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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 1996)

Name of Candidate	PRIYAMVADA MHADDALKAR		
Medium Eng/Hindi	ENGLISH	Registration Number	1003810
Center	ONLINE (MUMBAI)	Date	01/12/2021

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
2 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
3 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
5(a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
6(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
7 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
8(a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	

Total Marks Obtained:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. The Candidate should attempt FIVE Questions out of EIGHT questions strictly in accordance with the instructions given under each question printed in ENGLISH & HINDI
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp Punjab & Sindh Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi- 110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

All the Best

1. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

- (a) Critically examine the importance of comparative method in sociological research.

Comparative method in sociological research is used for comparative analysis of societies or different groups within the same society.

This method of sociological research has played a very important role in the development of the discipline of sociology.

The major sociologists like Karl Marx, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim have all used comparative method to arrive at their sociological explanations.

Victor Gupp mentions three different types of methods → content analysis (comparing using documents) historical analysis (using historical

texts for analysis and the third type being comparison using official statistics.

Advantages of Comparative Method

- 1) Can be used for both qualitative and quantitative research
- 2) Less moral issues i.e. prior informed consent compared to experimental method.
- 3) Elimination of Hawthorne effect → no artificial setting
- 4) Can be used to study causality and correlation

Disadvantages

- 1) Lack of exact study
- 2) Researcher bias → data selection

Thus, despite its limitations the comparative method plays an important role in sociological research

1. (b) "The contestations regarding 'Positivism' has, enriched the discipline of Sociology". Analyse.

Positivism is the method of sociological inquiry based on the scientific method used for natural sciences.

FEATURES OF POSITIVISM

- Propounded by early sociologists - August Comte, Herbert Spencer and Emile Durkheim
- Based on empiricism, verification and objectivity.
- Human subjective consciousness does not play a role in study of social reality.

CONTESTATIONS REGARDING POSITIVISM

- 1) Interpretivists like Max Weber emphasized on the understanding of meaning and motives of social action — Verstehen.

- 2) Alvin Gouldner's Reflexive Sociology explained that individual affects social reality and vice-versa. He was against methodological dualism of positivism.
- 3) Phenomenologists like Alfred Schutz argued that social action gets meaning only when an individual assimilates and attaches a meaning to it based on typifications.
- 4) Ethnomethodologists like Harold Garfinkel further expand the phenomenological thought and emphasize on the different methods through which individuals explain the social reality.

Thus the different contestations regarding Positivism have enriched Sociology by expanding its scope and explaining social reality in a better way.

1. (c) Sociology emerged in France but consolidated and made a very fast expansion in USA. Comment.

Sociology emerged in the backdrop of emergence of modernity in Europe following the French Revolution and Industrial Revolution.

EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY IN EUROPE

- 1) Based on the ideological support of Renaissance and Enlightenment period the French Revolution and Industrial Revolution brought tremendous changes in European society.
- 2) As society changed from feudal society to industrial one, French sociologists like Saint-Simon, August Comte, Emile Durkheim attempted to explain social changes and in the process established the discipline of Sociology in the 19th century.

EXPANSION IN USA

- 1) Soon after in the early 20th century

the discipline flourished in USA with the founding of the Chicago School.

2) Sociologists of the Chicago School attempted to make the discipline an applied science as they tried to study problems of urbanisation, crime, race relations, etc.

3) Sociologists like Talcott Parsons through his systems approach, Robert Merton developed the idea of functionalism further and G. H. Mead established the perspective of symbolic interactionism. — and thus enriched the field of Sociology.

Thus, while Sociology emerged in France but it consolidated and made fast progress in USA.

1. (d) "Critical ethnography certainly retains problems despite attempts by some sociologists to develop it and overcome objections." Discuss.

Critical ethnography is the method of social research that attempts to produce a detailed account of the sub-altern / oppressed sections of society through observation over a period of time.

- 1) Critical ethnography involves different methods like participant observation, field study, etc.
- 2) The researcher spends time with the group to be studied over an extended period of time and acts like a participant while trying to draw sociological conclusions.

