

# **SIGNIFICANCE OR IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIETY**

# Importance Of Sociology

- In all ages and human times ever since our erect and restless species appeared upon the planet, men have been living with others of their kind in something called societies. Prior to the emergence of sociology the study of society was carried on in an unscientific manner and society had never been the central concern of any science. It is through the study of sociology that the truly scientific study of the society has been possible. Sociology alone studies social relationships, society itself. Sociology is interested in social relationships not because they are economic or political or religious or legal but because they are at the same time social. Sociology study how the relations combine, how they build up smaller or greater systems and how they respond to changes and changing needs or demands. Therefore the study of sociology is essentially analytical.

# Importance Of Sociology

- Sociology because of its bearing upon many of the problems of the present world has assumed such a great importance that it is considered to be the best approach to all the social sciences. Giddings have rightly pointed out, 'Sociology tells us how to become what we want to be in our present scope of nature for human welfare.

# SOME OF ITS PURPOSE OR IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY

- **Sociology studies society in a scientific way**
- Before the emergence of sociology there was no systematic and scientific attempt to study human society with all its complexities. Sociology has made it possible to study society in a scientific manner. This scientific knowledge about human society is needed in order to achieve progress in various fields.
- **Sociology throws more light on the social nature of man**
- Sociology delves deep into the social nature of man. It tells us why man is a social animal, why he lives in a group, communities and societies. It examines the relationship between individual and society, the impact of society on man and other matters.
- **Sociology increases the power of social action**
- The science of society assists an individual to understand himself, his capacities, talents and limitations. It enables him to adjust himself to the environment. Knowledge of society, social groups, social institutions, associations, their functions etc. helps us to lead an effective social life.

# OTHER PURPOSES

- **Sociology studies role of the institutions in the development of the individuals**
- It is through sociology that scientific study of the great social institutions and the relation of the individual to each is being made. The home and family, the school and education, the church and religion, the state and government, industry and work, the community and association, these are institutions through which society functions. Sociology studies these institutions and their role in the development of the individual and suggests suitable measures for strengthening them with a view to enable them to serve the individual better.
- **Study of sociology is indispensable for understanding and planning of society**
- Society is a complex phenomenon with a multitude of intricacies. It is impossible to understand and solve its numerous problems without support of sociology. It is rightly said that we cannot understand and mend society without any knowledge of its mechanism and construction. Without the investigation carried out by sociology no real effective social planning would be possible. It helps us to determine the most efficient means for reaching the goals agreed upon. A certain amount of knowledge about society is necessary before any social policies can be carried out.

# OTHER PURPOSES

- **Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems**
- The present world is suffering from many problems that can be solved through scientific study of the society. It is the task of sociology to study the social problems through the methods of scientific research and to find out solution to them. The scientific study of human affairs will ultimately provide the body of knowledge and principles that will enable us to control the conditions of social life and improve them.

# IMPORTANCES OR PURPOSES

- **Sociology has drawn our attention to the intrinsic worth and dignity of man**
- Sociology has been instrumental in changing our attitude towards human beings. In a specialized society we are all limited as to the amount of the whole organization and culture that we can experience directly. We can hardly know the people of other areas intimately. In order to have insight into and appreciation of the motives by which others live and the conditions under which they exist knowledge of sociology is essential.
- **Sociology has changed our outlook with regard to the problems of crime**
- It is through the study of sociology that our whole outlook on various aspects of crime has change. The criminals are now treated as human beings suffering from mental deficiencies and efforts are accordingly made to rehabilitate them as useful members of the society.

