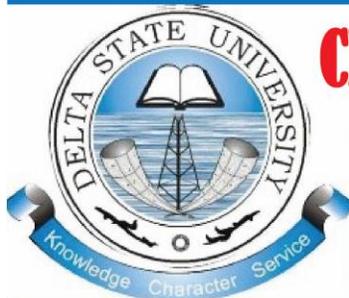




**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ABIRAKA, NIGERIA**



**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**

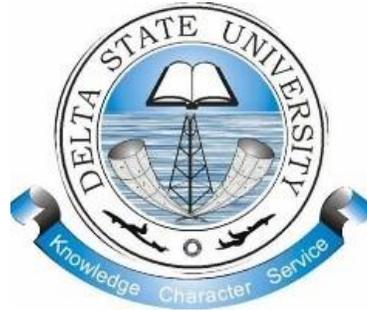
**Introduction to Sociology I**  
SOC 101  
**Course Material**

**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY ABRAKA, NIGERIA  
CENTRE FOR DISTANCE LEARNING**

**BACHELOR OF NURSING SCIENCE**

*INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY 1*

*SOC 101*



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### **Vice Chancellor's Message**

The Delta State University (DELSU), Abraka, was founded in April 1992. The dream of her founding fathers was to make the institution to not only cater for the higher education aspirations of young Nigerians, but to also ensure that in no time, the University will evolve and take her rightful place among other universities across the world. So far, despite the teething challenges confronting the world, DELSU has done well in her determination to realize her mission and vision. From the humble beginning of five faculties, DELSU has long come of age with thirteen faculties, a College of Health Sciences and a Postgraduate School. Our graduates are doing well in Nigeria and across the globe. The testimony to DELSU's sojourn so far attests to her realization of her vision as a centre for excellence in teaching, learning, research, and community service. This lofty vision has been well complemented with her mission of promotion of quality education, character and meeting the challenges of our time.

Three decades after, DELSU is once again taking on the challenge occasioned by the emergence of a New World Order by divesting from being a single mode university into a dual mode university as she is now set to run the Distance Learning system. What has confronted the university system in Nigeria in recent times is the inability of the conventional mode of learning to accommodate all qualified candidates. The Distance Learning mode has come in to fill the gap. What has now made it more compelling is the new role played by ICT in education in the world today. DELSU has taken on the challenge to provide learning opportunity for qualified candidates through the DL and also leverage on the use of ICT in learning. DELSU has thus come to harness the two factors for the good of humanity in promoting learning without borders.

DELSU is well placed to run a dual mode university in view of the phenomenal achievements we have recorded as among the best universities in Nigeria. Our array of courses, all fully accredited by the National Universities Commission, highly competent manpower, quality facilities, conducive environment and range of ICT facilities have combined to make DELSU the University of today and the future.

The course materials embedded here were authored by DELSU scholars after rigorous trainings in the technique of writing materials for DL. Remarkable efforts, quality time and rare expertise went into the production of the course materials in order for them to stand the test of global best practices. The content of the materials are lucid, interactive and up to date having been subjected to DELSU's quality assurance process. The course materials have been developed in multi-media formats which are available and accessible for use by learners.

It is delightful to note that by running the DL, DELSU is offering those desirous of it an opportunity for lifelong learning. It is my pleasure to welcome our DL students to a new world of exciting learning.

Thank you.

Professor Andy Egwunyenga

## Foreword

Delta State University has been committed to ensuring academic excellence in all her programmes for building knowledge, character and service among students. In consonance with this, the Centre for Distance Learning (CDL) is committed to the strive for excellence in the delivery of accessible, flexible and lifelong learning. Delta State University Centre for Distance Learning (DELSUCDL) is focused on the delivery of quality in all her academic and administrative activities. The centre is committed to providing quality learner support services to learners through provision of up-to-date information and guidance by the learner support unit.

Quality is entrenched in the admission process, development of course materials and appointment of facilitators and provision of learner support services. In consideration of the facts that learners are separated from their facilitators through space, the course materials have been developed in a manner that they are easily accessed by learners for their self-study and self-assessment at the approach of examination. In addition, the course materials are written as digestible bits that can be easily comprehended by learners.

As quality assurance measure in DELSU Distance Learning, the course materials were written by carefully selected brilliant and seasoned academics in their respective specialty and subjected to rigorous editorials by experts in English and open and distance learning to meet acceptable international standards. The course materials are learner-friendly, grouped into study sessions, with each study session having In-Text Questions (ITQs), In-Text Answers (ITAs), Self-Assessment Questions (SAQs), Self-Assessment Answers (SAAs), glossary of terms and references for learners' future study.

Learners are expected to take advantage of the worthy course materials and use them as guides in their study. In addition, learners are to source for other materials that are related and relevant to each course and use them as supplement. Some of these other course materials have been suggested by the course materials writers in each volume. Learners would find the direct Open Educational Resources (OERs) and references suggested by the course materials authors. You are advised to regularly be in touch with your e-tutors and e-facilitators assigned to you for help.

On behalf of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Andy Egwunyenga, I wish to appreciate all the course material writers and others for their contributions to the development of the course materials. To the learners, I wish you a treasurable ride as you read through the course materials and resounding progress as you navigate your academic journey.

*Prof. (Mrs.) Romina I. Asiyai*

*Director, CDL*

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## COURSE STUDY GUIDE

### Course Introduction

The course SOC 101, introduction to Sociology 101 is a two unit course for learners undertaking a B.NSc programme in Nursing Science. This course is divided into 15 study sessions. Sociology is a distinct field of science with its own subject matter. This course seeks to unravel the meaning & subject matter of sociology, the nature & scope of sociology functions of the various social institutions such as the family marriage, education, political system and government. It underpinned their relevance in the life of an individual, of that of group and society in general. The course focused on the relevance of Sociology in society. It highlighted the origin and the contributions of founding fathers of Sociology. Sociology is one of the social sciences which attempt to explain and understand the behavior of human beings in society. Unlike some social sciences, sociology does not confine itself to one particular area of social life. Sociologists study vast and diverse range of topics which affect man in society. Sociologists study family, social ties, educational system, sexuality, health, crime, politics, religion and poverty etc. No single human being can boast of living in isolation. That is, the situation of not relating with other living creatures on earth. We thus relate and make meaning of other people's actions. Sociology is thus, poised to identifying these meanings as well as proffering solutions to social problems (outcomes of human interactions). Sociology as a discipline and its practice cut across different spheres. In our everyday routine, we are engaged in one social relationship or the other. As we relate with people, we make meaning from people actions. We find the underlying meaning of every human behavior. The term social institution means different things to different scholars, however some salient points cut across all the definitions, that is, its subject matter is scientific study of enduring structures in society and deciphering their distinctive roles which contributes and enhances the smooth running of the entire system.

By the end of this semester, learners will be able to define Sociology, discuss the nature of Sociology; list and analyze the different disciplines in sociology. Students will be able to relate the relevance of sociology in society. Discuss socialization and agents of socialization. Students will be able to display a facility with reading sociological literature and identifying logical connections between different social structures. You should be able to demonstrate competency in the use of the functions of various institutions at the various levels of society; maintain a critical approach in sociological analysis and life processes. You will be able to develop an improved ability to cogently discuss and analyze social issues, relationship, and practices. Students will be vast and critical in analyzing ethical issues in social research. They will be vast in choosing appropriate research method.

**Recommended Study Time**

This course is a two-unit course that is divided into 15 study sessions. It is recommended that learners should devote a minimum of 2 hours per week to study the content of each study session.

**Calendar**

This is a 15-week course. You will spend 24 hours of study over the first 12 weeks of virtual interactions, and 4 hours over the remaining two weeks of face-to-face interactions. The study times are scheduled around online discussions/chats with your course facilitator and or e-tutor to enhance your learning. Kindly see course calendar on your website for scheduled dates. You will still see course calendar on your personal study time in studying your course materials.

**Course Goal**

The goal of this course is to provide learners with adequate knowledge on the meaning of sociology, its scope and relevance. Various aspects of social institution and their functions are in focus. The course will expose students to social facts and social issues. They will be able to analyze critically, social problems and proffer solutions.

**What you are about to learn in this course**

Sociology is a distinct field of science with its own subject matter. This course seeks to unravel the meaning of Sociology, its origin, relevance, scope and sub disciplines. The course highlighted the functions of the various social institutions such as the family marriage, education, political system and government. It underpinned their relevance in the life of an individual, of that of group and society in general. Sociology is one of the social sciences which attempt to explain and understand the behavior of human beings in society. Unlike some social sciences, sociology does not confine itself to one particular area of social life. Sociologists study vast and diverse range of topics which affect man in society. Sociologists study family, social ties, educational system, sexuality, health, crime, politics, religion and poverty etc. No single human being can boost of living in isolation. That is, the situation of not relating with other living creatures on earth. We thus relate and make meaning of other people's actions. Sociology is thus, poised to identifying these meanings as well as proffering solutions to social problems (outcomes of human interactions). Sociology as a discipline and its practice cut across different spheres. In our everyday routine, we are engaged in one social relationship or the other. As we relate with people, we make meaning from people actions. We find the underlying meaning of every human behavior. The term social institution means different things to different scholars, however some salient points cut across all the definitions, that is, its subject matter is scientific study of enduring structures in society and deciphering their distinctive roles which contributes and enhances the smoot running of the entire system.

### Course Aim

The course aims to introduce students to the meaning of sociology, its scope, the relevance of sociology and its relationship with other social science subjects. It detailed the functions of various aspects of social institutions. The course aim to expose students to be able to develop an improved ability to cogently discuss and analyze social issues, relationship, and practices. Students will be vast and critical in analyzing ethical issues in social research. They will be vast in choosing appropriate research methods.

### Course Learning Outcomes

It is worthy to note that each study session has a specific learning outcome. In regards to this, you should study them carefully before proceeding to subsequent sessions. Consequently, it is advisable to refer to these outcomes in the course of your study of the sessions to assess your progress. You should always look at the learning outcomes after completing a session. In this way, you can be sure that you have done what is required of this course. At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Define Sociology.
2. Identify the subject matter of sociology
3. Identify the nature & scope of sociology
4. Explain the relevance of sociology
5. Highlight the Origin and Development of Sociology
6. Analyze the relationship of sociology with other social science Disciplines
7. Elucidate the relationship between Sociology and the Society
8. Enumerate the roles of Sociologists
9. Critically analyze Sociology as a Science
10. Narrate the history of Sociology
11. Discuss the contributions of Founding fathers of Sociology
12. List and explain the sub-disciplines/Branches of Sociology
13. Interrogate social interaction and processes
14. List and analyze methods of sociological analysis
15. List the theoretical perspectives in Sociology and analyze their relevance
  
16. Define Human Society
17. List and explain the types of societies
18. Define Culture
19. List elements and types of culture
20. Explain what is social fact
21. Define social structure
22. List and explain components of social structure
23. Define Socialization
24. Define social roles
25. Define social status
26. List and explain different types of Status

27. Definition of Socialization
28. Phases/types of Socialization
29. Theories of Socialization
30. Agents of Socialization

### **Working through this course**

In order to have a thorough understanding of the course material you will need to read and understand the contents and practice what is discussed in this course material. This course is designed to cover approximately 15 weeks and it will require your devoted attention. You should do the exercise in the Tutor-marked Assignments and submit to your tutor

### **Course Material**

The major components of the course are;

1. Course guide
2. Printed lecture materials
3. Text Books
4. Interactive DVD
- . Electronic lecture materials
- Tutor Marked Assignments

### **Printed Lecture Materials**

The printed lecture material consists of 15 study sessions broken down into sub-sessions

### **Recommended Texts**

Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. Harper Collins, UK.

Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, Uk

Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. Mcgrew Hill, Uk

Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. Uk

**Assessment**

The assessment pattern for the course shall be in two parts. The first part will be the tutor-marked assignment and the second part will be the written examination. The assignment will be rated over 30% while your final written examination will be rated over 70%.

Assessment	Marks
Active forum participation	10%
Tutor-marked assignment (TMA)	20%
Final examination	70%
Total	100%

**Tutor-Marked Assignment**

You are to submit a tutor marked assignment. At the completion of the assignment, you are to send them to your tutor on or before the dead line. The tutor should be contacted to confirm the reception of the submitted tutored-assignment, in case there is any challenge meeting the deadline, the tutor should be contacted for any possible adjustment and/or extension of the stipulated deadline.

**Final Examination and Grading**

The duration of the final examination will be for SOC 101 will be 2 hours. The examination will constitute 70% of the total course grade. The examination questions will cover in-text questions and tutor-marked assignments. The final examination will touch on all parts of the course. All examination will be conducted as written examination.

**Grading Criteria**

Score	Grade
70-100	A
60-69	B
50-59	C
4-49	D
0-44	F

**Tutors and Tutorials**

To help students and to support learning outcomes of SOC 111, 4 hours of face-to-face tutorials will be provided. You will be notified of the dates, time and locations for the face-to-face tutorials.

**GOODLUCK**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

1.0	Course Code:	SOC 101
	Course Title:	Introduction to Sociology 1
	Credit Units:	2 Credit Units
	Year of Study:	200 level
	Semester:	Second

**COURSE INTRODUCTION AND DESCRIPTION**

Sociology is a distinct field of science with its own subject matter. This course seeks to unravel the meaning of Sociology, its origin, relevance, scope and sub disciplines. The course highlighted the functions of the various social institutions such as the family marriage, education, political system and government. It underpinned their relevance in the life of an individual, of that of group and society in general. Sociology is one of the social sciences which attempt to explain and understand the behavior of human beings in society. Unlike some social sciences, sociology does not confine itself to one particular area of social life. Sociologists study vast and diverse range of topics which affect man in society. Sociologists study family, social ties, educational system, sexuality, health, crime, politics, religion and poverty etc. No single human being can boast of living in isolation. That is, the situation of not relating with other living creatures on earth. We thus relate and make meaning of other people's actions. Sociology is thus, poised to identifying these meanings as well as proffering solutions to social problems (outcomes of human interactions). Sociology as a discipline and its practice cut across different spheres. In our everyday routine, we are engaged in one social relationship or the other. As we relate with people, we make meaning from people actions. We find the underlying meaning of every human behavior. The term social institution means different things to different scholars, however some salient points cut across all the definitions, that is, its subject matter is scientific study of enduring structures in society and deciphering their distinctive roles which contributes and enhances the smooth running of the entire system.

**Study session 1.1:** Introduction to Sociology-What Sociology look like

**Study Session 1.2:** What is Sociology (Subject matter of Sociology)

**Study Session 1.3:** Nature & Scope of Sociology

**Study Session 2.1:** Branches of Sociology

**Study Session 2.2:** Relevance of Sociology

**Study Session 2.3:** Sociology & other Social Sciences

**Study Session 2.3:** Role of Sociologist

**Study Session 3.1:** Sociology & the society

**Study Session 3.2:** Sociology & humans

## STUDY SESSION 1

What Sociology look like: subject matter, Scope, branches & relevance of Sociology

### Section and subsection headings

**Expected Duration: 1 or 2 contact hours**

### Introduction

This session is geared towards defining the concept of Sociology. It is also geared towards discussing the nature and scope of Sociology. Sociology is one of the social sciences which attempt to explain and understand the behavior of human beings in society. Unlike some social sciences, sociology does not confine itself to one particular area of social life. Sociologists study vast and diverse range of topics which affect man in society. Sociologists study sexuality, health, crime, politics, religion, poverty etc. No single human being can boast of living in isolation. That is, the situation of not relating with other living creatures on earth. We thus relate and make meaning of other people's actions. Sociology is thus, poised to identifying these meanings as well as proffering solutions to social problems (outcomes of human interactions). Sociology as a discipline and its practice cut across different spheres. In our everyday routine, we are engaged in one social relationship or the other. As we relate with people, we make meaning from people actions. We find the underlying meaning of every human behavior. **The term Sociology mean different things to different scholars, however some salient points cut across all the definitions, that is, the scientific study of society.** Its subject matter is scientific study of social phenomenon in society and that of deciphering the underlying social meanings of human behaviors.

### Learning Outcomes

At the end of this session, you should be able to:

Tell the meaning & subject matter of sociology

Discussing the nature and scope of Sociology.

Itemize the relevance of Sociology

Narrate the origin of Sociology as a discipline

Discuss the relationship of Sociology with other Social Sciences.

### 1.1 Meaning & subject matter of sociology

What is Sociology? The word sociology was coined by Auguste Comte in 1838 from the Latin word Socius meaning (Companion) and the Greek word ology meaning (study of). Combining the two words, it is the systematic and objective study of human society and social interaction. Although there is no consensus amongst scholars on the definition of sociology, it generally believed that, Sociology is the scientific study of society. This includes the study of patterns of social relationships, social interaction and culture. Sociology is **the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.** Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these

contexts. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about social order, acceptance and change. To make meaning of society, sociologists make use of scientific method in studying human interactions and social problems that emerge. Sociology studies human interactions in groups. The subject matter of Sociology is social phenomenon. Sociology studies social phenomenon, the unit for sociological analysis is commonly identified as interaction between two or more human beings. When relationships endure, they form social groups. The social group is recognized as the major subjects of sociological study. Sociology is the study of human behavior. It refers to the social behavior of society; patterns of social relationships, social interactions and culture that surrounds every day.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 1.1**

What is Sociology?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 1.1**

The word sociology was coined by Auguste Comte in 1838 from the Latin word Socius meaning (Companion) and the Greek word ology meaning (study of). Combining the two words, it is the systematic and objective study of human society and social interaction.

