BIT - Sociology

Unit - 6

Application of Sociology

a. Sociology social policy and social planning

#. Sociology and social policy

An applied branch of sociology called "Social policy" concerns itself with studying and influencing how governments respond to social problems. Some sociologist are interested in solving social problems through their own research. Some sociologist are directly employed by governments depts as the home office to help inform the development of social policy. Early positivists such as Camte and Durkheim in took the view that sociology was a science and would discover both the cause of social problems and scientifically based solutions to them. Some sociologists argues, from the applied sociology there should be a relationship between sociology and government policy. It should be based to directly influence government to bring about reforms.

#. Social policy

Broadly speaking, the term policy refers to the general guidelines or principles, which give direction to a particular course of action by the government or by an organization. It also refers to , in a very specific sense, an intended or executed course of action

According to David Gill, "Social policies are principles/course of action designed to influence the overall quality of life in a society, the circumstances of living of individuals and groups in that society, and the nature of intra-societal relationship among individuals, groups and society as a whole."

According to Kalkarni. "Social policy is the strategy of action indicating means and methods to be followed in successive phase to achieve the declared social objectives."

From the above definitions we can say that social policy is a deliberate action on the part of individuals, collectivities and governments, undertaken to

organize services, opportunities and social action so as to affect the life style of people and imitate a process to prevent, postpone imitate and manage change.

Social policy is a plan or action of government or institutional agencies which aim to improve or reform society. Social aims to indentify the find ways of reducing inequalities in access to services and support between social groups defined by socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age, and between countries. Social policy helps us to understand social problems in our society or would and how the government have or are implementing policies to solve these social problems may include issues with health, education, housing, poverty, unemployment and environment etc.

#. Social planning

Social planning involves the drawing up of plans for future action in regard to social institution and resources. A social plan is designed to meet the needs of a society, which means, in many cases, an entire nation. This usage, in which social planning is equivalent to social planning, is generally accepted by social scientists. In the present century and especially since world war II, there has been a rapid growth in the importance of social planning . social planning is a conscious interaction, process combining investigation, discussion, agreement and action in order to achieve those condition, relationship and values that are regarded as desirable. In a sense, it is an intelligent direction of social change. Sociologist can work as a change agent. He can direct social change in such a way that change becomes less disruptive, painful and costly to the people.

Social planning is a process for planning social services programs, services and policies. Government agencies engage in large-scale development, research and planning to address social problems. However nonprofit agencies, local planning councils, and community group also plan services and programs to address community needs. The term "social planning" is used generally to describe the planning of social services or efforts to improve the quality of life in communities.

#. Aims of social planning

1. To bring change or reform social institutions, such as caste system or institutions.

2. To solve social problems like alcoholism, poverty, prostitution, unemployment, delinquency etc.

      Social planning involves a certain consensus in the whole society or at any rate in a large majority. People must consider that the situation in which they live is unsatisfactory, and it is possible to change the situation so that it becomes more satisfactory.