SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

Scope Of Sociology

- Two schools of thought with different viewpoints regarding scope and subject matter of sociology-
- formal school
- synthetic school.

Formal School of Sociology

- According to formal school sociology was conceived to be a social science with a specifically defined field.
- Main advocates:
- George Simmel, Ferdinand Tonnies,
- Max Weber
- Alfred Vierkandt and Leopord Von Wiese

Formal school…..

- Formal school argued in favor of giving sociology a definite subject matter to make it a distinct discipline.
- It emphasized upon the study of forms of social relationships and regarded sociology as independent.
- Simmel :- sociology is a specific social science which describes, classifies, analyses and delineates the forms of social relationships
- In other words social interactions should be classified into various forms or types and analysed.

Formal school

- Vierkandt :- sociology should be concerned with ultimate forms of mental or psychic relationship which knit the people together in a society
- Von Wiese :- there are two kinds of fundamental social processes in human society.
- Firstly the associative process concerning contact, approach, adaptation etc
- secondly, disassociate processes like competition and conflict.
- Apart from these two processes a mixed form of the associative and disassociative also exists.

Formal school

- Tonnies :- divided societies into two categories namely Gemeinschaft (community) and Gesellschaft (association) on the basis of degree of intimacy among the members of the society.
- He has on the basis of forms of relationship tried to differentiate between community and society.

Formal school

- Max Weber:- the aim of sociology is to interpret or understand social behaviour.
- But social behavior does not cover the whole field of human relations. Indeed not all human interactions are social.
- Sociology is concerned with the analysis and classification of types of social relationships.

Criticism of formal School

- 1.It has emphasized on merely abstract forms and neglected the concrete contents of social life. Abstract forms separated from concrete relations cannot be studied.
- Ginsberg says that a study of social relationships would remain barren if it is conducted in the abstract without the full knowledge of the terms to which in concrete life they relate.

Criticism of formal School……..

- 2. Sociology doesn't alone study the forms of social relationship. Political science, International law also studies forms of social relationship.
- The conception of pure sociology is not practical as no social science can be studied in isolation from other social sciences.
- 3. Narrowed down the scope of sociology

Synthetic School of Sociology

- Advocates: Durkheim, Hobhouse and Sorokin

- Synthetic school wanted sociology to be synthesis of the social sciences and thus wanted to widen the scope of sociology

Synthetic School……

- Durkheim:- sociology has three principal divisions:
- Social morphology
- social physiology
- General sociology.
- Social morphology :- concerned with geographical or territorial basis of life of people such as population, its size, density and distribution etc.
- This can be done at two levels -analysis of size and quality of population which affects the quality of social relationship and social groups.
- Secondly the study of social structure or description of the main forms of social groups and institutions with their classification.

Synthetic School……

- Social physiology:- different branches of namely sociology of religion, of morals, of law and of economic institutions, of language etc.
- General sociology:- the philosophical part of sociology
- main aim is to formulate general social laws.

Synthetic School……

- Ginsberg:- four main tasks of sociology
- 1.social morphology:-deals with the quantity & quality of population
- 2.Social control:- studies formal & informal controls(laws,court, customs, traditions)

Synthetic School……

- 3. Social processes:- studies different modes of interaction-cooperation, conflict, competitions, accommodation etc.

- 4.Social pathology:- studies social maladjustments, problems,disturbances
- Poverty, beggary, unemployment, prostitution etc.

Synthetic School……

- Hobhouse perceived sociology as a science which has the whole social life of man as its sphere. Its relations with the other social sciences are considered to be one of mutual exchange and mutual stimulation.
- Karl Mannheim divides sociology into two main sections-systematic and general sociology and historical sociology

Conclusion

- Thus on the basis of viewpoints of different sociologists we can get a general outline of the scope of sociology.
- Firstly the analysis of various institutions, associations and social groups which are results of social relationships.
- Secondly the links among different parts of society should be studied.. Thus social structure should be given adequate importance in subject matter of sociology.
- Thirdly sociology addresses itself to the factors which contribute to social stability and social change.
- Fourthly sociology should also explain the trend of the changing pattern and the aftermath of the changes in the society.

Major Fields and Branches

- 1.Sociological Theory:-study of concepts, principles and generalisations
- 2.Historical sociology:- past social institutions, origin and present
- 3.Sociology of family:- origin, growth, functions, types & problems of family
- 4.Human ecology and demography:- birth & death rates,migration etc.

Special branches

- 1. Educational sociology:-role of education, literacy rates, role of students & teachers
- 2. Sociology of religion:- types, systems of beliefs, magic, superstitions
- 3.Economic sociology:- poverty, policies
- 4.Cultural sociology:- different culture
- 5. Social psychology:- behaviour of individuals in society

Branches….

- 6. Sociology of stratification:- hierarchical divisions of society
- 7.Medical sociology:- the relationship between social factors and health, and with the application of sociological theory and research techniques
- 8.Social psychiatry:- a branch of **psychiatry** that focuses on the interpersonal and cultural context of mental disorder and mental wellbeing.

Branches…….

- 9. Sociology of sex/ gender:- gender issues
- 10. political sociology:- study of the relations between state, society and citizens.
- 11. Military sociology:- military recruiting, race and gender representation in the military, military families, military social organization, war and peace, and the military as welfare.
- 12. Industrial sociology:- human relations in industries/ production

- Thank you