



SHANKAR
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Moksha

UPSC MAINS TEST SERIES

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)

FRESHERS 2025 - TEST - 1

DATE:

CANDIDATE NAME:

Ajay

MOBILE
NUMBER:

UPSC ROLL NO:
(compulsory)

Email ID:

SIA UNIQUE ID

Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

Parts Q.No	a	b	c	d	e	Marks Obtained	Total Marks of Question
1							50
2							50
3							50
4							50
5							50
6							50
GRAND TOTAL							250

INSTRUCTIONS

1. "Candidates should attempt questions 1 and 4 are compulsory, and any three of the remaining questions selecting at least one question from each section"
2. Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
3. Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
4. If you wish to cancel any work "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.
5. Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression

etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer. Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.

6. Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets.
7. Students submitting copies online must ensure that the quality of scanning is not compromised. Badly scanned answers will not be evaluated.
8. Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation.

IF THERE ARE ANY CONCERNS/GRIEVANCES/SUGGESTIONS/please mail to mokshasocio@shankarias.in

TIME TAKEN :

START:

END:

IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS WITH REGARD EVALUATION

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

(THIS WILL INCLUDE COMMENTS ON POSITIVES / AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
WHEREVER RELEVANT)

Question Interpretation		
Content	Relevance	
	Quality	
Answer Structure		
Presentation		
<u>Other Parameters</u>		



SECTION A

Q1. Write short answers to the following questions in about 150 words each, with a sociological perspective: (10 x 5 = 50)

(a) The use of common sense in sociology is akin to a double-edged sword. Do you agree?

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P1 UNIT 1, 2, 3 & 5

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(b) Examine the influence of philosophical thought in establishing sociology as a social science.

(10)

From the greek philosophies of stoicism, sociology was influenced by philosophy.

Philosophical thought in establishing sociology as social science:-

- ▷ Enlightenment philosophy influenced sociology as an objective study of society.
- ▷ Natural science methods of experimentation, observation, causation and generalisation influenced the positivist school in sociology.
- ▷ social changes brought by enlightenment philosophy [Industrial revolution, Urbanisation] were the subject matter of sociology in the initial days.
- ▷ Counter enlightenment thinkers such as Karl Marx laid the foundations of philosophy through materialism.

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▷ Political philosophies of Power, laid ~~laid~~ foundation for critical school. (examples):
Feminism.

▷ Post modernist philosophies enhanced the scope of sociology to study post modern societies.

(eg) Foucault's concept of Surveillance and punishment.

▷ Philosophies of 'othering' resulted in subaltern schools of sociology

(eg) WEB ~~Du Bois~~ ^{Du Bois's} concept of double consciousness among Black Americans

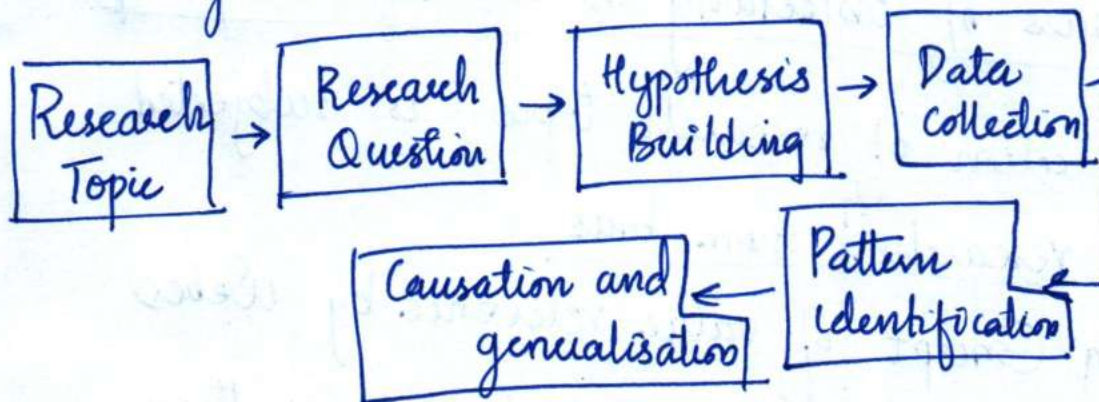
Similar to philosophical influence of sociology, sociology also influenced philosophy. For instance sociology of religion.