**1.1 The nature & scope of sociology****Nature & scope of Sociology**

Scope refers to areas of coverage. Thus, scope of sociology refers to the field of Sociology or area of sociological investigation. For scope of sociology, there is no consensus amongst sociologists about the scope of sociology. Since the days of August Comte, Giddings, Haralambos and Durkheim, sociologists have attempted to limit the scope of sociology. Since sociology as a science is so elastic, it is difficult to peg its scope and boundaries. That is, where it starts and ends. Sociology is largely agreed to be science of sciences and all the social sciences are included in its scope. The contention of this school is that all aspects of social life are interrelated; thus, the study of one aspect is not enough to understand the entire fact. Thus, following this argument, it is believed that, sociology should study systematically social life as a whole. The scope of sociology covers the study of social relationships, but worthy of note is that the field necessitates a study of all the social sciences. That is, it is synthetic in nature- study all aspects of social life. It implies that all social sciences are included in its scope.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 1.3**

What is the scope of Sociology?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 1.3****Nature & scope of Sociology**

Scope refers to areas of coverage. Thus, scope of sociology refers to the field of Sociology or area of sociological investigation. For scope of sociology, there is no consensus amongst sociologists about the scope of sociology. Since the days of August Comte, Giddings, Haralambos and Durkheim, sociologists have attempted to limit the scope of sociology. Since sociology as a science is so elastic, it is difficult to peg its scope and boundaries. That is, where it

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## **1.1 Relevance of sociology**

### **Relevance of Sociology**

Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems. The present world is suffering from many problems which can be resolved through scientific study of the society. It is the duty of sociologist to find solution to societal problem

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 1.3**

What is the relevance of Sociology?

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 1.3**

Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems. The present world is suffering from many problems which can be resolved through scientific study of the society. It is the duty of sociologist to find solution to societal problem. Sociology dispels popular nonsense.

## **1.4 The Origin and Development of Sociology**

### **Origin and Development of Sociology**

Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior. This refers to the social behavior of society. That is, patterns of social relationships, social interactions and culture that surrounds everyday lives. It investigates how human institutions such as family, religious institution, political and many more interact. It also investigates the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. To understand more about sociology, different philosophers and scholars have given a wide explanation of what sociology is and have contributed a lot to the study of it. Thus, this section briefly explains the beginning and development of sociology.

Sociology is traced to have its roots in the work of early philosophers like Plato, Aristotle and Confucius. However, is regarded as a relatively new academic discipline. Sociology as a discipline emerged in the early 19th century in response to the challenges in society. Modernity brought about mobility and increase in technology which had different effects on different societies because people were exposed to cultures and societies different from their own. The effects of the exposure varied, but for some societies, it included people breaking down traditional norms and culture.

Consequently, sociology emerged to respond to all the challenges that had arisen because of modernity. This was carried out by trying to understand what holds social groups together and also explore possible solutions to the breakdown of social solidarity. This is the more reason why sociology became prominent in the 19th century in as much as its development could be coined to different reasons.

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 1.4**

#### **Narrate vividly the Origin and Development of Sociology**

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 1.4**

Sociology is the scientific study of human behavior. This refers to the social behavior of society. That is, patterns of social relationships, social interactions and culture that surrounds everyday lives. It investigates how human institutions such as family, religious institution, political and many more interact. It also investigates the social causes and consequences of human behaviour. To understand more about sociology, different philosophers and scholars have given a wide explanation of what sociology is and have contributed a lot to the study of it. Thus, this section briefly explains the beginning and development of sociology.

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### **1.5 Relationship of sociology with other social sciences disciplines**

#### **Relationship of Sociology with other Social Sciences**

Sociology is first of all, a social science and not a natural science. It is one of the several social sciences which are concerned with man and his activities in society. Other social sciences such as psychology, anthropology, economics, and political science study different parts of man's social behavior which is general subject matter of sociology.

The life of man is many-sided. There is an economic aspect, legal aspect, a religious aspect, political aspect and so forth. Sociology, therefore, can understand social life as a whole taking help from other social sciences.

But this does not mean that sociology only borrows from other social sciences and gives them nothing. As a matter of fact, various social sciences are very much dependent on sociology. Sociology has shown a new path, a new dimension to other social sciences. It has enriched other sciences by its highly useful sociological knowledge and approaches. Some say that sociology is the basic social science and all other social sciences are sub-divisions.

There are others who claim that sociology is specialized science of social phenomena like economics, political science and others. There are still others who see the closest possible relation with psychology and anthropology and logically relations are just as close if not closer, with history, economics and Government.

Sociology and other social sciences have much in common and yet they are distinct from each other. Sociology is a more comprehensive science whereas other social sciences devote themselves to the study of one aspect of human life. Sociology is distinguished from other social sciences in terms of differences in the content as well as in the degree of emphasis given to certain aspects of the same content.

Attempt shall be made to discuss the relationship and distinction between sociology and other important social sciences.

### **Sociology and Political Science:**

The sociologist is interested in all aspects of the social structure. On the other hand, political science is a branch of social science dealing with the principles of organization and Government of human society. Political science concerns its self with the government of various societies. It considers what kind of government a society has, how it is formed and how individual attain positions of power. Its study 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.

According to Morris Ginsberg “Historically, sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history.” The main works on social subjects such as Plato’s Republic, the Politics of Aristotle and other classical works were meant to be complete treatise on political science.

Sociology and political science have been very closely related to each other till recently. There are many common points between the two. Both are concerned with the study of society from different points of view. There exists a happy nexus between sociology and political science.

It is rightly said, without the sociological background the study of political science will be incomplete. The forms of the State, activities are determined by the social processes. Concerning the close relation of sociology to political science, Barnes has written “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 30 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. In the words of Giddings, “to teach the theory of the State to men who have not learnt the first principles of sociology is like teaching astronomy or thermodynamics to men who have not learnt Newton’s laws of motion”.

Sociology is also greatly affected by, political science in so far as it takes from political science facts pertaining to the organization and functions of the State. The laws of the State have a profound influence upon society.

It is by means of laws that the Government changes and social progress is achieved, but it is necessary to keep in view the mores, traditions and customs of the country while formulating laws. As such a competent political scientist ought to be a sociologist and Vice-Versa. For example, the institution of marriage by itself falls within the purview of sociology. But if a code of marriage like the Hindu Marriage Act is enacted, it at once falls within the domain of political science.

The problem of deciding upon the form of Government is best explained by having recourse to both sociology and political science. The problem of determining the Governments policy also is common to both.

Similarly, the study of customs, behavior, institutions, values etc. is common in case of both sociology and political science. Knowledge of both sociology and political science is necessary in order to tackle social problems like communalism, regionalism, Casteism etc. effectively.

Moreover, both sociology and political science are positive as well as normative in character. They are said to be positive inasmuch as they offer value judgements, presumptions, recommendations or advice.

According to Comte and Spencer, there is no difference whatever between sociology and political science. G.E. Catlin has remarked that political science and sociology are two facets or aspects of the same figure. In the opinion of F.G. Wilson, “It must be admitted, of course, that it is often difficult to determine, whether a particular writer should be considered as sociologist, political theorist or philosopher.”

Of late, Political Sociology, a new branch of sociology, has emerged, serving as a joining link between sociology on the one hand and political science on the other. Studies on voting behaviour, attitudes on political issues, voluntary organizations and the like have gained significance in political sociology. Political sociology has been accepted within both sociology and political science as encompassing the overlap between two sciences.

In spite of the similarities between sociology and political science, they differ from each other in a number of respects.

1. Sociology is said to be the science of society. While political science is the science of State. To quote Gilchrist, "Sociology studies man as a social organization, political science is a more specialized science than sociology.
2. The scope of sociology is wider than that of political science. Political science studies the State and Government only, whereas sociology is concerned with the study of all social institutions.
3. Sociology is senior to or older than political science in origin. The political life of a man started when men became members of an organized political society. But prior to man's membership in the organized political setting, he was already leading a social life.
4. Sociology deals with animal called social man, political science deals with political man. Sociology being the science of society deals with man in all his associated processes, while political science being the science of the political society is concerned with only one forms of human association. In the words of Garner, "Political science is concerned with only one form of human association the State; sociology deals with all forms of association"
5. Sociology explains not only 'what' of a thing but its 'why'. But political science gives only the explanation of 'what' of a thing or a problem. For example, when political science says that man is a political being, it does not explain why he is so. But on the contrary sociology seeks to explain how and why man became a political being.
6. Sociology deals with both conscious and unconscious social activities whereas political science treats only the conscious activities of man.
7. Sociology is concerned with the study of both organized and unorganized communities, whereas political science studies only organized communities. As such, sociology is prior to political science.

However different the two fields of study may be, the influence of sociology in the field of recent political studies has been considerable. Political thinkers today accept the need of a sociological understanding of the nation in question which is to be governed by the State machinery if such organizations are to function effectively.

### **Sociology and Economics:**

Economics is the study of production and distribution of goods and services. It deals almost exclusively on economic variables – the relationship of price and supply, money flows, inputs-outputs and the like. Economics focuses on the production and distribution of society's goods and services. Economists study why society choose to produce what it does, how money is exchanged and how people interact to produce goods.

Literally, economics is known to be associated with demand and supply. According to Alfred Marshal, Economics is the study of activities connected with human life in general. Defining

economics, Fairchild, Buck, and Slesinger write, "Economics is the study of man's activities devoted to obtaining the material means of the satisfaction of his wants." On the other hand, sociology is the science of group and group interaction.

As economic process develops in society, it influences and is influenced by the social life of man. Sociologists like Max Weber, Karl Marx, Vilfredo Pareto and others interpret economic change as an aspect of social change. Economics is concerned with material welfare of the human beings.

The economics or the material is only a part of human welfare and it can be sought only with the proper knowledge of social laws. At the same time economic forces also exercise a great influence on the social life. It is equally true that economic processes are largely determined by the social environment.

As such the relationship between economics and sociology is very intimate. Both economics and sociology are closely related in several respects. The study of economics would be misleading and incomplete without a knowledge of sociology and the study of sociology would be fruitless without a proper understanding of the interplay of economic forces.

In the first place, economics is concerned with material welfare of the human being. But we all know that economic welfare is only a part of social welfare. It is not possible to study economic welfare without proper understanding about social laws. For instance, in order to solve economic problems, like under employment, inflation etc., an economist has to take into account the social phenomenon existing at a particular time.

Secondly, economic and social order are very much interrelated. Many of the problems of sociology and economics are common. The theory socialism, communism, welfare State etc. are basically theories of social organization. Again, the problems of population growth, environmental pollution etc. Are as much economic as sociological in character.

In the same way, sociology is also influenced by economics. Economic forces play 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. For example, a sociologist cannot study crime properly unless he understands the role of economic factor in crime. Marx, Weber and Sumner studied society through its economic institutions.

Both sociology and economics are said to use similar, if not the same methods and techniques of research. Basically, both of them rely on methods like observation, interview, experiment, case study, questionnaire etc. Both the social science has also been making mathematical and statistical methods and techniques in course of their analysis.

Both sociology and economics are also believed to partake of a similar scientific character. These to sciences are positive, normative or both.

In spite of these similarities and mutuality, both sociology and economics are regarded as independent social sciences. They differ from each other in several respects.

Economics studies only the economic aspect of social life whereas sociology is concerned with the whole of 'social life – the legal, political, educational, philosophical, economic etc. All these aspects are covered up by the term 'social'. As such, the scope of sociology is much broader than that of economics.

Sociology has a wide-ranging viewpoint. It is basically concerned in the social aspects of economic happenings. On the other hand, in economics methods and techniques of production, consumption and distribution are imperative.

Sociology is a general social science. On the other hand, economics is a special social science. Sociology is a nascent social science. But economics is an old, traditional social science. Sociology is intangible and abstract but economics is tangible. Sociology differs from economics in matters of component or unit of analysis. While economics as a study can have its focus upon the individual, sociology concerns society as a whole.

Last but not the least, there is difference between sociology and economics in regard to methodology. In sociology, the methods of observation, case study, interview, and questionnaire and so on are used whereas the methods of deduction, induction and the like are more prominently applied in economics.

Despite these differences both sociology and economics are coming closer together. Economists today are paying attention to the influence of non-economic factors on production, for example, the forms of the family hindering mobility of labor. Sociologists are also trying to apply some economic perspectives, such as input-output analysis to the study of social systems.

Some sociologists are also using the economists' notion of exchange to explain various social phenomena, such as power. In consequence, there has occurred empirical and theoretical convergences between economics and sociology. One manifestation of this convergence is the development of Industrial Sociology.

### **Sociology and History:**

Sociology and history are social disciplines and both are concerned with human activities. Therefore, both are very closely related. It is often pointed out that the beginning of sociology is historical. The history provides material for sociology. The comparative method and historical sociology always require data which only the history can supply. Similarly, the historian also uses sociology. Until recently the historian took his clues to important problems and his concepts and general ideas from philosophy. Presently, historical ideas are mainly drawn from sociology.

There are a number of areas such as the phenomena of power politics, the rise and fall of political and social systems, the emergence and decline of religions and religious institutions, the growth and decay of cultures, the appearances and disappearances of leadership which may be

said to be of vital relevance to both sociology and history. In this sense, they may be said to have a commonly useful body of knowledge and principles or generalizations.

Sociology and history are so intimately related that writers like Von-Bulow have refused to acknowledge sociology as a science distinct from history. To quote John Seeley "History without sociology has no fruit, sociology without history has no root." This is backed by a sound logic. Society, for that matter, social institutions are the products of history.

They have a historical root. Sociology has to depend upon history for its material. Arnold Toynbee's book, "A study of History" is proving very valuable in sociology. History supplies facts which are interpreted and coordinated by the sociologists. In the absence of historical data, the study of sociology is sure to become speculative.

The writings of historians form a vast library which & student of sociology can utilize in understanding the social structure. Max Weber rightly points out that for examining the working of social institutions properly, the influence of past occurrences has to be given due consideration. For example, the transformation of Varna into Jati can only be understood in terms of history. Jati developed as a response to the changing character of society. History is now being studied from the sociological point of view. It is rightly said that the study of history would be meaningless without the appreciation of social significance. If history is to be useful to understand the present and to serve as a guide for the future, sociological interpretation of facts is absolutely essential.

It is their such mutual dependency upon each other that has commanded G.E. Howard to remark that History is past Sociology, and Sociology is present History. Hence, history is the solid stage upon which the drama of sociology is artfully enacted. As regards the scientific character, both sociology and history may be said to be positive, normative or both, depending upon the standpoints adopted by the various historians and sociologists.

While it is true that sociology and history may be said to be positive, normative or both, there is a fundamental sense in which history may be said to be normative in character. This is because history is supposed to teach us the lessons or wisdom from hindsight. There are several historians and works of history that purport to set forth what may be called the lessons of history, teachings of history, verdicts of history and so on. History can thus be said to be didactic or advisory in character.

But in spite of their close relationship the two subjects are distinct in a number of respects. Sociology is abstract but history is concrete. There is much in history that has no direct relation to sociology, while there is much in sociology which is not in history. In the words of Robert E. Park, sociology is the abstract; history is the concrete science of human experience and human nature. The primary interest of the sociologist is to find out the general laws of the society. But the historian has to narrate historical events in chronological order. Historian almost by definition, confine themselves to the study of the past. Sociologists show much more interest in the contemporary scene or the recent past.

Much of man's history has been written as the history of kings and wars. The history of the changes through time in institutional forms such as landowning, or in social relations such as those of men and women in the family, have less frequently interested historians. But such relationships lie at the Centre of the sociologists' concern. In other words, history narrates all events whereas sociology is interested for those aspects of history which have a bearing on social relationship.

The historian is a fact-finder and has no power to change a dot at will. But the sociologist must collect the materials accumulated by the historian and place them in one human perspective and that is of human relations. He discovers the supreme truth of humanity, the oneness of human relations and behaviour in the midst of diversity. History is older than sociology. Sociology has been born as a social science around 19th century. History as subject matter of human interest and enquiry has been in existence since time immemorial.

History involves a greater reliance on library, documentation work and desk study. On the other hand, sociology insists on field studies, social surveys and participant observation. But we cannot make any hard-and-fast rules about the methods and techniques used by these two. It is a matter of emphasis, preference or suitability of the various methods and techniques to the various purposes or situations.

History takes individual as unit of study whereas sociology takes group, institutions, and community etc. as the unit of enquiry. History emphasizes on the action of the individuals like monarchs and emperors. But sociology lays stress on the activities of group, institutions and community. Hence, the units of enquiry and analysis are different.

To conclude, though history and sociology are two separate disciplines they cannot be radically separated. Both deal with men in societies, sometimes from different points of view, sometimes from the same point of view. Indeed, the relation between history and sociology at times is so well emphasized that a new school of Historical sociology has come into being from sociological standpoints.

### **Sociology and Anthropology:**

Anthropology is the science of man. Sociology and anthropology are frequently indistinguishable. The relationship between sociology and anthropology is so keen that they often appear as two names for the same field of enquiry. Kroeber succinctly regards sociology and anthropology as twin sisters.

In the words of Robert Redfield, "Viewing the whole United States, one sees that the social relations between sociology and anthropology are closer than those between anthropology and political science, this is partly due to greater similarity in ways of works." Etymologically anthropology signifies the study or the science of man-the remains of man especially.

Thus, it is understood that anthropology deals with man as much, whereas sociology deals with him as much as he is a social being. Topics like society, culture, family, religion, social stratification etc. offer a common ground on which both sociology and anthropology meet.

Anthropology admits fivefold divisions such as physical anthropology, historical anthropology, cultural anthropology, -social anthropology and applied anthropology. Physical anthropology deals with bodily characteristics of early man and our primitive contemporaries.

Historical anthropology is concerned with the cultures of the prehistoric period. Cultural anthropology investigates the cultural remnants of early man and of the living cultures of some of the primitive contemporaries. Social anthropology deals with the institutions and human relationships of primitives of the past and present.

Applied anthropology makes use of the knowledge made available by other branches in practical life. Efforts directed towards tribal welfare would be incomplete unless anthropological knowledge is used in them. Apart from these major divisions, there are quite a few branches of anthropology as well. They can be described as human evolution and linguistics.

Anthropology is entirely concerned with study of man and his culture as they developed in the remote past. Sociology, on the other hand, studies the same phenomena as they exist at present. To quote Kluckhohn "The sociological attitude has tended towards the practical and present, the anthropological towards pure understanding and the past".

Some sociologists may maintain that the study of sociology is concern with modern man and his social behaviour patterns. True it is, but it will give only a partial view of his efforts. The past societies are as much of a treasure for the researcher in sociology as the present ones are and the patterns of future societies also to some extent keep him busy.

