EMERGENCE OF SOCIAL THOUGHT

INTRODUCTION

- Man faces a world of complex social problems. As a result he is perplexed beyond description.

- His thinking often ends in confusion. In thinking about social problems the so-called practical person has proceeded in his own way.

- In the strict sense, social thought is the product of the thinking together of associates. Most social thought is of the ordinary dinner table variety, that is casual and desultory.

introduction

- Social thought usually finds its initial expression during social crises. When "prosperity" reigns and people are – in general, satisfied, new social thought is at ebb tide.

- But when social conditions are marked by gross injustices or when social changes come rapidly due to inventions, wars or other basic disturbances, then thinking about social life and problems is highly stimulated and new ideas or systems of ideas, that is ideologies are originated.

Definition:

- Social thought is that branch of thought which is primarily concerned with man's general social life and its problems as created, expressed and endured by human interrelations and interactions.

- Generally Social Thought essential refers to the thought concerning the social life and activities of man.

Definition:

- **Bogardus** "Social Thought is thinking about social problems by one or a few persons here and there in human history or at the present".

- **Rollin Chambliss** told that "Social thought is concerned with human being in their relations with their fellows

Definition:

- **William P. Scott** define that "Social thought refers to any relatively systematic attempt to theories about society and social life whether it be classical or modern, scientific or unscientific".

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- **Social thought** is a philosophical and intellectual ideas of a person or persons regarding to a particular time, place and about the growth, development and decay of human societies. **Social thought** is a current **social thinking** about the structure and functions of a **social** system

Characteristics of Social thought

- **According to Bogardus, social thoughts have the following characteristics:**
- 1. Social thoughts are originated from social problems.
- 2. Social thoughts are also related to the human social life.
- 3. It is the result of social interactions and interrelations.
- 4. Social thoughts are influenced by the time and also place.

Characteristics

- 5. Here; thinkers are very much influenced by their social life, and personal experiences.
- 6. It inspires the development of civilization and culture.
- 7. Social thoughts are based on abstract thinking.
- 8. It is an integral part of social utility.
- 9. It helps in promoting social relationships.
- 10. It is neither absolute nor static. It is evolutionary

Characteristics

- Social Thought is societal thought.
- Social Thought need not necessarily be scientific always.
- Social Thought is not the same everywhere.
- Each Society and Each community has contributed to the development in society.
- Social Thought is a continuous process.

Characteristics

- Crises are hardly always provided motivation for social thought.
- Social Thought is an abstract concept.
- Though social thought is continuous it is very gradual in process.
- Most portion is preserve in unwritten for mankind.
- Social Thought is not the sum of total thought is all members in society.
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SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- Philosophy is the study of general and fundamental problems concerning matters such as the nature knowledge, truth, justice, beauty, mind and language.

- Philosophy is the root of all knowledge. It is considered as mother of all sciences. Philosophy helps to coordinate the various activities of the individual and the society.

- It helps us to understand the significance of all human experience. Philosophy critically evaluates and analyses the variety of human experiences. It develops a comprehensive system of thoughts about the universe and the life as a who

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- The word 'Philosophy' is of ancient Greek origin meaning "Love of Knowledge" or "Love of Wisdom"
- Social Philosophy is one of the main and important branches of Philosophy. It is the thoughtful consideration of human society. It gives insight into the actual activities of human beings in the society.
- A Social Philosopher tries to study society from philosophical point of view and tries to find out the link between human society and the basic nature of Ultimate Reality.

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- According to Morris Ginsberg, 'Social Philosophy aims at the formulation of the general principles of human behavior through speculation on social phenomena'.

- "Social philosophy studies the interactions and inter-relations that exist among men and their groups".

SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY

- According to Mackenzie, 'Social Philosophy seeks to explain the nature of society in the light of the principle of social solidarity'. Social Philosophy aims at interpretation of society with reference to the norm of 'social unity'.

- F W Blackmar maintained that Social Philosophy is based upon the general facts of society. It makes general observations on the nature of society. Social Philosophy and Social sciences are closely connected.

ENLIGHTENMENT

- The Enlightenment was a period of remarkable intellectual development and change in philosophical thought.

- A number of ideas and beliefs, some of which were related to social life were overthrown and replaced during the Enlightenment.

