

# THE GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY

## The Growth of Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of human social life, groups, and societies. No sociology was a distinct discipline before the advent of the 19th century. As a distinct discipline, it emerged about the middle of the 19th century when European social observers began to use scientific methods to test their ideas. It looks like three factors led to the development of sociology.

The three major factors which influenced the emergence of sociology as a sphere of study began in the late eighteenth century with the French Revolution, the period known as the Enlightenment, and the industrial revolution.

1. **The French revolution** (1789-1799) lasted for ten years and was the first modern and ideological revolution of its kind. It had a significant impact on society because it changed its structure. It managed to eliminate the social distinctions between people and the feudal society. The power shifted away from the Church and came into the hands of the people. This was the first time people were seen as citizens. In addition, the clerical hierarchy that had existed until then gave up its rights and property. These changes had a historical, political, and social impact on entire Europe and not just France. Plato and Aristotle had become exterminally manifest in the social and historical world as a consequence of the revolution in France.

2. The **Industrial Revolution** began in England from the 18th to 19th centuries (1765-1850) and brought several changes in

societies, shaping them into the form they are today. The major shift in technological, socioeconomic, and cultural conditions began in Britain and spread throughout the world.

Technology brought significant workplace changes, leading to great improvement and efficiency. It also improved transportation and hence trade and commerce between countries. Machines were now helping people in production, thereby improving time efficiency, production volume, and the conditions under which people worked. It became the symbols of the new society, and humanity could be seen to be all working into this machine. Markets expanded even more since scarce goods and raw materials in one country could be supplied from another.

3. The **Enlightenment** was a significant contributing factor to the emergence of sociology in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Enlightenment is considered the source of critical ideas, such as the centrality of freedom, democracy, and reason as primary values of society. The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement consisting of many philosophers. The most popular figures of this new framework were *Charles Montesquieu*, *Jean-Jacques Rousseau* and *Voltaire*. They managed to challenge the traditional and existing conceptions of the world.

The thinkers of Enlightenment aimed to teach people to stop blindly listening and following the Church's opinions and decisions and start thinking on their own. Challenge what they hear and develop their critical judgment. People were now advised to try and solve their problems independently rather than wait for God to provide a solution for them. This

new way of thinking was a significant factor in economic growth.

The French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, and the Enlightenment were the three major factors contributing to the emergence of sociology in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. People's lives became much more accessible and better during this historical period. All these changes helped people become more open-minded and created their life with more choices. This important turning point in history led to a technological and economic boom. It also resulted in people learning to live in societies.

## ***Role of Enlightenment in the emergence of sociology***



Q:- what is enlightenment? what is its role in the development of sociology as a separate discipline?

Ans:- The Enlightenment or the 'Age of Reason' was a period of intellectual development which brought about significant changes in philosophical thought in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (Enlightenment period marked a radical change from the then existing philosophies of feudal Europe.) It was a period when people such as philosophers, scientists, writers and artists began to challenge old ways of thought, in order to try and gain an understanding of the world.

Perhaps the most significant and direct influence on the development of the discipline of sociology is that of the intellectual revolution referred to as the Enlightenment. A long standing ideas and beliefs - many of which related to social life were overthrown and replaced during this period. Its essence lay in its challenge to absolutism, the questioning of authority through a new conception of truth. Under absolutism individual had to submit to the authority which was supposed to possess the monopoly of the truth, but under Enlightenment the individual acquired new importance, dignity and self-respect.

During Enlightenment, people started to believe that 'all men are born and remain free and equal in rights'. people had previously not thought of every person as being equal. people wanted freedom which allowed them to explore the ~~and~~ world around them and to create



new ideas and inventions. The Enlightenment thinkers believed that everyone should have the same equal rights to participate in politics and government. They rejected the religious explanations, instead looking to use reason, rational thinking, and the new 'scientific method' to gain understanding. It introduced individuals started questioning each and every aspect of life and nothing was considered sacrosanct — from Church to the state to the authority of the monarch and so on. Therefore, enlightenment was a period of remarkable intellectual development and change in the philosophical thought.

