he has also contributed immensely towards development of sociology through his theories and works of suicide, division of labour, social unity, religion and collective representation.

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)



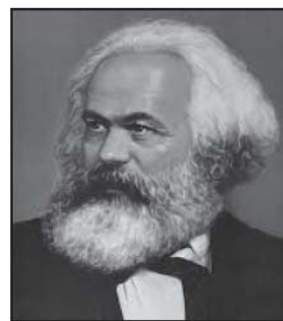
Herbert Spencer

The British sociologist of the 19th century, Herbert Spencer presented the theory of social evolution to explain the process of social development in his books 'The Study of Sociology' (1873) and 'The Principles of Sociology' (1876). He compared society with a living being and described society as an organism. He illuminated the fact that like human body, society also consists of different parts and in order to sustain the society, it is essential for different parts to work together. According to him, societies also evolve like organisms and this was one of the important features of his theory of social evolution.

It is worth mentioning here that the revolutionary of Gujarat, Shyamkrishna Verma, during his stay in London, had come under the influence of Herbert Spencer and after the death of Spencer, he had declared a Herbert Spencer Indian Fellowship.

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

Karl Marx, the German scholar is known as promulgator of the theories of conflict and socialism. He was the first thinker who emphasized that historical events are influenced by economic conditions. According to him, at different stages of history, social classes are formed on the basis of means of production and in each stage of the history, two classes are found. One is bourgeoisie and the other is proletariat and conflict between these two classes always continues. Regarding this, he has written in his 'Communist Manifesto' that 'the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles'. He urged the proletariat of the whole world to eliminate capitalism and establish classless society. The book 'Das Capital' written by him is popular even today. Besides sociology, his thoughts have been significant for other social sciences such as economics, political science, philosophy etc.



Karl Marx

Max Weber (1864-1920)

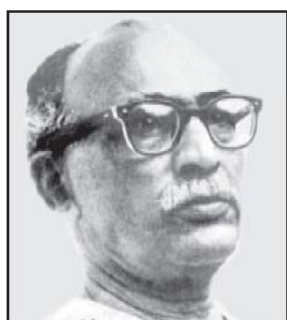


Max Weber

Max Weber of Germany is known for his understanding and explanation of human social behaviour. According to him, social action is the main subject-matter of sociology and it has played a critical role in getting sociology the status of science. Therefore, he defines sociology as interpretative understanding of social action (*verstehen*). His ideal type method has been particularly useful in social research. Weber has contributed significantly towards development of sociology through his essay on protestant ethic based on comparative study of different religions of the world and his sociological studies on capitalism, authority and bureaucracy.

Thus, the seed in the form of sociology sown by Auguste Comte in France gradually began to take a form of banyan tree. Besides Europe, sociology also developed in America. In 1876, firstly, study and teaching of sociology started in Yale University of America through the efforts of William Graham Sumner. The course of sociology was introduced in University of Kansas in 1890 with the title of 'Elements of Sociology'. In Europe, through the efforts of Emile Durkheim, study and teaching of sociology began in University of Bordeaux in 1895.

Development of sociology in India



Govind Sadashiv Ghurye

In India, teaching of sociology first began in Mumbai University at postgraduate level in 1914. The postgraduate section was chaired by the known British sociologist and town planner Patrick Geddes. In 1924, the known sociologist Dr. Govind Sadashiv Ghurye became head of the department of sociology. He designed the new path-way for the development of sociology in India. He was also a source of inspiration for 'Indian Sociological Society' established in 1952 and was also chief editor of the journal 'Sociological Bulletin'. His studies and the generation of students of sociology trained by him made the Mumbai University as the center of study of sociology.

In 1917, study and teaching of sociology, along with economics, started in Kolkata University with the efforts of Brajendra Nath Seal. Radhakamal Mukherjee and D.P. Mukherjee in Lucknow University and Irawati Karve in Pune University played important roles in the development of sociology.

There are many other sociologists, who have contributed significantly towards the development of sociology in India, such as M.N. Srinivas, S.C. Dubey, A.R. Desai, David Hardiman, Yogendra Singh, A.M. Shah, etc. Social reformers and social thinkers such as Gandhiji and BabaSaheb Ambedkar have also tried to understand the Indian society from a scientific perspective.