The anthropologist no doubt concentrates his attention upon the dead past but his views and observations on those times allow the sociologist to catch a glimpse of the patterns of continuity that is the story of man.

Much of the material of sociology depends upon the materials supplied by anthropology. In fact, the historical part of sociology is identical with cultural anthropology. Sociology has borrowed cultural area, cultural traits, interdependent traits, cultural lag and other conceptions from social anthropology on whose basis cultural sociology has developed.

The comprehensive important discoveries of such famous anthropologists as Ralph Linton and Abram Kardiner have rightly jagged out that personality is largely determined by culture of any given society. Likewise, the research conducted by Malinowski was proved valuable to sociology. Functional perspective pertaining to the study of culture in society is his notable contribution to sociology.

In the same vein, the data obtained by sociologists have immediately benefited anthropologists. For example, anthropologists like Morgan and his followers have come to the conclusion regarding the existence of primitive communism from the conception of private property in our modern society. In spite' of the interdependence of these two social sciences, the field of the study of each is quite distinct.

Anthropology traditionally directs its attention to remote societies or primitive societies. Sociology on the other hand, has limited its direct attention to historical societies, to societies that are complex rather than simple, to societies, in short, whose members can read and write.

1. According to Keesing; the two academic disciplines have grown up individualistically and handle quite different types of problems, using markedly diverse research methods.” Anthropology is the study of the whole society. Sociology studies only its particular aspects. The focus of sociologist is groups and the social interaction.

2. Anthropology studies the origin, growth and evolution of races whereas sociology studies the influence of these races on social relationships and causes of their integration and disintegration.

3. Anthropology is concerned only with the past. It does not bother for the future. Sociology is deeply concerned with the present and the future of social institutions.

4. Anthropology believes in applied everyday research. Hence, an anthropologist solely depends on the first-hand information. But sociology mostly believes in second-hand information for research. Also, Anthropology studies primitive man whereas sociology studies present man.

5. Anthropology – studies cultures which are small and static, while sociology studies civilizations which are vast and dynamic. As such, anthropology has developed faster and better than sociology.

6. Sociology is concerned with both social philosophy and social planning, whereas anthropology is not concerned with social planning. It does not make any suggestions for the future.

The method of analysis in anthropology is qualitative, while sociological analysis is more often formal and quantitative.

To conclude, it is always the focus of interest which distinguishes one social science from another. The aforesaid distinctions between sociology and anthropology make it abundantly clear that the focus of sociology is not identical with that of anthropology.

At present a tendency is marked among the scholars to unite social anthropology with sociology. However, the distinctions between sociology and anthropology will continue as their points of view on social reality are somewhat dissimilar and their fields of investigation do not always coincide.

### **Sociology and Psychology:**

Psychology is the positive science of human experience and behavior. Psychology takes the individual out of his or her social circumstances and it examines the mental processes that occur within that person. Psychologists study human brain and how it functions, they consider issue such as memory, dreams, learning and perceptions. Psychology is interested in his intelligence and his learning, his motivation and his memory and the order and disorder of his mind.

Sociology as a scientific study of human society studies the human interactions in social situation.

It is the study of human social behavior resulting from the interaction of human minds. All social relationships are basically psychological both are positive sciences dealing with human experiences and conduct. Social psychology serves as a bridge between psychology and sociology.

The meeting ground for sociology and psychology is the basic fact that both deal with human beings and there is no certainty or precision about human reactions or behavior. The claim of both to be sciences is necessarily in a very limited sense. Both are concerned with the study of socialization and personality.

Indeed, on some occasion, claims have been made that sociology is an all-inclusive science as seen in the work of Comte, and to some extent even Parsons. One can understand Comte's claim taking into account the age in which he lived, and fortunately Parsons clarified his opinion that his was just an attempt.

Sociology which deals with the social interactions and relationships of human beings, cannot ignore psychological effects of man's action. The society and its social organizations or institutions are the products of human mind and can be best understood in terms of mind. Indeed, a psychological understanding would give a proper appreciation of social institutions. Ginsberg holds that sociological generalizations can be better established when related to the general psychological laws.

Nadel argues that some problems posed by social enquiry may be eliminated when they are analyzed according to psychology, physiology and biology. Notably, Max Weber contends that the sociologist gains an additional satisfaction or conviction in being able to understand the meaning of social actions when understood in terms of common-sense psychology. He is also sympathetic to some of Freud's ideas.

Berker's perception claimed that, the application of the psychological clue to the riddles of human activity has indeed become the fashion of the day. If our forefathers thought biologically, we think psychologically. Likewise, it is impossible to conceive of psychological theory which does not have its sociological implications.

All psychic phenomena occur in social context and it becomes difficult to mark out the boundaries of social psychology and sociology as two, distinct entities. Indeed, the social psychologists are also at fault since they have been ignoring the structural features of the social milieu in which their investigations are conducted.

The works of some famous psychologists like Freud, Piaget, Murphy and many others are read by the students of sociology. Similarly, sociologists like Durkheim, Parsons, Bales and others have contributed to the development of psychology.

Social psychology, a branch of psychology, serves as a bridge between psychology and sociology. According to Cretch and Crutchfield, "Social psychology is the science of individual behavior in society". The connection between social psychology and sociology is so near that Karl Pearson says that basically the two are not different sciences.

The opinion that psychology is something distinct from sociology was clearly stated by Durkheim. He made a radical distinction between the two. Sociology should confine itself to study of social facts which are external to individuals while having a coercive influence on them and an explanation of such facts could be only in terms of other social facts. In his language there is the same discontinuity between psychology and sociology as there is between biology and physio-chemical sciences, and whenever a social phenomenon is directly explained by a psychological phenomenon one can be sure that the explanation is invalid.

The two disciplines, however closely related, are different because psychology studies behavior of individual as individuals, their mental processes, emotions, perceptions etc, whereas sociology studies individuals in collectivities-groups, studies behavior of individuals as organized entities in a society. One is a mental system while the other is a social system.

Furthermore," the difference between psychology and sociology", as Maclver and Page have observed, "is a difference of focus of interest in social reality itself. The two sciences deal with different aspects of an indivisible reality. Individuals can be understood in terms of their relations with one another.

And the relations can be understood in terms of the units of the relationship. From the psychological point of view, we are to study the nature of the behavior of individuals, the structure of the individual consciousness which expresses itself in social relationships. From the sociological point of view, we study interactions and the relationships themselves.

Sociology is a general study, while psychology lays emphasis on the particular study of man's mental processes and his basic behavior. The method of experimentation is not so commonly used in sociology as in psychology. Like the natural sciences, psychology also has an organized laboratory.

There are important differences between psychology and sociology and both are not identical. Sociology is the study of society as a whole, while psychology is merely the study of individuals in interaction as members of groups and of the interaction on them.

To conclude, while sociology has been distinguished from the other social sciences, we should keep in mind that there is a great agreement of overlapping between the social sciences. The social sciences are so alike to one another that they all employ the scientific mode of thought which is a modern expansion of the past few hundred years. Each of the social sciences have advanced during the current stages of this period and has its roots in various systems of social philosophy.

Sociology discussed the study of contemporary Western literate societies. Economics and political science are restricted to the study of only certain aspects of human interaction, whereas

sociology studies society and human interaction in general. Sociology is concerned therefore not only with human economic and political activities but rather with all aspects of human social life.

The value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us informed on modern situations, it contributes to making good citizens, it contributes to the solution of community problems, it adds to the knowledge” of society, it helps the individual find his relation to society, it identifies good Government with community, it helps one to understand causes of things and so on. Sociology has practical value for the individual as it assists him to understand himself, his resources and limitations, his potentialities and his role in society.

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 1.5**

**What is the relationship of Sociology with other social sciences disciplines?**

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 1.5**

Refer to item 1.5 above

### **Summary of study session 1**

The study session one dwelled on the definition of sociology. It defined sociology as the scientific study of society. The term sociology was coined by Auguste Comte. It looked at the relationship of sociology with other disciplines in social sciences. While sociology and its theme dove tail in every other area of human life and that of the themes of other social sciences disciplines, Economics, Psychology, political and mass commission are said to focus in a specific aspect of human life. It is the science of all sciences and its scope synthesizes all aspects of social sciences. To make meaning of human behavior, it has to take cognizance of all other aspects of social sciences and the sciences. This session touched on the relevance of sociology, its origin and development.

### **Self-Assessment Question (SAQs) for Study Session 1**

SAQ 1.1 Test Learning Outcomes 1.1

Master the definition of Sociology

SAQ 1.2 Test Learning Outcomes 1.2

Learn the nature and scope of Sociology

SAQ 1.3 Test Learning Outcomes 1.3

Master relevance of Sociology

SAQ 1.4 Test Learning Outcomes 1.4

Master the origin and Development of Sociology

SAQ 1.5 Test Learning Outcomes 1.5

Know the relationship between Sociology and other social sciences

### **Glossary of Terms**

Sociology: Scientific study of society.

**References**

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 2: SOCIOLOGY AND THE SOCIETY

### INTRODUCTION

This session is targeted at presenting the relationships between sociology and society, and then sociology and human

#### **Learning outcome of the Study Session**

At the end of this session, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the relationship between sociology and society
2. Master the connection between sociology and human

#### **2.1 The Relationship between Sociology and the Society**

According to Sinclair & Birgen (1998), Sociology is the scientific study of society, its institutions, and how it relates to the individual. Society is a broad term for a collection of individuals who share common values, norms, institutions and behaviors. The study of human societies is an important tool for the improvement of living conditions. It analyzes the innumerable factors that are the makeup of human behavior and that can cause social injustice, stratification and societal disorder in the form of crime, deviance and revolution. It helps to find the best possible solutions to issues such as economic inequality, race, relations and gender discrimination. The discipline of sociology has grown by leaps and bound in the last century with the contribution of scholars from different schools of thought. Sociologists practice in society. They analyze and proffer solutions to the problems inherent in society. Sociology is practiced in society. Sociological analysis is carried out in society.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 2.1**

What is the relationship between sociology and society?

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 2.1**

According to Sinclair & Birgen (1998), Sociology is the scientific study of society, its institutions, and how it relates to the individual. Society is a broad term for a collection of individuals who share common values, norms, institutions and behaviors. The study of human societies is an important tool for the improvement of living conditions. It analyzes the innumerable factors that are the makeup of human behavior and that can cause social injustice, stratification and societal disorder in the form of crime, deviance and revolution. It helps to find the best possible solutions to issues such as economic inequality, race, relations and gender discrimination. The discipline of sociology has grown by leaps and bound in the last century with the contribution of scholars from different schools of thought. Sociologists practice in society. They analyze and proffer solutions to the problems inherent in society. Sociology is practiced in society. Sociological analysis is carried out in society.

### **2.1 Sociology and Humans.**

Sociology is **the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior**. Humans are social unit of analysis for the sociologists. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Sociology study human behavior in society. They also proffer solutions to the problems created by human being. Human are created being that inhabit society. Sociology analyzes the outcome of human behavior in society.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 2.2**

What is the connection between society and human?

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 2.2**

Sociology is **the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior**. Humans are social unit of analysis for the sociologists. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Sociology study human behavior in society. They also proffer solutions to the problems created by human being. Human are created being that inhabit society. Sociology analyzes the outcome of human behavior in society.

### **2.3 Roles of Sociologists**

Sociologists as research scientists

Dispelling popular nonsense

Making of sociological predictions

Sociologists as a technician

The Sociologist as public advocate of social action

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 2.3**

**What are the roles of Sociologist?**

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 2.3**

Sociologists as research scientists

Dispelling popular nonsense

Making of sociological predictions

Sociologists as a technician

The Sociologist as public advocate of social action

## 2.4 Sociology as a Science

There are often controversies over issues that border on whether sociology is a science. Sociology is a science because sociologists use *scientific methods* to test hypothesis, establish laws and uncover causal relationships. Sociology involves the scientific study of society. Sociologists are interested in understanding the interaction between humans and how human behavior is shaped by social structures, institutions and communities.

### In-Text Question (ITQ) 2.4

Is Sociology a Science

### In-Text Answer (ITA) 2.4

Sociology is a science because sociologists use *scientific methods* to test hypothesis, establish laws and uncover causal relationships. Sociology involves the scientific study of society. Sociologists are interested in understanding the interaction between humans and how human behavior is shaped by social structures, institutions and communities.

## Summary of Study Session 2

Sociology is the scientific study of society. Sociology is a science as sociologist uses scientific methods to test hypothesis, they establish laws and uncover causal relationships. Sociologists as research scientists discover new laws, theories and through research rebuff obsolete/nonfactual beliefs. They dispel popular nonsense. Other roles of Sociologist are that of making of sociological predictions, they are technicians and they are public advocate of social action

## Self-Assessment Question (SAQs) for Study Session 1

SAQ 2.1 Test Learning Outcomes 2.1

Master the relationship between sociology and society

SAQ 2.2 Test Learning Outcomes 2.2

Learn the relationship between sociology and Human

SAQ 2.3 Test Learning Outcomes 2.3

Master the roles of Sociology

SAQ 2.4 Test Learning Outcomes 2.4

Distinguish Sociology as a Science

## Glossary of Terms

**Society:** is a region bounded by definite territory with people sharing common boundary, language and culture.

## References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## Study Session 3: The Emergence of Sociology

### Introduction

The emergence of Sociology as a scientific discipline was preceded by the era of philosophizing, (Ogege 2014). Social philosophers embarked on rigorous investigation and intellectual curiosity into the problems that arise in social and intellectual development of man and society. The emergence of Sociology took effect from the social problems that beset the early society. The industrial revolution and social turmoil that hit society at that time prompted the need for a scientific study of society. Philosophers seek to provide explanation to the social problems ravaging the industrial society. They provided through various philosophies, the principles of a functional society. Through their philosophy, they fashioned out ways of making society work. Thus, this session detailed the philosophers whose work influenced the development of Sociology. It detailed the various contributions of the pioneers of Sociology.

### Learning Outcome of the study session

At the end of this session, you should be able to;

- ❖ Annotate the history of Sociology
- ❖ Acquaint yourself with the contributions of founding fathers of Sociology
- ❖ Distinguish the disciplines in Sociology.
- ❖ Master the art of sociological analysis
- ❖ Annotate the sociological perspectives and their relevance.

### 3.1 History of Sociology

The emergence of Sociology as a scientific discipline was preceded by the era of philosophizing, (Ogege 2014). Social philosophers embarked on rigorous investigation and intellectual curiosity into the problems that arise in social and intellectual development of man and society. The emergence of Sociology took effect from the social problems that beset the early society. The industrial revolution and social turmoil that hit society at that time prompted the need for a scientific study of society. Philosophers seek to provide explanation to the social problems ravaging the industrial society. They provided through various philosophies, the principles of a functional society. Through their philosophy, they fashioned out ways of making society work. Thus, this session detailed the philosophers whose work influenced the development of Sociology. It detailed the various contributions of the pioneers of Sociology.

Although sociology has its roots in the works of philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Confucius, it is a rather new academic discipline (Crossman 2019). It emerged in the early 19th century in response to the challenges of modernity. Increasing mobility and technological advances resulted in the increasing exposure of people to cultures and societies different from their own. The impact of this exposure was varied, but for some people, it included the breakdown of traditional norms and customs and warranted a revised understanding of how the world works. Sociologists responded to these changes by trying to understand what holds social groups together and also to explore possible solutions to the breakdown of social solidarity.

Thinkers of the Enlightenment period in the 18th century also helped set the stage for the sociologists who would follow. This period was the first time in history that thinkers tried to

provide general explanations of the social world. They were able to detach themselves, at least in principle, from expounding some existing ideology and to attempt to lay down general principles that explained social life.

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 3.1**

Narrate the origin of Sociology

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 3.1**

**Refer to item 3.1 above**

### **3.2 The Birth of Sociology as a Discipline**

The term sociology was coined by French philosopher Auguste Comte in 1838, who for this reason is known as the “Father of Sociology.” Comte believed that science could be used to study the social world. Just as there are testable facts concerning gravity and other natural laws, Comte thought that scientific analyses could also discover the laws governing society and our social lives. It was in this context that Comte introduced the concept of positivism to sociology — a way to understand the social world based on scientific facts. He believed that, with this new understanding, people could build a better future. He envisioned a process of social change in which sociologists played critical roles in controlling society.

Other events of that time period also influenced the development of Sociology. The 19th and 20th centuries were times of many social disorders and changes in the social order that interested the early sociologists. The political revolutions sweeping Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries led to a focus on social change and the establishment of social order that still concerns sociologists today. Many early sociologists were also concerned with the Industrial Revolution and the rise of capitalism and socialism. Additionally, the growth of cities and religious transformations were causing many changes in people’s lives.

Other classical philosophers of sociology from the late 19th and early 20th centuries include Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, W.E.B. DuBois, and Harriet Martineau. As pioneers in sociology, most of the early sociological thinkers were trained in other academic disciplines, including history, philosophy, and economics. The diversity of their training is replicated in the topics they researched, including religion, education, economics, inequality, psychology, ethics, philosophy, and theology.

These pioneers of sociology all had a vision of using sociology to call attention to social concerns and bring about social change. In Europe, for example, Karl Marx teamed up with an industrialist Friedrich Engels to address class inequality and class struggle. Writing during the Industrial Revolution, when many factory owners were lavishly wealthy and many factory workers miserably poor, they attacked the rampant inequalities of the day and focused on the role of capitalist economic structures in preserving these inequalities. In Germany, Max Weber was active in politics while in France, Emile Durkheim advocated for educational reform. In Britain, Harriet Martineau advocated for the rights of girls and women, and in the U.S., W.E.B. DuBois focused on the problem of racism. All these philosophers with their ideas led to the emergence of sociology as a discipline.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 3.2****Narrate the Origin of Sociology****In-Text Answer (ITA) 3.2****Refer to item 3.2 above****3.3 The Modern History of Sociology**

The growth of sociology as an academic discipline in the United States coincided with the establishment and upgrading of many universities that were including a new focus on graduate departments and curricula on “modern subjects” In 1876, Yale University’s William Graham Sumner taught the first course identified as “sociology” in the United States. The University of Chicago established the first graduate department of sociology in the United States in 1892 and by 1910, most colleges and universities were offering sociology courses. Thirty years later, most of these schools had established sociology departments. Sociology was first taught in high schools in 1911.

