

Principle of Sociology :- Meaning of Sociology

Sociology is a systematic approach to studying, and understanding society, human behavior, and social groups. At first Auguste Comte used “Sociology” word in 1838 so that he considered as Founder Father of Sociology. Before it he call it “Social Physics” and after that he gave the name Sociology The word Sociology made from two words:-

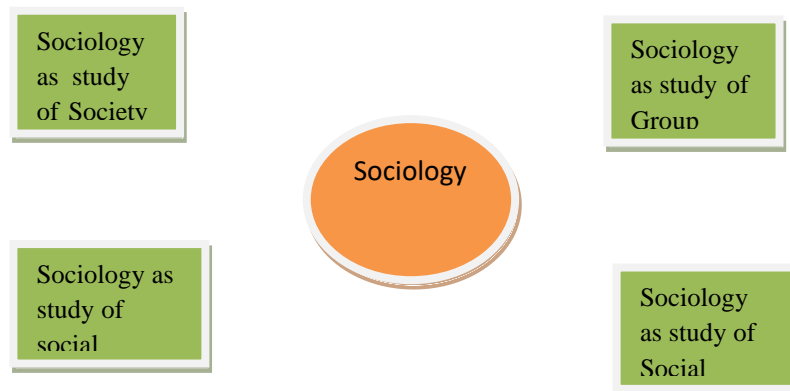
The Latin word -“Socius” = society and
the Greek word “logos” = mean science.

So the term literally means sociology is the scientific study of society.

Definition of Sociology can be divided in four parts that are:-

1. Sociology as study of Society - Giddings, Sumner, Ward.
2. Sociology as study of Group - Johnson
3. Sociology as study of social relation - MacIver & Page.
4. Sociology as study of Social Interactions - Ginsberg, Simmel.

So sociology is a science, which study society as a whole & focused on social relations, interactions, groups & social values & norms.



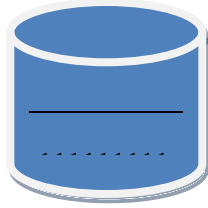
Scope of Sociology

Scope means the subject matter or the areas of study of the boundaries of a subject. What we have to study in a particular subject is known as its scope.

There are two main school of thought regarding the scope of sociology :-

- I. Formal or specialistic School – exponent of it is George Simmel & supporters are Vierkandt, Weber, Von Wiese. These thinkers are believe that sociology is a specific pure & Independent science so

only forms of social relations studied in sociology ie. Domination, Authority, Division of labor etc.



II. Synthetic School – supporters of this school are Durkheim, Ginsberg, Sorokin, Hobhouse, According to this school sociology is closely related with other social science so the scope of sociology is very vast, not only social relation but also all over society. Two reasons given in favor of it :-

- There are no any science which study all aspects of society as a whole.
- society is as an organism, in which change occur in any parts of society have effect on other part of society.

Emile Durkheim, an eminent French sociologist divides sociology into three principal parts, :-

- Social Morphology - analyses the size and quality of population & how population affects the quality of social relationship and social groups.
- Social Physiology - It studies the main forms of social groups, institutions and their classifications.
- General Sociology- Emile Durkheim is of opinion that general sociology is the philosophical part of sociology.

Hobhouse - In his opinion all aspects of social life are inter connected and therefore, the study of one aspect of social life cannot be adequate for an understanding of the entire social fact. Owing to this reason, sociology should study social life as a whole in a very systematic way.

P. Sorokin - says that if other sciences are N than sociology is (N+1) science.

Subject matter of sociology

There are Three paths for delineating the subject matter of sociology:-

- ❖ **Historical Path** –what did founding father says. It seeks to study the classic sociological writings to find out the central traditional concerns & interest of sociology.
- ❖ **Empirical path** – this is the path in which the emphasis is on current sociological work. what are contemporary sociologist doing
- ❖ **Analytical path** – this is the path in which some larger subject matter is divided & delimited arbitrarily and allocated to different disciplines and also emphasis on reason. What dose reason suggest

Historical Path:-

- **August Comte** (1798-1857)- divided sociology in to two parts ie.
1. Social statics . 2. Social Dynamics.
- **Herbert Spencer**(1864-1920) – the study of sociology covers such fields as family, politics, religion, work, & social control. He also emphasized the study of division of labor, association, social stratification etc.
- **Emile Durkheim** (1858-1917) – focused on institution and their settings his analysis of social facts , division of labor, collective representation.
- **Max Weber**(1864-1920) – sociology as a science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social action in order to their by arrive at a causal explanation of its cause and effect. social action, verstehen (empathetic understanding of human behavior).