PROBLEMS INVOLVED : —

- 1) The safety of the researcher is a major concern in critical

ethnography

ex: Research on mentally ill patients,
criminals, etc.

- 2) Since only a small group is studied, it is difficult to draw generalizations.
- 3) The research method is time consuming.
- 4) Low reliability and validity is subject to researcher bias.
- 5) Excessive focus on the oppressed perspective, even explanations of functionality are passed off as false consciousness.

Thus, despite the shortcomings of critical ethnography, it has played a major role in enriching sociology and continues to be used by social scientists in contemporary research.

1. (e) The 'union' of anthropology and sociology is considered to be desirable and favorable, despite their distinctive areas of specialization. Elucidate.

Anthropology is the study of primitive / pre-industrial societies while sociology primarily concerns itself with the study of complex, modern, industrial societies.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY

1) Societies being studied → simple v/s complex

2) Methods of study:

Anthropology → ethnography, participant observation

Sociology → both quantitative and qualitative methods

3) Research Design:-

Anthropology: Exploratory

Sociology: From a particular perspective - functional, conflict, etc.

Despite these differences, there is
'union' between the two fields: -

1) Social structures like kinship
groups, family, culture are the
common areas of study

2) Sociologists have borrowed from
the works of anthropologists like
Malinowski's Trobriand Island
study. M.N. Srinivas → from
A.R. Radcliffe Brown's structural
functionalism, etc.

3) Particularly in countries like
India the two fields converged
in the study of tribals post-
independence and village studies.

With lesser number of primitive
societies existing due to increasing
globalisation the union of anthropology
and sociology is considered much
desirable.

2. (a) "Methodological pluralism is an increasingly common feature of social research." In the context of this statement, discuss the ways in which multi-strategy research can be used. 20

Methodological Pluralism is the use of multiple research methods in a sociological study.

eg: Using quantitative and qualitative methods together.

Martyn Hammersly explains three ways in which multi-strategy research can be used: -

1) Triangulation:

A different method is used to cross-check results obtained from one method.

eg: Using interviews on a small group to cross-check results obtained using a questionnaire.

2) Facilitation:

One method can be used to obtain

initial data for the research
eg: Using interviews or focus group
studies to formulate questions to
be used in questionnaire for larger
population set.

3) Complementarity :

Both methods can be used
simultaneously for different
aspects.

eg: Quantitative method for statistical
aspects, qualitative
methods for aspects like social
change.

In addition to these Alan Bryman
also highlights some ways in
which multi-strategy research
helps : -

→ Filling in the gaps

Multiple methods help obtain data

that was missed out using the earlier method.

→ Solving the puzzle

When researching a multi-dimensional research problem.

Methodological pluralism has been used by multiple sociologists in the past -

Emile Durkheim used comparative method as well as surveys to complement his study of suicide

Thus, methodological pluralism is an increasingly common feature of social research that helps to study a social phenomenon holistically.

2. (b) "Sociology could and should be value free". Critically examine the statement with respect to various sociological perspectives. 20

Values are subjective judgements on the desirability of a social phenomenon.

VALUE FREE SOCIOLOGY

- The founding fathers of sociology emphasized on the unity of method with natural sciences.
- August Comte, Emile Durkheim strongly advocated value-free sociology through objectivity in social research.
- Objectivity helps to study facts as they are through the scientific method of empiricism and verification which is followed by positivists.
- This helps to distinguish

Sociology from common sensical knowledge.

However as highlighted by Gunnar Myrdal total objectivity is an illusion.

→ Interpretivists like Max Weber emphasize on understanding the meaning of social action and accept that complete objectivity is not possible.

→ Values influence different aspects of social research : choice of topic, choice of perspective, etc
A study of Mexican village Tepotzlán highlights how different perspectives influence the results. Robert Redfield who studied the village from functional

perspective found harmony in the village whereas Oscar Lewis who studied it from Marxist perspective found it to be conflict ridden.

→ Symbolic interactionists, phenomenologists and ethnomethodologists → emphasize that humans possess subjective consciousness and hence remaining value-free while understanding the meanings of social action from the perspective of the social actor is not possible.