Sociology was also growing in Germany and France during this period. However, in Europe, the discipline suffered great setbacks as a result of World Wars I and II. Many sociologists were killed while some fled Germany and France between 1933 and the end of World War II. After World War II, sociologists returned to Germany influenced by their studies in America. The result was that American sociologists became the world leaders in theory and research for many years.

Sociology has grown into a diverse and dynamic discipline, experiencing a proliferation of specialty areas. The American Sociological Association (ASA) was formed in 1906 By **Ashley Crossman**

Although sociology has its roots in the works of philosophers like Plato, Aristotle, and Confucius, it is a relatively new academic discipline. It emerged in the early 19th century in response to the challenges of modernity. Increasing mobility and technological advances resulted in the increasing exposure of people to cultures and societies different from their own. The impact of this exposure was varied, but for some people, it included the breakdown of traditional norms and customs and warranted a revised understanding of how the world works. Sociologists responded to these changes by trying to understand what holds social groups together and also to explore possible solutions to the breakdown of social solidarity.

Thinkers of the Enlightenment period in the 18th century also helped set the stage for the sociologists who would follow. This period was the first time in history that thinkers tried to provide general explanations of the social world. They were able to detach themselves, at least in principle, from expounding some existing ideology and to attempt to lay down general principles that explained social life.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 3.3**

Narrate the modern history Sociology

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 3.3**

Refer to item 3.3 above

**3.4 The Birth of Sociology as a Discipline**

The term Sociology was coined by French philosopher Auguste Comte in 1838, who for this reason is known as the “Father of Sociology.” Comte felt that science could be used to study the social world. Just as there are testable facts regarding gravity and other natural laws, Comte thought that scientific analyses could also discover the laws governing our social lives. It was in this context that Comte introduced the concept of positivism to sociology — a way to understand the social world based on scientific facts. He believed that, with this new understanding, people could build a better future. He envisioned a process of social change in which sociologists played crucial roles in guiding society.

Other events of that time period also influenced the development of sociology. The 19th and 20th centuries were times of many social upheavals and changes in the social order that interested the early sociologists. The political revolutions sweeping Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries led to a focus on social change and the establishment of social order that still concerns sociologists today. Many early sociologists were also concerned with the Industrial Revolution and the rise of capitalism and socialism. Additionally, the growth of cities and religious transformations were causing many changes in people’s lives.

Other classical theorists of sociology from the late 19th and early 20th centuries include Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, W.E.B. DuBois, and Harriet Martineau. As pioneers in sociology, most of the early sociological thinkers were trained in other academic disciplines, including history, philosophy, and economics. The diversity of their training is reflected in the topics they researched, including religion, education, economics, inequality, psychology, ethics, philosophy, and theology.

These pioneers of sociology all had a vision of using sociology to call attention to social concerns and bring about social change. In Europe, for example, Karl Marx teamed with wealthy industrialist Friedrich Engels to address class inequality. Writing during the Industrial Revolution, when many factory owners were lavishly wealthy and many factory workers despairingly poor, they attacked the rampant inequalities of the day and focused on the role of capitalist economic structures in perpetuating these inequalities. In Germany, Max Weber was active in politics while in France, Emile Durkheim advocated for educational reform. In Britain, Harriet Martineau advocated for the rights of girls and women, and in the U.S., W.E.B. DuBois focused on the problem of racism.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 3.4**

**Narrate the birth of Sociology as a discipline**

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 3.4**

**Refer to item 3.4 above**

**Summary of Study Session 3**

In study session 3, you have learned the birth and history of Sociology, you have also learned the origin and the modern history of Sociology. The term sociology was coined by French philosopher Auguste Comte in 1838, who for this reason is known as the “Father of Sociology.” Comte felt that science could be used to study the social world. Just as there are testable facts regarding gravity and other natural laws, Comte thought that scientific analyses could also discover the laws governing our social lives. It was in this context that Comte introduced the concept of positivism to sociology — a way to understand the social world based on scientific facts. He believed that, with this new understanding, people could build a better future. He envisioned a process of social change in which sociologists played crucial roles in guiding society.

**Self-Assessment (SAQs) for Study Session 3**

Now that you have completed this study session, you can assess how well you have achieved its learning outcomes by answering the following questions. You can check your answers with the notes on Self-Assessment Question at the end of the sessions.

SAQ3.1 (Test Learning Outcome 3.1)

Narrate the history of Sociology

SAQ 3.2 (Test Learning Outcome 3.2)

Narrate the Origin of Sociology

SAQ 3.3 (Test Learning Outcome 3.3)

Narrate the modern history of Sociology

SAQ 3.4 (Test Learning Outcome 3.4)

Highlight the birth of Sociology as a discipline.

**Glossary of Terms**

Sociology; is the scientific study of society.

**References**

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. Harper Collins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. Mcgrew Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 4. FOUNDING FATHERS OF SOCIOLOGY

### Introduction

This session exposes us to the works of founding fathers of Sociology and their contributions to the development of Sociology and society. It focuses on major sociological analysis and then annotates the sociological perspectives and their relevance in society.

### Learning outcomes of the study session

At the end of this session, you should be able to;

- ❖ Acquaint yourself with the contributions of founding fathers of Sociology
- ❖ Master the art of sociological analysis
- ❖ Annotate the sociological perspectives and their relevance

The following philosophers through their work (contributions) influenced the emergence of Sociology.

#### 4.1 Socrates (470BC-399BC)

Socrates was preoccupied with ethical issues hence he was referred to as a moral philosopher (Ogege 2014). His moral philosophy espoused that goodness and knowledge are related. He was popularly known for his philosophy of *man know thyself* which beacons on man to look inward and reflect on his very self and person. He was sentenced to death by the Athenian authorities based on his indictment of not worshipping the goods that the state worshiped and for corrupting the mind of the youth (Edet 1995).

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.1

What are the social thoughts of Socrates and its contributions to the emergence of Sociology.

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.1

Socrates was preoccupied with ethical issues hence he was referred to as a moral philosopher (Ogege 2014). His moral philosophy espoused that goodness and knowledge are related. He was popularly known for his philosophy of *man know thyself* which beacons on man to look inward and reflect on his very self and person.

#### 4.2 Plato 427-348BC

Plato, a Greek was born in Athens Greece. He was a contemporary and friend of Socrates. Plato lived in Athens but departed when his friend was beheaded. He was convinced that politicians were suffering from ignorance and the only solution to societal ills was to educate future rulers and philosophers. This informed Plato thesis that the world shall know no peace until philosophers becomes kings and princes of this world. Plato was the first philosopher to embark on the systematic study of the society. This was evidenced in his write up about the theory of ideal state and his analysis of institutions in terms of functional efficiency. This idea was made popular in his work, the public, the statesmen and the Laws. In essence, Plato was the first Western philosopher who attempted a systematic study of society. Plato could be said to be the first exponent of the organic theory in society. Aristotle subscribed to it too. They both accepted

society as a unified system structured around division of labor and social inequality. Plato saw society in holistic terms and gave state the dominant role.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.2**

What are social thoughts of Plato and its contribution to society and the development of Sociology?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.2**

Refer to item 4.2 above

**4.3 Aristotle (384-322BC)**

Aristotle was a pupil of Plato and adherent of some of the views of Plato. That is, he accepted Plato organic views but based his own on study of man's behavior. He believed that man's behavior is as a result of man's nature. Man's ability to think, help him control his actions

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.3**

What are the contributions of Aristotle (384-322BC) to the study of society?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.3**

Aristotle was an adherent of some of the views of Plato. That is, he accepted Plato organic views but based his own on study of man's behavior. He believed that man's behavior is as a result of man's nature. Man's ability to think, help him control his actions

**4.4 Social thought of Roman Philosophers**

Roman philosophers concerned themselves more with the analysis of the state and some more important than the individual. Law and morality exist for the purpose of sustaining the stability of the state. This is confirmed by the work of Cicero. According to him, man behave the way they do to get reward and avert punishment.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.4**

What were the social thoughts of Roman Philosophers?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.4**

Roman philosophers concerned themselves more with the analysis of the state and some more important than the individual. Law and morality exist for the purpose of sustaining the stability of the state. This is confirmed by the work of Cicero. According to him, man behave the way they do to get reward and avert punishment.

#### **4.5 Social Thought of Theologians of the Middle Age**

Social thought of the theologians of the middle age was dominated by Christians and their theology of divine. To them, everything secular and worldly was subject to divine authority. The state was controlled by divine rule of God. Life was directed by nature and supernatural powers.

##### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.5**

Explain the social Thought of theologians of the middle age

##### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.5**

Social thought of the theologians of the middle age was dominated by Christians and their theology of divine. To them, everything secular and worldly was subject to divine authority. The state was controlled by divine rule of God. Life was directed by nature and supernatural powers.

#### **4.6 The Social Thought of the Renaissance and Reformation**

The explanation that individual is good because of the influence of the church became less attractive. The explanations hold that the individual was good because he considered it logical to be good and illogical to behave badly. This new way of looking at behavior led to separation of field of politics from study of morality. They jettisoned the organic theory of society theorized by other scholars. They focus on investigation of structure of society. The recognition of state power revealed his importance in society. The was introduction of divine rights of kings. The king stood as the representative of the state and as the representative of God within the society. The kings right to rule was seen as derived from God, this means that the king's power is unquestionable and absolute.

##### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.6**

What are the social thoughts of the Renaissance and Reformation?

##### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.6**

Refer to item 4.6 above

#### **4.7 Montesquieu 1689-1755**

He emerged in eighteenth century in France at the demise of the absolutist regime of Louis xiv. He believed that the structure of any society is determined by the specific condition prevailing in it. According to him, population and structure determine the crime inherent in any society. He established that differences in social institution beget difference occurrences. In 1748 he published *Esprit des Ivis*. He defined law as necessary relations arising from nature of things. Population size change the structure of society, and also, this determines the kind of crimes that are found within. He propounded the principles of separation of power. He was also known as the man of letters.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.7**

What are the social thoughts of Montesquieu 1689-1755?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.7:**

Refer to item 4.7 above

**4.8 Auguste Comte 1798-1857**

Auguste Xavier Comte was born on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1798 to a middle-class Catholic family in Montpellier, France. Though a precocious student, his educational career was truncated by expulsion for his rebellious and radical political ideas. He propounded the law of three stages. He identified the three distinct stages of intellectual development namely the fictive or theological stage, the meta-physical stage and the positive stage. These stages correspond to stages in social development. He saw connection between intellectual development and societal development. In the first stage, occurrence was explained by supernatural power. Explanation was based on the influence of demons, spirits and gods. Knowledge was limited and was based on fantasy rather than reason. The emphasis was that supernatural powers and religious figures modelled after and control human kind. Metaphysical stage known as the abstract stage deals with abstract ideas cum phenomenon, the stage is characterized with the believe that all things area controlled by abstract forces and positivism also known as scientific stage deals with positive and scientific study of society. This stage is concerned with empiricism- that is explanations amenable to proof or verification. All knowledge according to Comte should be subject to scientific investigation. It entails systematic observation, experimentation, comparison and historical analysis. He is referred to as father of Sociology. He was the first one to develop the concept of sociology to refer to his study of society in 1835. He defined it as a positive science. For this reason, he is regarded as the first one to formulate the doctrine of positivism which is the search for invariant laws of the natural and social world. As such, he is also considered as the father of sociology.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.8**

What are the contributions of Auguste Comte to the development of Society and Society?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.8**

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with abstract ideas cum phenomenon, the stage is characterized with the believe that all things area controlled by abstract forces and positivism also known as scientific stage deals with positive and scientific study of society. This stage is concerned with empiricism- that is explanations amenable to proof or verification. All knowledge according to Comte should be subject to scientific investigation. It entails systematic observation, experimentation, comparison and historical analysis. He is referred to as father of Sociology. He was the first one to develop the concept of sociology to refer to his study of society in 1835. He defined it as a positive science. For this reason, he is regarded as the first one to formulate the doctrine of positivism which is the search for invariant laws of the natural and social world. As such, he is also considered as the father of sociology.

#### **4.9 Thomas Hobes (1588-1679)**

Thomas Hobes in his popular work, the Liviathan, presented a clear picture of society in a state of nature. He states that people in their natural state. In a state of nature, he opined that human life was solitary, poor, brutish and short. He analyzed society and propounded the war of all against all (man against man). He believed in the social contract theory. A situation where he analyzed the relationship between the state and the right of the people. As a way out of the evil nature of man, he advised that people should enter into a covenant known as the social contract. In this covenant, people should relinquish their rights of self-governance to an absolute sovereign power. Whoever breaks the law or terms of the contract is liable to punishment.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.9**

What are the contributions of Thomas Hobes (1588-1679) to the development of society and sociology?

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.9:**

Refer to item 4.9 above

#### **4.10 Herbert Spencer (1820-1902)**

Herbert Spencer (1820 – 1903) was an English philosopher, biologist, anthropologist and sociologist famous for his hypothesis of Social Darwinism whereby superior physical force shapes history. He originated the expression of survival of the fittest which he coined to his biological principle in 1864. He compared society to a living organism with interdependent parts. To Spencer change in one part causes change in other parts. Every part contributes to the survival of the community as a whole. He also propounded the law of use and disuse. What he meant by this is that any part that is not in use stops growing and becomes dysfunctional.

He saw evolution as extending into realms of sociology and ethics. He read with excitement the original positivist sociology of Auguste Comte. However, Spencer rejected the ideological aspects of the philosopher of science's (Comte's) positivism and attempted to reformulate the social science in terms of his principle of evolution.

His sociological writing became very popular and contributed a lot to the early sociology (his influence on structural functionalism) and based on the primacy which was placed on evolution by him, his sociology could be described as Social Darwinism mixed with Lamarckism. Nonetheless, despite the popularity of his sociology and the contribution made to early sociology, his attempt to introduce Lamarckian or Darwinian was unsuccessful because it was considered by many to be dangerous.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.10**

What are the contributions of Herbert Spencer (1820-1902) to the development of Sociology?

**In-Text Answer (ITA): See 4.10**

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**4.11 Emile Durkheim (1858 -1917)**

Emile David Durkheim (1858 -1917) was also a French sociologist. He formally established the academic discipline of sociology (French school of sociology) in the 1890s with a firm emphasis on practical social research and he is commonly cited as the principal architect of modern social science by Max Weber. His philosophy emphasized on empirical science. That is empirical study of society. He believed in the tenants of division of labor. To him, to enhance productivity, there should be division of labor. He look at the kind of relationship that was inherent in society and propounded mechanical and organic solidarity. To Durkheim, people's level of integration determines their happiness and happiness in life. To him, people who are not well integrated into society commits suicide. Thus, much of Durkheim's work centered on how societies could maintain their integrity and coherence in modernity, an era in which traditional social and religious ties are no longer assumed, and in which new social institutions have come into being.

His first major sociological work was in 1893 called the Division of Labor in Society, followed by The Rules of Sociological Methods in 1895, the same year in which Durkheim set up the first European department of sociology and became France's first professor of sociology. He did a lot of other sociological work after that.

Durkheim also profoundly accepted sociology as a legitimate science. He refined the positivism originally set forth by Auguste Comte. He promoted what could be considered as a form of epistemological realism as well as the use of hypothetic-deductive model in social science. For him, sociology was a science of institutions, understanding the term in its broader meaning as the beliefs and modes of behavior instituted by collectivity with its aim being to discover structural social facts.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.11**

What are the contributions of Emile Durkheim (1858 -1917)?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.11**

Refer to item 4.11 above

**4.12 Max Weber (1864 – 1920)**

Maximilian Karl Emil Weber commonly known as Max Weber (1864 – 1920) was a German sociologist, historian, and political economist who is regarded among the most important theorists on the development of modern western society. He is best known for his work spirit of capitalism, Protestantism, social action, cause and effect and social meaning. He believed in objectivity, that is the science of not being bias. He equally used the used the word verstehen-meaning empathy and objectivity. That is objective behavior that is not subjective. According to Weber, verstehen means that people must enquire into people's feeling, perceptions and thought to be able to interpret what they are going through. It therefore means, putting yourself into other people's shoes. He identified three types of authority. The traditional authority, Legal rational authority and charismatic authority. As indicated above, in his sociological work, he commonly cited Emile Durkheim as the principal architect of modern social science. Weber's ideas were to influence social theory and social research. Because of all this, he was recognized as one of the fathers of sociology alongside Auguste Comte and Emile Durkheim. However, despite being recognized as one of the fathers, he never saw himself as a sociologist, but as a historian.

He is best known for his thesis combining economic sociology and the sociology of religion, emphasizing the importance of cultural influences embedded in religion as a means (sic) for understanding the genesis of capitalism.

Unlike Durkheim, Weber did not believe in monocausal explanations. Instead, he proposed that for any outcome there are many or multiple causes (principles of cause and effect). For this reason, he was the key proponent of methodological anti-positivism. He argued for the study of social action through interpretive methods rather than empiricist, based on understanding the purpose and meanings that individuals attach to their own actions.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.12**

What are the contributions of Marx Weber

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.12**

Refer to item 4.12 above

**4.13 Karl Marx (1818 – 1883)**

Mark Heinrich Karl (1818 – 1883) was also a German philosopher among the other thing he did who had studied law and philosophy. Because of his political publication, Karl became exiled and lived in exile in London together with his children and his wife. While there, he continued to develop his thought in collaboration with German thinker Friedrich Engels and publish his writing. He is well known for his pamphlet in 1848, Communist Manifesto and the three volume Das Kapital (1867 – 1883).

