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Any academician who have studied on scientific basis of social issues and give result on proof and it is applied in context of society.

All social thinkers are not social reformers and vice-versa.

Three categories of social reformers are

- 1) classical
- 2) western
- 3) modern
- 4) post-modern (New)

Western - On basis of study of western social facts and western society.

Modern - Explained about facts about industrialisation and urbanisation.

Post-modern - critically analysis of modern theory or western theory.

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Max - Weber

Max-Weber is also considered as the founding father of Sociology. His contribution are very important for the development of Sociology. He was a German scholar, philosopher and sociologist. He was born on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1864 at Erfurt in Germany. His father was a very renowned person as he was the member of Parliament. Max Weber from his childhood met many scholars. He was very much influenced by them.



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He got his degree of law from Hegelburg University in 1882. In 1881 he married to Mary Stetzer. He became a Professor in France in Hegelburg University. He was not healthy due to which he left his job but continued writing on Societies economic condition. His main contribution includes essays in Sociology, theory of social action, theory of sociology, theory of social and economic organisation, theory of Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism. He died in 1920.

### → Theory of Social Action

Acc to Max Weber, sociology is the study of social action. Sociology is an attempt to understand the interpretative understanding of social action through which one can understand the causal explanation of its cause and effect. Acc to Weber every action is not a social action. Only those actions which have some meaning and purpose and is being concerned with the welfare of society. Only then it is considered as social action.

Though social action may be concerned with the past events, present events or future events. Weber has said that an action is only called social



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If the action isn't being done in a group and does not have any response and is not being done for the society, it is not referred as social action.

Acc to Weber it is thus referred as that action which is done by individuals. The action must have a response. Social action may be related with past, present, future events. Social action (S.A) is mainly performed within a society. Any action which does not affect the group, community or society is not been referred as social action. S.A is a meaningful action. Besides this he has explained about various types of S.A. He says some actions are performed in a calculative manner, i.e. it is considered as rational action.

Secondly he says certain social actions may be evaluative i.e., one evaluates whether that actions are social, meaningful and purposeful. This type of action is referred as evaluative social action.

Thirdly, he says S.A are emotive in nature i.e. anger, jealousy, sadness. This type of S.A is referred as emotive social action. Certain actions acc to Weber is based on traditions and customs. This is considered as action based on tradition on the basis of which one follows the rituals.

Weber describes about S.A as the imperative. Whereas Vilfredo Pareto describes S.A as logical and non-logical actions. He has described non-logical actions as residues and deprivation. Pareto says non-logical actions also has importance in the society. Whereas



Emile Durkheim uses the concept of social fact in explanation of social action. \_/\_/\_

R.K. Merton has explained about S.A as functions. Merton explains about latent and manifest functions. Manifest is the process of working knowingly to get a desired result. Latent function happens when we are aware of manifest function but during the function some other functions get performed unknowingly with a hidden positive result.

On this basis, we derive some characteristics of S.A by Max Weber.

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→ Action which has some response from others and this S.A helps to maintain the system of the society and to build <sup>social</sup> relationship and maintain balance b/w structure functions and system of the society.

→ Acc to Weber every action of individual is not S.A. Some may be referred as anti social action or non-social function. He showed diff b/w S.A and anti social action. In other word action which has positive effect on society and welfare of people, is called social action.

→ Weber says certain S.A is based on logic and is rational in nature. Certain actions are also based on tradition and knowingly or unknowingly we have to follow it, particularly

Q. Describe Weber theory of S.A with examples.  
Q. What is 'verstehen' in short.

→ Certain action are also considered as evaluative, i.e. it is good for a particular period for a particular society and may not be good for other after some time.

→ Certain actions are based on our emotion and i.e. emotive action; eg - hate; love; greed which also have some positive and negative effect.