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(c) What is a scientific method? Can a scientific method be truly objective?

(10)

A Scientific method refers to systematic rules and procedures in identifying pattern and generalisations.



Scientific method is a product of enlightenment philosophy. It gives importance to empiricism and rationality.

Scientific Method as an objective Enquiry

- ▷ Research question helps in defining the area of research
(eg) Durkheim's research question 'why suicide rate differs across communities.'
- ▷ Data collection or experimentation promotes evidence based pattern analysis.

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▷ Identification of patterns, is an outcome of data analysis than on researchers own bias.

Issues of objectivity in scientific enquiry

▷ Selection of research topic is subjected to researcher's own bias

(eg) Concept of value relevance by Weber

▷ Reliability of data leads to false pattern identification.

(eg) Durkheim's pattern identification of high suicide among protestants than Catholics.

▷ Hawthorne effect results in invalid data for qualitative research

(eg) social desirability bias

The objectivity in research has undergone changes, due to changing nature of research
(eg) emergence of post positivist schools.

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(d) Examine the significance of variables. Demonstrate their utility in multivariate analysis?

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SOCIOLOGY

P1 UNIT 1, 2, 3 & 5

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(e) Analyse the impact of artificial intelligence in sociological research.

(10)

Technological changes not only steers social changes, but also impacts social science research.

Impact of AI in sociological research

- ▷ Emergence of new research areas
(eg) Post humanism: Sherry Turkle - 'Alone Together'
- ▷ Forming new methods of social research
(eg) virtual ethnography
- ▷ AI helps in virtual interactions with subject of research
(eg) Online mediated focus group discussions.
- ▷ It provides the researcher with vast amount of data
(eg) Google Gemini's deep research platform
- ▷ Reduces routine work of researcher

Disfunctional impacts

- ▷ False data due to unverified content
- ▷ Wrong causations and pattern identifications due to unreliable data
- ▷ Generating fake research papers
- ▷ Can lead to researcher's alienation due to ~~stiffening~~ ^{stiffening} of creativity by AI
- ▷ Digital divide among participants can lead to exclusive research data

The social changes that AI brings will expand both the method and scope of sociology, in post modern and post humanist society.

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Q2. (a) Do you agree to the view that interviews expose gaps between perception and reality.

(20)

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While quantitative methods of data collection provides surface level data, qualitative methods such as interview, provides in-depth information exposing the gap between perception and reality.

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Interview expose gap between perception and reality :-

Long term association with the interviewer with marginalised communities helps in unearthing hidden power relations which are not visible to the larger public (eg) Married women sharing issues of marital rape

In-depth interviews brings empathy and helps in understanding the

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experiences of participants within the context.

(eg) Clifford Geertz study of cock fights in Bali society

Understanding the particular symbolic language of a community is vital in understanding their shared meaning.

(eg) Merton's study of Hopi tribe, helped in understanding Rain dance, as community gathering in distress time.

Similarly, Malinowski's study of Trobriand Island explains how everyday rituals are created by communities.

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Interview opens up micro lived experiences which are not revealed to the public
(eg) Urvashi Butalia's study of partition victims, revealing untold stories of partition.

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Interviews helps in attaining a counter sides of perceived realities.
(eg) Depth interviews with terrorists helps in providing counter sides of fundamentalism.

Interviews, hence, enhanced the scope of micro sociology and gave birth to subaltern and feminist schools.

(b) What is Interpretative Sociology? How far has it influenced the scope of the discipline?

(20)

Interpretative school of sociology studies subjective meanings of social that social actors attach to actions. It came in opposition to positivist school under the foundations of Max Weber.