He was a British Rabbi. He opposed spencer's harmony. To him, society is laden with class division, conflict and exploitation of the poor by the powerful. Marx claimed that, social conflict, especially class conflict and competition mark all societies. The relationship between the bourgeoisie and proletariat is that of conflict and exploitation. His thought had a massive influence on the subsequent intellectual, economic, and political history. His political and philosophical ideas are called Marxism technology and these are the same notable ideas that he is known for. Marxism held that human societies develop through class conflict 17. According to Karl, he believed that societies developed through the tension and economic antagonism that exist in them which was as a result of socio-economic competition between the rich and the poor.

Because of his influence, Marx was also described as one of the most influential figures in human history and his work was both extoled and criticized. For example, his work in economics laid the basis for much of the current understanding of labor and its relation to capital and subsequent economic thought.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 4.13**

**What are the contributions of Karl Marx**

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 4.13****Karl Marx (1818 – 1883)**

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#### **SUMMARY OF STUDY SESSION 4**

The session summarized the contributions of founding fathers of sociology especially the development of sociology and society. The session highlighted the contributions of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim etc.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 4

SAQ 4.1 Test Learning Outcome 4.1

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Socrates

SAQ 4.2 Test Learning Outcome 4.2

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Plato

SAQ 4.3 Test Learning Outcome 4.3

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Aristotle

SAQ 4.4 Test Learning Outcome 4.4

What are the contributions and social thoughts of Roman Philosophers

SAQ 4.5 Test Learning Outcome 4.5

What are the contributions and social thoughts of Roman Philosophers

SAQ 4.6 Test Learning Outcome 4.6

What are the social thoughts and contributions of the Renaissance and reformation

SAQ 4.7 Test Learning Outcome 4.7

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Montesquieu

SAQ 4.8 Test Learning Outcome 4.8

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Auguste Comte

SAQ 4.9 Test Learning Outcome 4.9

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Thomas Hobbes

SAQ 4.10 Test Learning Outcome 4.10

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Herbert Spencer

SAQ 4.11 Test Learning Outcome 4.11

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Emile Durkheim

SAQ 4.12 Test Learning Outcome 4.12

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Max Weber

SAQ 4.13 Test Learning Outcome 4.13

What are the social thoughts and contributions of Karl Marx

### **Glossary of Terms**

**Thoughts:** are the viewpoints or world view of various philosophers

### **References**

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 5: DISCIPLINES/BRANCHES OF SOCIOLOGY

### Introduction

This study session 5 is focused on discussing the sub fields/disciplines within Sociology.

### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to distinguish and master the different sub fields/disciplines in Sociology.

### 5.1 Rural Sociology

Rural Sociology is that sub-field that examines life processes in the rural area. It looks at the fundamental features of rural societies, their ecological system and patterns of transformation. It highlights the identification, evolution and utilization of nature and human researches. It examines social change at the rural area.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.1**

What is rural Sociology

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.1**

Refer to 5.1

### 5.2 Urban Sociology

Urban Sociology is a sub field in sociology that examine life in the city. It evaluates the effects of migration from the rural areas to urban centers. It looks at the push and pull factors in rural-urban migration. It examines crimes and types of crimes that are committed in the Urban area. In other words, it looks at the spread of crime and the those that are predominant in urban area.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.2**

What is urban Sociology

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.2**

Refer to 5.2

### 5.3 Sociology of Law

It examines the creation of law in society. It looks at a sociological treatment of the social organs and consequences of law and legal processes. It focuses on an examination of legal theory and its application. It takes cognizance of Nigerian legal system and the relevance of customary law processes. It examines the repugnancy of the Nigerian customary law. It examines traditional African legal cultures and their contemporary relevance.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.3**

What is Sociology of Law

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.3**

Refer to 5.3

### 5.4 Medical Sociology

Is a sub discipline in sociology that take cognizance of social, environmental and structural factors that affects health?

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.4**

What is Medical Sociology

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.4**

Refer to 5.4

**5.5 Sociology of Education**

Is a branch of sociology that highlight education? As a social institution and a process that set the society flowing. It looks at the role of education in social stability and change. It makes a comparison between various educational systems. It looks at education especially African social and cultural development.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.5**

What is Sociology Education

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.5**

Refer to 5.5

**5.6 Sociology of the family**

Sociology of the family is a branch of sociology that look at family patterns. It looks at marriage system and social affinities in society.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.6**

What is Sociology of the Family?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.6**

Refer to 5.6

**5.7 Sociology of Religion?**

Sociology of religion is concerned with the functions of religious institutions in societies. It evaluates the relationship between religion and society in relatively stable, small communities. It looks at the place of religion in modernized complex societies. It highlights religious groups in Nigeria.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.7**

What is Sociology of Religion

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.7**

Refer to 5.7

**5.8 Political sociology**

It looks at the different political parties and their activities in Society. It interrogates the modus operandi of political officers in the administration of society.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.8**

What is Political Sociology

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.8**

Refer to 5.8

**5.9 Sociology of Development**

It looks at theories of development, socio-economic analysis of the concept of development and of its relation to growth. It evaluates the sociological implication of development, its effect on society and family structure. It looks at the impact of colonial policies, post-independence international conditions. It examines government policies on development, look at millennium development goals and all other structural development policies.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.9**

What is Sociology of Development

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.9**

Refer to 5.9

**5.10 Sociology of the aged**

Sociology of the aged is a branch of sociology that the examines the social needs of the aged in transitional and modern societies. It takes a look at the comparative study of human maturity, ageing and death as they are perceived in different cultures. It highlights Western versus African attitudes towards the aged

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.10**

What is Sociology of the Aged

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.10**

Refer to 5.9

**5.11 Sociology of Crime and criminology**

It looks at nature and extent of crime. It examines the theories of crime, define deviance. It looks at the technical difference between crime and deviance. It looks at the schools of thought on crime and deviance. It looks at the compilation, uses and limitation of crime statistics (dark figure of criminality) gender and crime, marketization, inequality and crime. It looks at crime and politics.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 5.11**

What is Sociology of Crime and Delinquency

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 5.11**

Refer to 5.11

**Summary of study session 5**

The session summarized the sub-disciplines/field in sociology.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 5

SAQ 5.1 Test Learning Outcome 5.1

Define rural Sociology

SAQ 5.2 Test Learning Outcome 5.2

Define urban Sociology

SAQ 5.3 Test Learning Outcome 5.3

Define sociology of Law

SAQ 5.4 Test Learning Outcome 5.4

Discuss what is Medical Sociology

SAQ 5.5 Test Learning Outcome 5.5

Discuss Sociology of Education

SAQ 5.6 Test Learning Outcome 5.6

Define Sociology of the family

SAQ 5.7 Test Learning Outcome 5.7

Discuss Sociology of Religion

SAQ 5.8 Test Learning Outcome 5.8

Define Political sociology

SAQ 5.9 Test Learning Outcome 5.9

Elucidate on what is Sociology of Development

SAQ 5.10 Test Learning Outcome 5.10

Explain Sociology of the Aged

SAQ 5.11 Test Learning Outcome 5.11

Be acquainted with Sociology of Crime and Delinquency

### **Glossary of Terms**

Aged: are those who are elderly. That I those between the age of 60 and above

### **References**

- (4) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (5) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (6) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
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## STUDY SESSION 6: SOCIAL INTERACTION AND PROCESSES

### INTRODUCTION

This study session 6 is focused on discussing social interaction and processes.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to;

Distinguish and master the various types of social interactions in Society.

### 6.1 Social interaction and Processes

As a socio-cultural being man lives in society. Society is a network of social relationship (Mondel 2023). Social relationships have a methodical system. It is impossible for men to live in isolation. They always live in groups. Due to his gregarious nature man establishes various types of relationships around him.

Social interaction refers to the entire range of social relationships. It is the reciprocal influence mutually exerted by humans through their stimulation and mutual response. Social interaction takes place between (i) Individual and individual (ii) Individual and group (iii) Group and group.

A **social interaction** is an exchange between two or more individuals and is a building block of society. **Social interaction** can be studied between groups of two (dyads), three (triads) or larger social groups. By interacting with one another, people design rules, institutions and systems within.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 6.1

What is social interaction

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 6.1

Refer to 6.1 above

### 6.2 Social Interaction & Founder

**Erving Goffman** was a sociologist who fashioned a new field of study called microsociology, or social interaction. **Social interaction** is the process by which we act and react to those around us. In a nutshell, social interaction embraces those acts people perform toward each other and the responses they give in return. Having a quick conversation with a friend seems relatively trivial.

Goffman argued that these seemingly insignificant forms of social interaction are of major importance in sociology and should not to be overlooked. Social interactions include a large

number of behaviors, so many that in sociology, interaction is usually divided into five categories. These are: exchange, competition, cooperation, conflict and coercion. Let's examine these five types with a bit more detail.

### **Exchange**

Exchange is the most basic type of social interaction. Whenever people interact in an effort to receive a reward or a return for their actions, an exchange has taken place. **Exchange** is a social process whereby social behavior is exchanged for some type of reward for equal or greater value. The reward can be material (a paycheck at a job) or nonmaterial (a 'thank you' from your coworker). Exchange theorists argue that behavior that is rewarded tends to be repeated; however, when the costs of an interaction outweigh the rewards, individuals are likely to end the relationship.

### **COMPETITION**

In human society, the struggle of existence is seldom a brute struggle for the means of life as we find in the animal world. The typical struggle in human society is for livelihood rather than for the means of existence. The human struggle is for economic security and for place, power and status. It is present in almost every walk of life.

‘Competition is the struggle for possession of rewards which are in limited supply such as money, goods, status, power, love or anything that has economic value (Horton and Hunt, 1964). It is a process of seeking to obtain a reward by surpassing all rivals. In the words of Biesanz and Biesanz (1964), ‘competition is the striving of two or more persons or groups for the same goal which is limited so that all cannot share it’.

### **COOPERATION**

In the words of Merrill and Eldredge, “**Cooperation** is a form of **social interaction** wherein two or more persons work together to gain a common end.” Fairchild writes, “**Cooperation** is the process by which individuals or groups combine their effort, in a more or less organized way for the attainment of common objective.

### **CONFLICT**

**Social conflict** is the struggle for agency or power in society. Social conflict or group conflict occurs when two or more actors oppose each other in social interaction, reciprocally exerting social power in an effort to attain scarce or incompatible goals and prevent the opponent from attaining them. It is a social relationship wherein the action is oriented intentionally for carrying out the actor's own will against the resistance of other party or parties. **Karl Marx is a good authority in conflict theory.**

## COERCION

Coercion is the use of force to achieve a desired end. It may be physical or non-violent. It is the ultimate means of social control when all other means fail. Physical coercion may take the form of bodily injury, imprisonment and death penalty. Physical coercion is without doubt the lowest form of social control. Societies would least desire to use it. If a society has to depend on external force, it shows its weakness rather than strength in social control.

Nonviolent coercion consists of strike; boycott and non-cooperation. the students may go on strike to ensure better hostel facilities. Boycott is the withholding of social or economic interaction with others to express disapproval and to force acceptance of demands. Non-cooperation is refusal to cooperate. The teachers may refuse to cooperate with the administration over the payment of salaries. Non-violent coercion can be a successful way of effecting social control.

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 6.2**

What are the different types of social interaction?

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 6.2**

Refer to 6.2 above

## **5.3 Features of Social processes and interaction**

Social interaction has four main features such as contact, communication, form and structure. Social interaction only takes place within a social structure. Various social processes are the forms of interaction. Social contact and communication are two important prerequisites of social interaction.

### *(1) Social Contact:*

Ordinarily coming together of two individuals is contact. Kingsley Davis opines the form of contact becomes social when the concerned people have some meaning in it and feeling of communication. In other words, it constitutes human contact and interaction. According to Gillin and Gillin“ Social contact is the initial phase of interaction”.

Social contacts are always established through the medium of some sense organs. It is established through the medium of radio, telephone etc. and is strengthened by physical contacts like kissing, shaking of hands etc. Social contact can be positive as well as negative. Positive social contact includes co-operation, accommodation and assimilation while negative social contact includes hatred, jealousy and conflict.

### *(2) Communication:*

Communication is another condition of interaction. Without communication there can be no contact. It is another aspect of contact. In communication an individual assesses the thoughts and feelings of another person and his behavior. The important means of communication are the

language, radio, Television. Facebook, newspaper, gestures etc. through which social contact is established. The easiest way of communicating thoughts and feeling is through language. Language communication may be oral or written. But unwritten and unspoken communication is also possible through signs and symbols.

Thus, contact and communication are necessary for social interaction.

The system of social interaction is called social process. The fundamental ways in which people establish social relationship and interact are called social process. It refers to the repetitive forms of behavior which are commonly found in social life. Social interaction “normally occurs in the form of accommodation, assimilation, cooperation, competition and conflict”. These forms of social interaction are also called as social processes.

These are the modes of social interaction. In society individuals continuously come in contact with one another. They cooperate and compete with each other for the realization of their respective aims and struggle for their rights. Hence social processes found continually in society. There exists a very close relationship between social interaction and social process. We cannot understand one without help from the other. When social interaction through repetition leads to a result it is called a social process.

(1) According to Maclver, “Social Process is the way in which the relations of the members of a group, once brought together, acquire a distinctive character”.

(2) According to Gillin and Gillin, “by social process we mean those ways of interacting which we can observe when individuals and groups meet and establish system of relationships of what happens when changes disturb already existing modes of life.”

(3) Horton and Hunt opinion “The term social process refers to the repetitive form of behavior which is commonly found in social life.”

(4) According to Morris Ginsberg, “Social processes are the various modes of social interaction between individuals or groups including co-operation and conflict, social differentiation and integration, development, arrest and decay.”

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 6.3**

What are the main features of social interaction?

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 6.3**

Refer to 6.3 above

## **6.4 Elements of Social Process**

Social Process has the following essential elements.

- (i) Sequence of events
- (ii) Repetition of events:
- (iii) Relationship between events
- (iv) Continuity of events
- (v) Special Social results

**Classification of Social Process or Types:**

There is no consensus amongst Sociologists regarding the classification types or forms of social processes. It has been classified differently by different sociologists. Some sociologist classified it into two types such as:

- (i) Conjunctive social process
- (ii) Disjunctive social process

E.A. Ross had prepared a list of 38 kinds of social process. Blackinar and Gillin classified social processes into six categories. Park and Burgess classified it into four fundamental types of interaction such as competition, conflict, accommodation and assimilation. Von.Wiese and H. Buker classified social processes into 650 types.

But despite these classifications social processes can broadly be categorized into two types such as associative and dissociative process. Famous German Sociologist Simmel first discussed about these two processes. However, I grouped and will discuss major types of social processes under two broad headings. They are:

- (a) Associative process
- (b) Dissociative process.

Associative processes are also called the integrative or conjunctive social processes which are essential for the integration and progress of the society. The major types of associative processes are the following. Co-operation Accommodation Assimilation Acculturation

Dissociative social processes are also called the disintegrative or disjunctive social processes. Although these processes hinder the growth and development of society, their absence results in stagnation of society. Few important types or dissociative processes are:

Competition  
 Conflict  
 Contravention  
 Differentiation  
 Explanation for associative processes;

**Co-Operation:**

Co-operation is the most essential associative social process. The term “Co-operation” is derived from two Latin words: ‘Co’ means ‘together’ and ‘Operari’ meaning ‘to work’. Hence combining the two words, cooperation means working together or joint activity for the achievement of a common goal or goals. Thus, it is a process in which individuals or groups work unitedly for the promotion of common goals or objectives. It is a goal oriented social process. It is very important as the human society and its development have been possible with co-operation. From the afore mentioned, the synthesis of definition of co-operation among scholars would mean that Co-operation is the constant and common endeavor of two or more persons to perform a task or to reach a goal/objective that is commonly cherished. On the other hand, Cooley has summarized co-operation in the following terms: “Co-operations arises when men see that they have a common interest and have, at the same time, sufficient intelligence and self-control to seek this interest through united actions: Prescribed unity of interest and the faculty of organization are the essential facts in intelligent combination.” It is evident from the

above definitions that co-operation is a process of social interaction in which two or more individuals or groups combine their efforts to achieve certain common ends and objectives.

### **Conditions for Co-Operation:**

The following conditions are pre-requisite for co-operation to take place

- (a) Common end or purpose.
- (b) Organized effort.

The achievement of common end calls for the organized efforts of individuals or groups such efforts should be preplanned and properly organized. It is not possible for people to promote the process of co-operation without these two essential elements.

### **Characteristics of Co-Operation:**

Followings are some of the important characteristics of co- operation.

#### **(a) Continuous Process:**

It is a continuous process. There is continuity in the collective efforts in Co-operation.

#### **(b) Personal Process:**

This is a process in which the individuals and the groups personally meet and work together for a common objective.

#### **(c) Conscious Process:**

In the process of co-operation, the organized individuals or the groups work together consciously.

#### **(d) Universal Process:**

Co-operation is also a universal social process. Because it is found everywhere in all periods of time.

#### **(e) Common Ends:**

Common end can be better achieved by co-operation which is essential for the welfare of both individual and society.

#### **(f) Organized Efforts:**

Co-operation is a process of social interaction which is based on the organized efforts of individuals and groups.

### ***Type of Co- Operation:***

#### **(a) Direct Co-operation:**

When individuals and groups co-operate directly with each other, that is called direct co-operation. There exists direct relationship among individuals and the groups. It permits the people to do similar things together because the nature of work itself calls for the participation of men or groups in a together situation. It brings social satisfaction. It makes the difficult tasks easy. For example, traveling, singing, playing together.

#### **(b) Indirect Co-operation:**

When people do things individually and indirectly for the achievement of common goal that is called indirect-co-operation. Here the goal is one or common, but the individuals perform

specialized function for its attainment. This co-operation is based on the principles of division of labor and specializations of functions. Thus, in modern society indirect co-operation plays important role as the present technological age requires specialization of skills and functions. For example, the production of bread, construction of a building. Each worker with its task.

**(a) Primary Co-operation:**

In this type of co-operation there is an identity of interests but no self-interest among those who cooperate. Every member is conscious of the welfare of all. It owes its origin to personal satisfaction. It is present in primary groups like family, neighbourhood and children's play group. Here there is an identity or ends of interest and all the members in some way or the other, derive benefit from primary co-operation.

