

## **1. Explain functionalism and interpretable theory?**

Ans: Sociology aims to comprehend human behavior and the functioning of society, encompassing diverse theoretical frameworks that provide distinct outlooks on social phenomena. The two most prominent theoretical stances in sociology are functionalism and interpretative theory. This article intends to explore the definitions of these theories and their contrasting approaches to the study of society.

Functionalism theory posits that society is a complex and interconnected system that functions to maintain social order and stability. As per functionalists, society can be likened to a living organism, with each part serving a specific purpose and contributing to the overall health of the system. The theory suggests that social institutions, such as government, religion, and education, are essential components of society, as they fulfill the needs of both individuals and the larger society.

In contrast, interpretive theory focuses on the importance of individual perspectives and how they shape actions and interactions with others. Interpreters argue that social reality is not objective and unchanging, but is instead subject to personal interpretation. They believe that people create and maintain their social reality through their interactions with others, and that this reality is constantly evolving as people's perceptions and meanings shift over time.

Functionalism and interpretive theory hold contrasting viewpoints, with the former giving more weight to social structure than agency. Functionalists consider social structure as a determining factor in shaping human behavior and view people as passive recipients of social norms and values. Conversely, interpretive theorists place a greater emphasis on people's agency and their capacity to create and interpret their social reality.

Furthermore, the two perspectives also differ in their approach to social change. Functionalists contend that social change is a gradual and evolutionary process that occurs in response to the changing needs of society. Interpretive theorists, however, argue that social change emerges from both individual and collective efforts to challenge and transform existing power structures.

To summarize, functionalism and interpretive theory are two significant theoretical perspectives in sociology that provide distinct approaches to comprehending society. Functionalism highlights the significance of social structures and institutions in maintaining social order, while interpretive theory emphasizes the subjective interpretations of individuals and their impact on social reality. Despite their differences, both perspectives contribute to a better understanding of the complex and ever-changing nature of human society.

## **2. Explain scope of sociology?**

**Ans:** Sociology is the study of social relationships, institutions, and human behavior is the main focus of sociology, which is a scientific field. It examines the impact of social structures on individuals' interactions, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. Sociologists use various research methods to investigate social phenomena and identify patterns and trends in social behavior. Sociology has practical applications in informing policy decisions, comprehending social issues, and gaining insight into the complexities of human social behavior.

The scope of sociology is explained below: -

- **German/Specialist/Formalistic School of thought**

The German School of sociology placed a strong emphasis on the need to research social phenomena in a scientific and unbiased manner, with particular attention paid to social institutions, group behavior, social dynamics, social activities, labor division, social structure, and system. German sociologists contend that knowing human behavior is essential to understanding social outcomes and that social structures like institutions and organizations have a big impact on how people interact with one another.

- **French/Synthetic/Informal school of thought**

The French School of sociology, commonly referred to as the Synthetic School, emphasized the value of a comprehensive method for examining society that takes into consideration the interactions between various social phenomena. This school of thought held that society should include all varieties of social phenomena, from formal to informal, and that the instruments, procedures, and methodology employed by researchers should be suitable and sufficient to render their conclusions reasonable and reliable. The dynamic mechanisms that shape social life were of particular concern to French sociologists.

In conclusion, the Synthetic school of thought encourages the study of society as a whole while the Formalistic/Specialist school emphasises the study of particular components that make up society. It is crucial to remember that these two strategies might work well together rather than in opposition to one another. As a result, sociology can be viewed as a specific topic of study as well as a broad science of society.

## **3. Relationship of sociology with other social science.**

**Ans:** The study of human social behavior, connections, and institutions is known as sociology. It is a scientific field that investigates the interactions between people and groups within social structures and how these structures affect people's behavior, beliefs, and attitudes.

The relationship of sociology with other social sciences are described as follows:

- **Anthropology:** Examining human behavior and culture is a shared focus of anthropology and sociology. Sociology focuses on today's societies, whereas anthropology explores human communities and cultures across various eras and regions. To study social phenomena, both fields use qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- **Economics:** Economics and sociology approach the study of human behavior from different angles. Sociology is concerned with social behavior and how social structures and institutions influence economic conduct, whereas economics is concerned with the examination of individual behavior in markets and the distribution of scarce resources. These professions look into social and economic events using quantitative research methods.
- **Political science:** Political science and sociology share a tight link since they both study how power and authority operate in society. Sociology stresses how power is distributed and used in society, whereas political science focuses on the study of political institutions and the state. These professions look into social and political events using qualitative and quantitative research techniques.
- **Psychology:** Psychology and sociology both focus on human behavior and are related academic disciplines. Sociology examines social behavior as well as how social structures and institutions affect individual conduct, whereas psychology focuses on individual behavior and the operation of the mind. To study human behavior, both fields use quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- **History:** History and sociology both have an interest in examining the evolution of human societies and cultures. Sociology focuses on modern societies, whereas history is more concerned with earlier communities and cultures. These professions use qualitative research techniques to analyze social issues

To conclude, sociology and other social sciences are intertwined, and interdisciplinary research is essential to understanding complex social phenomena. The social science of sociology provides a unique perspective on social structures and behavior that complements other social sciences.