Influence of Interpretative sociology in the scope of the discipline :-

- ▷ Introduced micro studies by placing individual consciousness in understanding constant world.
- ▷ Interpretative school added qualitative data in the study of social phenomenon.
(eg) Max Weber refer Benjamin Franklin's diary to identify protestant value
- ▷ Use of qualitative methods in collecting qualitative data

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(eg) In-depth interview

▷ Influenced new schools of sociology

(eg) phenomenology by Alfred Schutz

▷ Concepts of role taking in Verstehen
laid the foundations for new approaches
in sociology.

(eg) G.H. Mead's Self and Society.

Erving Goffman's Dramatology

▷ In-depth studies influenced praxis in
Subaltern schools

(eg) The writings of Patricia Hill Collins
influencing second wave of feminism

▷ Expand the scope of sociology by
studying lived experiences in social
space

(eg) Emergence of urban sociology.

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Limitations of Interpretative Sociology

- ▷ Time consuming research methods
- ▷ Issues of researcher bias and participant bias, affecting validity.
- ▷ Value neutrality and objectivity of the researcher is difficult to arrive
- ▷ Often fails to acknowledge macro structures in identifying human consciousness.

Despite the criticism, interpretative school acted as a bridge between positivists and critical schools.

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(c) What is a comparative method? Illustrate with suitable examples.

(10)

Comparative method is an evaluative study of two social phenomenon or event.

It can be both quantitative and qualitative comparisons

Characteristics of Comparative Method

Identification of pattern across social phenomena

Examples of Comparative methods in Sociology

▷ Comparative study of society based on consciousness was done by Durkheim

in Division of Labour

Mechanical Solidarity

Collective Interdependent Consciousness

Organic Solidarity

Interdependent consciousness

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- ▷ Comparative study of Max of European society based on mode of production, using Dialectical Materialism as a method
- ▷ Weber did his comparative study through ideal types
(eg) Comparison of protestantism and Capitalism
- ▷ Parsonian comparative studies through pattern variables.
- ▷ Trans-national comparative studies of Emmanuel Wallerstein
(eg) Core and Periphery Nations

Due to post modernism,
comparative research, has evolved from binary
models to plurality of categories.

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Q3. (a) Analyse the historical factors behind the rise of sociology as a discipline.

(20)

Sociology has a long past however the discipline of sociology is a modern one.

Long past of sociology

- Subject of social philosophy existed among greeko-Roman thinkers
- Societal analysis in Arthashastra and Akbar nama
- Society based studies in Jainism

Historical factors that led to rise sociology as discipline:-

- ▷ Enlightenment philosophy, introduced humanism challenging theocratic world order.
- ▷ It led to ideas of secularism,
- ▷ Rational thought influenced scientific revolution, resulting in Industrial revolution.
- ▷ Evolutionary theories of Darwin, led to social darwinism in understanding social dynamics
- ▷ Industrial revolution led to factory based

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production resulting in drastic social changes
(eg) nuclear family, concentrated cities, ..

▷ Surplus production eventually led to colonisation.
Cross cultural encounter resulted in comparative
study of sociology.

▷ French revolution brought in constitutional
modernity transforming the french society.

▷ American revolution introduced inalienable
rights of human beings -
(eg) Bill of rights

▷ Emergence of social survey as a method
facilitated quantitative way of study,
paving way for sociology.

▷ Ideas such as philosophy of history also
presented linear progress of society, This
resulted in subject to study these social
problems

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► Responding to dynamic changes in European society, counter enlightenment- thinkers, pointed out the need for a subject to study social order.

(eg) Auguste Comte with positivist methods
and Karl Marx with critical school

► Along with these influences, institutionalisation of sociology was done by Durkheim, by setting up of department of sociology in France.

► Later Thinkers tried to institutionalise sociology, to define subject matter.

(eg) Weber by studying consciousness of social actors

With long tradition, ~~with~~ ^{and} modern past, sociology even went on to study, post modern societies.

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(b) "All individuals are equal; some individuals are more equal than others".

Contextualise the instances of gender based social exclusion.

(20)

Although Democracies and Constitutions of various countries provide equal status across genders, gender based stratification still exist in practice.

Male and female, from biological characteristics are still subjected to unequal gendered socialisation.

(eg) Forced emotional gender roles on women during childhood.

