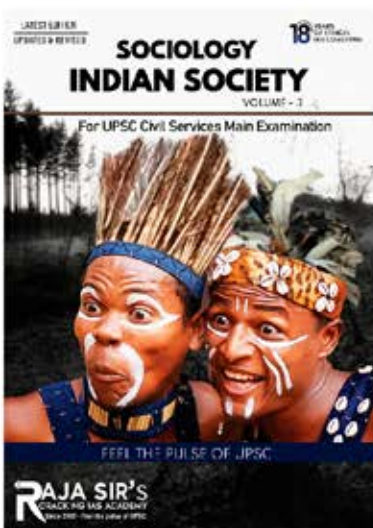
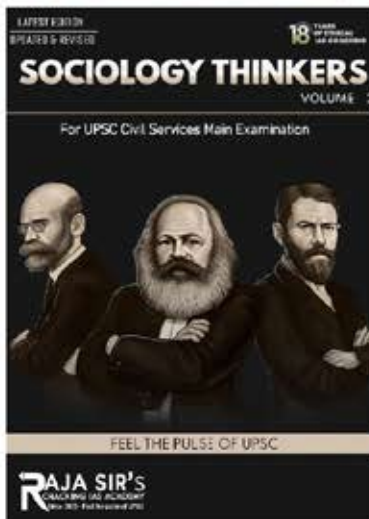


SOCIOLOGY

Answer Writing Practice



Examine "The Self as Social Emergent" from G.H.Mead's perspective.

In *Mind, Self and Society* (1934), Mead (Symbolic Interactionist) describes how the individual mind and self-arises out of the...

'Evolutionary universals in society' according to Parsons

Parsons, in his paper on "evolutionary universals in society", was concerned to develop a generalized analytical theory and remained opposed....

Distinguish between Social Progress and Social Change.

Change is an indifferent process, this can occur in any direction of good or evil, but when this occurs towards determined values.

What do you mean by Interactionist perspective in Sociology?

The functionalist and conflict perspectives both analyze behavior in terms of society wide patterns. However, many contemporary

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Examine "The Self as Social Emergent" from G.H.Mead's perspective. (20 Marks)

- In *Mind, Self and Society* (1934), Mead (**Symbolic Interactionist**) describes how the individual mind and self-arises out of the social process. Instead of approaching human experience in terms of individual psychology, Mead analyses experience from the “standpoint of communication as essential to the social order.”
- Individual psychology, for Mead, is intelligible only in terms of social processes. The “development of the individual’s self, and of his self-consciousness within the field of his experience” is pre-eminently social. For Mead, the social process is prior to the structures and processes of individual experience.
- Self is the peculiar ability to be both subject and object. The self presupposes a social process – communication among humans. Lower animals do not have selves, nor do human infants at birth.
- The self-arises with development and through social activity and social relationships. To Mead, it is impossible to imagine a self-arising in the absence of social experiences. However, once a self has developed, it is possible for it to continue to exist without social contact. The self is dialectically related to the mind. That is, on the one hand, the body is not a self and becomes a self only when a mind has developed. On the other hand, the self, along with its **reflexiveness**, is essential to the development of the mind. However, even though we may think of it as a mental process, the self is a social process. In this way, Mead seeks to give a **behaviouristic sense of the self**.
- The general mechanism for the development of the self is **reflexivity, or the ability to put ourselves unconsciously into others’ places and to act as they act**. As a result, people are able to examine themselves as others would examine them. The self also allows people to take part in their conversations with others. That is, one is aware of what one is saying and as a result is able to monitor what is being said and to determine what is going to be said next. In order to have selves, individuals must be able to get ‘outside themselves’ so that they can evaluate themselves, so that they can become objects to themselves. To do this, people basically put themselves in the same experiential field as they put everyone else. However, people cannot experience themselves directly. They can do so only indirectly by putting themselves in the position of others and viewing themselves from that standpoint. The standpoint from which one views one’s self can be that of a particular individual or that of the social group as a whole.