#### 4. Define role and explain its types.

**Ans:** The behavior and expectations that go along with a specific position or status in a society or group are referred to as social roles. It is a set of expectations and norms that specify how people

should act in a specific social setting. Social roles may be determined by a number of variables, including gender, age, ethnicity, occupation, and social status.

Roles can be formal or informal, and they can be influenced by many different things, such as culture, social norms, and individual characteristics.

- **Formal roles:** It is jobs that are designated within companies or social systems and typically come with titles, job descriptions, and specific responsibilities. These roles are crucial for the smooth operation of a company because they enable the equitable allocation of tasks and responsibilities and guarantee that everyone is aware of their place in the company. Formal roles might include several different job titles, including managers, supervisors, and employees, each with its own responsibilities.
- **Informal roles:** Informal roles naturally evolve in groups or organizations without any official classification. These roles are often defined by elements like social position, personality, and skill and result from how individuals interact with one another and form relationships within the group. Mediators, thought leaders, and social organizers are a few examples of these unofficial positions.
- **Role-taking:** Role-taking is the process through which people adopt a specific role depending on social cues or expectations. Understanding the behaviors and expectations associated with a particular role and making the necessary adjustments are part of this process. Role-taking can be influenced by a variety of elements, including cultural norms, social conditioning, and personality attributes. Since it lets people to comprehend and navigate social situations, it is a crucial part of social interaction.
- **Role behavior:** Role behavior is the behaviors or actions that people exhibit while acting out their assigned roles. Many elements, including personality qualities, societal norms, and business culture, can influence this behavior. The importance of role behavior is found in its capacity to assess an individual's aptitude for carrying out the responsibilities and duties assigned to them, having an impact on the efficiency of organizations.
- **Role conflict:** Role conflict occurs when a person encounters expectations that are incompatible with their numerous responsibilities. These competing demands may result from official or informal positions, or they may happen as a result of a discrepancy between a person's ideals and the standards expected of them in a certain role. Individuals may experience stress as a result, which could have a negative effect on their work and general well-being.

## 5. What do you understand by family and explain its characteristics?

**Ans:** A family is a group of individuals who are related to one another through blood, marriage, or adoption. Family members may live together or apart and may have shared emotional ties and resources. In order to provide socialization, emotional support, and financial security, families are essential. They help members feel like they belong, give them a sense of identity, and mold their attitudes and values. Families also provide a nurturing and safe environment for kids to develop and thrive.

Families possess various significant characteristics, such as:

- **Sex or marital Relationship:** A family is often started by a sexual or marital union between two people, typically a man and a woman, which acts as the essential cornerstone of the family structure and serves as the foundation for reproduction.
- **Universality:** The family is a universal social institution that exists in all countries, however its composition and form may differ depending on the cultural setting.
- **Emotional relationship:** Families typically have a strong emotional bond with one another that is fueled by sentiments of love, caring, and support. They frequently confide in one another and stand by one another in good times and bad, providing a sense of community and safety.
- **Limited size:** A family is a typically small social group made up of a select few people who are connected to one another through blood, marriage, or adoption. The main family unit often consists of parents and their kids, while other relatives including grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins may also be present.
- **Social regulation:** The duties and obligations of family members are determined by social conventions and expectations, which apply to all families. By establishing these norms and expectations, families may better control behavior and maintain harmony within the unit.
- **Common habitation:** Families typically share a home where they share a living space, meals, and other resources. This shared living situation encourages social interaction and helps to strengthen the emotional connection between family members.

## 6. Explain the major uses of kinship?

**Ans:** Kinship describes the interpersonal connections that result from blood ties, marriage, or adoption. It is a form of social organization that determines who is related to whom and how, as well as how different facets of social life, like marriage, inheritance, and where people live, are governed.