Labour rights, although ensures equality of opportunities, invisible forms of patriarchy still treat them unequally. Job rejection due to motherhood (Motherhood Penalty), glass ceiling and sticky floor effects

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still governs work spaces.

Representation in public sphere, still remain as a hurdle for women due to patriarchy.

(eg) Despite 33 percentage of reservation in local self governments, Sarpanch pati's still holds the power

Intersectionality concept of Kimberly Crenshaw offers inequality within gender spectrum

Intersectionality of gender and race pushes the black women into further marginality.

Alice Walker's novel 'Colour Purple' underlines this lived experience.

Gender and caste complicates lives of dalit and lower caste women due to difference of experiences and wants, their voice get isolated in mainstream feminist movement. Sharmila Rege writes about



triple burden of patriarchy experienced by Dalit women.

Inequality is also found in intersection of gender and space.

(eg) Choices available to urban & rural women strongly differ due to social norms. Rural women are often the victims of oppressive traditional institutions. whereas urban women is subjected to oppression from soft patriarchy.

Kinship patterns also has varying experiences, gender inequality. To patriarchy the dominant systems in kinships are stereotypically favouring men.

Diversity of gendered inequality underlines complex forms of stratification.

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(c) Enlist some quantitative research techniques and evaluate their limitations.

(10)

Quantitative methods of research are used in ^{collection} ~~analysing~~ numerical data. which is mostly used by positivist, critical schools and triangulist.

Quantitative researches are :-

1. Social survey
2. Census
3. Structured Interview

Limitations :-

- ▷ They only provide surface level data, affecting the validity of research.
- ▷ Due to focus on institution, they fail to acknowledge the individual meaning
- ▷ Quantitative methods are subjected to social desirability bias, from the respondents

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- ▷ Due to limited rapport building, respondents will be reluctant in giving accurate - informations
- ▷ Methods involving samplings may lead to wrong generalisation due to sampling numbers
- ▷ Quantitative methods is also ignorant of the power structures influencing the withholding of data
(eg) Women respondents on dowry not spoken due to fear of men in family.

Despite limitation, quantitative methods are useful in reaching out to larger population.

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SECTION B

Q4. Write short answers to the following questions in about 150 words each, with a sociological perspective: (10 x 5 = 50)

(a) Analyse the contemporary relevance of the middle class? Differentiate between the Marxian and Weberian perspective on the same. (10)

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Middle class is byproduct of capitalism and in post modern society, it is characterised by diversity.

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Contemporary relevance of middle class

1. Heterogenisation of middle class (L. Warner) resulted in diverse consumer demand
(eg) Different series of Samsung phones to accommodate middle class needs
2. Driven by innovation,
(eg) Rising startup culture among middle class
3. Influence politics due to numeric strength
(eg) Middle class centric political manifesto
4. Exploration of newer models of religion
(eg) Practise of meditation and yoga
5. Spatially located in urban space. resulting in urban migration

Difference between Marxian & Weberian middle class

Marxian

1. Rejects middle class due to the binary model
2. Pauperisation rejects the possible emergence of middle class
3. Marx instead propose emerging class instead of middle class

Weberian

1. Presence of propertyless upperclass and petty bourgeoisie as middle classes in his model
2. Embourgeoisement results in emergence of middle class
3. Middle class is also characterised by struggle for status and power.

In post-modern society heterogenisation of classes remain to be a social phenomenon.

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(b) Cite the functional and dysfunctional aspects of poverty in the society.

(10)

Poverty is a condition of absence of resources in fulfilling basic needs. Functionalist perceive poverty in functional and dysfunctional lenses.

Functional aspects of poverty:-

- ▷ It act as a reward mechanism for individuals with dedicated efforts
(eg) Poor are failed to put effort
- ▷ Effective distribution of resources, due to the exclusion of inactive individuals
- ▷ Re-inforces value consensus among social-actors by poor being a reminder.