In Mead’s analysis, **‘Self’ is greatly dynamic** because –

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1. It carries the capability to read the self of others
2. It has capability to go for internal interaction between 'I' and 'Me'
3. It has capability to communicate with 'mind'

According to Mead, 'Self' of an individual is a process and not a thing. It is not a biological phenomenon and individual is not born with a self, but it develops as individual grows in society and is developed through communication and interactions.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Social evolution is a part of social change and both are related to the upcoming changes in the society. However there exists a difference between the social change and social evolution. Explain. (15 Marks)

Sociologists in the 19th century applied Charles Darwin's work in biological evolution to theories of social change. According to evolutionary theory, society moves in specific directions. Therefore, early social evolutionists saw society as progressing to higher and higher levels. As a result, they concluded that their own cultural attitudes and behaviors were more advanced than those of earlier societies. Auguste Comte, Hebert Spencer and Durkheim subscribed to social evolution. Emile Durkheim a functionalist, saw societies as moving from simple to complex social structures. Herbert Spencer compared society to a living organism with interrelated parts moving toward a common end. (i.e) They all proposed unilinear evolutionary theories, which maintain that all societies pass through the same sequence of stages of evolution to reach the same destiny.

Social evolution has been thus explained earlier as a social change in the form of its meaning and definition. Social change is an indifferent word, that is why, it does not signifies the quality and quantity of any good or evil things in any direction or change, whereas evolution is such a change in which direction, order, quality etc all are definite. According to this, social evolution is a part of social change and both are related to the upcoming changes in the society. We can differentiate between the social change and social evolution in the following way:

- There is **no definite direction** of social change, it can occur in up and down, back and forth, in any direction, whereas only one direction is specified for social evolution, it always happens from simplicity to complexity and from similarity to dissimilarity.
- Social change can occur **in favour of social structure and function**, else in favour of either of the two. On the other hand, in social evolution, change occurs in both social structure and function.
- Social change can occur because of both **internal and external** powers of the society, whereas social evolution occurs because of the internal powers of the society.
- In social evolution, **work distribution and characterisation** increases, whereas this is not necessary in social change.
- Social change is a global process and evolution is one part or form of it. This means that every evolution is change, but **every change is not evolution**.
- Some stages and order have been assigned to social evolution, whereas **no direction, order and stage** are specified for social change.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- The process of social evolution is slow and continuous, whereas the process for social change is **slow, continuous** and can also occur after some intervals in any form.
- Quantitative changes occur in social evolution, whereas in social change both types of **quantitative and qualitative** changes are involved.
- The stages of social evolution do not occur again, whereas in social change there is **no rule** for this. Social change can occur in the same stage from where it could have taken a new direction.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Criticism of Ghurye by M.N .Srinivas (10 Marks)

Srinivas points out that Ghurye's approach to caste can be considered as Brahminical view as he perceives that Brahmins in search of exclusivity, distinction impose certain restriction on food, dress, rituals, manners and speech as a result their way of life stand to be distinguished from the rest. Therefore Brahmins in search of exclusivity when stand distinctively ,others look forward to them as role models and thus they slowly imbibe Brahminic values but could not obtain Brahminic status. Hence relative difference between Brahmins and non-Brahmins make appearance. Those who are close to Brahmin in terms of life standards they are known as Kshatriyas and other caste divide on the basis of proximity and distance from Brahmins way of life.

Therefore Srinivas criticises Ghurye for presenting a Brahminical viewpoint of the caste system in India which subsequently offered foundation to the theory of Louis Dumont, who also presented a similar viewpoint of Brahminical supremacy.

In defence of Ghurye it can be said that, every theory also gets influenced by the time during which it is written. Ghurye's sociology was written when there were very strong anti-Brahmin movements going on in Maharashtra led by Jyotiba Phule and in Tamil Nadu initiated by Periyar.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

'Evolutionary universals in society' according to Parsons

- Parsons, in his paper on "evolutionary universals in society", was concerned to develop a generalized analytical theory and remained opposed to any view that evolutionary theory should be historical in the sense of historicism. Hence, he only adopts, tacitly, a two-stage model of social growth: the "primitive" and the "modern". He shuffles the evolutionary cards so as to distinguish between evolutionary universals and evolutionary prerequisites.
- An evolutionary universal is identified as being "a complex of structures and associated processes the development of which so increases the long-run adaptive capacity of living systems in a given class that only systems that develop the complex can attain certain higher levels of general adaptive capacity".
- Evolutionary prerequisites are universal elements in all human societies and Parsons lists four of these, their presence marking a minimum for a society to be considered truly human: technology, language, kinship and religion.
- He identifies six evolutionary universals:
 1. Social stratification.
 2. Cultural legitimation of differentiated social functions.
 3. A bureaucratic organization or the institutionalism of the authority of office.
 4. A money and market complex.
 5. Generalized universal norms, i.e. a formal legal system.
 6. A democratic association or a liberal, elected leadership.
- The first two of these evolutionary universals are of primary importance for societies to "break out" from a primitive stage of social organization. The rest have served to promote advanced industrialization, our present social order.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Distinguish between Social Progress and Social Change. (10 Marks)

