

Functional Approach

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According to the **functionalist perspective**, each aspect of society is interdependent and contributes to society's **stability** and **functioning** as a whole.

The primary concepts within Functional approach are collective conscience, value consensus, social order, education, family, crime and deviance and the media. Functionalist sociologists like Parsons and Durkheim have been concerned with the search for functions that institutions may have in society.

Emile Durkheim – one of the founding fathers of functional approach. Function associate with social structure, so this approach call structural functional approach. This approach focus on status & role in society.

Structural Functionalism is a sociological theory that explains why society functions the way it does by emphasizing on the relationships between the various social institutions that make up society.

The structural-functional approach is a perspective in sociology that sees society as a **complex system** whose parts work together to promote solidarity and stability. It asserts that our lives are guided by social structures, which are relatively stable patterns of social behavior. Social structures give shape to our lives - for example, in families, the community, and through religious organizations.

Each social structure has social functions, or consequences for the operation of society as a whole. Thus one of the key ideas in Structural Functionalism is that society is made-up of groups or institutions, which are cohesive, share common norms, and have a definitive culture. Robert K. Merton argued that functionalism is about the more static or concrete aspects of society,

In structural Functionalism, social change is regarded as an adaptive response to some tension within the social system. When some part of an integrated social system changes, a tension between this and other parts of the system is created, which will be resolved by the adaptive change of the other parts. Emile Durkheim, who argued that parts of society are interdependent and that this interdependency imposes structure on the behavior of institutions and their members

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, the components of the social structure have indispensable functions for one another—the continued existence of the one component is dependent on that of the others—and for society as a whole, which is seen as an integrated organic entity.

Each function has an effect on society in two ways i.e. (1) Integrative (2) Disintegrative.