→ Max Weber describes about 4 types of S.A  
→ rational; emotive; traditional; evaluative

→ Acc to Max Weber the main motive behind S.A is the interest, then action which has meaning for that legitimacy and action which helps to develop relationship

→ Max Weber's S.A theory can be explained through  
[ Imphetic method and rational method i.e. through  
reasoning through understanding, to find  
cause and effect.

Max Weber also has explained about his ideal type or methodology to sociology. That means his all theory is based on ideal type. → classification of the ~~idea~~ <sup>social</sup>   
→ classification of whole universe into diff types

→ Classification of Social Action.

Traditional Action - Through which we follow our tradition and custom



of our society even if we do not wish to follow it.  
Eg - Rituals at birth, marriage

Rational Action - Based on logic, if you want to appear for exam etc.  
attendance is compulsory. Procedure based and is also based on rules and regulations

Affective / Emotive Action - Based on emotions many of our actions are based on emotion. Pareto explains about residues and based on importance of emotion  
Eg - Feeling sad for someone

02/07/25 Assignment : Sociology of Religion - Max Weber  
Protestant Ethics and spirit of Capitalism.

Q. Describe Herbert Spencer's Organismic theory of Society.  
Describe Durkheim's types of Suicide.

### → Criticism of Social Action Theory

→ Max Weber in his theory of S.A has differentiated b/w S.A and the action which is not social in action. So he has not given any method to study about non social actions

→ Weber has said sociology as interpretative meaning. Understanding of S.A. Critics says that there are many sociologists who have given different terms to S.A as Durkheim has used the term social

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Merton has used term function. Parson has used the term logical and non-logical.

→ Weber in his theory of S.A describes about 4 types of S.A based on logic, emotion and tradition. He says it is easy to understand about 4 but quite difficult to understand about these 3 evaluative basis i.e. he has not described about fundamental basis of evaluation.

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Max Weber has given the concept of 'Verstehen' which means to understand or to study about any S.A by keeping in mind the actor who performs various actions on basis of various emotions. It also means explanatory methods to express social action. It is interpretative understanding of the social action, or explanation of any social action. It is a german word.

→ Theory of Religion. (Introduction)

Max Weber's theory of religion is very important contribution in sociology. He had studied about 6 major religions of the world & on this basis he has said that religion affects society in various ways, i.e. he has focused on the functional aspect of religion particularly in the term of economy. As religion mainly affects the economy of society.



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social

Though religion also helps in integration and social control and integration of society i.e. to check or to control the behaviour of individual (every religion has some religious quotes) & these quotes only play imp't role in social control.

- He has mainly studied about religion of
- India (Hinduism)
  - China (Confucianism)
  - European / Am (Christianity)
  - Middle East / Arab (Islam)
  - Israel (Judaism)
  - (Buddhism)

and he has explained that wherever spiritualism was only given importance, in those religion or state the economy could not develop or flourish, and this is because that the religion which focus mainly on spiritualism i.e. hinduism, islam, buddhism, catholic (christian), the economy did not flourish.

This state / religion

said not to accumulate wealth and to keep as much as needed and to worship god only as god is solely very important and hence here development of economy is not that important and must not be inclined to it.

Whereas he has said he has travelled into various parts of European country and found that majority people believed in protestant ethics (in this it is said to accumulate wealth as wealth gets wealth).



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In protestant ethics it is said if you have not worked you don't have right to take those things and this protestant ethics is helpful in development of economy.

For which he says the religion which only focuses on spiritualism in those the capitalism, the symbol of modern economy developed later. Acc to Weber economy developed where there is capitalism and where protestant ethics have too much encouragement.

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Religion is belief in supernatural power or super being and energy which is beyond the reach of individual and person goes in front of that power. Ritual & belief are two important concept of religion. Individual perform certain ritual to impress or glorify that power like prayer. Various types of religion is found on this basis & while studying these Max Weber says that religious ethics affects the economic basis of society. whereas Durkheim says about sacred or profane that are two facts of the religion, and religion is always with sacred things and have functional aspect in society. And while studying about Ananta tribe has explained about totemism that comes out of functional aspect of religion. He says that totemism describe about integrity in the society and encourages it.