Dysfunctional aspects of poverty

- ▷ Creates a culture of poverty (Oscar Lewis) resulting in intergenerational transmission
- ▷ Reduces opportunities for attaining

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symbolic and social capital (Pierre Bourdieu)

(eg) Exclusions from schools

▷ Leads to ghettoisation due to spatial marginalisation (David Harvey)

(eg) Slums in metropolitan cities

▷ These ghettos are locations of crimes & violence affecting social stability

(eg) Dharavi in Mumbai

▷ migration among poor (urban location)
creates disjointed families in rural areas -

* Feminisation of poverty.

▷ Youth migration due to poverty leads to
aged villages - resulting in loneliness among
aged.

Poverty

(c) What are the bases and types of social hierarchy? How do the functionalists view it?

(10)

Social hierarchies are graded inequalities within a social system.

Bases and types of social hierarchy

- ▷ Racism on the basis of grading of people with physical features by the meaning attached by human beings
- ▷ (eg) White Man's burden
- ▷ Gender based hierarchy created by patriarchal structure
- ▷ Regional hierarchies on the basis of attaching value to certain regions over others
(eg) Mainland vs hinterland
- ▷ Caste hierarchy on the basis of one's birth in a particular jati.

These hierarchies are maintained by narratives, rituals, and institutions.

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Functionalist perspective on social hierarchy

► Parsonian view

- He view it as a result of value-consensus in society.
- Those who contribute more to this, value is graded high over others.
- Act as a motivational force and bring stability in society

► Davis & Moore

- Helps in role allocation and role performance in all societies.
- Motivate individual to dedicate themselves for functional unique roles.
- This act as reward mechanism ^{for Merit} ~~in society~~

Functionalist failed in acknowledging social structures acting as a barrier for individuals in value expression. They ^{were} also challenged ~~value~~ by Marxist thinkers on account of dominant value.

(d) "Ethnicity never dies. It is always reborn." Substantiate with suitable examples. (10)

Ethnicity is a ingroup feeling on account of common history, culture, region etc.. It is more of a consciousness :

Ethnicity is always reborn

- ▶ Ethnic identity of an individual could be -
triggered by symbols
(eg) An Indian migrant getting reminded of his/her ethnicity by seeing Indian flag.
- ▶ Ethnicity allows individuals to get connected irrespective of spaces
(eg) Kurd ethnicity spread across of Iran, Iraq and Turkey
- ▶ Ethnic feeling can also be result of response to external events
(eg) outside migration invoking Maharashtra ethnicity resulting in sun of the soil movement
- ▶ Ethnic feelings are also heightened by social

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movements

(eg) Influence of Gandhian leadership on Indian freedom struggle

▷ Ethnic identity can get reinforced by feeling of relative deprivation

(eg) Kuki-Meity ethnicity invoking due to due to feeling of relative deprivation

▷ Social oppression act as a reminder of ethnicity for marginalised sections

(eg) Everyday exclusions by whites reminding marginal ethnicity of Marx.

▷ Ethnic memories can also be made into a perpetual source, for instance 'God of small things' by Arundhati Roy triggering Malayali ethnicity.

By being a state of mind, ethnicity can get reborn although they maynot have outward manifestation.

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(e) What do you mean by social stigma? How does race impact the social psyche of individual actors? (10)

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P1 UNIT 1, 2, 3 & 5

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Q5. (a) Social stratification is multidimensional. Elaborate with suitable illustrations the concept of intersectionality in stratification. (20)

Intersectionality is the overlapping influences of multiple identities and social conditions, integrated inequality of stratification (Kimberlé Crenshaw)

In the initial thoughts of intersectionality was laid by Max Weber in his trinity model of stratification

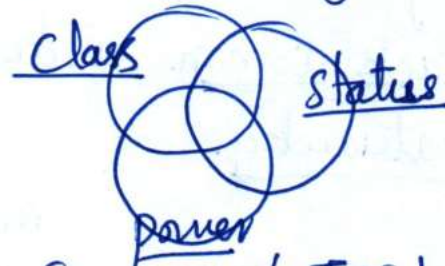


Fig: Weber's Trinity Model

Multidimensionality in social stratification:-

► Class identity and upward mobility will not always assure high rank in social system. It is also determined by status and power

(eg) In ancient Indian society, Vaishyas were economically powerful, did not enjoy superior position. To improve

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their status in social system, they patronised emerging religions of Buddhism & Jainism

► In post-Industrial societies, inter-sectional experiences provides plurality of stratas in social system.

