

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
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PAPER SW -103: SOCIOLOGY FOR SOCIAL WORK

QUESTION PAPER CODE 2439

MODEL ANSWER

I. OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS: 10X2=20.

1. What is the name of the process by which we acquire a sense of identity and become members of society?
a. Socialization
2. In contemporary societies, social institutions are:
a. highly specialized, interrelated sets of social practices
3. When sociologists study the structure of layers in society and people's movement between them, they call this:
a. social stratification
4. In the Matrilocal families, the bridegroom resides with the family of his wife (**True**)
5. Which one of the following is the core social function of family?
d. All of the above
6. Which of the following is not an essential feature of community?
d. Smallness in size
7. The groups whose membership one acquires by birth are known as
a. Primary Groups
8. The term Sociology was coined by Comte in
d. 1839
9. Which of the following is not an institution?
b. Theater
10. Competition is the most fundamental form of
c. Social Struggle

II. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS:

1. What is society?

Ans. Society is a web of social relationships, according to MacIver & Page “Society is a system of usages and procedures, authority & mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of controls of human behavior and of liberties. This ever changing complex system which is called society is a web of social relationship. August Comte the father of sociology saw society as a social organism possessing a harmony of structure and function. Emile Durkheim the founding father of the modern sociology treated society as a reality in its own right. According to Talcott Parsons Society is a total complex of human relationships in so far as they grow out of the action in terms of means-end relationship intrinsic or symbolic. G.H Mead conceived society as an exchange of gestures which involves the use of symbols. Morris Ginsberg defines society as 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. Cole sees Society as the complex of organized associations and institutions with a community.

2. Define community?

Ans. According to Bogardus, Community is a “social group with some degree of ‘we- feeling’ & ‘living in given area’. According to Ogburn & Nimcoff, Community is “the total organization of social life with a limited area”. According to Ginsberg, Community is “a group of social beings living a common life including all the infinite variety and complexity of relations which results form that common life or constitute it.”

Essential elements of community:

- Group of people.
- Community sentiments
- Definite locality
- Permanent life in a definite place
- Natural
- Likeness in language, customs & mores etc.
- Particular name

3. Explain the meaning of socialization?

Ans. Socialization is predominately an unconscious process by which a newborn child learns the values, beliefs, rules and regulations of society or internalizes the culture in which it is born.

Primary socialization:

Primary socialization occurs when a child learns the attitudes, values, and actions appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture.

Secondary socialization:

Secondary socialization refers to the process of learning about what is appropriate behavior as a member of a smaller group within the larger society. It is usually associated with teenagers and adults, and involves smaller changes than those occurring in primary socialization; e.g., entering a new profession or relocating to a new environment.

Agents of Socialization: Agents of socialization are the people and groups that influence our self-concepts, emotions, attitudes, and behaviors.

1. The family: family is responsible for the youth and, among other things, determining one's attitudes toward religion and establishing career goals.
2. Education: education is the agency responsible for socializing groups of young people with particular skills and values in society.
3. Religion: religions play a major role in socialization
4. Peer groups: peers refer to the people who are roughly the same age and/or who share other social characteristics (e.g., students in a college class).
5. The mass media.
6. Other agents: the work place, public institutions, etc.

4. What is status?

Ans. According to Morris Ginsberg “a status is a position in a social group or grouping, a relation to other position held by other individuals in the group. Status is the place in a particular system, which a certain individual occupies at a particular time, Ralph Linton.

The term has two sociological uses:

1. R. Linton (1936) defined status simply as a position in a social system, such as child or parent. Status refers to what a person is, whereas the closely linked notion of role refers to the behaviour expected of people in a status.

2. Status is also used as a synonym for honor or prestige, when social status denotes the relative position of a person on a publicly recognized scale or hierarchy of social worth. (See 'Social Stratification').

A status is simply a rank or position that one holds in a group. One occupies the status of son or daughter, playmate, pupil, radical, militant and so on. Eventually one occupies the statuses of husband, mother bread-winner, cricket fan, and so on; one has as many statuses as there are groups of which one is a member. For analytical purposes, statuses are divided into two basic types:

- Ascribed Status and
- Achieved Status

5. Define family?

Ans. The family has been seen as a universal social institution an inevitable part of human society. According to Burgess and Lock the family is a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption constituting a single household interacting with each other in their respective social role of husband and wife, mother and father, brother and sister creating a common culture. G.P Murdock defines the family as a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship and one or more children own or adopted of the sexually co-habiting adults.

Nimkoff says that “family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without child or of a man or woman alone with children”. According to Maclver “family is a group defined by sex relationships sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children”. Kingsley Davis describes family as a group of persons whose relations to one another are based upon consanguinity and who are therefore kin to one another.