Some major uses of kinship are mention below:

- **Rule of avoidance:** In all communities, avoidance is a common behavior that takes many different forms. It entails two members of the same kin avoiding one another, which may even include avoiding eye contact or other direct interactions. This behavior can also be used to avoid social interactions in addition to sexual encounters.
- **Joking Relationship:** A social dynamic known as joking allows people to tease and joke around with each other without offending each other. Unlike an avoidance relationship where conflict is avoided, this one is different. Although one person may have the social standing to tease and criticize other people, this humor is often permissible in the framework of the partnership. For instance, "Sali-vinaju" or "soltee-solteeni" is a joking connection that creates social relationships, reduces stress, and fosters rapport in Nepali culture.
- **Socialization and education:** In many communities, kinship ties play a significant role in the socialization and education of young people. Family members frequently serve as children's primary caregivers and teachers, and via their interactions and connections, they transmit cultural customs, values, and beliefs.
- **Marriage and reproduction:** In many communities, kinship ties play a key role in regulating marriage and procreation. Several cultural norms, like as taboos against incest and restrictions on exogamy (marriage beyond one's own family group), serve to uphold social order and counteract the negative impacts of inbreeding.
- **Conflict resolution:** Kinship relationships can be important in mediation and dispute resolution. In instances where formal judicial procedures may not be available or effective, family members and other kinship links can act as impartial mediators to assist resolve conflicts and mend relationships.
- **Political organization:** In many communities throughout history, kinship relationships have been crucial to political leadership and structure. In traditional cultures, members of particular kinship groups frequently held leadership posts, and family ties were exploited to forge coalitions and consolidate power.

## 7. What do you understand by research? Explain its major steps.

**Ans:** Research is a systematic approach to collecting and analyzing information to gain knowledge and understanding of a subject. It involves using various methods and tools to gather reliable data, which is then analyzed to address research questions or test hypotheses. Research is conducted in diverse fields, such as social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities. The main purpose of research is to contribute to the existing knowledge base and provide evidence-based information for decision-making, policy development, and future research.

The major steps of research are mention below: -

- **Formulating Research Questions:** It is essential to construct clear and distinct research queries that define the parameters of the study at the beginning of any research procedure. These questions ought to be pertinent, attainable, and answerable.
- **Objective of the Research:** Defining the study objectives comes next after developing the research questions. These goals must also be specific, quantifiable, reachable, pertinent, and time-bound, among other requirements.
- **Literature review:** This step involves a detailed analysis of the literature, research, and studies that are pertinent to the research issues. The goal of the literature review is to identify knowledge gaps and support the creation of the research methodology.
- **Research Methodology:** Choosing the best research methodologies and strategies to collect and analyze data is vital during this phase. The chosen research approach must be compatible with the current study questions and objectives.
- **Data collection:** Using the selected research methodologies and procedures, data are collected at this phase to make sure it is relevant, reliable, and applicable to the study questions and objectives.
- **Data Processing and Analysis:** This step involves processing and analyzing the collected data to derive meaningful insights and conclusions. This step involves statistical analysis, visualization, and interpretation of data.
- **Summary, conclusion, and recommendations:** During this stage, the researcher examines and summarizes the study's findings, drawing conclusions and making recommendations based on the research aims. They interpret the data, identify significant patterns, and suggest areas for further research. This step is crucial in understanding the research's significance and implications.
- **Limitations of research:** At this stage, it's important to understand the study's limitations, which may include restrictions on data collection, research methods, or results analysis.
- **Reference:** As part of its reference section, the research report should provide a list of all the sources used for the literature study and research.

In order to address research questions, examine data, and produce meaningful discoveries that can advance our understanding of a particular field of study, the research process generally requires a well-structured and planned strategy.

## 8. What is sampling? Explain probability and Non-probability?

**Ans:** Sampling is the technique of selecting a smaller group of data from a larger population to investigate or estimate the traits of the entire population. As it's often unfeasible or impossible to examine every individual in a population, statistics commonly employs sampling. Sampling is frequently utilized in a variety of sectors, including social sciences, market research, and medical research.

The sample's quality and the methods employed to collect it are critical for ensuring the validity and reliability of any inferences or conclusions formed from it. Choosing the right sampling method is crucial to ensure a representative sample and valid results. Data collection from the sample can be done via surveys, interviews, or observations and then analyzed to draw inferences about the population.

There are two main types of sampling methods: probability sampling and non-probability sampling:

**Probability sampling:** It is a method of selecting a sample from a larger population, where each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected for the sample. Probability sampling is more complex, more time-consuming and usually more costly than non-probability sampling. Probability sampling uses statistical theory to randomly select a small group of people (sample) from an existing large population and then predict that all their responses will match the overall population.