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Beside this anthropologist also describe about religion in society particularly Malinowski says that in beginning of society there was magic in society and when magic failed religion developed and came into society.

Religion in Hindi Dharma has derived from Sanskrit 'Dhri' which means to uphold, to uphold the virtues of the society. In virtues we may include humanity and morality.

Religion derived from religare which means to bind man with god.

Every religion in society is related with some text or scripture which glorifies the supreme power as Durkheim says 'the kingdom of heaven is nothing but a glorified society' and to glorify the society plays a very important role and is always concerned with welfare of people. Religion also grows patience among people, but also there is something which is always with people.

Anthropologist gave magic, animism, animatism, naturalism, totemism.

Every religion has codes which control the behaviour of individuals and ethics which help maintain working of society.

Max Weber Religion is a variable which keeps changing



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## Characteristics of Sociology of religion

1. Sociology of religion is one of the major contribution of Max Weber in the development of sociology as a separate discipline
2. In this Weber has described about 6 main religion of world particularly, hinduism, islam, christianity, etc.
3. While studying about various religion he has traveled various parts of European countries beside this he has studied about various religious ethics
4. Acc to him religion is the main factor which affects various aspects of society particularly the economy.
5. Acc to him the religious ethics that encourages the economic ethics, he said religious ethics affects economic ethics i.e. protestant ethics has encouraged capitalism in the society.
6. In his sociology of religion, he says any religion which mainly focuses on spiritualism given importance in that country the economy could not develop at a rapid rate whereas the religion that gives imp to work, accumulation of wealth, that country develops its economy



Q. Max Weber 6 main religion. explain

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7. He has said in India and other countries where majority believe in catholic religion or catholic ethic they couldn't develop capitalism at a rapid rate, particularly Italy or Spain
8. While describing about sociology of religion, the effects of religion on society and economy, he has also developed another theory the protestant ethics and spirit of capitalism

### → Criticism

1. ~~The~~ Max Weber while studying about 6 main religions of sociology travelled only in European countries, practically he didn't study about effect of religion on diff't society. He has gone through various texts and scriptures of religion.
2. Acc to Weber religion is the main factor to affect various aspects of society & particularly the economy of the society, the critics say that there are various factors that affect the society religion may be one of them. Particularly the resources of the society, critics says it is the economic resources & techniques that help to use that resources which develop the society
3. In modernisation, industrialisation, urbanisation, the mechanism are impt factor to develop economy in the society



where people were of catholic belief could not develop capitalism at early stage.

- 1 → Hinduism - It mainly describe about salvation that is possible through prayer, rituals and connection through god. In this work or effort for society has not been mentioned though welfare of society is mentioned. In this it is to glorify god & everything happens to acc to his will.
- 2 → Islam - In this also one has to follow certain way of prayer. even here the impt of work and effort for economic development is not discussed. Spirituality main impt
- 3 → Judaism → There is impt of prayer & worship & that also didn't helped in development of economy.
- 4 → Confuzanism → In this also the people must not accumulate wealth rather if the wealth is more it has to be distributed in the society. And he says even in this the capitalism couldn't develop
- 5 → Buddhism → Acc to Weber in this the impt has been giving to living in ~~eq~~ simplicity & begging alms. for this he says that economic development i.e the capitalism couldn't develop at early stage.
- 6 → Christianity → To study about this particularly, he traveled various parts of European country & he found that majority of European believed in protestant ethics developed capitalism at early stage whereas few state particularly Italy & Spain



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There is correlation b/w protestant ethics & capitalism i.e. how protestant ethics encourages capitalism

Capitalism is considered that mode of economic production which helps in development of economic system. Acc to Weber Capitalism is based on scientific mode of production. In this there is employment oppo, ↑ in production & that is possible through some changes in the ethics of the economy in which accumulation of wealth providing loan on basis of interest it is imp't to provide loan. There is also some rules & regulations regarding working hours and those who work more than that there is provision of some benefits, and in the system of capitalism ethics says to use the capitalism to earn more & more capital / money.