- The most prominent thinkers associated with Enlightenment were the French philosophers Charles Montesquieu (1689 – 1755) and

- Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778).

ENLIGHTENMENT

- The thinkers associated with Enlightenment were influenced by two intellectual currents – seventeenth century philosophy and science.

- Seventeenth century philosophy was associated with the work of Rene Descartes, Thomas Hobbes and John Locke.

- they tried to combine empirical research with reason.

ENLIGHTENMENT

- The model for this was science. And we see the emergence of the application of the scientific method to social issues.

- Moreover, the Enlightenment thinkers wanted their ideas of least in part, to be derived from the real world. They also wanted them to be useful to the social world, especially in the critical analysis.

ENLIGHTENMENT

- The Enlightenment was characterized by the belief that people could comprehend and control the universe by means of reason and empirical research. The physical world was dominated by natural laws, and it was likely that the social world was also.

- Thus, it was up to the philosophers to use reason and research to discover these social bus. Once the philosophers understood how the social world worked, the Enlightenment thinkers could work for the creation of a better and more rational world

ENLIGHTENMENT

- With an emphasis on reason, the Enlightenment philosophers were inclined to reject beliefs in traditional authority.

- When these thinkers examined traditional values institutions, they often found them to be irrational, that is, contrary to human nature and an obstacle to human growth and development. The mission of the philosophers of Enlightenment was to overcome these irrational systems

French Revolution :

- The French Revolution changed the structure of society, and created new ideologies to explain its course when nothing could be adopted from the past produced the modern doctrine of nationalism, and spread it directly throughout Western Europe. It had an enormous indirect consequence up to the present.

- The European wars of 1792 – 1815, sparked off by the French Revolution spread both revolutionary ideas and nationalism. The French Revolution also provided the empirical origin of modern theories of revolution

French Revolution :

- The French revolution challenged and overthrew the old order of society.

- It was a revolution that strengthened the state which aimed to represent the will of the people.

- It is important to recognise that the political and cultural climate that existed before the revolution was dominated by the church and the monarchy.

French Revolution

- The French Revolution was a period of radical social and political upheaval in France that had a major impact on France and throughout the rest of Europe.

- The absolute monarchy that had ruled France for centuries collapsed in three years. French society underwent drastic transformation.

- Feudal, aristocratic and religious privileges were removed from the society. Old of monarchy, aristocracy, and religious authority were overthrown by new Enlightenment principles of equality and citizenship.

empiricism

- the theory that all knowledge is based on experience derived from the senses.

- Stimulated by the rise of experimental science, it developed in the 17th and 18th centuries, expounded in particular by John Locke, George Berkeley, and David Hume.

empiricism

- Empiricism in the philosophy of science emphasizes evidence, especially as discovered in experiments.

- It is a fundamental part of the scientific method that all hypotheses and theories must be tested against observations of the natural world rather than resting solely on *a priori* reasoning, intuition, or revelation

empiricism

- Empiricism, often used by natural scientists, says that "knowledge is based on experience" and that "knowledge is tentative and probabilistic, subject to continued revision and [falsification]."
- One of the epistemological tenets is that sensory experience creates knowledge. The [scientific method], including experiments and validated measurement tools, guides empirical research.

Idealism

- In philosophy, **idealism** is the group of philosophies which assert that reality, or reality as we can know it, is fundamentally mental, mentally constructed, or otherwise immaterial.

- Epistemologically, idealism manifests as a skepticism about the possibility of knowing any mind-independent thing.

idealism

- In a sociological sense, idealism emphasizes how human ideas—especially beliefs and values—shape society .

- As an ontological doctrine, idealism goes further, asserting that all entities are composed of mind or spirit

Rationalism

- the practice or principle of basing opinions and actions on reason and knowledge rather than on religious belief or emotional response.

- the theory that reason rather than experience is the foundation of certainty in knowledge.

Theory

- Definition A Theory is a set of interrelated concepts used to describe, explain, and predict how society and its parts are related to each other.
- Theories are sets of inter-related concepts and ideas that have been scientifically tested and combined to clarify, and expand our understanding of people, their behaviors, and their societies.
- Without theories, science would be a futile exercise. A theory is a set of propositions that provide an explanation by means of a deductive or inductive system.
- The three major functions of theory are description, explanation and prediction.

