

poverty ('the social problem'), following the recognition that poverty was not natural but social. The social survey is one of the principal methods of sociological inquiry. The basic assumption, which underlines this method, is that through the knowledge of the social conditions one can arrive at solutions to solve the social problems prevalent in society.

2.3 EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology had late origin, and its emergence as a discipline can be attributed to the vast changes that took place in the nineteenth century. The technological revolution that overtook the European Society during the nineteenth century, brought about an intellectual crisis throughout Europe. People started feeling that it was high time that they should supply answers to questions as to what society is, how it changes and how it could be reorganized.

Due to a spate in urbanisation, people got alienated from their environment, and a huge chunk of them got thrown into slums, social isolation and religious beliefs.

In other words, the Industrial revolution of England, which occurred between (1780 and 1840) and the democratic revolutions of United States of America (in 1776) and France in (1789) gave a blow to the organizational structure of the society. Although the workers were kept busy and linked with the on-going processes of change, suspicion crept in them, because of their values slowly getting eroded, absence of ethical standards and also the exploitation by the new system. There also came an unprecedented rise in social evils, and the death of the old world beliefs.

The profit-based Industrial society norm was "rich to become richer" and "poor to become poorer". The result of this attitude was that a big multitude of people got neglected and were left on their own. There was a sudden rise in crime.

Thus the huge social, economic, political and ideological ferment that took place, brought together the attention of the social workers and the intellectuals, connected with the tradition.

They toiled to explain the contemporary social influx and also to give a remedy for it, and out of this was born Sociology.

Auguste Comte developed the first complete approach to the scientific study of society. Comte also known as the founder of Sociology, had coined the term 'Social Physics'. A few years later, he abandoned the term social physics in favour of the term "Sociology".

Thus Sociology came to be formally existent after the turmoil of the "French Revolution", that brought about big changes in France, eroding feudalism and finally wiping it out.

But as stated earlier, the revolution also brought about confusion and chaos in society. Added to this, was an inexperienced Government without leadership.

These problems highlighted the concept that the demand of the hour was to give order to society without negating progress. But the crucial question was how could society achieve both these ends ?

This was an age, when mechanical power was replacing hand power, also there came about improvements in the field of communication, trade, wage system etc. As these also gave rise to various problems, people were unable to tackle a majority of them, because of their inexperience and lack of proper knowledge.

Social thinking was also getting revolutionized. Reason and Experience were slowly gaining importance and were also becoming the tests of validity of thought.

Fields of Astronomy, Chemistry, Physics etc. had expanded and scholars like Descartes, Kant and Hume laid the foundation for logical thinking.

There were also zealous social reforms taking place. Saint Simon, Robert Owen, and Engels sought to readjust economic and political life and also devised programmes, which aimed at social progress and promised social order as well.

Comte, offered his solution 'Progress is the development of order.' He felt that an essential requirement was a theoretical science

of society, which he set about to create. Comte divided sociology into 'Social Statics' and 'Social dynamics'. The former is concerned with the various parts of society such as its political, economic and social systems, while the latter is concerned with the analysis of change within and among the various parts of society.

The end product of these areas of study was the formulation of universal 'natural laws' of social life and social change. The development of these universal laws, based upon scientific knowledge could then allow for the solution of problems within society making "Social Progress" possible.

The Chief Intellectual Antecedents of Sociology were Political Philosophy, Philosophy of History, Biological theories of Evolution and the movements for social and political reform.

It was against this background that early Sociology was encyclopaedic, evolutionary and positive in its approach. Sociology also dealt particularly with the social problems arising from the political and economic revolutions of the 18th century. It was above all a science of the new Industrial Society.

Thus 18th century is very important from the point of view of the growth and development of social sciences. The credit for all this goes to various thinkers who accepted that man is a social being. The occidental thinkers viz. (Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle) alluded to the various aspects of human society. Their efforts were cursory because they never aimed to develop a distinct discipline of society. The credit goes to the French scholar, Auguste Comte who tried to develop a naturalistic science of society.

Auguste Comte constructed his ladder of the social science and placed Sociology at the top. In regard to Sociology he has made the following observations:

- (1) Sociology should be used for social reconstruction.
- (2) Its co-ordination of various social sciences.
- (3) Sociology is the comprehensive science.

