

**Q: Define Sociology? Discuss the reasons for teaching law students sociology courses for two semesters in Punjab University? ( 2018 supplementary )**

**Q: Define sociology and discuss its significance as a subject for developing countries like Pakistan. ( 2018 )**

**Q: What is Sociology? Discuss its significance as a subject for the students of law. ( 2017 )**

## **Sociology and Its Subject Matter**

### **Introduction:**

- Sociology is a branch of the social sciences that uses systematic methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop and refine a body of knowledge about human social structure and activity, sometimes with the goal of applying such knowledge to the pursuit of social welfare. Its subject matter ranges from the micro level of face-to-face interaction to the macro level of societies at large.

### **Interpretation of term "Sociology":**

- "The science of society"

### **Definition of term Sociology:**

- According to William E. Cole: "Sociology is the study of social systems."
- According to Simmel: "The science of studying human relationship."

### **Nature of Sociology:**

- Sociology is a social science and not a physical science
- Sociology is an independent science.
- Sociology is a pure science not an applied science
- Sociology is a general science not a special social science
- Sociology is a categorical science not a normative science
- Sociology is a relatively abstract science and not a concrete science
- Sociology is both rational and empirical science
- Sociology is ethically neutral

## **Sociology is a Broad Discipline:**

- There are various views regarding the subject matter of sociology. In fact, sociology borrows its subject matter from other social sciences and gives a completely new form by using its own tools and techniques.
- Along with time, sociologists are exploring and expanding their study on wide new aspects of society, therefore there is no limitation of the subject matter of sociology. However, the subject matter of sociology is the society (i.e. social groups, institutions, social interactions, social change) rather than the individual.
- But, ever since the emergence of sociology as a discipline, sociologists have shown a great concern in human social behavior and in the dynamics of society. It means that they have been engaging themselves in analyzing human society and culture. While trying to study and analyze society, sociologists have developed different perspectives and approaches from time to time.

## **Significance of Sociology as a Subject for student of law**

- Subject matters of sociology are as follow:

### **Sociological Theory:**

- In this area, it includes or it studies the concepts, principles and generalization of sociology.
- Sociologists have developed various theories for the analysis of social phenomenon.

### **Historical theory:**

- Under this area sociologist study the past social institution the present ones.
- The term historical sociology is usually applied to the study of social fact which are more than 50 years old.
- The sociologist normally go into the records pertaining to the events that had happened or have been observed.
- It basically deals with the comparative study of social groups i.e. their composition and conditions.

### **Sociology of family:**

- It studies the origin, growth, functions, kinds, nature of family and its problems like those of divorce e.tc.

### **Sociology of Community:**

- It is the study of two types of community. One is rural and another is urban. So, it is known as rural sociology and urban sociology.

- **Rural Sociology:**

- It studies about the society of village or rural societies.
- It also deals with structure and economic condition of rural people.

▪ **Urban Sociology:**

- It studies the life of people in societies and or urban societies.
- The way of living, structure of society, social relationship and employment system etc. are studied under urban sociology.

**Sociology of Religion:**

- We study the origin and development of institution of mosque.
- It studies the role and function of religion and its impact on human thinking.
- It also include the study of how people react according to their religion.

**Educational Sociology:**

- It deals with the study of teaching and learning process of society.
- It studies how education helps to transmit culture, norms and values to other generation.
- It also study the impact of education in society i.e. difference between educated and illiterate person of society.

**Political Sociology:**

- It treats political institution as parts of the social system.
- It employs the method of sociological research to investigate the content of political behavior.
- It is the study of the social organization of power.

**Sociology of Law:**

- The of sociology looks legal system as a part of society and also as social institution related to other institution and changing with them.
- It regards law as one of the means of social control.
- Law is related to moral order to a body of costume and ideas about society.

**Human Ecology and Demography:**

- It includes the study of the influence of population and demographic factors.
- Human ecology studies the human beings adjustment to their environment which include not only geographical environment but also other organisms such as plants and animals etc.

**Economic Sociology:**

- The economic activities are studied under economic sociology.
- It deals with the study of changing society with economic growth or economic crisis.
- It also study non-economic factors like dowry ( bride's share or bridal gift ).

### **Sociology of Terrorism:**

- Sociology of terrorism is a field of sociology that seeks to understand terrorism as a social phenomenon.
- The field defines terrorism, studies why it occurs and evaluates ( judge )its impacts on society.
- The sociology of terrorism draws from the fields of political science, history, economics and psychology.

### **Social Psychology:**

- Social psychology is the study of how individual or group behavior is influenced by the presence and behavior of others.
- The major question social psychologists ponder ( consider or think about ) is this: How and why are people's perceptions and actions influenced by environmental factors, such as social interaction?

### **Social Psychiatry:**

- The fight between society and individuals and its impacts upon the individual organization resulting in mental disorders and anti-social behavior are separate fields of inquiry.
- The situation thus produced between individual and society is sort out in this field.

### **Social Dis-organization:**

- Social disorganization is a theoretical perspective that explains ecological differences in levels of crime based on structural and cultural factors shaping the nature of the social order across communities.

### **Conclusion:**

- To conclude that Sociology is one of the oldest of the sciences. Since the dawn of civilization, society has been as a subject for speculation ( theory or hypothesis or guess ) and inquiry along with other phenomena which have agitated ( upset or disturbed ) the restless and inquisitive ( Curious ) mind of man. Even centuries ago men were thinking about society and it should be organized and held views on man and his detesting, the rise and fall of the peoples and civilizations.

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