Change is an indifferent process, this can occur in any direction of good or evil, but when this occurs towards determined values by the society, only then it is called progress. Should any change be called as progress or not; for this we have to observe impacts and results of change. If social change is towards determined values, it is profitable and suitable for the society; it increases the comfort and convenience of man, then we call it as progress. In other words, the change that occurs in accordance to the criteria and tests of progress is only called progress. Social progress and Social change differ in the following aspects:

- In social progress, aim is definite; moving towards it is called progress, while social change has no aim.
- The direction of social progress is definite, while no direction is fixed for social change. It can occur in any direction.
- The relation of social progress is with social values. This is an ethical concept, while social change is an indifferent process from ethical view point, which has no relation with social values.
- In social progress, society gets profits, while there are limitations and advantages obtained from social change.
- Social progress is not automatic; efforts are to be made for it, while social change can be both automatic and planned.

In this way, social progress is a part of social change. It is a change in definite, desirable and recognisable direction of society.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Is sociology a science? Discuss it through the difference between natural and social sciences

- There is a continuing controversy about the nature of sociology. According to some sociologists it is a science, while others strongly refute this claim. What is a scientific study? For a scientific study it is essential that the whole study should be systematic and without any subjectivity. A scientist is supposed to have a clear vision and a pointed approach. He should have capacity to record unbiased decisions and properly classify data's. He should also have vision to collect only such data as is useful for his study. He should conclude his findings after verification of data's and not on morality or certain pre-supposed philosophies, nations and ideas.
- The most important element of a scientific study is that a scientist should deal with bear facts and not with ideal situations. Thus this study should be both factual and systematic. Then another element is that its results should have universal application. Then in a scientific study there should be cause effect relationship and it should also be capable of making certain safe predictions.

Is Sociology A Science?

- Those who support the cause of sociology as science plead that a present day sociologists must be methodological. He must base his conclusions on impartially collected, analyzed and interpreted data. He should also be willing to get his data tested anywhere to established its validity. They also argue that like natural scientists, Sociologists are concerned with hard facts and not with ideal situations. They try to analyses facts of social life as these are. They also believe that there are many social facts and theories which the sociologists have developed after hard labor and these are universally applicable, under similar circumstances. They also point out that like natural scientists, the sociologists are very much concerned with cause effect relationship e.g. social stratification and social disorganizations are the outcome of certain causes, which have their effects as well. As with the natural scientists, so with the sociologists, it is equal true that like the former the latter can make some safe predictions. They thus argue that "sociology is a science which attempts the interpretative understanding of social action in order to arrive at a casual explanation of its causes and effects."

Sociology- Not a Science

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- There is other side of the picture as well. Many believe that society is not a perfect science. Like the results of natural sciences, the results obtained by social scientists cannot be generalized and these also cannot be same under all circumstances and at all places. The conditions always differ from society to society and social changes are unavoidable. These are also very complex. Then it is said that each human beings has his own limitations and he provides information keeping those limitations into consideration. He is not prepared to disclose secrets and thus the information provided is not factual. It is also said that the many situations are not within the control of sociologists and repeat experimentation is almost impossible.
- Each sociologist has subjective approach to the problem under investigation. There is no stage of investigation in which there is no subjectivity. Each one has some secrets which he is not prepared to disclose to the investigators. Unlike natural scientist, a sociologist has no laboratory facilities and also has no control over material to be experimented i.e. human beings. Not only this, but it is not possible to repeat experiments. It is more or less not possible to make the safe predictions because nature of social problems with which the sociologists are not the same all over the world.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

What do you mean by Interactionist perspective in Sociology?. (15 Marks)