Here are some of the most effective types of probability sampling:

- **Simple random sampling:** It is an entirely random method of selecting the sample. This sampling method is as easy as assigning numbers to the individuals (sample) and then randomly choosing from those numbers through an automated process. Finally, the numbers that are chosen are the members that are included in the sample.
- **Stratified random sampling:** In stratified random sampling, the population is divided into subgroups or strata based on specific criteria such as age or gender. Participants are then randomly selected from each stratum to ensure that the sample is representative of the entire population.
- **Cluster sampling:** Cluster sampling is a technique where the population is divided into clusters or groups, and then a random sample of clusters is selected for the study. All members of the selected clusters are included in the sample, which makes the process more efficient and cost-effective.



**Non-probability sampling:** It is a method of picking a sample from a population in which not every member has an equal chance of being chosen. Non-probability sampling, in other words, does not include the random selection of participants from the population. Instead, the sample is chosen based on variables like as availability, accessibility, and desire to participate. It is a less stringent method. This sampling method depends heavily on the expertise of the researchers. It is carried out by observation, and researchers use it widely for qualitative research.

Non-probability sampling is a method in which not all population members have an equal chance of participating in the study, unlike probability sampling. Each member of the population has a known chance of being selected. Researchers use this method in studies where it is impossible to draw random probability sampling due to time or cost considerations.

Here are some of the most effective types of probability sampling:

- **Convenience Sampling:** It is a non-probability sampling technique where samples are selected from the population only because they are conveniently available to the researcher. Researchers choose these samples just because they are easy to recruit, and the researcher did not consider selecting a sample that represents the entire population.
- **Consecutive sampling:** This non-probability sampling method is very similar to convenience sampling, with a slight variation. Here, the researcher picks a single person or a group of a sample, conducts research over a period, analyzes the results, and then moves on to another subject or group if needed. Consecutive sampling technique gives the researcher a chance to work with many topics and fine-tune his/her research by collecting results that have vital insights.
- **Quota sampling:** Quota sampling is defined as a non-probability sampling method in which researchers create a convenience sample involving individuals that represent a population. Researchers choose these individuals according to specific traits or qualities.
- **Judgmental or purposive sampling:** In the judgmental sampling method, researchers select the samples based purely on the researcher's knowledge and credibility. In other words, researchers choose only those people who they deem fit to participate in the research study.
- **Snowball sampling:** Snowball sampling is defined as a non-probability sampling technique in which the samples have rare traits. This is a sampling technique, in which existing subjects provide referrals to recruit samples required for a research study.

## 9. What is interview? Explain the major types of interview.

**Ans:** An interview typically involves a structured dialogue between an interviewer, who conducts the interview, and an interviewee, who participates in it. The primary objective of an interview is usually to assess the suitability of the interviewee for a specific job, program, or opportunity.

There are various types of interviews that serve different purposes and possess distinctive characteristics. These categories comprise of open-ended interviews, closed-ended interviews, key informant interviews, structured interviews, and unstructured interviews.

- **Open-Ended Interview:** An open-ended interview is a type of interview where the interviewer asks wide-ranging and unrestricted questions that allow the interviewee to provide detailed and descriptive answers. The use of open-ended interviews is common in research or journalism because it allows for the collection of detailed and nuanced data that can be analyzed or reported on.
- **Close-Ended Interview:** A closed-ended interview is a type of interview where the interviewer asks specific questions that typically require short, factual answers from the interviewee. Closed-ended interviews involve the interviewer asking predetermined questions that demand quick and accurate responses. These interview types are commonly used in quantitative research studies to gather consistent data that can be easily compared and analyzed. In job interviews, closed-ended questions are frequently utilized to evaluate a candidate's abilities, knowledge, and qualifications based on their answers to pre-established questions.
- **Key-informant Interview:** A key informant interview is a specific kind of interview that is used in research and evaluation studies to collect data from people who are thought to be experts or important stakeholders in a given field. These interviews are frequently conducted to gather information and viewpoints on a particular subject or problem.
- **Structured Interview:** A structured interview is a particular kind of interview where a predefined list of questions or topics are publicly discussed in a uniform manner. The interviewer asks the same questions to each interviewee in the same order while adhering to a predetermined script or questionnaire. Structured interviews are commonly used in quantitative research studies where the goal is to collect data that can be statistically analyzed.
- **Unstructured Interview:** An unstructured interview is one where the interviewer does not follow a pre-planned list of questions or topics, but rather allows the conversation to develop naturally based on the interviewee's responses. The aim of an unstructured interview is to

obtain comprehensive information on a specific topic or issue, often by exploring the interviewee's experiences, feelings, and thoughts.