Sociological research also got momentum with access to financial assistance from Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and University Grant Commission (UGC).

Like in other universities in India, in Gujarat also, sociology is being studied and taught at graduate and postgraduate levels, in various universities including Gujarat Vidyapeeth. In addition, medical and nursing courses have sociology as one of the subjects. Further, the institute 'Center for Social Studies' established by I.P. Desai in Surat is promoting the systematic social research in Gujarat. The periodical 'Arthat' published by the same institute has motivated researchers of Gujarat by publishing their research articles.



Taraben Patel

In Gujarat, N. A. Thoothi, I. P. Desai, Akshya Kumar Desai, Neera Desai, Taraben Patel, A. M. Shah and several others have contributed significantly towards development of sociology.

Scope of Sociology

The words 'scope of sociology' denote the boundary or the extent of the study of sociology. All those issues which are included in this limit are known as the subject-matter of sociology. Thus, like other social sciences, sociology also has its own scope and subject-matter.

Sociology which fundamentally studies social relations and social institutions covers many social aspects surrounding us. It tends to explain particularly those factors that are instrumental in maintaining the society and also the factors that cause change in society. The subject-matter of sociology includes fundamental units of social life, basic social institutions, processes and problems. Alex Inkeles has described subject matter of sociology in detail. Here, we can understand the subject-matter of sociology as given below :

(a) Study of basic units of society :

- (1) Relations between individuals, interaction, social norms, social status and social role, social structure, culture etc.
- (2) Social groups, their types and features and interrelations between groups
- (3) Communities: rural community, urban community, tribal community
- (4) Social associations and organizations
- (5) Demographic features of society

(b) Study of fundamental social institutions :

- (1) Family and kinship relations
- (2) Economic institutions (trade-commerce, industrial groups, occupational groups, etc.)
- (3) Political institutions (government, political issues, legislature, panchayat, etc.)

- (4) Legal institutions (constitution, legal system, laws and social change)
- (5) Religious institutions (religions, sects, communal tension)
- (6) Caste system (origin, development and features of caste system)
- (7) Educational institutions (educational institutions and significance of education as a means of social change)

(c) Basic social processes :

- (1) Processes like cooperation, competition, conflict, adaptation, assimilation
- (2) Process of socialization that teaches socially sanctioned ways and norms of behaviour to members of society.
- (3) Process of social deviation and social control

Relation of sociology with other social sciences

(1) Sociology and anthropology : Anthropology studies mankind while sociology is a scientific study of society. Anthropology attempts to understand, from the very beginning to the contemporary life, physical, cultural and archeological aspects of humankind. Thus, anthropology can be divided into three sections: (a) physical anthropology, (b) cultural anthropology and (c) archaeological anthropology.

Physical anthropology studies formation of human body, its different physical features, and different human races and how they differ from each other. Cultural anthropology studies conduct, customs, life style and social institutions of primitive man. Archaeological anthropology, on the basis of the remains obtained during excavation, attempts to gain knowledge about the origin and development of ancient culture.

In a way, anthropology is the phase of pre preparation for the study of sociology. Besides, there is a very thin line which distinguishes these two sciences. In spite of having difference in their methodology and perspective, both sciences are interdependent. While anthropology attempts to understand physical features and culture, sociology focuses on human society and social relations. Thus, understanding of culture is essential in order to understand human society and social relations. Therefore, without exploring anthropology, the study of sociology is incomplete.

(2) Sociology and psychology : Psychology is a discipline which studies human behaviour. Social psychology looks into the behaviour of individual living in society and group or studies individual in relation to norms, values and aims of his/her group.

Sociology looks into society and explores the formation of different groups and their functions. It also examines mutual relations between different groups, social changes occurring in society. Psychology is related to the study of individual while sociology is concerned with the study of society or group. We observe both differences and interdependence between these two sciences. Psychology studies about organized human behaviour which is shaped by the combined influence of individual's physical, mental and personal experiences. Individual, society and group are linked to each other and therefore the sciences studying them are mutually related.

Both these sciences exchange information from each other. For studying individual and his personality sociology obtains information from psychology while the latter gets information about groups from sociology to understand individual's behaviour. Both these sciences are closely linked in the field of social psychology. As far as issues like attitudes, public opinion, crowd are concerned, there is no difference between these two sciences as both study same.