Thus, while different perspectives in sociology attach a different level of importance to being value-free it is important to produce bias-free results in a sociological research.

2. (c) "Sociology and common sense share a complimentary relationship".
Comment. 10

Common sense is the routine knowledge that we use in everyday activities whereas sociology is a scientific study of social phenomenon.

SOCIOLOGY AND COMMON SENSE - DIFFERENT

- Early sociologists like August Comte, Emile Durkheim laid extreme importance to separating common sense from sociology by adopting the scientific method for studying social phenomenon.
- Common sense is localized, particularistic and not open to criticism. whereas sociological perspectives are generalized and verified through rigorous study.
- Eg: Common sense → suicide

common during recession. Durkheim proved that suicide common during both economic boom & slump.

SOCIOLOGY AND COMMON SENSE - COMPLEMENTARY

→ Many sociological theories are based on common sense assumptions

eg: Common saying - Give a dog a bad name and he lives up to it →
Howard Becker
Peter Berger's Labelling Theory.

→ Ronald Fletcher calls common sense as science in embryo as it provides raw material for Sociology

eg: Hypothesis testing - hypothesis based on common observations.

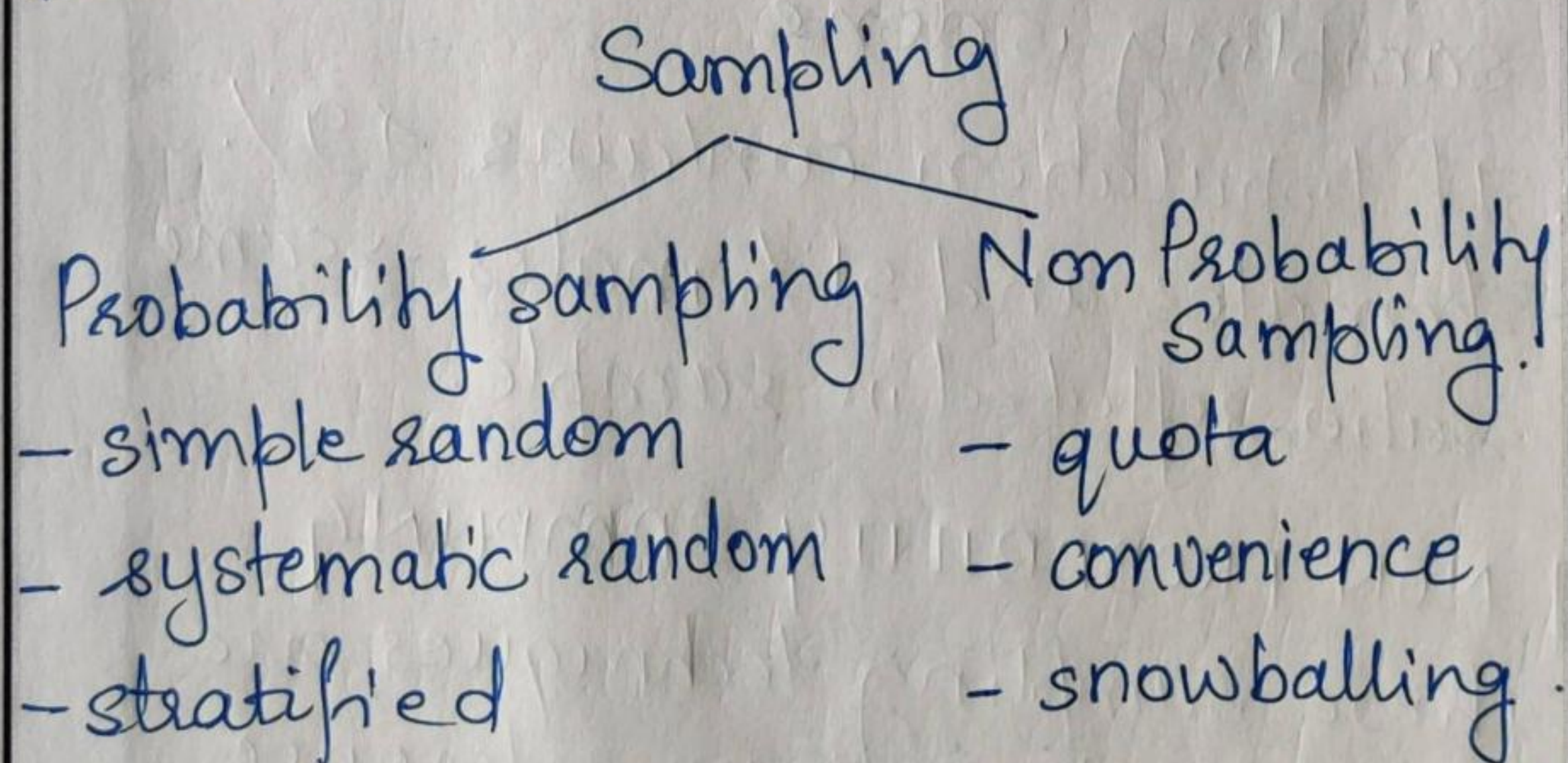
Thus, while sociology and common sense share a complementary relation, there is no denying that Sociology is a distinct discipline of study based on rigorous research.