(eg) Intersection of gender and race, make black women under triple layers of patriarchy.



► Intersectioning region and race is another example of multi-dimensional stratification. In India, people of North East, referred as Chinese, due to the intersection of regional and physical features (Mongolian race)



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► Sharmila Rege and Gail Omvedt studied the intersection between Caste and gender in Indian society. Professor Gopal Guru, underlying the differing concerns of Dalit Women from mainstream feminist discourse in his essay "Dalit Women talk differently".

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► Economic background and gender is also another site of social stratification, economic vulnerabilities enhances the existing gendered vulnerability of women coming from lower financial background. Professor Radhika Chopra's study of 'Domestic helps in Delhi' underlines this.

Intersectional experienced both in theory and practise in post modern society.

(b) Describe the types of sampling with clear practical examples.

(20)

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Sampling refers to a quantitative method. Sampling is a quantitative method to study the characteristics of larger populations. Sample represents the essentials of a population, without the need to study the entire unit.

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Types of Sampling

Probability Sampling

1. Random Sampling: In this method samples are taken without any order. (eg) Randomly selecting an elector from voters list, in a research on election behaviour.

2. Stratified Sampling: In this method population is divided into different



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strata and samples are chosen randomly from each of the strata. In the research on election behavior, population is stratified based on gender category, and each sample is drawn from each strata.

3▷ Cluster Sampling: Population is divided into different clusters, based on similarities. Samples are drawn from each cluster to bring diversity in data collected.
(eg) Choosing voters from different regions where cluster is based on similarity of locations.

4▷ Multi-layered Sampling: It involved double random sampling in subsequent stages.
(eg) Random selection of districts, then panchayats from chosen district to study voter behavior.

Non Probable Sampling

This is a qualitative sampling tool due to lesser chance of random selection of samples.

1▷ Convenience Sampling: collecting data from available sample to the researcher (eg) Open mic

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2. Quota Sampling: researcher has a quota to be filled and samples are selected as long as required number is met.

(eg) Quota of different age group is studying election behaviour

3. Purposive Sampling: researcher pre-set the samples due to the particular nature of research topic

(eg) Purposive selection of women to understand female responses to election

4. Snowballing: used when samples are not readily available

(eg) Studying responses of naxalite leaders towards election.

Here, each sample becomes lead to next sample due to accessibility issue.

The diversity in sampling method,
underline diversity of research methods and focus.

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(c) "Chaos does not organize itself into cosmos. We need viewpoints." Is value-neutrality impossible in sociological studies?

(10)

Critical schools of sociology emphasis on value laden-ness in social research, with practice.

Value Laiden-ness in sociological studies

➤ Critical schools study subaltern communities who needs empathy in understand the reality

➤ School also believes in political perspective of researcher on account of being a human (Alvin Gouldner).

However, irrespective of positivist criticism of subjectivity, Weber and other scholars, offered value neutrality in sociology.

➤ Creating ideal types reduces element of subjectivity and ensure objectivity in research

➤ Verstehen ensures objective analysis

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of meaning given by social actors.

► By providing causal-probable explanations the value neutrality of the researcher is maintained in terms of generalisation.

► Weber, in his essay, 'Science as a Vocation' suggest the researcher to led political position to avoid, value is born.

► Harvard Becker acknowledging the possibility of value involvement, encourages open declaration of political leaning.
(his essay: 'Whose side are we on?')

These scholars, through value neutrality, maintained scientific nature of sociology, while dealing with subjective consciousness.

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Q6. (a) Elaborate on how sociology is a synthesis of other social sciences.

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SOCIOLOGY

P1 UNIT 1, 2, 3 & 5

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(b) Positivism is no fail- safe methodology. Discuss its lacunae and suggest how they can be addressed?

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