Main characteristics of family

- Universality
- Emotional basis
- Limited size
- Formative influence
- Nuclear position in the social structure
- Responsibility of the members
- Social regulation

Types and forms of the family

On the basis of marriage: Family has been classified into three major types:

- Polygamous or polygynous family
- Polyandrous family
- Monogamous family

On the basis of the nature of residence family can be classified into three main forms.

- Family of matrilocal residence
- Family of patrilocal residence

- Family of changing residence

On the basis of ancestry or descent family can be classified into two main types

- Matrilineal family
- Patrilineal family

On the basis of size or structure and the depth of generations family can be classified into two main types.

- Nuclear or the single unit family
- Joint family

On the basis of the nature of relations among the family members the family can be classified into two main types.

- The conjugal family which consists of adult members among there exists sex relationship.
- Consanguine family which consists of members among whom there exists blood relationship- brother and sister, father and son etc.

6. What is association?

Ans. When a group or collection of individuals organize themselves expressly for the purpose of pursuing certain of its interests together on a cooperative pursuit an association is said to be born. According to Morris Ginsberg “an association is a group of social beings related to one another by the fact that they possess or have instituted in common an organization with a view to securing a specific end or specific ends”.

Main characteristics of Association

- **Association:** An association is formed or created by people. It is a social group. Without people there can be no association. It is an organized group. An unorganized group like crowd or mob cannot be an association.
- **Common interest:** An association is not merely a collection of individuals. It consists of those individuals who have more or less the same interests. Accordingly those who have political interests may join political association and those who have religious interests may join religious associations and so on.
- **Cooperative spirit:** An association is based on the cooperative spirit of its members. People work together to achieve some definite purposes. For example a political party has

to work together as a united group on the basis of cooperation in order to fulfill its objective of coming to power.

- **Organization:** Association denotes some kind of organization. An association is known essentially as an organized group. Organization gives stability and proper shape to an association. Organization refers to the way in which the statuses and roles are distributed among the members.
- **Regulation of relations:** Every association has its own ways and means of regulating the relation of its members. Organization depends on this element of regulation. They may assume written or unwritten forms

7. What is social stratification?

Ans. All societies arrange their members in terms of superiority and equality. The vertical scale of evaluation, this placing of people in strata or layers is called stratification. Those in top stratum have more power, privilege and prestige than those below.

The process by which individuals and groups are ranked in a more or less enduring hierarchy of status is known stratification, by Ogburn & Nimcoff. Social stratification is the division of society into permanent groups of categories linked with each other by the relationship of superiority and subordination by Gisbert.

Thus stratification is simply a process of interaction of differentiation whereby some people come to rank higher than others.

Structure of Social Stratification in India:

1. Brahmans
2. Kshatriyas
3. Vaishyas
4. Shudras

III. LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS: (Attempt any Two) 10x2 = 20

1. Define social groups and explain different types of groups?

Ans. According to Bogardus, "A social group may be thought of as a number of persons, two or more, who have some common objects of attention, who are stimulating each other, who have common loyalty and participate in similar activities". According to Ogburn & Nimcoff,

“whenever two or more individuals come together and influence one another, they may said to constitute a social group”.

Characteristics of social groups:

- Members of groups are interrelated to each other
- A sense of unity and a feeling to of sympathy unite the members of group
- Group members help each other and defend their interest collectively
- Every group has its own rule or norms, which the members are supposed to follow
- The members of a group behave in similar way for the pursuit of common interests

TYPES OF GROUP:

Primary Groups

Charles H. Cooley gave the name, primary groups, to those groups that he said are characterized by intimate face-to-face association and those are fundamental in the development and continued adjustment of their members. He identified three basic primary groups, the family the child's play group, and the neighborhoods or community among adults. These groups, he said, are almost universal in all societies; they give to people their earliest and most complete experiences of social unity; they are instrumental in the development of the social life; and they promote the integration of their members in the larger society.

▪ **Secondary Groups**

The social groups other than those of primary groups may be termed as secondary groups. They are a residual category. They are often called special interest groups. Maclver and Page refers to them as great associations. They are of the opinion that secondary groups have become almost inevitable today. With the expansion in population and territory of a society however interests become diversified and other types of relationships which can be called secondary or impersonal become necessary. The modern state, the great corporation, the factory, the labor union, a university or a nationwide political party and so on. These are secondary groups. Ogburn and Nimkoff define secondary groups as groups which provide experience lacking in intimacy. Frank D. Watson writes that the secondary group is larger and more formal ,is specialized and direct in its contacts and relies more for unity and continuance upon the stability of its social organization than does the primary group.