The enlightenment is considered to be the source of critical ideas, such as the centrality of freedom, democracy and reason as primary values of society. It helped in the development of secular, scientific and humanistic attitudes of mind during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. This is because 'enlightenment' positioned the human beings as the central figure of the universe, with rational thought at its core. Rational and critical thinking transformed human beings as the central figure into both producers and users of all knowledge. Those who did not adopt new ways of thinking and reasoning were deemed as deficient and primitive. This development influenced society as it was product of human interaction. Thus, it helped sociology to grow as a rational and scientific subject with critical analyses. ✱

***Role of French Revolution in the emergence  
of sociology***



## Role of French Revolution in the emergence of sociology.

The French Revolution of 1789 marked a turning point in the history of human struggle for 'liberty, fraternity and equality'. It put an end to the age of feudalism by he and ushered in a new order of society. This revolution brought changes not only in French society, but in societies throughout Europe.

Social Conditions in France in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century were extremely ~~unequal~~ unequal and exploitative. French Society was divided into three Estates. The third Estates that consisted of peasants and workers formed the majority of population, but they were burdened with excessive taxes with no political and social rights. As a result they were extremely discontent. France, like other European countries during the eighteenth century, had entered the age of reason and rationalism. Major philosophers, whose ideas influenced the French people were rationalists who believed that 'all things could be proved by reason'. The ferment created by these ideas along with the prevailing social conditions in the French society led to the French Revolution which marked an end of despotic monarchy. It changed the political structure of European society and replaced the age of feudalism by heralding the arrival of liberal democracy.

The long series of political revolutions that were ushered in by the French revolution in 1789 and carried over through the nineteenth century was the most immediate factor in the rise of sociological



theorizing. The impact of this revolution on many society was enormous, and led to many positive and negative changes.

The negative effects of social changes brought by French revolution manifested in forms of chaos and disorder. Other The turmoil and disorders resulted by French revolution and the problems emerged by tremendous changes led to the study of social problems and to find a new bases of order in societies. This interest in the issue of social order was one of the major concerns of Classical sociological theorists, especially Auguste Comte who created sociology as a separate discipline.



Q:- what is French Revolution ? Discuss the changes brought by French Revolution that facilitate the development of sociology.

Ans: A French Revolution was a Revolution in France from 1789 to 1799.

The French Revolution of 1798 marked a turning point in the history of human ~~history~~ struggle for 'liberty', fraternity and equality. It put an end to the age of feudalism and ushered in a new order of society. This revolution brought changes not only in French society, but in societies throughout Europe. The impact of these revolutions on many societies was enormous, and led to many positive and negative changes.

French revolution marked an ~~of~~ end of despotic ~~monarchy~~. It changed the political structure of European society and replaced the age of feudalism by heralding the arrival of liberal democracy. It eradicates the social distinction between people and feudal society. The power shifted from the



Church to People's hand. The French revolution brought remarkable changes to the family after the declaration of human rights. This stated that all humans are born free and equal at the same time clergy lost much of its power and also its influence on France. Civil and marriages and divorce were established. Education and religion were also subject to change.

(The negative effects of social changes brought by French revolution manifested in forms of chaos and disorders.) Other revolutions like industrial revolution also came with many problems such as labor capital dispute, Problem of housing, increasing number of people in urban areas.

(The turmoil and disorders resulted by French revolution and the problems emerged by tremendous changes led to the study of social problems and to find new bases of order in societies) that had been overturned by the Political revolutions of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. (This interest in the issue of social order was one of the major concerns of classical sociological theorists, especially Comte who created sociology as a new discipline or as a separate science.)

The long series of political revolutions that were ushered by the French Revolution in 1789 and carried over through the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the most immediate factor in the rise of sociological theorizing. French revolution was a turning point in Europe brought by French Revolution was a turning point in the history of thinking about society.

***Role of Industrial Revolution in the  
emergence of sociology***



Q:- what is industrial Revolution? what is its role in the emergence of sociology as a separate discipline?