(3) Sociology and economics : Economics aims at understanding economic relations of human beings. Issues like origin and distribution of product or material, types of distribution and changes

occurred in them, demand and supply, value of product, national income, origin and development of economic organizations and their advantages and disadvantages are linked with the study of economics. Sociology, as mentioned earlier, focuses on social relations and aims at examining the social events from sociological perspective.

Both these sciences, though they differ in terms of scope and approach, are associated with each other. The economic action or activity of an individual originates and develops in the society to which s/he belongs and therefore it can be said that the society is influenced by economic actions and vice versa.

Moreover, both the sciences study issues like unemployment, poverty, population growth etc., though with different perspective. While economics aims at understanding the economic factors responsible for unemployment, sociology attempts to understand social aspects of unemployment. However, it is clear that in order to understand economic life of an individual one needs to understand his/her social activities and vice versa. In this sense, both these sciences are helpful to each other.

(4) Sociology and political science : Political science is a study of creation, execution and distribution of power. Behaviour of individuals and institutions associated with creation and execution of power is at the center point of the study of political science. Now, political sociology has developed as a specific branch of sociology. Therefore, political sociologists and political scientists have begun studying similar issues like voting behaviour, political trends, networks of political parties, mobility obtained through political system, social and political movements, bureaucracy, etc. Political science depends on sociology for its theories. For example, Max Weber's concept of bureaucracy is used to understand modern political system and capitalism. Further, it requires sociological understanding to specify the political significance of caste and religion in the present time.

Branches of Sociology

Extremely wide scope of sociology has led to the development of many branches. These branches of sociology are peculiar in the sense that each of them studies the concerned field from sociological perspective. In this sense, each of the branches of sociology has specific knowledge about the concerned field.

According to an estimate, there are more than 50 branches of sociology. They include rural sociology, urban sociology, sociology of family, sociology of education, regional sociology, industrial sociology, sociology of knowledge, medical sociology, social anthropology, social psychology, sociology of religion, sociology of women, sociology of literature, sociology of development, sociology of youth, sociology of law, etc. All these branches have contributed significantly to the development of sociology in India.

In this chapter, we obtained knowledge about the origin and development of sociology and its relation with other social sciences. In the next chapter, we will get familiar with the fundamental notions (concepts) of sociology.

Exercises

1. Answer the following questions in detail :

- (1) Explain the subject matter of sociology.
- (2) Explain the meaning of sociology and write a note on the origin of sociology
- (3) State contributions of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber.

2. Answer the following questions concisely :

- (1) Development of sociology in India
- (2) Sociology and psychology
- (3) Auguste Comte

3. Answer the following questions in brief :

- (1) Define sociology.
- (2) Who presented sociology? When and in which book?
- (3) Explain different branches of sociology.
- (4) Give the names of the sociologists who contributed towards development of sociology in India.

4. Answer the following questions in one sentence:

- (1) Give the name of the famous book written by Karl Marx.
- (2) In which university did sociology commence first in India?
- (3) Give the names of the scholars who contributed towards development of sociology in Gujarat?
- (4) By whose efforts teaching of sociology started in Yale University ?

5. Choose the right option from the following :

- (1) Mention the name of the founder of sociology.
(a) Max Weber (b) Auguste Comte
(c) Karl Marx (d) Herbert Spencer
- (2) Who presented the concept of social fact ?
(a) Emile Durkheim (b) Herbert Spencer (c) Karl Marx (d) Auguste Comte
- (3) Which institution in Gujarat is promoting social research ?
(a) Center for Social Studies (b) Indian Sociological Society
(c) ICSSR (d) None of the three
- (4) Who gave the concept of bureaucracy ?
(a) Karl Marx (b) Auguste Comte (c) Max Weber (d) G. S. Ghurye
- (5) Who was the source of inspiration for Indian Sociological Society ?
(a) M. N. Srinivas (b) G. S. Ghurye (c) I. P. Desai (d) A. M. Shah

Activity

- Prepare a chart of the sociologists who contributed to the origin and development of sociology.
- Prepare wall papers showing relation of sociology with other social sciences.
- Organise a group discussion on society's fundamental social institutions.
- Find birthplace and area of work of sociologists in map.