Characteristics of secondary group:

- Dominance of secondary relations: Secondary groups are characterized by indirect, impersonal, contractual and non-inclusive relations. Relations are indirect because

secondary groups are bigger in size and members may not stay together. Relations are contractual in the sense they are oriented towards certain interests

Reference Groups

- According to Merton reference groups are those groups which are the referring points of the individuals, towards which he is oriented and which influences his opinion, tendency and behavior. The individual is surrounded by countless reference groups. Both the memberships and inner groups and non memberships and outer groups may be reference groups.

2. What do you understand by social structure and discuss role?

Ans. Social structure refers to the enduring orderly and patterned relationships between the elements of a society. According to Raymond Firth it makes no distinction between the ephemeral and the most enduring elements in social activity and it makes it almost impossible to distinguish the idea of the structure of society from that of the totality of the society itself.

According to S.F. Nadal structure refers to a definable articulation and ordered arrangement of parts. It is related to the outer aspect or the framework of society and is totally unconcerned with the functional aspect of society. So he has emphasized that the social structure refers to the network of social relationship which is created among the human beings when they interact with each other according to their statuses in accordance with the patterns of society. He has emphasized that the social structure refers to the network of social relationship which is created among the human beings when they interact with each other according to their statuses in accordance with the patterns of society.

According to Ginsberg the study of social structure is concerned with the principal form of social organization that is types of groups, associations and institutions and the complex of these which constitute societies.

According to Karl Mannheim social structure refers to the web of interacting social forces from which have arisen the various modes of observing and thinking. Social structure is an abstract and intangible phenomenon. Individuals are the units of association and institutions are the units of social structure. These institutions and associations are inter-related in a particular arrangement and thus create the pattern of social structure. It refers to the external aspect of society which is relatively stable as compared to the functional or internal aspect of society. Social structure is a living structure which is created, maintained for a time and changes.

Social Structure and Role

In a social structure roles are more important than role occupants. Role occupants in turn divide themselves into sub-groups. According to Johnson it will be manifestly untrue to say that all the stability, regularity and recurrence that can be observed in social interaction are due to normative patterning, roles and sub-groups of various types are the parts of social structure to the extent that stability, regularity and recurrence in social interaction are due to the social norms that define roles and obligation of sub-groups.

Sub-groups and roles are closely linked with each other because all those who are required to perform certain roles have some duties and obligations towards the group to which they belong. The responsibilities of role occupant are of different types and can be broadly divided into obligatory and permissive. Each social structure has also quasi-structural aspect. In complex society there can be standardised or institutionalized norms. Every rigid social structure is bound to result in social disharmony. In a human society its structure must go on changing.

3. Explain the meaning of culture and how it is related with individual and society?

Ans. . The concept of culture was rigorously defined by E.B. Taylor in 1860s. According to him culture is the sum total of ideas, beliefs, values, material cultural equipments and non-material aspects which man makes as a member of society. Taylor's theme that culture is a result of human collectivity has been accepted by most anthropologists. Tylarian idea can be discerned in a modern definition of culture - culture is the man-made part of environment (M.J. Herskovits).

From this, it follows that culture and society are separable only at the analytical level: at the actual existential level, they can be understood as the two sides of the same coin. Culture, on one hand, is an outcome of society and, on the other hand, society is able to survive and perpetuate itself because of the existence of culture. Culture is an ally of man in the sense that it enhances man's adaptability to nature. It is because of the adaptive value of culture that Herskovits states that culture is a screen between man and nature. Culture is an instrument by which man exploits the environment and shapes it accordingly.

Culture can be conceived as a continuous, cumulative reservoir containing both material and non-material elements that are socially transmitted from generation to generation. Culture is continuous because cultural patterns transcend years, reappearing in successive generations. Culture is cumulative because each generation contributes to the reservoir.

An inherent paradox exists within the social heritage where culture tends to be both static and dynamic. Humans, once having internalized culture, attach positive value judgments to it and are more or less reluctant to change their established ways of life. Through most of recorded history

men have apparently considered that change per se is undesirable and that the ideal condition is stability. The prospect of change can seem threatening, yet every human culture is subject to and does experience change. Those who speak of a generation gap portray two generations at odds with each other. According to this view, the parent generation embodied the dynamic dimension. We contend that if, in fact, a generation gap does exist in modern societies, and the differences are of degree and not of substance. Part of the social heritage of almost every modern society is the high value placed on progress. Parents encourage young people to seek progress, and progress is a form of social change. Debates between generations in modern societies are seldom about whether any change should occur. The debates are usually about how such change should occur, how fast it should occur, and which methods should be used for bringing about change.