

Introduction to Sociology

Class Test – 3

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Q2. Explain accidents as social pathology.

Ans. Accidents may be categorised as a "social pathology" when viewed as a social phenomenon. Accidents may be the result of individual carelessness, but recurring patterns in accidents in a population are warning signs that something isn't working properly. In such situations, it is the duty of society as a whole to address the problem.

Accidents are not restricted to those caused by "deadly weapons," i.e. motor vehicles. Homicides and suicides may also be included. Accidents as social pathology refer to any abnormal occurrence that disrupts the smooth functioning of society and reflects a defect in society.

It is important to identify social trends that may explain incidents in order to recognise them as social pathology. There are certain trends, which contribute to the fact that some groups of people are more susceptible to injuries than others. Some people observe accident patterns over time and conclude that the increased number of incidents is simply a result of today's angry, agitated society. According to statistics, teenagers are more likely to be involved in car accidents. According to study, children raised in families with stronger relationships and integration are less likely to be involved in incidents than children raised in broken families. Aside from upbringing, the increased incidence of accidents among youths is due to their various reasons for driving motor vehicles. Many young people see owning a car as a sign of independence and liberation from parental control. This propensity to revolt against authority, coupled with the restlessness and emotional imbalance of youth, results in a higher risk of an accident.

Many social regulations are being implemented in an effort to prevent incidents. Conventional traffic laws, driver training, and accident-proofing cars and roads have little effect. Restrictive laws incite revolutionary impulses, and people seem to want to break these laws in order to oppose them. Accident prevention can be more of a recovery mechanism in which problem individuals (those with criminal records) and the majority of the youth population are taught emotional control as well as taking responsibility for their acts. Only by raising concerns about the dangers of driving a car and other activities will we expect to reduce accidents.

Q3. Explain joint family types and nature reflecting on the changes and the future of the joint family in India.

Ans. Throughout Indian history, joint families have been an important part of the society. Co-residentiality is a significant factor in jointness. Different sociologists have suggested various forms of joint families. They do, however, share certain characteristics such as living together, sharing sources of income, preparing food in the same kitchen, and so on. Conjugal, parental-filial, inter-sibling, lineal, and affinal relations are the most common forms of relations in a joint family. According to Ram Ahuja, there are four forms of kinship in a joint family: principal, secondary, tertiary, and distant. He also defines a "fissioned family," which is a nuclear family that is not related to the father's or married brother's family.

The joint families share a system in which one person has the authority to make decisions and others must obey that person. Seniority determines authority. Parent-child relationships are preferred over husband-wife relationships. The male is the more powerful member of the family. The family has similar values, and all roles and occasions are shared by the whole family.

Changes in joint family organisation and power sharing have occurred in recent years. The dominant roles of males in the family have diminished to some degree as women's education has increased. Furthermore, people have begun to choose nuclear families or smaller joint families of up to two generations. Nuclear families are becoming more common in urban areas, while joint families are still prevalent in rural areas. Despite the fact that families have become more nuclear, people continue to carry out their responsibilities as members of a larger joint family. There has also been a shift in the nature of parent-child relationships (from patriarchal to parents seeking assistance from their children), as well as daughter-in-law and parent-in-law relationships (more importance to conjugal relations).

Women's status in the family is expected to change further in the future. Divorce rates would increase as families are less influenced by social pressure and more influenced by emotional ties. There would be greater control over marriage and birth control. Overall, joint families do not become extinct. Even if institutional disappearance happens, joint families and responsibilities will continue to exist in the Indian sense. People also have the compassion to assist relatives and consider them extended family.

Short Answers

ii) Stages of alcoholism

Ans. Alcoholism, according to Jellinek, progresses through four stages:

- Pre-alcoholic symptomatic phase: During this stage, an individual begins drinking to relieve stress and solve personal problems. He continues to look for reasons to drink because he associates it with relaxation.
- Prodigious phase: During this phase, the amount of alcohol consumed increases in tandem with the frequency of consumption. However, the individual develops a sense of remorse and realises that he is increasingly becoming an abnormal person.

- Crucial phase: At this stage, drinking becomes noticeable. A individual creates rationalisations in order to withstand social pressures and to reassure himself that he is still in control of himself.
- Chronic phase: The level of drinking is extremely high during this time. He is suffering from excessive addiction, mental confusion, unfathomable fears, dizziness, and the loss of certain abilities. He is constantly obsessed with drinking and feels restless when he is not drinking.

iii) Changes in family

Ans. A number of shifting trends have been found in recent empirical studies. These modifications can be divided into two categories:

- Structural changes: The number of fissioned families is growing, however they fulfil their responsibilities to their parents. Rural communities are more united, while urban communities are more divided. The traditional joint family has shrunk in size. Values maintain the functional form of joint family. Traditional to transitional family changes include new-local residency, practical jointness, individual equality, equal status for women, and increased individualism.
- Interactional Changes: There are changes in the relationships between family members. In husband-wife relationships, the wife has equal control. From culture to resource, the basis of power changes. In the relationship between parents and their children. The patriarch has given way to parents, who consult their children on all major decisions.

According to these surveys, the value of the nuclear family is growing over time. Women's liberation as a result of education and economic freedom. Structure shift, less children to care for, and more elderly people surviving. As a result, family size is reducing.