3. (a) Describe the understanding and broad contours of sampling. How sampling enhances the scientific validity of social research efforts. 20

Sampling refers to the process of selecting a small set of data from a larger population for the purpose of study.

Since it is not feasible to study the entire population set, very often social scientists adopt the technique of sampling for ease of research.

TYPES OF SAMPLING



I. PROBABILITY SAMPLING

In this type of sampling, every

data set in a sample has equal chance of being selected.

1) Simple random sampling

— Any data set is selected in no particular order.

2) Systematic random sampling

— Some order is used

eg: every 10th person in a sequence.

3) Stratified sampling

— Data is classified as per a reference frame and then sampling is done

eg: If population contains 49% females and 51% males → same ratio reflected in sample.

II NON PROBABILITY SAMPLING

These sampling techniques are used when there is no reference frame and all data sets have different probability of selection.

1) Quota sampling

Population divided and fixed quota is set before picking data.

2) convenience sampling

wherever data easily available
eg: interviewing people on a busy shopping street

3) Snowball sampling

Some people randomly interviewed they then refer others they know.

Sampling helps to enhance validity of a research as it provides a better representative population for study.

It eliminates errors that could appear due to incorrect-samples.

Thus, sampling is an important technique in social research that helps to enhance validity of research.

3. (b) "Researchers argue that 'interviews', produce masses of information, which may neither be valid nor reliable". In the context of this statement, discuss advantages and disadvantages of Interview as a tool of data collection.

20

Interviews are guided conversations which are undertaken with the objective of obtaining some data for research.

→ Commonly used in sociological research eg: M.N. Srinivas, Andre Beteille have all used interviews to complement their field studies.

→ Interviews can be of two types -

a) Structured Interview: Where the interviewer has some preset questions and sticks to that format

b) Unstructured Interviews: These are more conversational and scope can change during the process of interview.

ADVANTAGES OF INTERVIEWS

- 1) It is possible to clarify the meaning wherever required. This enhances the quality of data obtained.
- 2) Validity is higher compared to other quantitative techniques like questionnaire and survey
- 3) It is a cost effective method that gives higher response rate compared to postal/email questions.

DISADVANTAGES OF INTERVIEWS

- 1) Reliability lower. Depends on the rapport the interviewer has with the responder.
- 2) Time consuming
- 3) Language barriers and prone to misinterpretations
- 4) There can be issues of ecological validity where the responder

gives superficial answers that are not true just to meet social norms.

Thus, while it is true that interviews produce masses of information which may neither be valid nor reliable, it does give data that is closest to the reality.

Interviews can be used for both qualitative as well as quantitative research by carefully parsing the information on Likert scale.

The shortcomings can be overcome by careful design of questions, maintaining neutrality while asking questions, etc.

Thus, interviews are an indispensable technique of data collection for sociological research

3. (c) "Scope of Sociology has been defined differently by different scholars during different times". Substantiate this statement with proper validation.

10

Sociology is the scientific study of social structures, relations and different social phenomenon.