Industrial Revolution was not a single event but refers to a set of interrelated developments that led to the transformation of the western world from a largely agrarian system to an overwhelmingly industrial one.)

(Industrial Revolution began around 1760 A.D in England and brought about great changes in the social and economic life of people, initially in England and later spread to other countries of Europe.)

(Industrial Revolution was one of the reasons why sociology as a discipline emerged.) It greatly shaped up the context for sociology to emerge. (It has a deep impact on society. During Industrial Revolution new tools and techniques were invented, which could produce goods on a large-scale. One of the significant mechanical inventions was the Spinning Jenny, invented by an English weaver, James Hargreaves in 1767, which greatly increased the productivity of the textile industry.)

(A series of inventions in tools and techniques and organisation of production took place and it gave rise to the factory system of production.) (The factory system and manufacturing on mass-scale led to changes in modes of production and acquisition of raw materials from around the world.) (This led to a change in economy from a feudal to a capitalist system of production.) Subsequently a new class of capitalist emerged who controlled this new system of production.) Within this system, a few profited greatly while the majority worked



long hours and for paltry amount of money. Due to this revolution society moved from the old age of hand made goods to new age of machine-made goods. This shift heralded the emergence of industrial Revolution.

With the change in economy, several changes followed. people abandoned the life of agriculture and moved to cities to find factory jobs. Instead of open and bright countryside they were now living in dirt and squalor. With the increase in production, population started increasing. Rise of the population accompanied by massive rural to urban migration led to urbanization. The industrial cities grew rapidly. These industrial cities were marked by huge social, socio-economic disparities.

Thus, Industrial had led to tremendous observable changes in the society, and the need to understand it also grew and created the demand for new kinds of knowledge. The social sciences and particularly sociology emerged partly as a response to this need. The early sociologists were greatly disturbed by the onset of industrialisation changes taking place with onset of industrialisation like such as massive rural to urban migration, changed patterns of living.

✓ (The scientific analysis of developments and study of social behaviour in industrialised societies were the main subjects of sociology.) This was made possible by empirical observation and study of the information about social indicators generated by



→ Which factors had played a pivotal role in industrial revolution?

The foundations of modern industry were laid by the industrial Revolution, which began in Britain in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Factors that had played a pivotal role in industrial revolution are -

1) New inventions: During the industrial revolution new tools and techniques were developed and invented. New machines like the Spinning Jenny which greatly increased the productivity of the textile industry and new methods of obtaining power such as the various versions of the steam engine facilitated the production process and gave rise to the factory system and mass manufacture of goods. They changed the way things were powered and how goods were manufactured. These new developments allowed the industrial revolution to grow rapidly and spread throughout Europe and the United States.

2) Access to raw material: Britain had access to cotton from its colonies and could use slaves to collect it.



As technology improved, cotton picking became easier and was booming industry. Coal, iron, lead, copper, tin, limestone and water power were also readily available for the British to use for their industrial advancement. Coal and Iron deposits were plentiful in Great Britain and proved essential to the development of all new machines made of iron or steel and powered by coal such as the steam powered machinery in textile factories.

3) Development of transportation: The eighteenth century witnessed an expansion of transportation facilities in Britain as entrepreneurs realized the need for more efficient means of moving resources and goods. The development of steam engine led to a radical transformation of the railways. The railroads contributed significantly to the success and maturing of the industrial revolution. The railroad's demand for coal and iron furthered the growth of those industries. Railway construction created new jobs opportunities, especially for farm laborers and peasants who had been accustomed to finding work outside their village.

4) European Imperialism: European Imperialism had a crucial role in the industrial revolution. First it had access to a large number of ~~mater~~ raw materials, which could then be used to produce goods. This was because the European countries had a reach in North as well as South America from where they could get their resources. Thus, European Imperial could provide the funds which were necessary



For the Production of goods.

Second, it also created a substantial market for products. The countries had well-established trade routes. Thus, they could sell the products they manufactured around the world.

