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# **IQRA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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**Question 1<sup>st</sup>:** What is sociology/ and what is the importance of sociology?

**Answer 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviours. Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Since all human behaviour is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.

Sociology is an exciting and illuminating field of study that analyses and explains important matters in our personal lives, our communities, and the world. At the personal level, sociology investigates the social causes and consequences of such things as romantic love, racial and gender identity, family conflict, deviant behaviour, aging, and religious faith. At the societal level, sociology examines and explains matters like crime and law, poverty and wealth, prejudice and discrimination, schools and education, business firms, urban community, and social movements. At the global level, sociology studies such phenomena as population growth and migration, war and peace, and economic development.

Sociology offers a distinctive and enlightening way of seeing and understanding the social world in which we live and which shapes our lives. Sociology looks beyond normal, taken-for-granted views of reality, to provide deeper, more illuminating and challenging understandings of social life. Through its particular analytical perspective, social theories, and research methods, sociology is a discipline that expands our awareness and analysis of the human social relationships, cultures, and institutions that profoundly shape both our lives and human history.

The study of sociology helps the individual to understand human society and how social system work. A comparative study of human societies enables us to understand that people in different societies have many different solutions to the universal human problems of making a living.

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.

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.

#### **Some Key Importance of Sociology:**

- ✚ Sociology also impresses upon us the necessity of overcoming narrow personal prejudices, ambitions and class hatred.

- ✚ Sociology can help us in understanding the underlying causes and tensions
- ✚ **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**  
It examines the relationship between individual and society, the impact of society on man and other matters.
- ✚ **Sociology increases the power of social action**  
Sociology helps us to lead an effective social life.
- ✚ **Sociology studies role of the institutions in the development of the individuals**  
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**  
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.
- ✚ **Sociology is of great importance in the solution of social problems**  
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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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 has now become practical enough to be practiced in the other fields prominently in local, state, national and international levels.

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**Question 2<sup>nd</sup>:** What is the relation between sociology, economics and politics?

**Answer 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Economics deals and covers only the economic relations concerning people and forms only one aspect of man's social life. It is concerned with studying man in accordance with wealth, how man acquires and disposes of it. It studies the relations and factors which are purely economic. Factors such as the price, supply, demands of goods and services, elasticity of the products and how these factors contribute to the fluctuation of the products and services in the market are the basic knowledge of economics.

In economics, man is the main subject of interest. Economics studies humans as an economic being and therefore is very concrete. It does not have much scope in comparison to sociology because the economics just covers the economic relation of man.

Sociology, on the other hand, deals with the social aspect of man, the diverse patterns of interactions and relationships people around the globe employ. Society is the target of learning and experimenting. It is the component of sociology just as individually is to economics.

#### **Relationship between Economics and Sociology:**

Sociology and economics are helpful to each other Economics relationship are closely related with social activities as same as social relationship are also effected by economic activity. Thus due to such relations, Thomas regarded economics as the branch of sociology which is known as economic sociology and is use to study economic process of the society. Some economist like Sam Bart, Max Weber, Pareto have explained economic change as aspect of social change. According to them, the study of economics would be incomplete without understanding of human society. The society it's structure organization, it's institution, it's strength and witness etc. are bound to effect economics activities of its people. On the other hand, according to Karl Marx, the social phenomena are determined by economic forces. And social reality or social change can be explained in terms of economic forces.

According to Karl Marx, the infrastructure of society is nothing but the economic relations among its people are something.

Now the area of co-operation between sociology and economics is becoming wider.

Economist are now analysing the social factors influencing economic growth. Economist are now more and more making use of the sociological concept and generalizations in the study of economics problems. Besides there are certain social economic problems of greater importance to be studied by both economist and sociologist. The problem like poverty, unemployment, over population etc. have both social and economic implications.