**(b) Secondary Co-operation:**

This type of Co-operation is found in the secondary groups. In these groups the individuals cooperate with each other for the achievement of some self-interest. This is the characteristic feature of modern civilized society which are very much witnessed in political, economic, religious, commercial, educational and other groups. It does not provide equal benefit to all its members.

**(c) Tertiary Co-operation:**

Primary and secondary cooperation is the characteristic of individual person while tertiary co-operation characterizes the interaction among various social groups, large or small. These groups make certain adjustment voluntarily with each other under certain compelling circumstances. The attitude of groups co-operating with each other are selfish and opportunistic in the extreme. For example, in an election when two political parties co-operate with each other to defeat the rival party, it is called tertiary co-operation.

***Role and Importance of Co-operation:***

Being a universal and continuous social process, co-operation plays dominant role but it is very much essential for the welfare of the society as well. So the role of co-operation may be discussed from two angles. They are:

- (a) From individual point of view.
- (b) From the point of view of society.

***Role of Co-operation from individual point of view:***

- (1) Man can fulfill his basic and fundamental needs such as food, clothing and shelter by co-operation. It also fulfils many psychological needs of human beings.
- (2) It is not possible for individuals to reach his respective goals without the active co-operation of other members in society.
- (3) Co-operation is the foundation on which our social life is built up. The existence of society and the survival of human beings depend upon the co-operative spirit and mutual aid of men and women.
- (4) With the solid and active co-operation of his fellow beings, man can lead a happy and comfortable life.

*Role of Co-operation from the point of view of Society:*

Co-operation is also equally important from the social point of view.

(1) It helps society to progress. Progress can be better achieved through united action. Progress in science, technology, agriculture, industry, transport and communication etc. has been possible with co-operation.

(2) It is the main spring of collective life. It builds society, it conserves society. In a democratic country, co-operation has become a necessary condition of collective life and activities.

(3) It provides solution for many international problems and disputes. Because co-operation as a process of integration has the quality to bring end to different problems through united activities.

(4) Progress is granted permanence only by co-operation. Because conflict inspires the individual to progress, but he does so only if he gets co-operation. So it may be concluded that co-operation is very indispensable for individual as well as social life.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation is another important associative social process. It is, in fact a sort of co-operation among people after their conflict comes to an end. Because conflict cannot continue for an indefinite period. It must be resolved at some stage or other. The end of conflict directs the way for accommodation.

The term accommodation refers to understanding, adjustment or agreement. It is a process of getting along despite the differences. It is a way of inventing social environments which helps people to work together whether they like it or not. It consists in the avoiding and delaying of conflict with disagreeable circumstances. Here the contending forces are adjusted to balance. It is the very foundation of a social organization. Thus, without accommodation, society cannot maintain its balance. Accommodation is a condition or state of mental and social understanding. For example, the workers of an industry or a factory may go on strike today for some reason but they are bound to come back to work tomorrow after some settlement with the management. In another example, the husband and wife may quarrel for serious things at one time or another but most of the times they live together with mutual love and affection.

According to Maclver and Page, "Accommodation refers particularly to the process in which man attains a sense of harmony with his environment." Also, Ogburn and Nimkoff say that, "Accommodation is a term used by the sociologists to describe the adjustment of hostile individuals or groups." And Gillin and Gillin believe that, "Accommodation is the process by which competing and conflicting individuals and groups adjust their relationship to each other in order to overcome the difficulties which arise in competition, contravention or conflict." It is evident from the above definitions that it is the basis of all interaction and formal social organizations or institution.

**Characteristics of accommodation:****(a) Universal Process:**

Accommodation is said to be a universal process because it is found “in all societies at all time in all fields of social life”. Since no society can function properly under perpetual conflict, accommodation becomes inevitable.

**(b) Continuous Process:**

This “process is not limited to any fixed social situation. It follows sooner or later as and when conflict takes place”. The continuousness of accommodation does not permit disruption at all.

**(c) Both conscious and unconscious Process:**

Accommodation is a conscious process when the conflicting individuals or groups make frantic efforts consciously to get accommodated to conditions.

**(d) End-result of Conflict:**

The hostile individuals or groups realize the importance of accommodation only after they get involved in some kind of conflict. If there is no conflict, there can be no question of accommodation.

**(e) It is a Mixture of love and hatred:**

According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, accommodation is the combination of love and hatred. Love leads to co-operation while hatred leads to conflict.

**Forms or Methods of Accommodation:**

Accommodation takes place in different ways and accordingly assumes different forms. Some of the important forms or methods of accommodation are:

**(a) Yielding to Coercion:**

Most of hostile individuals or groups yield to physical or some kind of power exhibit the spirit of accommodation in order to end a conflict. For example-the weaker party submits to the stronger one out of fear and the stronger party can pressurize the weaker party by its superior strength. For example, an act of this kind happens after a war between two nations comes to an end.

**(b) Compromise:**

The conflict between the hostile individuals or groups having equal strength comes to an end through compromise in the process of accommodation. This is based on the principle of give and take. Here the involved parties have to make some sacrifices voluntarily for each other. Therefore, it is a kind of voluntary accommodation. When the conflicting parties realize that the continuation of conflict would cause sheer waste of their time, energy and money, they automatically want a kind of accommodation which is called compromise.

**(c) Tolerance:**

Tolerance is a method of accommodation in which two or more contesting parties tolerate each other with sympathy and try to understand the view point of others. They patiently bear the differences that exist between them. For example, the co- existence of Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs etc. in Indian society is due to the method of tolerance. This is the best form of accommodation.

**(d) Arbitration:**

When the hostile counterpart (s) have equal strength and are determined to stick to their view point, there is intervention of third party, who acts as their go-between or mediator. The decisions of the arbitrator are binding on the parties concerned. For example, the conflict between the labour and management is resolved through the arbitration or arbitrator.

**(e) Conciliation:**

This is another method of accommodation in which the third party only gives some suggestions in order to terminate a conflict. But the acceptance of these suggestions is not the binding force. It is up to the discretion of the contending parties.

**(f) Conversion:**

This form of accommodation involves a sudden refusal of one's beliefs, principles and loyalties and the adoption of others. As a result of which the convincing party is likely to accept the viewpoints of his opponent which is the other party. Consequently, the party which has been convinced is relatively going to abandon its own ideas or beliefs or religion or claims in preference for the view point of the other side with which it tries to identify itself. This is prominent in religious issues

**(g) Sublimation:**

This is a method which involves the replacement of non-aggressive attitudes and activities for aggressive ones. In this method the conflicting groups give vent to their tendencies of aggression that is harmless to anyone else and by so doing removes conflict. For example-Jesus conquered violence and hatred with love and compassion.

**(h) Rationalization:**

In this method the opposing parties try to validate their action on the basis of some unreal ideas to avoid conflict. Hence, one blames the other parties for one's own fault. By ascribing one's failures to others instead of accepting one's defects, one can retain self-respect. For example, "sometimes the students believe that failure in the examinations is due to the defects in the valuation of answer scripts; they do not see the fact that their preparations for examinations are quite inadequate". Accommodation is a significant integrative social process. It is not only beneficial to the individuals or groups but also to the whole society.

(i) Society functions smoothly with accommodation. It checks conflict and maintains co-operation among the individuals and groups which is essential for social life.

(ii) It helps the individuals and groups to adjust themselves to changed functions and statutes which are brought about by changed conditions. It helps them to carry on their life activities together even with conflicting interests.

(iii) The realization of people that they should lead a happy and comfortable life has become possible only through accommodation.

(iv) It is the very foundation of a social organization. Because it consists in the avoiding and delaying of conflict with disagreeable circumstances. The contending forces are adjusted to balance in this process. Hence, society maintains its balance.

**Assimilation:**

Another integrative or associative social process is assimilation. It is a process whereby persons and groups imbibe the culture of other group in which they come to live, by adopting its attitudes, beliefs and values, its patterns of thinking and behaving, in short, its way of life. It is more permanent than accommodation. Assimilation makes the dissimilar individuals or groups similar because it is a process by which individuals or groups come to share the same sentiments and goals. For example, in India, the religious tolerance among the different religious groups is the most appropriate one as they have assimilated many points of each other's culture into their own and have made them integral part of their own social conduct. Thus assimilation is the social process whereby individuals or groups come to share the same beliefs, sentiments and goals.

From the above definitions it could be concluded that assimilation takes place when individuals come into close contact with other culture either in a slow and gradual manner. It results in the promotion of cultural unity which leads to social integration.

*Characteristics:*

**(i) Universal Process:**

Assimilation as a process of integration is present in every society, all the times. Hence universal in nature.

**(ii) Unconscious Process:**

Usually the individuals or groups involved in the process of assimilation are unconscious of what is taking place. Unconsciously one assimilates himself with others.

**(iii) Slow and Gradual Process:**

The process of assimilation cannot take place suddenly. Rather it takes time. It depends upon the nature of contacts. If it is primary, assimilation is natural and rapid. If it is secondary assimilation is slow.

**(iv) It is a two-way Process:**

It is based on the “principle of give and take”. When one cultural group is in contact with another, it borrows from it certain cultural elements and incorporates them into its own culture.

**(v) It is confined to multiple fields:**

The process of assimilation is not confined to a single field but it is confined to multiple fields. In the religious field, for example, it may take place when an individual or a group of individuals of a particular religious’ background get converted into some other religious set or group.

**Role and Importance of Assimilation:**

(a) In this integrative social process, the individuals or groups acquire the culture of other group in which they come to live by adopting its pattern of thinking, behaving, its attitudes and values.

(b) As assimilation is a cultural and psychological process. It results in the promotion of cultural units.

(c) It plays a very significant role in the development of human personality.

(d) It brings similarity among dissimilar individuals or groups.

(e) It brings change in old culture, customs, traditions, folkways, mores, morals, law and religion etc.

**Factors promoting assimilation:**

**(i) Toleration:**

When the people of one culture tolerate the spread of another culture irrespective of their differences toleration takes place. Here, people of different culture maintain balance by developing contacts, by participating in common social and cultural activities. So toleration is an essential condition for promoting assimilation which is in turn helpful in unity and integrity of the community.

**(ii) Intimacy:**

The development of close social relationship makes the process of assimilation natural and its degree becomes high. But when social relationship is not so close and artificial, the process becomes slow. So intimacy is another condition for assimilation.

**(iii) Cultural Equality:**

If there are striking similarities between the cultures, then there is no bar for assimilation to take place. When the degree of intimacy and toleration becomes high, it facilitates the growth of this process.

**(iv) Equal Economic Standard:**

Difference in economic standard hinders assimilation. But individuals or groups having equal economic standard can easily establish intimacy which in turn avoids jealousy, hatred and conflict. Here assimilation progresses.

**(v) Amalgamation:**

When individuals or groups unite closely into one another, amalgamation takes place. For example, the amalgamation between the Northern and Southern Nigeria, also between the Hindus and Non-Hindus facilitate the process of assimilation.

Factors hindering assimilation or harmful to assimilation:

There are some factors which are harmful to the growth of assimilation or the factors which obstruct the process of assimilation. These factors are explained below.

**(i) Isolation:**

Individuals who live separately or feel isolated cannot establish good social relationship with others in the society. So due to lack of close or intimate relationship, the process of assimilation is hampered or even it does not take place.

**(ii) Cultural Differences:**

Differences in culture also hinder assimilation. The cultures having different religion, race, languages, customs, traditions do not have close relationship with each other. If assimilation takes place there, it is very difficult for its continuity.

**(iii) Differences in economic standard:**

Difference in economic standard encourages the feeling of inferiority and superiority. There occurs the feeling of high and low. People with the feeling of superiority decline to establish social relations with those having a sense of inferiority. So differences in economic standard stand as an obstruction in the process of assimilation.

**(iv) Physical Differences:**

Differences in physical characteristics like colour of the skin, growth of human body and other physiological features act as hindrances to assimilation. For example, the differences in the physical features of the black and white hinder assimilation among them.

**(v) Domination and Sub-ordination:**

Intimate social relation is very much essential for assimilation. But assimilation is absent or is hampered when one group dominates the other. It lacks social relationship.

**Competition:**

The most important fundamental dissociative social process is competition. It is a form of opposition or social struggle. It is a contest among individuals or groups to acquire something which has limited supply or insufficient in quantity and not easily available. It is characterized by non-co-operation. Here the competitors forces their attention on the goal or the reward they are struggling to achieve but not on themselves. They try to achieve the goal by methods other than force or fraud.

Generally, in our society there is competition for getting jobs. The people who are already employed desire for better jobs. When there is a shift in interest from the objects of competition to the competitors themselves, it is called rivalry or personal competition. But when the individuals or groups compete with each other, not on personal level but as members of group, competition is impersonal.

*Competition is “the impersonalized struggle among resembling creatures for goods and services which are scarce or limited in quantity.”*

**Features of Competition:**

Competition as a disintegrative or dissociative social process has the following features:

**(1) Universal Process:**

Undeniably, competition is the most common social process present in all societies, whether developed or remote, rural or urban, traditional or modern in all periods of history and among all classes of people in society.

**(2) Continuous Process:**

Competition is a continuous process in society being that it never comes to an end. If one process of competition ends somehow another process of competition will emerge. The crave for improved status, power and wealth in an ever-increasing degree makes competition a continuous process.

**(3) Impersonal Process:**

Those who take part in competition do not know one another at all. They do not compete with each other on personal level. They focus their attention on the personal goal or reward which they are trying to achieve. They do not have any contact whatsoever. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, “Struggle is personal competition.”

**(4) Always governed by norms:**

Nowhere competition is unregulated. It is always and everywhere governed by norms. Competitors are expected to use fair means to achieve success.

**Forms of Competition:**

Competition as a universal social process found in all spheres of life come in many types or forms. Some of the important competitions are as follows.

- (i) Political Competition.
- (ii) Social Competition.
- (iii) Economic Competition.
- (iv) Cultural Competition.
- (v) Racial Competition.

**(i) Political Competition:**

This is the type of competition that is found in the political realm. It involves struggle for power and position. For example, during election all the candidate of the different political parties competes for majority vote. This is not only found at national level but at international level. There is also obvious competition between nations who have different political ideologies and opportunities.

**(ii) Social Competition:**

To get high social status, one need to compete for the available social positions and space. Usually this social competition is mostly observed in open societies where individual's talent, capacity, ability as well as merit are weighed before any placement.

**(iii) Economic Competition:**

In economic field economic competition is fairly observed. It is the most vigorous form of competition. It is reflected in the process of production, distribution and consumption of goods. In the economic field men compete for salaries, jobs and promotions etc. They generally compete for higher standard of living. This economic competition is not only present at individual level but also at group level.

**(iv) Cultural Competition:**

There exists cultural competition among different cultures. When "two or more cultures try to show their superiority over others, this type of competition takes place. Here arise cultural diversities. For example, in the modern society there is cultural competition between the Hindus and the Muslims. In the ancient period, there was a strong competition between the cultures of Aryans and Non-Aryans".

**(v) Racial Competition:**

Like cultural competition, racial competition is found among the major races of world. When one race tries to establish its supremacy over other races, it gives birth to racial competition. For example, the competition between Negroes and the whites is the shape example of racial competition.

*Role and Importance of Competition:*

Competition leads to the selection of the best fitted in society. The process that leads to the emergence of best fit enhances the development of any society. Competition plays a significant role not only in the life of persons but also for the groups and societies. Some sociologists "say that it is even more basic than the process of co-operation. Hobbes had remarked that the struggle is the basic law of life. Rousseau and Hegel also corroborated their views. Later on, in Darwin's theory of evolution, the principle of "Survival of the fittest" also stressed the importance of competition in society. The importance of competition may be discussed under two broad headings".

They are:

- (a) Positive Role
- (b) Negative Role.

**(a) Positive Role:**

The positive role includes the helpful functions of competitions. They are:

- (i) The role and status of the individual members in the society is determined by competition. Thus, it assigns individuals their places in the social system.
- (ii) It protects the individuals from direct conflicts and provides a solution to the problem of limited supply and unlimited demand of goods in a peaceful way.
- (iii) It furnishes motivation in the desire to excel or obtain recognition or to win an award.
- (iv) Fair competition is conducive to economic as well as social progress and even to general welfare as it spurs individuals and groups or to put in their best efforts.
- (v) It provides social mobility to the individual members of the society. It helps them to improve their social status.
- (vi) The division of labor and the entire complex economic organization in modern life are the products of competition.

**(b) Negative Role:**

Apart from the positive functions, competition also performs some negative functions.

- (i) Unfair use of competition causes a great deal of wastage in the economic field.
- (ii) Sometimes competition leads to exploitation when it is unrestricted.
- (iii) Unhealthy competition creates psychological and emotional disturbances which is harmful to the society.
- (iv) Uncontrolled competition takes violent form, i.e. conflict.

Hence, from the above discussion we come to know that healthy and fair competition should be encouraged instead of unfair and unrestricted competition.

**Conflict:**

Another substantial dissociative social process is conflict. It is an ever-present process in human society. Whenever “a person or persons or groups seek to gain reward not by surpassing other competitors but by preventing them from effective competition, conflict takes place”. In other words, it is a competition in its more hostile and personal forms. It is a process of seeking to obtain rewards by eliminating or weakening the competitors. It is seen that conflict makes an individual or group try to frustrate the effort of another individual or group who are seeking the same object. It implies a struggle or fight among individuals or groups for a particular purpose or a number of purposes.

According to Maclver and Page , “Social conflict included all activity in which men contend against one another for any objective.”

From the above definitions, it is clear that individuals or groups involved in conflict try to oppose, resist or coerce each other deliberately. It is the opposite of co-operation. It is a process which leads two or more persons or groups to try to frustrate the attempts of their opponents to attain certain objectives. Examples:

- (i) The conflict between nations leads to national conflict.
- (ii) The conflict between different political parties leads to political conflict.
- (iii) Caste conflict, class conflict and racial conflict etc.