- The functionalist and conflict perspectives both analyze behavior in terms of society wide patterns. However, many contemporary sociologists are more interested in understanding society as a whole through an examination of social interactions such as small groups conducting meetings, two friends talking casually with each other, a family celebrating a birthday and so forth. The interactionist perspective generalizes about fundamental or everyday forms of social interaction. Interactionism is a sociological framework for viewing human beings as living in a world of meaningful objects. These “objects” may include material things, actions, other people, relationships and even symbols. Focusing on everyday behavior permits interactions to better understand the larger society.
- George Herbert Mead is widely regarded as the founder of the interactionist perspective. Mead was interested in observing the minutest forms of communication-smiles, frowns, nods of the head- and in understanding how such individual behavior was influenced by the larger context of a group or society.
- Interactionists see symbols as an especially important part of human communication. In fact, the interactionist perspective is sometime referred to as the symbolic interactionist perspective. Such researchers note that both a clenched fist and a salute have social meaning which are shared and understood by the members of a society. In the U.S, a salute symbolizes respect, while a clenched fist signifies defiance. However in another culture diff gestures might be used to convey a feeling of respect or defiance.
- For instance, People in the U.S point a finger at the head (shooting); urban Japanese bring a fist against the stomach (stabbing); and the south fore of Papua , New Guinea , clench a hand at the throat (hanging). These types of symbolic interaction are classified as forms of nonverbal communication, which can include many other gestures, facial expressions, and postures.
- Erving Goffman made a distinctive contribution by popularizing a particular type of interactionist method known as the dramaturgical approach. The dramaturgist compares everyday life to the setting of the theater and stage. Just as actors present certain images, all of us seek to present particular features of our personalities while we hide other qualities. Thus, in a class, we may feel the need to project a serious image; at a party, it may seem important to look like a relaxed and entertaining person.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Comment on Methodological individualism of Max Weber

- **"Methodological individualism" (MI)** refers to the explanatory and predictive strategies which give primacy to individual action in relation to social phenomena. Weber's reason for advocating for MI derived from his view of action as purposive behavior, and his view that social outcomes need to be explained on the basis of the purposive actions of the individual actors who constitute them. So MI began with a presupposition about the unique importance of rational-intentional behavior in social life. Weber insisted on a rational actor foundation for the social sciences.
- Weber saw **society as an aggregate of individuals rather than an 'entity'**. In this sense he is close to the social constructionists but he did not go as far as they do, as they suggest that society is itself a 'social construction'. Therefore we should use methods which can examine aggregate behaviour. In *The Protestant Ethic*, he suggested that rational capitalism arose in part because of the behaviour of the Protestants, which had changed. The changing belief systems caused changes in the way that the Protestants worked, saved and spent their money. As they saved and spent their resources wisely they were able to accumulate capital which could then be invested in rational projects. This change in aggregate behaviour was one of the reasons behind the development of rational capitalism.
- The logical **contrary of MI is the idea of social holism, most explicitly advocated by Emile Durkheim** in *Rules of Sociological Method*. Holism is a form of anti-reductionism; it maintains that there are facts about the social world that do not reduce to facts about individuals. Society is autonomous with respect to the individuals who "make it up". There are social forces (e.g. systems of norms) that exercise causal power over individuals, instead of norms being constituted by the psychological states of individuals. Other varieties of social holism are possible as well.
- The **major argument in favor of MI** is the point that social facts are evidently constituted by the thoughts and behaviors of groups of individuals. Social movements are composed of individuals with specific psychologies and beliefs; organizations are composed of individuals; and, arguably, moralities and cultures are made up of individuals with specific beliefs and values. Second, there is the point that social "laws" are rare, exception-laden, and conditional; so there is a methodological reason to look for the more basic laws that may regulate social behavior -- at the level of individuals and their psychology.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Comment on Weberian class analysis in terms of Life Chances.

- Weber states that "a class situation is one in which there is a shared typical probability of procuring goods, gaining a position in life, and finding inner satisfaction": (i.e) members of a class share common life chances. Market distributes life chances according to the resources that individuals bring to it, and he recognized that these resources could vary in a number of ways. Aside from the distinction between property owners and non-owners, there is also variation according to particular skills and other assets. The important point, however, is that all these assets only have value in the context of a market: hence, **class situation is identified with market situation.**
- 1. For instance, An individual born in a worker's family receives a particular type of education, which in turn equips him or her for specific jobs. The education will not be as expensive or as intense as the education of a child in an upper class family. The employment opportunities for both are different. Their different family backgrounds also make them part of different classes.
- 2. The son of an industrialist may become a worker because of his abilities or other circumstances. But these, Weber pointed out, were exceptions and not the rule. He pointed out that what was more important was the fact that the life-chances or members of a class were similar. This is what gave permanence to that class as the next generation too joined the same class. Therefore the definition of lifechances, according to Weber, is sharing of economic and cultural goods which are available differently for different groups.
- Hence for Weber class had **two basic aspects**. Firstly it was an **objective category**. It was determined by the control or lack of control over productive property of the members. Secondly, **all members of a particular had similar life-chances**, which in turn distinguished these members from others. The life-chances of individuals depended on the their market situation in the case of those not owning productive property and on the ownership of productivity for those owning these.
- Based on his definition, Weber identified four classes in capitalist society. These were: (a) Upper class that comprised those owning or controlling productive private property. This class was similar to the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) in Marx's analysis, (b) White-collar workers. This class included all those who were engaged in mental labour -managers, administrators, professionals, etc. (c) Petty bourgeoisie. These were the self-employed and they included shopkeepers, doctors lawyers, etc. (d) Manual workers. These people sold their physical labour in exchange for wages. The working class was included in this class. **Weber thus divided society into four classes** as opposed to Marx's two-class model. Hence