It was Auguste Comte, who for the first time attempted at the scientific study of society. The result of this study was Sociology, that is why he is called the father of Sociology. Comte urged that no science could be effectively studied without competent knowledge of all the science and to study each of them in order. This is Comte's dictum to the students of Sociology.

Classification of Sociology (Auguste Comte)

Comte has classified Sociology under the following two heads:

(1) Social dynamics.

(2) Social statics.

(1) **Social Dynamics.** Society is not only static but also dynamic. It moves forward. All those factors that are responsible for the progress, development and marching ahead of society are included for study and this branch of sociology is called 'Social Dynamics'. In other words, Social Dynamics defines all those factors and causes that are responsible for social change and social disorganisation.

(2) **Social Statics.** This branch of Sociology includes all those things for its study that are responsible for the stability and organisation in the society.

One of the causes for sociology being given the highest place in the series of the Social Sciences by August Comte, was that it was a science that could be used for social reconstruction. It could be used usefully for social reconstruction and that is why Comte gave it the importance that he has put down in his works.

2.4 STAGES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

History of the development of Sociology can be divided into various stages. Generally these stages are classified as three:

- (1) The first stage of the development of sociology.
- (2) The second stage of the development of sociology.
- (3) The third stage of the development of sociology.

sociological problems. It studies Micro as well as Macro sociological problems. It means that all sorts of sociological problems form the subject matter of Sociology.

(3) **Method of Study.** The Present day Sociology follows principles of revision, classification, verification etc., that was used by sociologists of the olden days. From this point of view there is not much difference between Sociology of the past and the present.

(4) **Collective Research.** Sociological research today has assumed a collective form, original collective research was not given such an important place as is being given today.

(5) **Analytical Methods of Generalized Concept.** The modern Sociology is given important place to analytical principles and formulae. It also gives place to generalization of the concepts. As a result of these new trends of this community, Sociology has grown in this field.

STUDY OF SOCIOLOGY AS A SUBJECT

With the development of sociology, as a branch of knowledge and as a subject of study, it also found a place on the syllabus of the institution of the higher learning. It was for the first time that Sociology was given a place in the Yale University of America in the year 1876 in the curriculum of that University. After that in the year 1889, it found a place as a subject of study in the Universities of France, then in 1920 it was recognized as a subject of study in Poland, in 1924 in Egypt, in 1947 in Sweden, in 1947 in Ceylon and in 1954 in Rangoon University of Burma. In Australia and Malaysia, sociology has been studied alongwith other subjects as was done in India till two decades back.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY IN THE 20TH CENTURY

In the 20th century, Sociology and sociological principles, saw their development in a very specific and particular direction. Now, Social institutions and social processes, came to be studied under the subject matter of

Sociology. Thinkers like A. Small, C.J. Galpin and others made very valuable contribution in this direction. Cooley was the first to propound the theory of primary and secondary groups.

Park and Burgess made a study of the demographic and formal institutions. Similarly G. Trade and P.A. Ross made a study of the imitative aspect of social life. Thomas Nancy made a study of the tendencies and values in the field of sociology. In short they set a new place of the study which gave more scientific shape to sociology.

Contribution of George Simmel to the Field of Sociology. George Simmel in one of those persons, who tried to get Sociology an independent place as a science. He and his followers are the chief exponents of "Formal Sociology".

Max Weber and his Contribution to the Field of Sociology. Max Weber was of the view that methodology of Social Science can not be applied to natural science. It is not possible to discuss, study and analyse the social phenomena on a logical and scientific basis, unless the social events are classified under certain categories on the basis of certain principles of classifications. He did not agree with the view that there was a specialized field of Sociology. On the other hand he said individual or man and society, and the social interactions in general are the subject matter of the study of sociology. The theory of social actions propounded by Max Weber has been supported and further analysed by Parsons, Murdock etc.