Economics seeks to explain human behaviour with a clear set of propositions regarding the actions of individuals (at a general level, assuming that individual actions are driven by self-interest). Sociologists work in some ways in the "converse" direction what about social, ecological, and demographic circumstances affect preferences and actions. So if they were both trying to explain voting preferences, let's say, economists would give greater weight to personal welfare (income anticipated or existing) say) in making their selection. While sociologists wouldn't deny that predictor, they would also look at the influence of social context (which of course reflects wealth, but also region, educational peer groups, occupation, etc.). Sociologists then, would be looking at, say, the growth in poverty rate in a



region/country using the social characteristics of a place. Perhaps we could say economists then would see “self-interest” as driving human action and sociologists emphasize the “social context” of human action. In general, sociologists are (rightfully) averse to predicting individual actions, but rather predicting human conditions (human poverty, etc.) there was quite a bit of boundary crossing between these two disciplines for instance, where sociologists would attempt to explain aggregate outcomes (poverty rate) working with assumptions about individual action. So the questions sociologists and economists ask often overlap, but what they are trying to explain and the explanatory variables can vary.

### **Relationship between Politics and Sociology:**

Sociology and political science are so closely and deeply related to each other that one becomes meaningless without the other. According to Morris Ginsberg” Historically, Sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history”. The state, which is the centre of political science in its early stage, was more of a social than political institution.

Sociology is the fundamental social science, which studies man’s social life as a whole and attempts to discover the facts and the laws of life as a whole. Political science, on the other hand, is concerned with the political life of a man, which is one part of his total life.

Sociology is the science of society whereas the political science is mainly concerned with the state and government. These two social sciences are very common in certain spheres.

Political science is a branch of sociology, which deals with the principles of organization and government of human society. The subject matter of political science thus comes within the field of sociology.

Sociology depends very much on political science in every respect. The state and governments make laws for the welfare of the society; the government removes social evils such as poverty, unemployment, dowry and so on from the society. The undesirable customs are uprooted from the society by the government. The government gives financial assistance to people at the time of natural calamities such as floods, famine, cyclone and drought. Social institutions and social organizations are regulated by the state and government. Sociology studies various aspects of political activities through the help of political science. The government can bring about changes in the society with the help of laws.

In the same way, political science depends upon sociology and sociology provides material to political science that is the political life of the people. Therefore, some sociologists regard political science as a special branch of sociology, it can be said that without sociological background the study of political science is quite impossible. Political science deals with the social group organized under the sovereignty of the state. The forms of government, the nature of governmental organs, the laws and sphere of the state activity are chiefly determined by the social processes.

The laws which are formed by the government are based on the social customs, traditions, mores, norms, etc. of the society. Most of the changes which have been taken place in the political theory, during the past times have been possible due to sociology. For understanding of political problems, some knowledge about sociology is very essential because all political

problems are mainly corrected with a social aspect. In this connection F.H. Giddings says “To teach the theory of the state to men who have not learn the first principle of sociology is like teaching astronomy or thermodynamics to men who have not learnt Newton’s laws of Motion”.

Thus, both sociology and political science depends upon each other. Both are inter-related and inter-dependent. Truly, it can be said that society is the mirror of politics of the country. According to G.E.G. Catlin, sociology and political science are the two faces of the same figure. In the opinion of EG. Wilson “It must be admitted of course, that it is often difficult to determine, whether a particular writer should be considered as sociologists or political theorist or philosopher


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**Question 3<sup>rd</sup>:** What are the different fields of sociology explain in details?

**Answer 3<sup>rd</sup>:** A sociologist is one who has earned advanced degrees or pursued other advanced studies in sociology and is engaged in teaching, research or other professional work in the field of sociology. The careless use of the term sociologist is very common magazine and newspaper writers, social workers, labor leaders, government officials, social critics etc. may be described incorrectly as sociologist. Sociology concentrates its study upon the group life of human beings and the product of their group living.

The sociologist is especially interested in customs, traditions and values which emerge from group living and in the way group living is in turn affected by these customs, traditions and values. Sociology is interested in the way groups interact with one another and in the processes and institutions which they develop.

**Sociology is subdivided into many specialized fields of which some of are:**

 Applied sociology

Applied sociologists work in various industries, including private business, government agencies and not-for-profit organisations. The work of applied sociologists is especially concerned with changing the current state of social life for the better. This can include anything from increasing the health and wellbeing of a disadvantaged community group; working with law enforcement organisations to implement a rehabilitation program for criminal offenders; assisting in planning for natural disasters; and enhancing existing government programs and policies.