**Features of Conflict:****(i) Universal Process:**

Conflict is present in all societies at all time. The degree and the form of conflict may vary from society to society and from time to time but it is present in all types of societies.

**(ii) Conscious Process:**

This is a process in which the conflicting parties are very much conscious in causing loss or injury to persons or groups. They attempt to fight or oppose and defeat each other consciously.

**(iii) Personal Process:**

The chief aim of conflict is to outsmart the other, cause harm or to bring loss to the opponents. The conflicting parties know each other.

**(iv) Intermittent Process:**

Conflict is not as continuous as competition. It is an intermittent process. It takes place suddenly and comes to an end quickly. It never continues for ever due to the occasional occurrence of conflict.

**(v) Conflict is based on violence:**

Sometimes conflict takes the form of violence. Violence is harmful to the growth of the society and retards the progress as it creates a number of problems.

If conflict occurs non-violently, it maintains peace in the society which is helpful for its development.

**Causes of Conflict**

Conflict is a deliberate process. It is caused by limited resources. It does not occur spontaneously. Although it is a universal social process, its causes vary from individual to individual, group to group and from time to time. It is caused not by single factor but by multiple factors.

The famous population list Malthus says that it is caused by the means of subsistence increase in arithmetical progression and increase of population in geometrical progression. It implies that conflict arises only when the population of a country increases and the means of livelihood decreases. It results in the scarcity of the means of subsistence which leads to conflict.

**Types of Conflict:**

Conflict is found in many forms in all the societies. Some of the important classification of conflict given by different scholars are the following.

**(i) Classification of Maclver and Page:**

According to Maclver and Page there are mainly two types of conflict.

(a) Direct Conflict.

(b) Indirect Conflict.

**(a) Direct Conflict:**

In this type of conflict the conflicting individuals or groups try to harm each other directly to attain the goal or reward at the expense of their opponents even by going to the extent of injuring or destroying their rivals. Direct conflict may be of two types.

(i) Less Violent.

(ii) More Violent.

Sometimes direct conflict takes less violent form. So it is less harmful. For example litigation, propagandistic activities etc.

More violent form of direct conflict is more harmful, for example war, riots, revolutions etc.

**(b) Indirect Conflict:**

When the conflicting parties try to frustrate the efforts of their opponents indirectly it is called indirect conflict. The keen competition among the parties automatically takes the form of indirect conflict. For example, when two manufacturers go on lowering the prices of their commodities till both of them are declared insolvent is indirect conflict.

Conflict could also be:

(a) Personal.

(b) Racial

(c) Political

(d) Class

(e) International.

(a) Personal conflict takes place on personal level due to selfish nature of man. It takes place among the members of the same group when there is clash in their aims and ideas. For example, the conflict between two qualified persons for a common post.

(b) Racial conflict takes place among different races of the World. Some of the races feel superior to other races and some others feel inferior. So the feelings of superiority and inferiority causes racial conflict. For example, the conflict between Whites and Negroes.

(c) Political conflict is found in the political field. When the different political leaders or the political parties try to gain power in democratic countries it is called political conflict.

(d) Class conflict is present among the different classes of the society. Our modern society has been characterized by classes which are based on power, income, education etc. Although class is an open system conflict takes place among different classes due to the difference in power, income, prestige etc. For example, the conflict between the proletariat and bourgeoisie according to Karl Marx led to class struggle.

(e) International conflict takes place between different nations. When the nations try to achieve common objective by suppressing each other international conflict takes place. For example, the conflict between India and Pakistan regarding Kashmir Issue.

According to George Simmel there are four major forms of conflict. They are:

(a) War

(b) Feud

(c) Litigation

(d) Conflict of Impersonal Ideals.

(a) War is a type of direct conflict. When all the efforts of the different nations fail to resolve the conflict, war takes place. This is the only solution to bring peace.

(b) Feud is another type of conflict which takes place among the members of the society. So it is also called intra-group conflict. It differs from society to society in degrees. It is also sometimes referred as factional strife.

(c) Litigation is judicial by nature. In order to redress the grievances and to get justice people take the help of judiciary which is called litigation. For example, for a piece of land when two farmers take the help of judiciary. Litigation takes place.

(d) Conflict of Impersonal Ideals-when the individuals do not aim at achieving personal gain but for some ideals it is called the conflict of impersonal ideals. Here every party tries to justify the truthfulness of its own ideals. For example, when a political party tries to show that its ideals are better than that of other political parties. This conflict takes place.

***Importance of Conflict:***

Although conflict is a form of struggle or fight, it is essential both for the individuals and the larger society. It performs both constructive as well as destructive functions. Conflict is constructive in the sense when it is helpful in the smooth running of the society. It is destructive when it hinders the peaceful atmosphere and retards the progress of the society.

The chief functions of conflict may be discussed under two broad headings. They are:

- (i) Positive functions
- (ii) Negative functions.

**Positive Function:**

The positive functions are purely constructive in nature.

- (a) Conflict increases fellow feeling, brotherhood and social solidarity within groups and societies. For example, inter-group conflict promotes intra-group co-operation.
- (b) Conflict helps in the exchange of cultural elements when comes to an end.
- (c) It changes the status of the group or society which comes to be regarded as super power.
- (d) When conflict is over, the parties give up old values and accept new ones. It brings changes in old customs, traditions, folkways and mores.
- (e) Sometimes conflict helps in increasing the production which adds to the national income.

**Negative Function:**

The negative functions are called the destructive functions. Some of the negative functions of conflict are given below.

1. In the process of conflict, the defeated party becomes psychologically and normally down.
2. Time, money and energy of the conflicting parties get exhausted.
3. Uncontrolled conflict brings violence which leads to destruction of lives and properties of the countless individuals.
4. Social solidarity is adversely affected by conflict. It hinders national integration.
5. Sometimes conflict leads to inter-group tension and disrupts group unity.
6. Conflict diverts members' attention from group objectives.

From the above discussion we come to know that conflict has both positive and negative importance. Its positive functions are more important than the negative ones. Moreover, conflict plays a very important role in consolidating a group internally.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 6.4**

What is social interaction

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 6.4**

Refer to 6.4 above

## SUMMARY OF STUDY SESSION 6

The session 6 highlighted social interaction and social processes.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 6

SAQ 6.1 Test Learning Outcome 6.1

What is social interaction

SAQ 6.2 Test Learning Outcome 6.2

What are the different types of social interaction?

SAQ 6.3 Test Learning Outcome 6.3

What are the main features of social interaction?

SAQ 6.4 Test Learning Outcome 6.4

What is social interaction?

### Glossary of Terms

**Social Interaction:** **Social interaction** is the process by which we act and react to those around us.

**Competition:** is the struggle for possession of rewards which are in limited supply such as money, goods, status, power, love or anything that has economic value.

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## STUDY SESSION 7: SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

### Introduction

This study session 7 is focused on Sociological Analysis.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to do an analysis of social issues Sociologically.

### 7.1 Definition of Sociological Analysis

According to Pullen-Blasnik (2022), “Sociological analysis is the practice of systematically examining a social problem, issue or trend, often with the aim of prompting changes in the situation being analyzed” (Pullen Blasnik 2022).

A social problem is a situation that is viewed by some community members as being undesirable. In a business context, examples of social problems include outsourcing jobs to another country, customer data privacy and wasting energy. Social analysis, which is topic-driven, can address such issues through qualitative research or quantitative multivariate approaches. Multivariate analysis is a field of statistical analysis and data analytics that deals with variables and their relationships.

Social analysis frequently involves issues of equality and social justice, but the insight gained from combining social analysis techniques and CRM analytics can also help organizations create business strategies and policies that are sensitive to particular social issues and likely to be perceived by customers as having a positive social impact. For example, after discovering through analysis of a customer survey that increased efforts to develop renewable energy would be viewed in a positive light, an oil company might decide to expand its investments in biogas, geothermal energy and solar power research.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 7.1

What is Sociological Analysis

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 7.1

Refer to 7.1 above

### 7.2 An example of a sociological analysis

For example, **if a sociologist's studies the caste system within the Hindu social organization, the function, and the evolution of caste it is a macro-sociological analysis.** Micro sociological analysis: Micro means an analysis that is narrow in scope, it focuses on limited phenomena. Macro sociological analysis means analysis that is broad in scope, it focuses on large phenomenon. For example, cash scarcity is a larger social issue.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 7.2**

What are the examples of social Analysis?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 7.2**

Refer to 7.2

**Summary of Study Session 7**

The session summarized with vivid examples the concept of Sociological analysis.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 7

SAQ 7.1 Test Learning Outcome 7.1

What is Sociological Analysis

SAQ 7.2 Test Learning Outcome 7.2

What are the examples of Social Analysis?

**Glossary of Terms**

**Sociological Analysis:** Sociological analysis is the practice of systematically examining a social problem, issue or trend, often with the aim of prompting changes in the situation being analyzed.

**References**

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 8: METHODS OF SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

### Introduction

This study session 8 is targeted on discussing the various methods of sociological Analysis.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to list and discuss, the various methods of Sociological analysis.

### 8.1 Sociological method

Generally, Sociologists choose from widely used methods of social investigation: these are the primary source data collection such as survey, participant observation, ethnography, case study, unobtrusive observations, experiment, and secondary data analysis, or use of existing sources.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 8.1

What are the sociological methods?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 8.1

Refer to 8.1 above

### Summary of Study Session 8

The session summarized the methods of sociological analysis.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 8

SAQ 8.1 Test Learning Outcome 8.1

What are the sociological methods?

### Glossary of Terms

### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## **STUDY SESSION 9: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE AND THEIR RELEVANCE**

### **Introduction**

This study session 9 is focused on discussing the various sociological perspectives and their relevance.

#### **Learning outcome**

At the end of this session, students will be able to define theory and discuss clearly the different Sociological perspectives.

#### **9.1 Definition of theory**

A theory is a general view about how facts are related to one another. It is an abstract idea used in the explanation of social phenomenon. Perspective in sociology means the world views of different authors. In sociology, there are three main traditional perspectives to explain social life. These are Functionalist perspective, Conflict perspective and Symbolic interactionist perspective.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 9.1**

What is theory?

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 9.1**

Theory are abstract ideas that explains social phenomenon.

#### **7.2 Functionalist perspective**

Functionalist perspective on a large scale analyzed the patterns of society. The proponents of this theory in the likes of Talcott Parson and Emile Durkheim are of the view that social system is made up of interrelated parts. When working properly, each part fulfills a function that contributes to the systems stability. The main idea is that society is made of interrelated parts that work together. Auguste Comte and Spencer viewed society as a kind of living organisms. Just as the animals' organs function together, so do human society. Also, Emile Durkheim believed that society is composed of many parts. If it must work well, all its parts must fulfill their function. According to the proponents, if society must function smoothly, its parts must work together in harmony. A deficiency in one-part leads to malfunction of the whole system.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 9.2**

What is Functionalist perspective

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 9.2**

**Refer to 9.2 above**

### 9.3 Conflict perspective

Conflict theorists stressed that society is made up of competing groups that struggle for scarce resources. Unlike the functionalists, who saw society as harmonious entity, with its parts working together, conflict theorists opined that society is made up of different groups who compete for scarce resources. Marx discovered the exploitation of the poor by the rich. He concluded that human history is that of class struggle-conflict. He analyzed controversy in society as emanating from small group controlling means of production, thus exploiting those who are not in control. He espoused that society is made up small group called the bourgeoisie who constitute the capitalist that controls the means of production and the mass of workers who are exploited by the bourgeoisie.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 9.3**

Analyze Conflict perspective

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 9.3**

Refer to 9.3 above

### 9.4 Symbolic interactionism

Symbolic interactionism developed by Charles Cooley (1864-1929) examines how people use symbols to develop and share their views of the social world. The central idea of this theory is that, symbols which are things to which we attach meaning are the key thing to the understanding how we view the world and communicate with one another.

#### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 9.4**

What is Symbolic interactionism

#### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 9.4**

Refer to 9.4 above

### **Summary of Study Session 9**

The session 9 highlighted the various sociological perspective.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 9

SAQ 9.1 Test Learning Outcome 9.1

What is theory

SAQ 9.2 Test Learning Outcome 9.2

What is Functionalist perspective

SAQ 9.3 Test Learning Outcome 9.3

Analyze Conflict perspective

SAQ 9.4 Test Learning Outcome 9.4

What is Symbolic interactionism

## Glossary of Terms

**Theory:** A theory is a body of abstract ideas that are viably used in the explanation of phenomenon.

## References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 10: HUMAN SOCIETY

### Introduction

This study session 10 is focused on Human society.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to;  
Define society.

List and explain types of Society

### 10.1 What is Human Society?

Humans generally do not live alone, isolated from each other. Instead, individuals tend to live in communities with other people related by ethnicity, nationality, religion, or some other cultural element. A **human society** is a group of people who share a common lifestyle and organization. Human societies can be classified in many different ways, depending on who is doing the categorizing.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 10.1

What is Society?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 10.1

Refer to 10.1 above

### 10.2 Types of Societies

For example, anthropologists generally use the groups' method of subsistence to define them. If members of the group survive by hunting animals and gathering plants to eat, then anthropologists classify their group as a **hunter-gatherer** society. If the people tend to raise animals for meat, blood, or milk, then the society is called **pastoralist**. More stationary societies who grow crops to harvest are named **agriculturalist**, and those societies can eventually evolve into **industrialized agriculturalist** with the advent and implementation of fossil-fuel based technologies.

By contrast, political scientists tend to categorize societies by their political structure--who's in charge matters! **Bands** have loose organization and informal leadership traditions, often defaulting to the elders to make decisions and guide the youngsters. **Tribes** have a more structured society, heavily based on kinship relationships. Larger and more complex societies, called **chiefdoms**, involve multiple extended families under the control of one relatively permanent leader. Finally, the most complex political organization is called a **state**, which began making its appearance around 10,000 years ago around the same time as the agricultural revolution.

### Societies According to Sociologists

Sociologists bring all of these elements together to examine the ways that different groups of people manage their technologies, natural resources, and man power. Thus, societies can be either pre-industrial, industrial, or post-industrial depending on how they are organized, how they subsist, and how the resources are divided amongst the entire population.

**Pre-industrial societies** accounted for the majority of all human societies until the 18th century. Agriculturally based, these rural societies tended to be fairly small and limited in their contact

with other societies. There were a few social classes, and individuals were not socially mobile; if you were born to an artisan, then you became an artisan.

In a pre-industrial society, food production, which is carried out through the use of human and animal labor, is the main economic activity. These societies can be subdivided according to their level of technology and their method of producing food. These subdivisions are hunting and gathering, pastoral, horticultural, agricultural, and feudal.

### **Hunting and gathering**

#### Hunter-gatherer society

The main form of food production in such societies is the daily collection of wild plants and the hunting of wild animals. Hunter-gatherers move around constantly in search of food. As a result, they do not build permanent village or create a wide variety of artifacts, and usually only form small groups such as band and tribes. However, some hunting and gathering societies in areas with abundant resources (such as people of tingit) lived in larger groups and formed complex hierarchical social structures such as chiefdom. The need for mobility also limits the size of these societies. They generally consist of fewer than 60 people and rarely exceed 100. Statuses within the tribe are relatively equal, and decisions are reached through general agreement. The ties that bind the tribe are more complex than those of the bands. Leadership is personal—charismatic—and used for special purposes only in tribal society. There are no political offices containing real power, and a chief is merely a person of influence, a sort of adviser; therefore, tribal consolidations for collective action are not governmental. The family forms the main social unit, with most members being related by birth or marriage. This type of organization requires the family to carry out most social functions, including production and education.

### **Pastoral**

#### Pastoral society.

Pastoralism is a slightly more efficient form of subsistence. Rather than searching for food on a daily basis, members of a pastoral society rely on domesticated herd animals to meet their food needs. Pastoralists live a nomadic life, moving their herds from one pasture to another. Because their food supply is far more reliable, pastoral societies can support larger populations. Since there are food surpluses, fewer people are needed to produce food. As a result, the division of labor (the specialization by individuals or groups in the performance of specific economic activities) becomes more complex. For example, some people become craftworkers, producing tools, weapons, and jewelry. The production of goods encourages trade. This trade helps to create inequality, as some families acquire more goods than others do. These families often gain power through their increased wealth. The passing on of property from one generation to another helps to centralize wealth and power. Over time emerge hereditary chieftainships, the typical form of government in pastoral societies.

### **Horticultural**

#### Horticultural Society.

Fruits and vegetables grown in garden plots that have been cleared from the jungle or forest provide the main source of food in a horticultural society. These societies have a level of technology and complexity similar to pastoral societies. Some horticultural groups use the slash-and-burn method to raise crops. The wild vegetation is cut and burned, and ashes are used as

fertilizers. Horticulturists use human labor and simple tools to cultivate the land for one or more seasons. When the land becomes barren, horticulturists clear a new plot and leave the old plot to revert to its natural state. They may return to the original land several years later and begin the process again. By rotating their garden plots, horticulturists can stay in one area for a fairly long period of time. This allows them to build semi-permanent or permanent villages. The size of a village's population depends on the amount of land available for farming; thus villages can range from as few as 30 people to as many as 2000.

As with pastoral societies, surplus food leads to a more complex division of labor. Specialized roles in horticultural societies include craftspeople, shamans (religious leaders), and traders. This role specialization allows people to create a wide variety of artifacts. As in pastoral societies, surplus food can lead to inequalities in wealth and power within horticultural political systems, developed because of the settled nature of horticultural life.

### **Agrarian.**

Agrarian society

Agrarian societies use agricultural technological advances to cultivate crops over a large area. Sociologists use the phrase agricultural revolution to refer to the technological changes that occurred as long as 8,500 years ago that led to cultivating crops and raising farm animals. Increases in food supplies then led to larger populations than in earlier communities. This meant a greater surplus, which resulted in towns that became centers of trade supporting various rulers, educators, craftspeople, merchants, and religious leaders who did not have to worry about locating nourishment.