5. Agricultural Revolution: Agricultural Revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century paved the way for the Industrial Revolution in Britain. ~~This revolution led to an increase in food production~~ New farming techniques and improved livestock breeding led to amplified food production. This allowed a spike in population and increased health. As a result, this created a large ~~a large~~ workforce for the factories and mines. The invention of seed drill allowed farmers to plant crops faster and straight rows, also allowing the same amount of work to be done by less people.

# ***Growth of Sociology in India***



# Growth of sociology in India :

(Sociology as a discipline is a product of western intellectual discourse. However writings about society can be traced back to the ancient Indian mythological religious and spiritual texts such as the veda, Upanishads, puranas, Smritis, writings of Kautilya. These writings talk volumes about rites, laws, Customs, economy, polity, culture, morality, aesthetics and science. All these writings are replete with insights concerning social order and stability, mobility.

(Sociology emerged as a separate academic discipline in Indian university in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 20<sup>th</sup> century.)  
At the beginning it was associated with Anthropology. However, the growth of sociology passed through three phases such as :

1) The First phase covering the period between 1773 - 1900 A.D.

(Before 1900, Sociology developed as a tool for British administrators to understand Indian Society and culture.)

(During the course of exercising their rule in India, the British officials realised that for smooth administration,

it was important that they acquired knowledge about of Indian Society and culture.) (Information was also required about affluent families and customs, which could be used for revenue collection.) (If local societies were administered according to their laws and customs, it was thought that there would be peace and harmony.) (Hence, their laws and customs needed to be recorded meticulously in details.) (This promoted the origin of sociology in India.)



The first attempt in this regard was made in 1769, under the supervision of Henry Verelst, the Governor of Bengal and Bihar. (Many British officials and missionaries had made earnest efforts to collect and record information regarding the life and culture of Indian social groups.) (For example, Francis Buchanan undertook the ethnographic survey of Bengal in 1807.) (Abbe Dubois, a French missionary in Mysore, wrote the famous book titled Hindu Manners, Customs, and Ceremonies in 1816, in which he described the characteristics of caste system and the interaction between them.) (The first all-India census taken by the British Government in 1871 marked the beginning of more systematic attempts for gathering data. With the efforts of colonial officials) such as Wilson, Risley, Baines, Blunt, Thurston, O. Malley, and Hutton and Guha ~~that~~ (census became an invaluable source of information not only for demographic studies but for social and cultural analysis as well.)

(Indological studies also received considerable stimulus from the efforts made by British officials scholars and become more familiar with the life and culture of Indian society.

Sir William Jones began the study of Sanskrit and Indology and founded the Royal Asiatic Society in Bengal in 1787.

There have been many other studies of Indian society and culture, village studies, studies of law, which together have sown the seed of the emergence and growth of sociology in India.)

The Second Period (1900-1950)



(In the beginning of 20th Century, professional sociologists like Herbert Risley (Tribe and Caste), W.H.R Rivers (Nilgiri-Todas) and A.R Radcliffe Brown (Andaman Islanders) started working in India on different aspects of tribe. Their influence on Indian sociology continued through the work of G.S Ghurye and K.P Chattopadhyaya.)

During the first two decades of the 20th Century L.K Ananthakrishna Iyer and S.C Roy made the major contribution. Iyer wrote accounts of castes and tribes of Cochin and Mysore besides carrying out a useful survey of Syrian Christians of Kerala. S.C Roy carried out studies of Indian tribes such as the Oris.

(In 1914, the University of Bombay started teaching of sociology at undergraduate level. The first department of sociology and civics started in Bombay university in 1919 under the leadership of Sir Patrick Geddes) This was indeed a concrete step. (Culcutta University with the efforts of B.N Seal introduced sociology in 1917. Later on, the subject was handled by Radhakamal Mukherjee and B.N Sarkar.) (In 1921, a combined department of economics and sociology was created in Lucknow under the leadership of Radhakamal Mukherjee. Later, he was joined by D.P. Mukherji and D.N Madumder. Because of these three scholars Lucknow emerged as one of the prime place of teaching sociology.) In (Sociology made appearance at Mysore University in 1928 by the efforts of B.N Seal and A.F Wadia and at Poona University in 1930 with Iravati Karve as the head.)