2.7 NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology occupies a very significant place among the various social sciences. Its obvious aim is to understand the multiple aspects and dimensions of human society. In order to understand the nature of sociology in its true perspective, a brief reference of different views with regard to sociology may be made. Since the time of Comte onward, many thinkers have made significant contributions regarding the nature, scope and subject matter of sociology. However, it must be noted that their views are not identical. The following views propounded

by various social thinkers, reveal the nature and scope of Sociology :

(i) **Comte's Views** : Comte was among those thinkers who gave highest place to the scientific method in the study of human society. Comte opposed the ideal and ethical method in the study of social phenomena. He was of the opinion that human society must be studied in the scientific manner, viz. it should be observed, examined, classified and so on. According to Comte, human society is subjected to certain fundamental laws which governs the social phenomena. Therefore, sociology being the science of society, attempts to understand these fundamental laws by utilizing the methods of observation, comparison and experimentation.

(ii) **Herbert Spencer's Views on Sociology** : According to Spencer, sociology can become a science only when it is based on the law of evolution. He observed, "There can be no complete acceptance of sociology as a science so long as the belief in a social order not confirming to natural law, survives." Therefore, according to Spencer, we must learn by inspection the relations of coexistence and sequence in which social phenomena stand to one another.

(iii) **Max Weber's Views** : According to Max Weber, sociology is the interpretive understanding of social actions. They are meaningful as such for the subject matter of interpretative sociology. According to Gerth and Mills, "Interpretative sociology considers the individual and his actions as the basic unit, as its atoms....The individual is....the upper limit and the sole carrier of meaningful conduct....Such concepts as 'state' association 'feudalism', and the like, designate certain categories of human interaction. Hence it is the task of sociology, to reduce these concepts to understandable action, that is without exception, to the actions of participating individual men".

(iv) **Pareto's Views** : The main contribution of Pareto in the field of sociology is that he tried to give it a perfectly scientific base. According to him, "Sociology is a logico-experimental science." It means valid conclusions are drawn from reality with the

help of observation and experimentation. In the absence of observation and experimentation, sociology could not retain its scientific character.

(v) **Lester F. Ward** : According to Ward, Sociology is the science of human achievement. It has a delimited field of study as such he claimed that it is a true science. Ward has distinguished between 'pure' and 'applied' sociology.

(vi) **Pitrim A. Sorokin**. Pitrim A. Sorokin, is one of the eminent propounders of systematic sociology. According to him, Sociology is the generalizing theory of the structure and dynamics of social systems, cultural systems and personality. Sorokin has given equal importance to all interrelated aspects of human society. Therefore, the sociological methodology, advocated by Sorokin, is known as integral approach.

(vii) **Views of Bogardus** : Bogardus has made a very valuable contribution to the development of sociology. According to him, sociology is the study of social processes. Bogardus is of the opinion that man has different needs. In order to fulfil these needs, men have organised themselves into various groups. Through these groups they come in contact with one another and as a result of these contacts, different relations are formed.

(viii) **Green's Views** : According to Green, Sociology studies the social behaviour of man. Although, different social sciences study the various aspects of social life, for example, Economics studies the economic aspect and History studies the historical aspect to human society, but no science is able to define completely the human behaviour. Sociology is an attempt to analyse human behaviour in its entire perspective. It is a coordinated science that studies man in the context of social relations. The study of social relations differentiate it from other social science.

(ix) According to Robert Stead, 'Sociology' has the following characteristics that prove its scientific nature.

1. **Sociology is a Pure as well as an Applied Science** : Science on the basis of

opp of animate. in the way that people, animals & plants are.
 Utopian → an imaginary place or state where everything is perfect.

certain characteristics, has been divided into two categories, namely, pure and applied. According to **Martindale and Monachesi**, the pure science studies the old principles, in the light of new problems. It is theoretical. On the other hand, an applied science is more concerned with practical application. But sociology is concerned with both the theoretical and practical aspects. According to **Robert Stead**, although sociology is a pure theoretical science, yet it has a practical aspect as well. Sociology is not confined only to the study of social phenomena. The knowledge that it acquires about social phenomena is applied for the betterment of human society. In fact, the theoretical and practical aspects are inter-related. There cannot be a theory without practice and practice without theory is useless.

2. **Sociology is a Science of Generalization** : Sociology studies social phenomena in general. From this point of view, Sociology is different from other Social Sciences, like Economics, Political Science and History. Economics studies the economic aspect and political science studies the political aspect of human society. But **Sociology** studies the social phenomena comprehensive.