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

though Weber found the basis of class formation was similar to that of Marx he differed with Marx on the types of classes in society.

Discuss in brief about Cluster Sampling in Sociological Research. How is Cluster Sampling different from Stratified Sampling? (20 Marks)

- As simple random sampling and stratified random sampling-cause heavy expenses due to the coverage of large and sparsely dispersed population and since the elements chosen in sample may lack uniformity, the total area of interest which happens to be large one, it may be conveniently divided into a number of smaller non-overlapping areas and thereafter a number of these small areas, usually called cluster, maybe chosen with the ultimate sample consisting of all the units in these small areas of cluster. These clusters may be household, city wards, or various social units. However, simple random sampling methods are used to make the sampling of clusters from the universe ; then from these selected clusters the constituent elements are drawn on the basis of random sampling, e.g. if a social scientist desires to conduct a sample study of the problems of the aged in villages of a district, he may proceed as follows :-

1. The researcher enlists all the villages within the district and selects a sample through the procedure ensuring random method.
2. For each of the villages included in the sample, he makes a list of aged persons under its jurisdiction, above a particular age.
3. For each of the villages he selects a sample of desired size on the basis of simple random sampling.

- In this way the researcher sets probability of random sampling of elements which are consistent either to a lesser or greater extent. Thus the researcher becomes capable of avoiding enormous expenses which would have been incurred in course of simple random sampling procedure.
- When the researchers researcher resorts to sub sampling within the clusters it is called Multi-stage sampling because the sampling technique is carried out in various stages, progressively from more inclusive to less inclusive sampling units until he obtains his desired sample. Thus it is a further development of the principle of cluster sampling. It is more flexible than any other methods of sampling.
- Although the cluster sampling reduces cost by confining survey to selected clusters, it certainly is less precise than random sampling. Relatively speaking,

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

the marginal error is much greater in cluster sampling. Nevertheless, it is only used because of the economic advantage and due to the fact that estimates based on cluster sample happen to be more reliable per unit cost.

Factors for Comparison	Stratified Sampling	Cluster Sampling
Definition	It is a sampling technique in which the population is divided into subgroups or strata. Here the samples are then extracted randomly from every group created.	It is a sampling technique in which the population is not divided manually into any groups. Here the samples are randomly picked from the naturally formed groups termed as clusters.
Purpose	To increase precision and representation.	To reduce cost and improve efficiency.
Divergence	Done by the researcher or group of researchers.	The clusters occur naturally forming subgroups.
Sample Selection	The sample is taken up randomly from all the manually created subgroups or strata.	The sample is taken up randomly from all over the naturally formed population clusters.
Population Assortment	The population elements are selected individually in a stratified sampling method.	In the cluster sampling method unlike stratified sampling, the elements of the population are selected collectively.
Heterogeneity	The samples are taken from between the manually created strata.	The samples are taken within the naturally developed group or cluster.
Homogeneity	The samples are taken from within the artificially created subgroups.	The samples in cluster sampling are taken from different natural clusters.
Uses	Diversification in Population.	No diversification in Population.
Subtypes	Proportionate Stratified Sampling, Disproportionate Stratified Sampling.	Single-stage Cluster Sampling, Double-stage Cluster Sampling, Multistage Cluster Sampling.
Pace	Stratified sampling is slower.	Cluster sampling is relatively faster.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a population of a state, male and female strata • For people working in a city, resident and non-resident strata • For students in a college, white, black, Hispanic, and Asian strata • For an audience of a debate regarding theology, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim strata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A researcher trying to understand the smartphone usage in Germany, here the cities of Germany will form clusters and select further towns with the highest population and also filter those using mobile devices. • A survey for evaluating the involvement of high school students in extracurricular activities. Here, selecting a class as the samples for the survey is cluster sampling. Then every member of the class is interviewed. In this case, classes are clusters of the student population.



SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Delimit the scope of Sociology in relation to other social sciences. (10 Marks).
UPSC MAINS 2022**

- The scope refers to the subject matter or area of inquiry. As a branch of social science, sociology has its own scope but there is no one opinion about it. Sociology studies human society which is marked by tremendous diversity. Same diversity is seen in the viewpoints of sociologists on society and even subject of sociology. But broadly there are two current of thoughts about scope of sociology.
- The **formal or specialist school** represented by George Simmel, Max Weber, Ferdinand Tonnis, etc. considers sociology as a pure and independent branch of knowledge distinct from all other sciences which deals with various forms of human or social relationships and behaviour. These sociologists wants to restrict the scope of sociology.
- The **synthetic school** supported by Hob House, Durkheim, Ginsberg, etc. on the other hand wants sociology to be a broad science as a synthesis of all other social sciences or a general science. According to them, sociology is a science of science and all sciences are included in its scope which is encyclopaedic and synoptic. They wants to make sociology comprehensive and wide.
- The scope of Sociology is very wide. It is regarded as a general as well as a special science. As a matter of fact, the subject matter of all social sciences is society. What distinguishes them from one another is their viewpoint. Thus economics studies society from an economic viewpoint; political science studies it from political viewpoint while history is a study of society from a historical point of view Sociology alone studies social relationships and society itself.
- MacIver correctly remarks, What distinguishes each from each is the selective interest. Green also remarks, “The focus of attention upon relationships makes Sociology a distinctive field, however closely allied to certain others it may be.”
- Sociology studies all the various aspects of society such as social traditions, social processes, social morphology, social control, social pathology, effect of extra-social elements upon social relationships etc.
- It is hence neither possible nor essential to delimit the scope of sociology because, this would be, as Spratt put it, “A brave attempt to confine an enormous mass of slippery material into a relatively simple system of pigeon holes.”

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

How does a researcher achieve objectivity in interpretative research? (10 Marks)
UPSC MAINS 2022

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SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Discuss how “environmentalism” can be explained with new social movements approach. UPSC MAINS 2022 (20 Marks)

- Interpretive research in Sociological studies is a research paradigm that is based on the assumption that **social reality is not singular** or objective, but is rather shaped by human experiences and social contexts, and is therefore best studied within its socio-historic context by reconciling the subjective interpretations of its various participants
- Objectivity means striving as far as possible to reduce or eliminate bias in the conduct of research. Weber argued that while sociologists should be interested in the subjective views of their subjects, they should remain objective in their research; others (such as **postmodernists**) **argue that objectivity is impossible at all stages of research.**
- Value neutrality, as described by Max Weber, is the duty of sociologists to identify and acknowledge their own values and overcome their personal biases when conducting sociological research. In order to be value-neutral, sociologists must be aware of their own moral judgments and values, and avoid incorporating them into their research, their conclusions, and their teaching.
- By value free sociology Weber meant that researchers' personal values and economic interests should not affect the process of social scientific analysis. If such factors affected the research process then the social action could not be represented as objective. Objective analysis were possible if sociologists use a rational method in which the research process is systematic that is
 1. empirical data must be categorised in terms of clearly formulated concepts
 2. proper rules of evidence must be employed, and
 3. only logical inference must be made.
- With the help of his methodological orientation Weber implied that value-free sociology could not be a moral science and thereby distinguished between ‘what ought to be’ that is the sphere of values from ‘what is’ the sphere of science and that social science should focus only on the latter. He also implied that new science of sociology contributes to an ongoing historical process in which magic and other forms of inherited wisdom become less acceptable as means for explaining events. Weber referred to this change as the process of rationalisation.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**Durkheim argued that society is more than the sum of individual acts. Discuss.
(10 Marks) UPSC MAINS 2022 - Sociology**

New social movements (NSMs) according to Alain Touraine, and Jurgen Habermas are described by a theory that posits that the advent of the post-industrial economy resulted in a new wave of social movements distinct from those social movements arising during the industrial economy. Jurgen Habermas argues that new social movements develop from tension between systems integration and social integration. Environmentalism refers to the study of the interactions between the natural habitat of the earth's flora and fauna, changes in human social systems, and perceptions of justice concerning human-natural environment interactions. Environmental movements that fit in to the category of 'New' Social Movement include the following features:

- While the Old social movements were based on Marxist ideology that intended to destroy the existing system and questioned or wanted to abolish authority of state, New social movement wants to seek attention of the state to its concerns. While the Old social movements had confrontational attitude, New social movement has deliberative process to negotiate and broker workable ends through workable means. In certain cases the NSM receives support from the government. For instance Indian environmental activist Rajendra Pachauri, the head of TERI was given an opportunity to head the government's Bureau of Energy Efficiency. He was conferred the civilian honours Padma Bhushan (in 2001) and Padma Vibhushan (in 2008). He rose to international fame through TERI's work on sustainable development and with his exceptional climate change negotiation skills. Vandana Shiva founder of Navdanya movement advised the government of Sri Lanka to ban inorganic fertilizers and pesticides. She has served on expert groups of Indian government on Biodiversity and IPR legislation.
- While the Old social movements are characterized by formal and hierarchical internal forms of organization, New social movements go for informal or unstructured organization rather than structures of authority.
- While the Old social movements were interested in subsistence needs, New social movement is more interested in quality of life.
- While the Old social movements owing to their limited support were generally confined within state boundaries, New social movements are however cross-country movements on account of the compassion it garners across the globe and technology acting as a catalyst.
- While in the Old social movements, beneficiaries were participants, the New social movements are being led by environmental activists and civil society organisations.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- While the Old social movements faced financial crunch, New social movement has sustained source of finance.

Environmentalism as a social movement has been a part and parcel of social life since the post-industrial phase. Early environmental movements were characterized by the features of old social movements. For instance, the Bishnoi movement led by Amrita devi is one to be noted while tracing the history of environmentalism in India.

- In the developed world, social activism in the sphere of environmentalism has metamorphized itself from age old means and goals and is witnessed by the large scale boundary less participation, movements acting as pressure groups that propagandize, electioneer and lobby, able issue centric leadership etc.
- The events of the recent past portray the rise of environmentalism. The Climate Action Strike that was streamlined and led by a teenager Greta Thunberg witnessed global support and was largely youth led and made it a point to stress the urgency of climate actions to arrest the 2 degree shift.
- NSM though studied in contrast with their older counterparts still hold on to a few features of OSM in certain instances. The rise of Extinction Rebellion a Canada based environmental movement witnessed some radical action on part of the activists.

NGOs and other civil society organisations have had a major share in the rise, sustenance and success of Environmental NSM. Greenpeace is an international organization dedicated to preserving endangered species of animals, preventing environmental abuses, and heightening environmental awareness through direct confrontations with polluting corporations and governmental authorities. In a similar fashion, Global Commons Alliance, a network of organisations working together to save the global commons and ensure a stable planet.

The NSM with the help of their able leadership, NGOs, and other civil society organisations, the environmental and ecological movements have gained pace. These movements have helped to raise people's awareness and have had considerable success and are hence an important part of India's democratic way of life.

SOCIOLOGY – PRACTICE QUESTIONS

The difference between information and data in social science is subtle.

Comment. (Paper 1)

Durkheim gave primacy to the society rather than to the individual in his evaluation of social reality. According to him, society exists over and above the individual.

According to Durkheim social facts are collective ways of acting, thinking and feeling etc. which are diffused in a given society; they are independent of individual manifestations and coercive on the individual members e.g. laws. Durkheim argued that social facts cannot be reduced to individuals, but must be studied as their own reality. Durkheim referred to social facts with the Latin term *sui generis*, which means “unique.” He used this term to claim that social facts have their own unique character that is not reducible to individual consciousness. To allow that social facts could be explained by reference to individuals would be to reduce sociology to psychology. Instead, social facts can be explained only by other social facts

In his study of suicide, Durkheim departs from psychological explanation of suicide to describing suicide as collective tendencies that exist outside the individual and grab the most vulnerable in its clutches. He classified suicide based on the amount of integration and regulation that the society exerts on the individual.

Similarly, in his study on religion, Durkheim equates religion and society. The purpose of religion is reinforcing collective conscience and increase solidarity. Durkheim's emphasis on social reality over individual has been criticized by different groups mainly the phenomenologists. They believe that the meanings attached to values by the actor must be found to understand social action as society is a creation of man.