(Scholars of Indian and foreign origin produced a number of important works on Indian society during this phase. M.N Srinivas's work on the Coorgs, was published in 1942, under the title Marriage and Family in Mysore.)

### Post Independence phase:

In the post independence period, with the introduction of planned development in the country and creation of National Planning Commission, significant changes, <sup>started</sup> taking place in the growth and development of sociology. Sociologists were actively engaged in planning and development programmes.) The Census Organisation, the Central Social Welfare Board, the Office of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and institutions associated with the community development programmes needed the expertise of sociologists. With the Commr of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) in 1969, there was a further expansion of sociology. <sup>During this phase,</sup> A number of village studies were undertaken such as S.C Dube's ~~st~~ Indian village (1955) and M.N Srinivas's India's village (1956). In addition, several Indian communities, both tribes and castes, were also intensively studied. Besides contributing to empirical studies of Indian society, Indian sociologists also arrived at important theoretical insights from their work. From the Coorg study, Srinivas gave the concept of Sanskritization. In the last decade, there has been an increase in the



Studies dealing with the issues of gender, ethnicity,  
violence, stratification etc. with all this, <sup>Indian</sup> Sociology  
have been able to make a mark at the international  
level. :)

# **Growth of Social Anthropology in India**

## **Growth of Anthropology in India**

**Anthropology, even though a new subject, anthropology occupies an important position in the academic arena of the world. Today it is taught in almost all the famous universities of the world. Moreover, anthropologists are employed at different levels of administration. Anthropology took a long time to develop as an independent teaching and research discipline. Even though humans were intrinsically curious to know about worldly phenomena, a systematic analysis of human life originated very late. Here we shall examine how the subject of anthropology achieved its present status in the world and in India.**

**Anthropology is comparatively a new subject, and the origin and growth of the subject have taken place through centuries. T. K. Penniman in his book 'Hundred Years of Anthropology' (1935), classifies the development of anthropology into four periods are discussed below:**

### **1. Formulation period (before 1835):**

**This is the first and longest period in the history of Anthropology. It extends from the time of the Greek historians, philosophers, and naturalists.**

**a. Penniman considers Herodotus (484-425 BC) as the first anthropologist. He is also considered the father of Greek Ethnography. He collected a large number of facts about people in different cultural stages. He not only talked about the origin of culture**

but also described the spoken language, physical types, material culture, marriage and divorce, social laws, customs, etc.

b. Protagoras (480-410 BC) is another Greek philosopher who contributed to the knowledge about human beings and culture. In his opinion, “man is the measure of all things.” He was the first to propose the theory of relativism. He also introduced the evolutionary scheme, which explains how different social traits exist.

c. Socrates (470-399 BC) was of the opinion that certain universal values guide every society. He mainly put forward the philosophical aspect of social thinking.

d. Another Greek thinker, Plato (428 – 348 BC), proposed ideas about the state, marriage, education, etc. According to him, humans outside social control are animals, and it is the society that makes the individual a social being.

e. Like Plato, Aristotle (384 – 322 BC) also proposed his view of the state and humans. He had clearly understood the difference between functional and structural similarities. This is clear from the fact that he classified bats with mammals and not with birds and the whales with mammals and not fishes. Aristotle believed that the state determines the behaviour of humans. Without law and justice, humans would be the worst of all animals, and he also proposed that human beings are social animals.

Various travelers and explorers wrote details about the people they encountered in the medieval period. Among these, Marco-polo (1224-1313) and Vasco-Da-Gama (1397-1499) contributed much towards enriching knowledge of Anthropology.

During the 17th century, Francis Bacon and Thomas Hobbes formulated different theories for the study of society. John Lock

provided the metaphysical foundation upon which the Anthropologist formulated their formal definition of culture. German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) wrote the book *Anthropology* in 1789, suggesting the animal origin of man and concluding that human knowledge comes from pre-human conditions.