→ From the time Sociology emerged as a distinct discipline in the 19th century, the scope of sociology has been defined differently by different scholars.

→ The founding fathers Auguste Comte and Emile Durkheim focused on keeping it an empirical study. Durkheim declared that the subject matter of sociology is social facts.

→ Interpretivists like Max Weber laid more emphasis on the meanings of social action and expanded the scope of study through 'Verstehen'.

→ While consequences of modernity

like industrialisation, urbanisation and the capitalist system were the focus areas till the 20th century, thinkers like Alfred Schutz, Habermas, Garfinkel expanded the scope of sociology by emphasizing the locus of study on individual.

Anthony Giddens tried to reconcile the two schemes through his theory of structuration where he explained that sociology should be studied at the interface of individual with social systems.

Postmodernists further expanded the scope of sociology as society moved from industrial to post-industrial phase and gave the idea of methodological pluralism.

Thus, the scope of sociology has been defined differently by different scholars through time.

5. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words.

10 x 5 = 50

(a) "Marriage is no longer the popular institution in today's modern society". Critically analyse.

Marriage is the socially approved union of consenting adults whereby they live together and nurture a family.

However in today's modern society the institution of marriage is going through many changes.

1) Marital breakdown

Nicky Hart highlights three reasons commonly observed:

- escape mechanism
- expectation mismatch
- idea of social stigma is weakening.

2) Anthony Giddens observes how the idea of 'forever love' has made way for 'fluid love' in today's times

- 3) Co-habitation - 'Live-in' relationships are not a taboo any longer
- 4) Increased choice : Now the choice of both partners are being considered before marriage decision.
- 5) Technology is playing the role of enabler through dating sites and matrimonial sites.
- 6) Increased number of homosexual marriages as validated by Sasha Roseneil.
- 7) Work pressures - No time to work on a relationship leading to lesser number of marriages.

Thus, while marriage is no longer as popular as earlier, it continues to be an important social institution.

5. (b) "Technology is the key to understanding social change today". Critically analyse.

Social change refers to alterations in social structures and relations which can be brought about by different agents like technology, education, mass media, etc.

→ Technology and work

Technology played a major role in the transition from feudal society to industrial society and continues to bring about social change as we move to services based post-industrial society.

→ Technology has been an enabler of the capitalist system that has resulted in increased social and economic inequalities.

→ Technology has a mixed role in the status of women.

while it acts as an enabler and has to some extent improved women participation in work, automation results in women's labour being dispensed with first (as was seen with Green Revolution in India)

→ With changes in reproductive technologies - designer babies, etc - technology has the potential to become the new axis of stratification in society.

Thus, technology has impacted all spheres of social life and is the key to understanding social change.

5. (c) The amount of unpaid labor performed by women is very large and profitable to those who own means of production. Discuss.

Unpaid labour refers to the work that is done without earning any wages corresponding to it.
eg: household chores done by women.

→ Margaret Benston extensively studied the unpaid labour performed by women and highlighted that this plays a major role in the profits of the capitalists.

→ If women are paid for their labour at home, it would bring about a major redistribution of wealth and reduce inequalities.

→ Even as women participate increasingly in the workforce, the task of running the household is still the primary responsibility.

of the women.

- Additional time is spent in child-rearing and ensuring correct socialisation of the children.
- At times this role also acts as an ideological conditioning device as highlighted by David Cooper which produces obedient workforce that serves the purpose of the capitalists.
- Women thus bear the burden of 'double shift' while managing both professional and domestic duties.

Thus, it is high time to explore the thought of paying women for their unpaid labour and bringing about redistributive justice.

5. (d) Development is a type of social change in society which is often equated with growth, progress or evolution. In this context, discuss various dimensions of development.

Development is a value-laden concept of social change which brings about alterations in social structures and relations in a particular direction.

→ Usually development is associated with growth, progress or evolution and is used in two ways:

- a) Growth of human knowledge
- b) Growth of human control over nature.

→ Marxists argue that this is nothing but imposition of western concepts of modernisation on the developing world.

→ The prevalent ideas of development have excessive focus on the economic aspect while cultural aspects are neglected.