Industrialisation

In this capitalism mechanisation & technology is also given imp't. These policies of capitalism is being encouraged by protestant ethics. The protestant ethics explains the following i.e.

- a) in this the work is considered as worship
- b) to get moksha / (liberty) from this birth one have to put their efforts to glorify the society & those who glorify society & contribute themselves for <sup>glorify</sup> ~~control~~ of society, God will call them
- c) there is stricture of prohibition of alcohol so that the people will work in industries factories properly.



helpful in  
Capitalism

Calvinism - to do work on basis of rules & regulation for welfare of society & door to heaven will open when only you fulfill your duties.

d) It has been said in this that wealth generates wealth

e) the protestant ethic to glorify the society also allows to provide loans on interest

f) protestant ethic which helps in capitalism is also being mentioned in 'Calvinism'

The protestant ethic & capitalism are complementary to each other and fulfill each other. Criticism of this theory is also there.

⇒ Questions (long)

1. Critically explain max webers theory of social action
2. Critically explain " " " of Protestant ethic & capitalism
3. Describe m.w theory of social action
4. Discuss m.w sociology of religion
5. Critically explain m.w theory of sociology of religion

⇒ Question (short)

1. Describe m.w types of social action
2. How can you diff b/w effective & evaluative social action
3. Describe various types of s.a with examples
4. What are the criticism of m.w theory of protestant ethic & capitalism
5. Describe the criticism of m.w sociology of religion
6. What is traditional action by m.w

⇒ Questions (MCQs)

- Q. There are 4 types of action by weber
- Q. max weber was German sociologist
- Q. " " studied about 6 religions of the world.
- Q. " " has written about protestant ethic & capitalism
- Q. max weber was born in 1864 & died in 1920



## Herbert Spencer

He was a British sociologist, his contributions are very imp't for development of sociology.

Born in 1820 at Derby in England. He was born in well-to-do family & died in 1903.

His main contribution in sociology is the theory of social evolution; social organicism theory of society; first principle. His theory of social evolution is based on Darwin's theory of biological evolution.

### → Theory of Social Evolution.

Darwin has given the concept or theory of evolution in his book 'Origin of species' in 1859. Whereby he says any living being, it develops gradually from one stage to another stage and he says in his book also explains about the concept of survival of fittest.

Any living being who can struggle are considered as fittest and they can survive.

He also explains about the concept of natural selection. Any living being acc to Darwin has natural selection process & he also describes that those who are not fit will be eliminated &

in his book he also explains about struggle for existence. Therefore Herbert Spencer's theory of evolution of Darwin's theory. While explaining all this he says that development takes place from simplicity to complexity & homogeneity to heterogeneity & from indefinite to definite & from incoherence to coherence.



Herbert Spencer applies the concept of Darwin of evolution in context of society's evolution. Acc to Herbert Spencer society is a part of universe & as a part of universe we also have to understand the evolution of universe & that he describes in his physical evolution. Under physical evolution he says that the whole thing is made of 3 things - matter, force, motion. These elements can be hard or soft. He says that there is force which helps to combine matter, and motion is there to move these matters.

He says that matter never destroys in this universe, it may change its form. He says everything is in this universe and says that there is law of persistence of force for the working of this universe. He says that there is law of continuity of motion. He says that this motion can be at fast rate or also at a slow rate at various times & says seasonal changes on the earth moves about sun due to continuity of motion. Beside this regarding motion & force he says that there is law of least resistance and greater attraction. He also describes about biological evolution of Darwin. Acc to him the society is made of social relationship and this society is not possible without relationship and also living beings are important for society.

Beside this Herbert Spencer says that society changes.



Q Describe the laws of H.S physical evolution. / social evol

Herbert Spencer theory of social evolution describes about 3 stages of society

- ① stage of nomadism
- ② " " militarism
- ③ " " industrialisation