## **10.What do you understand by observation and explain its types.**

**Ans:** The method of observation is used to gather data in a variety of fields, including the social sciences, the natural sciences, and education. It involves watching and recording actions, events, and behaviors as they take place in their natural environment. Understanding human behavior, social interactions, and environmental phenomena can all be learned through observation.

There are various types of interviews that serve different purposes and possess distinctive characteristics. These categories comprise of participant observation, controlled observation, non-participant observation, structured observation, and unstructured observation.

- **Participant Observation:** A research technique called participant observation involves the researcher joining the group being studied and taking part in its activities while keeping an eye on them. The researcher immerses themselves in the group's environment and culture while observing and documenting their interactions and behavior. Gaining a thorough understanding of the group's beliefs, values, and practices from within is the aim of participant observation.
- **Non-participant observation:** Non-participant observation is a research technique that involves keeping a safe distance from a phenomenon or group of people while still keeping track of it. The subjects are unaware that they are being watched, and the researcher continues to observe them from a distance.
- **Controlled Observation:** Controlled observation is a research methodology that entails observing a phenomenon in a controlled environment or setting. To test a hypothesis, this approach is commonly implemented in a laboratory or other controlled environment where the researcher can manipulate variables.
- **Structured Observation:** Structured observation is a research method that involves systematic and deliberate observation of behaviors, events, or interactions based on a pre-established set of categories or codes. This method is commonly utilized in quantitative research to gather data that can be easily quantified and statistically analyzed using predetermined codes or categories.
- **Unstructured Observation:** Unstructured observation is a research technique that involves watching individuals, things, or events without having a set plan or structure. Without imposing any predefined categories or variables, it enables the researcher to investigate the phenomenon under study. Instead, the researcher takes careful notes on what they see, including the actions, interactions, and surroundings of the people or things they are observing.

## 11. Write down the difference between qualitative and quantitative research?

**Ans:** The difference between qualitative and Quantitative Research are mention below: -

| Factor                      | Qualitative Research  | Quantitative Research   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Meaning</b>              | It is a way of investigating human behavior and experiences in-depth, by gathering data through methods such as interviews, observations, and focus groups. | It is a research method that is used to generate numerical data and hard facts, by employing statistical, logical and mathematical technique. |
| <b>Research Type</b>        | Exploratory   | Conclusive  |
| <b>Elements of analysis</b> | Words, Picture and objects  | Numerical Data  |
| <b>Objective</b>            | To explore and discover ideas used in the ongoing processes.  | To examine cause and effect relationship between variables.   |
| <b>Data</b>                 | Verbal  | Measurable  |
| <b>Sampling</b>             | Purposive   | Random  |
| <b>Methods</b>              | Non-structured techniques like in-depth interviews, group discussions etc.  | Structured techniques such as surveys, questionnaires and observations.   |
| <b>Results</b>              | Develop initial understanding   | Recommends final course of action   |

## 12. Write down the different tools of data collection and explain any three.

**Ans:** In research, the systematic gathering of relevant information or data to answer a research question or test a hypothesis is referred to as data collection. As the quality of the data used to conduct the research is crucial to inform decisions and draw conclusions, this process must be methodical.

- **Questionnaires:** A common method to collect data from a large number of participants is by using surveys and questionnaires. These tools contain a structured set of questions and can be conducted in different modes, such as face-to-face, online, or via postal mail.
- **Social survey (Piloting study):** Social surveys are a research tool utilized to collect data in studies. This technique involves standardized questionnaires or interviews to gather information from a representative sample of individuals. Social surveys are frequently implemented in social science research to understand the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of a particular population. Researchers can use social surveys to identify social issues and provide valuable insights into social trends.

- **Case study/ life history:** A case study is a research method that involves analyzing a specific person, group, business, or phenomenon in its natural environment. It is a qualitative research approach that provides a comprehensive understanding of the subject being studied. The researcher collects data through methods such as interviews, observations, document analysis, and surveys to gain insights into the subject.
- **Content analysis:** Content analysis is a research method that examines information in different types of communication such as text, images, audio, and video. It can be done in two ways, using numbers or descriptions, and involves a methodical and impartial analysis of the content to find patterns and meanings. Content analysis is widely used in many fields, such as social sciences, communication studies, marketing, and psychology, to obtain important insights about the content studied and aid in decision-making.