→ Amartya Sen explains that development goes hand-in-hand with freedom where each individual has the potential to explore his capabilities to the fullest.

→ Latin American scholars like Raul Prebisch and Andre Gunder Frank explained the concept of development of underdevelopment brought about by the capitalist world system.

Thus, development is a value laden concept often equated with growth in an economic sense.

5. (e) Discuss briefly the "linear theories of social change".

Social change refers to the alterations that take place in social structures and social relations in a society.

The different linear theories of social change can be explained as below: -

1) Herbert Spencer explained the social evolution theory based on biological evolution as explained by Charles Darwin.

2) L.H. Morgan explained evolution through three stages:

Savagery.
Barbarism
Industrial

which are based on technological changes that occur from one phase to the other.

3) Marxist theory of social change explains that society moves from one mode of production to the other due to the conflicts that occur between the forces of production and relations of production.

Marx traces social change through
Primitive communism → Ancient
society → feudal society → Industrial
society → Socialism and final communism

4) Parsons functionalist-perspective
to social change → social systems
move from one equilibrium to
another state of new equilibrium
due to strain on the system.

Thus, linear theories of social
change trace a directional change
while cyclical theories believe social
change appears in cycles.

8. (a) Societies are characterised by diversity of household and family types, and the idea of a 'typical family' is misleading. Critically analyse. Also, bring out the reasons for the continued existence of joint families in India. 20

Family is a social unit characterized by cooperation, while household is residential unit

[Bade Thorne] in his study of family highlighted how the 'Cereal Packet Image' of monolithic family

- father - breadwinners
- mother - caretakers

is being increasingly demolished.

- With industrialisation the family changed from being a unit of both production and consumption to just consumption.

- Increasing nuclearization - where households consist of only the mother father and children.

Dhona and Robert Rapoport gave the idea of diversity of family through three types:

- 1) Organisational diversity
↳ different structures
- 2) Cultural diversity
↳ based on different regions, religious practices.
- 3) Life-cycle based diversity.

and they explained family types like:

- Single Parent household
↳ either due to divorce, separation or death of partner
- Cohabitation — live-in relationships
- Same-sex marriages.
- Reconstituted family → both partners divorced with children
(Mine, Yours and Ours).

Thus the idea of typical family is

increasingly misleading due to the diversity in family types that is now found in society.

→ In India, we still find the existence of joint families as: -

- technology has made it easier to maintain kinship ties.

- Palline Kolenda explains the concept of fission-fusion-fission which is cyclic

- Many times joint families help perpetuate businesses and many business families are an example → helps in risk taking
eg: Marwaris.

Thus, despite increasing diversity in ~~joint~~ family types, joint families are still prevalent in India.

8. (b) Is social change evolutionary or revolutionary? Discuss this statement in context of Marxian and Parsonian idea of social change. 20

Social change can be explained through various theories — linear or circular.

The evolutionary idea of social change is propounded by various thinkers like Herbert Spencer, L.H. Morgan, etc.

Parsonian idea of social change

- Parsons explains society through systems approach
- Different ^{sub}systems — cultural, social personality, organismic → where there is exchange of information and energy
- If there is difference in the rate of exchange either excess or deficit there is strain on the system

- This strain could occur due to various reasons → shortage of resources, change in environment, etc.
- System tries to automatically adjust to the strain like homeostasis.
- The old equilibrium is finally changed to a new state of equilibrium and thus social change in the society is a continuous process and society is in a state of moving equilibrium.

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIAL CHANGE

- This idea is given by Karl Marx
- Change occurs due to conflict between forces of production and relations of production
- ~~whi~~ In the capitalist society, due to polarization of classes - Capitalists vs Proletariat,

internal contradictions occur.

- Capitalists increase profits at the expense of the labour value of the proletariat
- Under the right conditions this would lead to proletariat revolution and society will move to a temporary stage of socialism before communism arrives.

Thus both the evolutionary and revolutionary perspectives of social change enrich the understanding of how change occurs in society.

8. (c) Trace the changing nature of organisation of work during the times of pandemic in a capitalistic society.

10