 Collective behaviour

Collective behaviour, the kinds of activities engaged in by sizable but loosely organized groups of people. Episodes of collective behaviour tend to be quite spontaneous, resulting from an experience shared by the members of the group that engenders a sense of common interest and identity. The informality of the group’s structure is the main source of the frequent unpredictability of collective behaviour.

 Community

Community is a group of people who interact with one another, for example, as friends or neighbours. Second, this interaction is typically viewed as occurring within a bounded

geographic territory, such as a neighbourhood or city. Third, the community's members often share common values, beliefs, or behaviours.

#### ✚ Comparative sociology

Comparative sociology involves comparison of the social processes between nation states, or across different types of society (for example capitalist and socialist). There are two main approaches to comparative sociology: some seek similarity across different countries and cultures whereas others seek variance.

#### ✚ Crime and delinquency

The sociological study of crime and delinquency has focused either on the social structural factors (e.g., poverty and social disorganization) believed to generate such behaviour or on the arenas (e.g., family, school, and peer groups) in which socialization to conventional or criminal values and behaviour are affected.

#### ✚ Cultural sociology

The sociology of culture, and the related cultural sociology, concerns the systematic analysis of culture, usually understood as the ensemble of symbolic codes used by a member of a society, as it is manifested in the society.

#### ✚ Demography

Demography is the study of human population dynamics. It encompasses the study of the size, structure and distribution of populations, and how populations change over time due to births, deaths, migration, and aging.

#### ✚ Deviant behaviour

Deviance, in a sociological context, describes actions or behaviours that violate informal social norms or formally-enacted rules. Among those who study social norms and their relation to deviance are sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, and criminologists, all of whom investigate how norms change and are enforced over time.

#### ✚ Formal and complex organizations

Formal organization is a fixed set of rules of intra-organization procedures and structures. In some societies and in some organization, such rules may be strictly followed; in others, they may be little more than an empty formalism.

#### ✚ Human ecology

Human ecology, man's collective interaction with his environment. Influenced by the work of biologists on the interaction of organisms within their environments, social scientists undertook to study human groups in a similar way. Thus, ecology in the social sciences is the study of the ways in which the social structure adapts to the quality of natural resources and to the existence of other human groups. When this study is limited to the development and variation of cultural properties, it is called cultural ecology.

#### ✚ Industrial sociology

According to J H Smith, “Industrial Sociology is concerned with industry (or any form of work organisation) as a social system, including those factors (technical, emotional, political) which affect the structure, the function and the changes in that system”.

#### ✚ Law and society

Law and society represents the intersection between societal development, norms, and practices and the roles and functions of law and legal institutions. It is multidisciplinary in nature, and may involve various research approaches and methodologies that are found in social and behavioural science disciplines, including sociology, psychology, anthropology, linguistics, ethnography, criminology, economics, political science, philosophy, history, and others.

#### ✚ Marriage and Family

A family of procreation describes one that is formed through marriage. These distinctions have cultural significance related to issues of lineage.

Marriage is a legally recognized social contract between two people, traditionally based on a sexual relationship and implying a permanence of the union.

#### ✚ Medical sociology

Medical sociology is the sociological analysis of medical organizations and institutions; the production of knowledge and selection of methods, the actions and interactions of healthcare professionals, and the social or cultural (rather than clinical or bodily) effects of medical practice.

#### ✚ Military sociology

Military sociology is an interdisciplinary subfield of sociology that employs sociological concepts, theories, and methods to analyse the internal organization, practices, and perceptions of the armed forces as well as the relationships between the military and other social institutions.

#### ✚ Political sociology

Political sociology is the study of power and the relationship between societies, states, and political conflict.

The micro orientation, by contrast, examines how social identities and groups influence individual political behaviour, such as voting, attitudes, and political participation.

Sociology is only one of the social sciences and other disciplines share its interest in many topics. Its interest in communication and public opinion is shared by psychology and political science, criminology is shared with psychology, political science and law and police science. Sociology is especially close to psychology and anthropology and overlaps them constantly.

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