# IMPORTANCES OR PURPOSES

- **Sociology has made great contribution to enrich human culture**
- Human culture has been made richer by the contribution of sociology. The social phenomenon is now understood in the light of scientific knowledge and enquiry. According to Lowie most of us harbor the comfortable delusion that our way of doing things is the only sensible if not only possible one. Sociology has given us training to have rational approach to questions concerning oneself, one's religion, customs, morals and institutions. It has further taught us to be objective, critical and dispassionate. It enables man to have better understanding both of himself and of others. By comparative study of societies and groups other than his existence, his life becomes richer and fuller than it would otherwise be. Sociology also impresses upon us the necessity of overcoming narrow personal prejudices, ambitions and class hatred



# PURPOSES

- **Sociology is of great importance in the solution of international problems**
- The progress made by physical sciences has brought the nations of the world nearer to each other. But in the social field the world has been left behind by the revolutionary progress of the science. The world is divided politically giving rise to stress and conflict. Men have failed to bring in peace. Sociology can help us in understanding the underlying causes and tensions.
- **The value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us update on modern situations**
- It contributes to making good citizens and finding solutions to the community problems. It adds to the knowledge of the society. It helps the individual find his relation to society. The study of social phenomena and of the ways and means of promoting what Giddens calls social adequacy is one of the most urgent needs of the modern society. Sociology has a strong appeal to all types of mind through its direct bearing upon many of the initial problems of the present world.

# PURPOSES

- **Study of society has helped governments to promote the welfare of the tribal and marginalized communities**
- The tribal and marginalized communities face many socio-economic and cultural problems. Studies conducted by sociologists and anthropologists regarding tribal societies and problems have helped governments in undertaking social welfare measures and programmes for the welfare purposes.
- **Sociology is useful as a teaching subject**
- Sociology is a profession in which technical competence brings its own rewards. Sociologists those trained in research procedures are contributing in business, government, industry, social sector, communications and many other areas of community life. Sociology has now become practical enough to be practiced in the other fields prominently in local, state, national and international levels.

# UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIETY

- **Society** is a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction, or a large social group sharing the same spatial or social territory, typically subject to the same political theory of a society. The term **society** is derived from the Latin word 'socius', which means companionship or friendship.
- In simple sense, **society** is a large grouping that shares the same geographical territory, shares a common culture and social structure, and expected to abide by the some laws ,Authority and dominant cultural expectations.

# DEFINATIONS

- Some definitions of the term “society” are given below:
- ■ Morris Ginsberg , “ A Society is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or mode of behavior which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who differ from them in behavior”.
- ■ Prof. Giddings, “society is the union itself, the organization, the sum of formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together.”

# DEFINATIONS

- ■ G.D.M. Cole, Society is the complex of organized associations and institutions with a community”.
- ■ MacIver “ Society is a web of social relationship”. -

# CHARACTERISTICS

- Society consists of people
- Society is composed of people. Without people there can be no society, no social relationship and no social life at all
- Mutual awareness and mutual interaction
- Society is a group of people in continuous interactions with each other. A social interaction is made possible because of mutual awareness. Society is understood as a network of social relations. Thus, social relationship implies mutual awareness.

# CHARACTERISTICS

- Co-operation and division of labor
- Division of labor involves the assignment to each unit or group a specific share of a common task. For example: Common task of providing the banking service involves counter services, accountancy, loan lending etc. division of labor is possible because of co-operation.

# OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

- Society is not static, but it is dynamic. Changeability is an inherent quality of human beings. No society can even remain constant for any length of time.
- Social Control : Absolute freedom makes man's life like other animal beings. So society has its own ways of controlling the behavior of its members. For this, society has formal and informal means of social control. Customs, traditions, mores folkways, manners are the informal means of social control, whereas law, police, constitution, police are formal means of social control.



# OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

- Society usually refers to group of people who lives and work together or who share social norms and values. It is simply a web of social relationship. People interact in a defined territory and share a culture. Today the structure of society has been changed from hunting and gathering societies and agrarian societies to industrial society. But still we need society from birth to till death for the performance of social values norms etc.

# CONCLUSION

- To sum up the value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us up to date on modern complex societies. It contributes to making good citizens, to the solution of community problems, and it helps to understand the relationship of an individual, it helps the individual find their human group or mutual interaction towards our society and so on. So, in short sociology has both social and individual advantages which is useful for further expectation and responsibilities towards our society.