3. **Sociology is a Social Science and Not a Natural Science** : Sociology is a Social Science. It studies man as a member of society. On the other hand, Natural sciences study the natural phenomena, that are inanimate.

4. **It is an Abstract Science, Not a Concrete One**. Sociology is the study of society in general. As the concept of society is abstract, as such, the science that analyses this abstract concept is also abstract. However, it does not mean that sociology is a Utopian science. It studies social phenomena in general and does not bother about the concrete phenomena. From this point of view Sociology is an abstract science.

5. **It is a Positive Science and Not a Normative One** : Sociology studies the social phenomena as it is. It does not suggest about the normative forms of the things.

6. **Sociology is a General Science** : Sociology studies the social phenomena in a

general manner. Other social sciences study the society from a particularistic point of view. Therefore, sociology has been regarded as a general science.

7. **Sociology is a Rational Empirical Science** : Sociology has developed its own methods and techniques of study. It collects data and classifies them, tries to study the cause and effect relationship and formulate general theories. From this point of view, it adopts logical and empirical methods. Thus, Sociology is a logical and empirical science.

2.8 SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is a growing science and it is not easy to delimit its scope in clear cut terms. The different views with regard to the scope of sociology have been classified into the following schools:

- (1) Formal School.
- (2) Synthetic School.

(1) FORMAL SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY

According to this school, Sociology is a special science and occupies a special status. The chief propounders of this school are **George Simmel, Beer-Kandt and Bon-Wiese**, etc. According to them, Sociology studies the form of human relations. It does not study the factors, connected with the social phenomena.

Forms of Social Relations. According to **George Simmel**, human relations or social relations have the following two aspects:

- (a) Form.
- (b) Content.

Sociology studies the form of the social relationships or human relationships. If all the factors concerning forms of social relationship are included in it, its scope will become very wide. According to **Kandt**, society has certain mental traits because of which the members of the society get connected with one another. Love, respect, sacrifice, fame and desire to earn fame are such mental traits that bring the members of the society together. **Bon-Wiese** has, on the other hand, categorised the social relations into various parts, under various groups. The main object of all these sociologists, is to give a special place to formal school of sociology.

Small's Opinion : Small's way of thinking concurs with Simmel's. According to Small, Sociology does not undertake to study all the activities of society. Every science has a delimited scope. The scope of Sociology is the study of the genetic forms of social relationships, behaviours and activities etc.

Max Weber's Contention : According to Max Weber, the scope of Sociology consists in the interpretation of social behaviour. Sociological laws are those empirically established generalisations of social behaviour, whose meaning can be determined or which can be explained.

Tonnies Opinion : Tonnies has supported the idea of pure sociology. He has differentiated between society and community on the basis of forms of relationships. In this way, according to the Specialistic School, Sociology studies one specific aspect of social relationships and behaviour, viz. their forms and scope:-

Characteristics and Limitations of the Formal School of Sociology

Formal school of sociology, no doubt, is an important method of study of the scope or the subject matter of Sociology. In spite of its recognized place, it suffers from the following weaknesses.

(i) The Concept of Form and Content and Unpractical Classification. The division of social relations into form and content, is artificial. It is not possible to separate the form of social relationship from its contents.

(ii) Limitation of the Scope : It is wrong to assume that only sociology studies the social relations. Other Social Sciences also study the social relationships. If only we make the study of social relationship the mantle of Sociology, we shall be limiting the scope of Sociology.

All these weaknesses go to show that it is neither wise nor practical to determine the scope of Sociology on the basis of formal school. Sociology is not a science which can be given a special and independent place without taking into account its co-relation with others.

(iii) Unpractical. This is true that every science has a special field or subject matter,

but it does not mean that one science is completely divorced and different from others. Sociology may have a special place as a science, but it is not possible to separate it from other social sciences. In fact this is an age of co-relation and it is not possible to study one science completely apart from other sciences.

(2) SYNTHETIC SCHOOL OF SOCIOLOGY

According to this school, Sociology is a general science, which studies various events that, fall within the scope of study of other sciences. Thus Sociology has more or less a general scope. It is based on the following principles:

(i) Different Social Sciences Study Different Aspects of the Society. This school is based on the concept that different social sciences study different aspects of the society. For example, Economics studies the economic aspect, Ethics the moral or the ethical aspects and so on. Similarly Sociology studies various types of social relations.