Greater degrees of social stratification appeared in agrarian societies. For example, women previously had higher social status because they shared labor more equally with men. In hunting and gathering societies, women even gathered more food than men. However, as food stores improved and women took on lesser roles in providing food for the family, they increasingly became subordinate to men. As villages and towns expanded into neighboring areas, conflicts with other communities inevitably occurred. Farmers provided warriors with food in exchange for protection against invasion by enemies. A system of rulers with high social status also appeared. This nobility organized warriors to protect the society from invasion. In this way, the nobility managed to extract goods from “lesser” members of society.

### **Feudal**

Feudal society

Feudalism was a form of society based on ownership of land. Unlike today's farmers, vassals under feudalism were bound to cultivating their lord's land. In exchange for military protection, the lords exploited the peasants into providing food, crops, crafts, homage, and other services to the landowner. The estates of the realm system of feudalism was often multigenerational; the families of peasants may have cultivated their lord's land for generations.

**Industrial**

**Industrial societies** arose in Western Europe and then the United States beginning in the late 18th century as the Industrial Revolution spread the idea and the technology of mass production. Using fossil fuels to massively increase the rate and scale of production, industrial societies could increase the carrying capacity of their land. More food = more people! Specifically, more people were moving off of their farms and into new urban city centers. Closer to the factory jobs, people began experiencing the new lifestyle that urbanization afforded - poor living conditions, higher crime rates, and almost non-existent safety standards on the job.

**Industrial societies**

Between the 15th and 16th centuries, a new economic system emerged that began to replace feudalism. Capitalism is marked by open competition in a free market, in which the means of production are privately owned. Europe's exploration of the Americas served as one impetus for the development of capitalism. The introduction of foreign metals, silks, and spices stimulated great commercial activity in European societies.

Industrial societies rely heavily on machines powered by fuels for the production of goods. This produced further dramatic increases in efficiency. The increased efficiency of production of the industrial revolution produced an even greater surplus than before. Now the surplus was not just agricultural goods, but also manufactured goods. This larger surplus caused all of the changes discussed earlier in the domestication revolution to become even more pronounced.

Once again, the population boomed. Increased productivity made more goods available to everyone. However, inequality became even greater than before. The breakup of agricultural-based feudal societies caused many people to leave the land and seek employment in cities. This created a great surplus of labor and gave capitalists plenty of laborers who could be hired for extremely low wages.

**Post-industrial.**

Post-industrial societies are societies dominated by information, services, and high technology more than the production of goods. Advanced industrial societies are now seeing a shift toward an increase in service sectors over manufacturing and production. The United States is the first country to have over half of its work force employed in service industries. Service industries include government, research, education, health, sales, law, and banking.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 10.2**

What are the types of society?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 10.2**

Refer to 10.2 above

### Summary of study session 10

The session 10 provided definition of society. It listed the types of society.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session **10**

SAQ **10.1** Test Learning Outcome **10.1**

What is Society

SAQ 10.2 Test Learning Outcome **10.2**

What are the types of society?

### Glossary of Terms

**Society:** A **human society** is a group of people who share a common lifestyle and organization

### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 11: SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF CULTURE

### Introduction

This study session 11 is focused on study of culture. **Cultural sociology** investigates culture as an explanation of social phenomena. During the cultural turn movement of the 1970s, cultural sociology emerged as a field of study among anthropologists and social scientists evaluating the role of culture in society.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to define culture.

State the types of culture

State the element of culture

### 11.1 Definition of Culture

Culture is the total way of life of a group of people. This includes arts, beliefs and institution of a population that are passed down from generation to generation.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 11.1

What is culture?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 11.1

Refer to 11.1

### 11.2 Elements of culture

The major elements of culture are symbols, language, norms, values and artifact. Language makes effective social interaction possible and this influence how people conceive of concepts and objectives. Values are what one holds in high esteem

Norms are the formal and informal rules regarding what kinds of behavior are acceptable and appropriate within a culture. They are the does and don'ts of a society. Artifacts are objects made by human being, typically one of cultural history.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 11.2

What is rural Sociology

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 11.2

Refer to 11.2

### 11.3 Types of culture

There are two basic types of culture. These are the material and non-material culture. Material culture are the physical things produced by a society and the non-material culture are the intangible things produced by a society. Car and house are examples of material culture, while care and inequality are part of our non-material culture.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 11.3

What are the types of culture?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 11.3

Refer to 11.3

### Summary of study session 11

The session 11 highlighted the definition of culture. It also discussed the types of culture.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 11

SAQ 11.1 Test Learning Outcome 11.1

What is culture?

SAQ 11.2 Test Learning Outcome 11.2

What are elements of Culture

SAQ 11.3 Test Learning Outcome 11.3

What are the types of culture?

### Glossary of Terms

### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins,UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, Uk
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. Mcgrew Hill, Uk
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*.

## STUDY SESSION 12: SOCIAL FACTS

### Introduction

This study session 12 is targeted on analyzing social facts.

### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to discuss social facts.

#### 12.1 What is social fact

In sociology, social facts *are values, cultural norms, and social structures that transcend the individual and can exercise social control*. Examples of social facts include religion, currency, the nation-state, morality, chivalry, and the family.

### In-Text Question (ITQ) 12.1

What is social fact?

### In-Text Answer (ITA) 12.1

### Refer to 12.1

### Summary of study session 12

The session 12 highlighted the definition of social fact.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session **12**

SAQ 12.1 Test Learning Outcome **12.1**

What is social fact?

### Glossary of Terms

Social fact: simply put are the realities out there.

### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 13: SOCIAL STRUCTURE

### Introduction

This study session 13 is targeted on analyzing social structure.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to discuss on the various social structure.

#### 13. 1 Definition of social structure.

Social structure, in sociology, according to William and Wilterdink (2022), social structure is **the distinctive, stable arrangement of institutions whereby human beings in a society interact and live together**. Social structure is often treated together with the concept of social change, which deals with the forces that change the social structure and the organization of society. Examples of social structure are family, religion, law, economy and education.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 13.1

What is social structure?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 13.1

#### Refer to 13.1

#### Summary of study session 13

The session 13 highlighted the definition of social structure.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 13

SAQ 13.1 Test Learning Outcome 13.1

What is social structure

#### Glossary of Terms

#### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins,UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, Uk
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. Mcgrew Hill, Uk
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. Uk

## STUDY SESSION 14: SOCIALIZATION

### Introduction

This study session 14 dwelled on socialization.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to discuss what is socialization.

### 14.1 Definition of Socialization

Socialization is the process of learning to behave in a way that is acceptable to society. We have formal and informal socialization. Formal socialization is that socialization we get within the four walls of formal institution such as school, church and mosque. While the informal education is that socialization we get at home, that is, from family and friends.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 14.1

What is socialization?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 14.1

Refer to 14.1

#### Summary of study session 14

The session 14 highlighted the definition of socialization.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 14

SAQ 14.1 Test Learning Outcome 14.1

What is socialization?

#### Glossary of Terms

#### References

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 15: SOCIAL ROLES AND STATUSES

### Introduction

This study session 15 is focused on social roles, statuses and ethnocentrism.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to discuss what is social role.

Explain social status.

Discuss ethnocentrism.

### 15.1 Definition of Social roles:

Social roles are a **socially defined pattern of behavior that is expected of persons who occupy a certain social position or belong to a particular social category**. The construct of social roles is central to the social sciences, and it came into general use during the 1920s and 1930s by analogy to the theatre. Simply put, “a social role is a pattern of behavior that is expected of a person in a given setting or group” (Hare, 2003). Each one of us has several social roles. You may be, at the same time, **a student, a parent, an aspiring teacher, a son or daughter, a spouse, and a lifeguard**.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 15.1

What is social role?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 15.1

Refer to 15.1 above

### 15.2 Definition of Social Status

**Social Status** also called status according Encyclopedia Britannica (2023), is the relative rank that an individual hold, with attendant rights, duties, and lifestyle, in a social hierarchy based upon honor or prestige.

#### In Text Question (ITQ) 15.2

What is social status?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 15.2

Refer to 15.2 above

### 15.3 Definition of Ethnocentrism:

**Ethnocentrism** is an evaluation of other people's culture according to preconceptions originating in the standards and customs of one's own culture.

### **In-Text Question (ITQ) 15.3**

What is ethnocentrism

### **In-Text Answer (ITA) 15.3**

**Refer to 15.3 above**

### **Summary of study session 15**

The session 15 highlighted the definition of social roles and statuses.

Self-assessment Questions (SAQs) for study session 15

SAQ 15.1 Test Learning Outcome 15.1

What are social roles

SAQ 15.2 Test Learning Outcome 15.2

What is social status

SAQ 15.3 Test Learning Outcome 15.3

What is ethnocentricism

### **Glossary of Terms.**

**Ethnocentrism:** Evaluation of other people's culture according to preconceptions originating in the standards and customs of one's own culture

**Roles:** a socially defined pattern of behavior that is expected of persons who occupy a certain social position or belong to a particular social category.

**Status:** is the relative rank that an individual hold, with attendant rights, duties, and lifestyle, in a social hierarchy based upon honor or prestige.

### **References**

- (1) Haralambos & Holborn (2008). *Sociology. Themes & Perspectives*. HarperCollins, UK.
- (2) Haralambos H. 2005. *Sociology*. Blackwell, UK
- (3) Giddens A. 2004. *Sociology*. McGraw Hill, UK
- (4) Schaefer F. 2004. *Introduction to Sociology*. UK

## STUDY SESSION 16: SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### Introduction

This study session 16 focused on social institutions.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to define social institution.

List and explain the various social institution

Enumerate the functions of the various social institutions.

16.1 Social institutions are **mechanisms or patterns of social order focused on meeting social needs**, such as government, economy, education, family, healthcare, and religion. Some sociological methods focus on examining social institutions over time, or compare them to social institutions in other parts of the world. This unit analyzes such major social institutions as the **family, education, religion, the economy and work, government, and health care**. As mentioned above, (Nickerson 2022) espoused that social Institutions are the structures in society which influence how society is structured and functions. They include Family, Media, Education and the Government.

#### Key Points

- A social institution is a group or organization that has specific roles, norms, and expectations, which functions to meet to social needs of society. The family, government, religion, education, and media are all examples of social institutions.
- Social institutions are interdependent and continually interact and influence one another in everyday society. For example, some religious institutions believe they should have control over governmental and educational institutions.
- Social institutions can have both manifest and latent functions. Manifest functions are those that are explicitly stated, while latent functions are not.
- Each social institution plays a crucial role in the functioning of society and the lives of the people that inhabit them.

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 16.1

What is social institution?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 16.1

Refer to 16.1 above

#### *16.2 Social institutions have a number of key characteristics:*

1. They are enduring and stable
2. They serve a purpose, ideally providing better chances for human survival and flourishing.
3. They have roles that need to be filled
4. They are concerned with governing the behavior and expectations of sets of individuals within a given community.

5. The rules that govern them are usually ingrained in the basic cultural values of a society, as each institution consists of a complex cluster of social norms.

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 16.2**

What are the characteristics of social institution?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 16.2**

Refer to 16.2 above

**16.3 Functions of Social institution**

*They also serve general functions, including:*

1. Allocating resources
2. Creating meaning
3. Maintaining order
4. Growing society and its influence

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 16.3**

What are the characteristics of social institution?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 16.3**

Refer to 16.3 above

**16.4 Five major institution and their Functions**

The five major social institutions in sociology are family, education, religion, government (political), and the economy.

**Family**

The family is one of the most important social institutions. It is considered a "building block" of society because it is the primary unit through which socialization occurs.

It is a social unit created by blood, marriage, or adoption, and can be described as nuclear, consisting of two parents and their children, or extended, encompassing other relatives. Although families differ widely around the world, families across cultures share certain common concerns in their everyday lives (Little & McGivern, 2020).

As a social institution, the family serves numerous, multifaceted functions. The family socializes its members by teaching them values, beliefs, and norms.

It also provides emotional support and economic stability. In some cases, the family act as a caretaker if one of its members is sick or disabled (Little & McGivern, 2020).

Historically, the family has been the central social institution of western societies. However, more recently, as sociologists have observed, other social institutions have taken the place of the family in providing key functions, as family sizes have shrunk and provided more distant ties.

For example, modern schools have in part taken on the role of socializing children, and workplaces can provide shared meaning.

**Education**

**According to Emile Durkheim** - "education is conceived as the socialization of the younger generation. It is a continuous effort to impose on the child ways of seeing, feeling and acting which he could not arrived at spontaneously."

**But Macdonald** – saw education as the social institution through which society provides its members with important knowledge, including basic facts, jobs, skills & cultural norms, folklores and values.

As a social institution, education helps to socialize children and young adults by teaching them the norms, values, and beliefs of their culture. It also transmits cultural heritage from one generation to the next. Education also provides people with the skills and knowledge they need to function in society.

Education also helps to reduce crime rates by providing people with alternatives to criminal activity. These according to Meyer (1977) and other social theorists are the "manifest" or openly stated functions and intended goals of education as a social institution (Meyer, 1977).

Education, sociologists have argued, also has a number of latent, or hidden and unstated functions. This can include courtship, the development of social networks, improving the ability for students to work in groups, the creation of a generation gap, and political and social integration (Little & McGivern, 2020).

Although every country in the world is equipped with some form of education system, these systems, as well as the values and teaching philosophies of those who run the systems, vary greatly. Generally, a country's wealth is directly proportional to the quality of its educational system.

For example, in poor countries, education may be seen as a luxury that only the wealthy can afford, while in rich countries, education is more accessible to a wider range of people.

This is because in poorer countries, money is often spent on more pressing needs such as food and shelter, diminishing financial and time investments in education (Little & McGivern, 2016).

**Religion**

Religion is another social institution that plays a significant role in society. It is an organized system of beliefs and practices designed to fill the human needs (Durkheim, 1915).

According to Durkheim, Religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, that is to say, things set apart as sacred and forbidden.

Religion can be used to instill moral values and socialize individuals into a community. Religion plays a significant role in shaping the way people view themselves and the world around them.

It can provide comfort and security to those in need. Large religions may also provide a basis for community support, establishing institutions of its own such as hospitals and schools.

Additionally, it can also be used as a form of political control or as a source of conflict. Different sociologists have commented on the broad-scale societal effects of religion.

Max Weber, for example, believed that religion can be a force for social change, while Karl Marx viewed religion as a tool used by capitalist societies to perpetuate inequality (Little & McGivern, 2016).

**Government**

The government is another social institution that plays a vital role in society. It is responsible for maintaining order, protecting citizens from harm, and providing for the common good.

The government does this through its various sub-institutions and agencies, such as the police, the military, and the courts. These legal institutions regulate society and prevent crime by enforcing law and policy.

The government also provides social services, such as education and healthcare, ensuring the general welfare of a country or region's citizens (Little & McGivern, 2016).

**Economy**

The economy is a social institution that is responsible for the production and distribution of goods and services. It is also responsible for the exchange of money and other resources.

The economy is often divided into three sectors: the primary sector, the secondary sector, and the tertiary sector (Little & McGivern, 2016). The primary sector includes all industries that are concerned with the extraction and production of natural resources, such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, and mining.

The secondary sector includes all industries that are concerned with the processing of raw materials into finished products, such as manufacturing and construction.

The tertiary sector includes all industries that provide services to individuals and businesses, such as education, healthcare, and tourism (Little & McGivern, 2016)

**In-Text Question (ITQ) 16.4**

**List and explain the functions** of the five major social institutions

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 16.4**

**Refer to 16.4 above**

**Study Session 2: Social Organizations & roles**

Social organization refers to how a society is structured and *how members of a society organize to facilitate social cooperation. The role of social organization is that they provide guidance, they have influence over others, others respect them, they respond to the needs of others, and they put the welfare of others above their own.*

**Most societies have the five (5) leading social institutions:**

- Family.
- Economy.
- Religion.
- Education.
- Government or State.

## STUDY SESSION 17: DETERMINANTS OF SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

### Introduction

This study session 17 focused on social epidemiology and its determinants.

#### Learning outcome

At the end of this session, students will be able to define social epidemiology.

List and explain the various determinants of social epidemiology.

17.1 Social epidemiology has been defined as the branch of epidemiology that *studies the social distribution and social determinants of health* (Chandola, Kumari and Marmot 2023) Social epidemiologists study the impact of such determinants as social capital, income inequality, and social policies on health. What are the five epidemiological determinants? Epidemiologists tend to use synonyms for the 5 W's: diagnosis or health event (what), person (who), place (where), time (when), and causes, risk factors, and modes of transmission (why/how).

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 17.1

What is social status?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 17.1

Refer to 17.1 above

### 17.2 Determinants

Determinant: are any factor, whether event, characteristic, or other definable entity, that brings about a change in a health condition or other defined characteristic.

Epidemiology is also used to search for **determinants**, which are the causes and other factors that influence the occurrence of disease and other health-related events. Epidemiologists assume that illness does not occur randomly in a population, but happens only when the right accumulation of risk factors or determinants exists in an individual. To search for these determinants, epidemiologists use analytic epidemiology or epidemiologic studies to provide the “Why” and “How” of such events. They assess whether groups with different rates of disease differ in their demographic characteristics, genetic or immunologic make-up, behaviors, environmental exposures, or other so-called potential risk factors. Ideally, the findings provide sufficient evidence to direct prompt and effective public health control and prevention measures. **Social and genetic conditions are often considered as the determinant for the spread of disease.**

#### In-Text Question (ITQ) 17.2

What are the determinants of social epidemiology?

#### In-Text Answer (ITA) 17.2

Refer to 15.2 above.

**STUDY SESSION 18: BASIC SOCIOLOGICAL ASSUMPTIONS****Introduction**

This study session 18 focused on sociological assumptions.

**Learning outcome**

At the end of this session, students will be acquainted with basic sociological assumptions.

18.1 Sociological assumption are the **ideas that we feel have been established strongly enough that we can assume they are always true and we do not have to reprove them each time we test a hypothesis**. There are three basic assumptions used in social theory: **assumptions about human nature, the existence of society, and the purposes and goals of knowledge**

**In-text Question (ITQ) 18.1**

What are the determinants of social epidemiology?

**In-Text Answer (ITA) 18.1**

**Refer to 18.1 above**