There was a lot of curiosity to learn about the different races of humankind during the 16th century. The demonstration of blood circulation by William Harvey in 1628 and the discovery of the microscope by Leeuwenhoek opened a new world of study. Vesalius had attempted to compare human beings with apes. He also tried to dissect the human body. In 1735, Carl Linnaeus published his book '*Systema Naturae*,' which mentioned the inclusion of humans in the Zoological classification.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Christian missionaries traveled worldwide to spread Christian ideology and convert people to Christianity. They studied the culture of native people to make their conversion attempt easy. British administrators conducted many studies on native people during colonization to make their administration easy. Edgar Thurston (*Castes and Tribes of India*), William Crook (*Tribes and Castes of the North Western Provinces*), Verrier Elwin (*Philosophy of NEFA*), and John Russel made significant contributions to Anthropology by conducting various studies on the culture of different groups in India.

## **2. Convergent Period (1835-1859):**

During this period, scholars of different countries expressed divergent views about the origin of biological and social aspects of human beings. Among these, the contribution of Karl Marx (1818–1883), Charles Lyell (1797–1895), and William Smith (1769–1839) are essential. Marx accepted the dialectical process as the moving power

of history. In the field of Archaeology, Boucher Deperthe's discoveries of a flint implement at Abbeville in 1838 and 1846, and Dr. Rigollet's discovery at Saint Acheul in 1854 are some of the new developments. Neanderthal's discovery at Dusseldorf in 1857 gave a new outlook on human evolution. James Prichard classified and systematized the facts about races of humankind in his book *The Natural History of Man* in 1833 and *Physical History of Man* in 1836. He proposed the differences in colour, hair, stature, and form and examined the criteria of racial classification. The convergence of all these ideas was completed with Charles Darwin's book "*The Origin of Species*" (1859). In this book, he proposed his theory of organic evolution, popularly known as 'Darwinism.' With the publication of this book, the physical evolution of the human being based on the scientific investigation was established. Thus, the diverse arguments expressed about the origin of human beings and society ended with the publication of *Origin of Species*.

### **3. Constructive Period (1859–1900):**

During this period, Anthropology started as an independent discipline in many universities. A Department of Anthropology was started at Oxford University in 1884 and Cambridge University in 1900. Scientific research and publications by scholars like E. B. Tylor, James Frazer, Henry Maine, and L. H. Morgan emerged during this period. Different branches of anthropology like ethnology, pre-history, and social and physical anthropology also evolved.

Apart from England, Germany, and the USA, anthropological research flourished in France and some other countries. The contributions of Emile Durkheim in France helped to popularize Anthropology in France. Some important journals like '*American Journal of Folklore*,' '*Bulletin of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland*' (now

known as 'Man'), etc., started during this period. A large number of anthropological articles were published in these journals. Colonial administrators had also published their reports and papers in this journal. The research done by British officers like Edgar Thurston, Russel, and others facilitated the growth of anthropological tradition in India.

#### **4. Critical Period (1900 onwards):**

Penniman used the term 'critical' to denote this period because of the crucial contribution made to the development of Anthropology during this period. Some significant developments also marked this period. The first chair of social anthropology was started in 1908 at the University of Liverpool in Britain. Sir James Frazer chaired it. The first Anthropology department in India was created at the University of Calcutta in 1920. In 1919, Social anthropology was introduced as a subject in the Department of Sociology at the University of Bombay.

During this period, different schools of thought in anthropology were founded. The functional school of thought, structural school of thought, school of diffusion, and culture and personality school are prominent among them. Authors of this period specialized in theorizing the concepts, definitions, and different aspects of culture. For instance, B. K. Malinowski, based on his field expedition among the Trobriand Islanders, proposed his idea of Functionalism. Based on his study of the Andaman Islanders, Radcliffe Brown established his theory of Social Structure during this period. Similarly, American scholars such as A. L. Kroeber, Ruth Benedict, Margaret Mead, and Clark Wissler played their own role in shaping the destiny of world anthropology.