(ii) Organic Structure of the Society. According to this school, the structure of the society is like the structure of the human body. Various parts and organs of the human body are interrelated. Similarly, various organs of the society are also interrelated. Social relationship consists of various factors that determine the interrelationship or various groups.

Characteristics of the Synthetic School of Sociology. Durkheim, Hobhouse, Ginsberg, Giddings, Sorokin, etc. are the main exponents of the Synthetic school of Sociology.

▶ "Sociology is the science of collective representation and sociology studies the social problems from this very angle."

—Durkheim

▶ "Sociology is the synthesis of various social sciences".

—Hobhouse

▶ According to Sorokin "Sociology studies, in general, various aspects of the social relationship and therefore, it cannot be called a special science".

—Sorokin

Sociology—A Study of Social Phenomena in General. Sociology is, according to Synthetic School, the study of social phenomena in general. This concept is quite valid to a very great extent. Social phenomena includes various aspects of the society and sociology studies the social relationships and the social phenomena in general. Society has various aspects, Sociology which studies the social phenomena in general, draws upon various social sciences. That is why **Huntington** had said that Sociology studies the social phenomena. Various aspects of the social phenomena are studied by other social sciences as well. Therefore, it is not very easy to say, that Sociology is a special science or it studies a special aspect of the social phenomena.

For man, his life and its problems are more important than other things. The mystery of twinkling stars may haunt him but not with that intensity with which the problems of bread and survival do. Sociology is the science of man and society. Hence its importance is self-evident. We practise the laws, which move the society in our lives, though unconsciously. In our reactions to other people, we are experimenting in Sociology. But it is only Sociology as a science which brings the hidden power, potentials and laws of man and his social life to the conscious level.

Even in this era of quick transport and instantaneous means of communication, man has now gone far from the stage of social awareness, in which he was decades ago. A factory workman is almost untouched by the life and problems of a farmer. So are other classes of society. Each separate group or professional unit in our society thinks that the whole society is constituted upon its own image or pattern. Hence, to that unit, all social evils can be eradicated by the upliftment of itself. It is only within the capacity of Sociology alone to bring out the man from his shell and view the problems of his society from all angles and from all perspectives. Problems of society, as a whole, cannot be solved by taking up limited approach. Sociology gives us a deep comprehensive, a broad, scientific and historical

outlook. It enlarges the scope of social observations and gives a more tolerant view of social evils.

Man's progress depends on his handling of resources. Human as well as physical resources both count. But human resources come first and hence are more important. I quote Gillin and Gillin, "It is common to speak of people's resources in material terms such as coal, iron, oil, forests, soil, domestic animals and the like. But a fundamental factor which is still only dimly appreciated is the most important of all resources are human resource, the energy, intelligence and purposiveness of people." It is Sociology which studies the human resources in society, their potential and how they determine the total strength of society.

Modern society is based on co-operation and association. But these call for an extension of knowledge, for without common pool of facts we cannot come to agreements. One of the most important and urgent problems facing mankind today is to evolve means and methods by which mutual agreements could be arrived at without recourse to war conflicts. Sociology alone appears to be in a position, by virtue of its scope and tolerant attitude, to come out with a suitable solution. Economics, Politics and other Social Sciences have a one-sided approach. Then there are the problems of food and population, of cultural conflicts of tension and of liberty. It is within the scope of Sociology to make a practical approach to all such problems. With the gradual awareness of the importance and necessity of planned action in all the human efforts, the importance of Sociology has correspondingly increased. (ii) Planning implies consideration of all social problems in the totality of their inter-relationship. Social problems cannot be taken up in isolation. Planning also necessitates right measurement of means, the full awareness of the ends and correct anticipation of the results. Sociology, by its study of man as a whole social being, gives the right answer and provides the right means for planned performances in human affairs. Its study can be useful in organising and manipulating physical as well

SOCIOLOGY-THE DISCIPLINE

as human resources for the general prosperity and consequent human happiness.

SOME CRITICISMS

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