

# SYM 101/SYH 261, Sociological Concepts

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Unit: 01

Topic : Meaning and Definition of  
Sociology



# After Watching video you will able to understand

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- Origin/Emergence of Sociology
- Meaning, Definition and Subject-matter of Sociology



# Origin of Sociology

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Geographical Discoveries

Renaissance and Enlightenment

French Revolution

Industrial Revolution





# Introduction

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Sociology is the study of social life of human beings. Human life is not simple It's varied from time to time and space to space. Human life has a wide range around entire world. In this context sociology try to developed various theories to analysis the social reality of human social life.

Sociology is the youngest social science, but it has a long history. It was an outcome of age of enlightenment and European modernity.



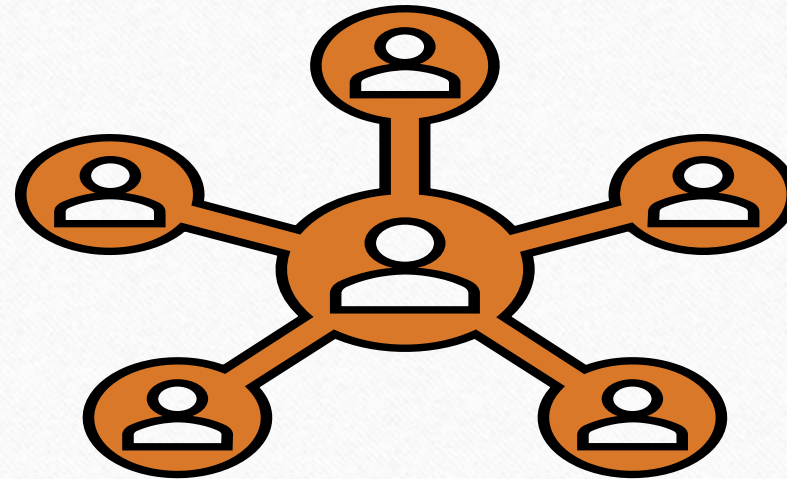
# Meaning of Sociology

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- Auguste Comte Coined term sociology in 1838
- Sociology is a hybrid term which is combination of two languages- Latin and Greek. The word socius is a Latin word which means friend, companionship or association. The Greek 'Logos' mean study of. It also means doctrine, discourse or theory. By combination of these words, it can be illustrated in following form
- Socius + logos = Sociology (Study of human associations)



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- Sociology is the scientific study of human interactions, social action, social groups, social institutions and all process which affect human social life in collective manner.





## Different Ways to Define Sociology

Sociology as a science of society.

Sociology as study of social group.

Sociology as study of Social Interaction and Social Action or Social Relationship.

Sociology as the study of social institution.

Sociology as the study of social bonds, social processes, social system, social structure social life, social phenomenon and so on.



## Sociology as a science of Society



“Sociology is a science of society.” -  
G.A. Lundberg(1939)



“Sociology is the science which studies  
society.” – H.W. Odum (1947)



“Sociology attempt to study society  
scientifically.” – Horton and Hunt (1964)



“Sociology is an Understanding of  
society.” - Stewart and Glynn(1991)





## **Sociology as the study of social groups**

A small number of writers like H.M. Johnson, Kimball Young and others have followed this pattern and defined it as under:

“Sociology is the science that deals with social groups, their internal forms or modes of organization, the processes that tend to maintain or change these forms of organization and relation between groups.” -H.M. Johnson (1960)

“Sociology deals with the behaviour of man in groups.”- Kimball Young (1942)



# **Sociology as the study of social actions, interaction or social relationships**

- Early German thinkers like Max Weber, Leopold Von Wiese and George Simmel advocated that sociology should exclusively devote itself to the social actions, social interactions or social relationship. Among contemporary sociologists, Talcott Parsons (1951) has also followed these lines.



# **Sociology as the study of social actions, interaction or social relationships**

- “Sociology is the science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social action.” - Max Weber (1949)
- "Sociology is about 'social relationships, the network of relationships; the network of relationships, we call society.'" - MacIver and Page (1949)
- "Sociology may be said to be the study of interactions arising from the association of living beings. - Gillin and Gillin (1948)





# **Sociology as the study of social actions, interaction or social relationships**

- "Sociology is the synthesizing and generalizing science of man in all his social relationships." -A.W. Green (1952)
- "Sociology is the science of human relationships." - Merrill and Eldrige (1952)
- "The study of social interaction is central to sociologists" - Gouldner and Gouldner (1963)
- "Sociology is the study of systems of action and of their interrelations." - Alex Inkeles(1964)



## Sociology as the study of social institutions

- Some of the writers or thinkers have opined that the distinctive unit of sociological study is not whole society, but specifically the relations between the institutions (family, church, school or political party etc.) which compose it. They said that society as a whole is already the unit of analysis in the fields of history and anthropology; as such sociology should limit itself with the study of relations of the institutions only. Main champion of this view is **Durkheim**, who as long ago as 1901, said that sociology "can be defined as the science of institutions" (The Rules of Sociological Method, 1895).



**Sociology as  
the study of  
social bonds,  
social  
processes,  
social  
system,  
social  
structure,  
social life,  
social  
phenomena**

"Sociology is concerned with the study of the social life of man." - Ogburn and Nimkoff (1964)

"Sociology is the study of social processes." - Reuter and Hart (1933)

"Sociology is the study of human beings within their social Contexts." -Smith and Preston (1977)

"Sociology is the study of the basic structure of society.- Weinberg and Shabat (1956)


"Sociology is the science of social phenomena." E.A. Ross (1901)






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"Sociology is the science of  
the structure and functions  
of social life" - Bennet and  
Tumin (1946)



"Sociology is the study of  
human beings with their  
social context." – R.W.  
Smith and F.W. Peterson  
(1977)



"Sociology is a generalizing  
science of socio-cultural  
phenomenon viewed in their  
generic forms, types and  
manifold interconnections."  
P.A.Sorokin (1947)



# Summing Up

- These definitions shows that sociologists differ in their opinions about the subject-matter of Sociology. In short, we can say that sociology is the systematic and ordered study of society or social relations, social patterns, social process, social phenomenon and so on.



# Thankyou

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