Nature and Characteristics of Theory

- A theory is a proposed relationship between two or more concepts. In other words, a theory is explanation for why a phenomenon occurs.

- Without theories to explain the relationship between concepts, we would not be able to understand cause and effect relationships in social life.

The major characteristics of theory

- Time boundedness: Scientific theories always seek to transcend the particular and the time bound. Scientific theories are therefore about the generic, the fundamental, the timeless, and the universal.

- Objectivity: Another characteristic of scientific theories is that they are stated more formally than ordinary language. Theory is stated in neutral, objective, and unambiguous terms so that the theory means the same thing to all who examine it.

- Reliability and Verifiability: A final characteristic of scientific theories is that they are designed to be systematically tested with replicable methods against the facts of particular empirical settings.

Definition and Characteristics of Sociological theory

- The social world consists of the behaviors, interactions, and patterns of social organization among human beings. Sociological theory tends to focus on interaction and organization more than behavior as such, but interactions are interpersonal behaviors, and patterns of social organization are ultimately built from interactions among individuals.

- Sociological theory is a set of assumptions, assertions, and propositions, organized in the form of an explanation or interpretation, of the nature, form, or content of social action. Sociological theory is defined as a set of interrelated ideas that allow for the systematisation of knowledge of the social world. This knowledge is then used to explain the social world and make predictions about the future of the social world

The important characteristics of sociological theory

- 1. Sociological theories are abstract generalisations.

- 2. Sociological theories are logical prepositions.

- 3. Sociological theories are conceptulisations regarding social phenomena.

- 4. Sociological theories are empirical generalisations.

- 5. Sociological theories are factual based.
- 6. Sociological theories are provisional in nature.
- 7. Sociological theories are verifiable

Types of Sociological Theory-

- Speculative Theories Vs. Grounded Theories

- Speculative theories are abstract, impressionistic and rooted in a philosophical system. The encyclopedic minds of Comte and Spencer have synthesized the findings of a variety of disciplines to formulate a formidable array of theoretical statements to explain social processes and organisations.

- These are essentially theories generated by logical deduction from a priori assumptions. They are based on certain methodological and philosophical assumptions and generated theoretical entities and conceptual schemes

Grounded theories

- Grounded theories, on the other hand, are based on the findings of empirical research and they are suited to their specific uses.

- They produce specific sociological laws, principles and empirical generalizations. Grounded theory is part theoretical framework and part research methodology.

- It combines theory and research and serves as a guide for many social science researchers in their projects.

- Grounded theory is an attempt to develop theories from an analysis of the patterns, themes, and common categories discovered in observational research. It emphasizes research procedures when developing theories.

Grand Theory

- A grand theory is a broad conceptual scheme with systems of interrelated propositions that provide a general frame of reference for the study of social processes and institutions. However, it is different from speculative theory. The grand theory is rooted in the empirical world - however loosely whereas speculative theories are based on philosophical systems.

- The difference between them, of course, is only a matter of degree, not kind. The grand theory is a comprehensive formulation. It provides a master scheme of general sociological orientations.

- Grand theories are full of jargon and intuitive statements. Parson's system theory and Sorkin's theory of socio-cultural dynamics are examples of grand theories

Miniature Theory

- Miniature theories are what Merton called as Middle range theories: Theories intermediate to the minor working hypotheses evolved during the day-to-day routines of research, and the all inclusive speculations comprising a master speculative scheme from which it is hoped to derive a very large number of empirically observed uniformities of social behaviour.

- The miniature theories are partial, more specific and their frame of reference is considerably limited. They are less pretensions than the grand theories. Merton's theory of reference groups is an example of such a theory.

Macro Theories

- Macro theories are broader in scope and encompass in array of laws while micro theories have a narrower frame of reference. Macro theories are concerned with total societal patterns. Theories of society culture and institutions constitute the tradition of macro-sociology

Micro Theorie

- Micro sociology is concerned with interactions among the atoms of society. Small group theories represent the micro tradition in contemporary sociology.

- The distinction between the two types of theories is based on the size of the unit of analysis rather than the level of analysis.

- Macro theories deal with society as a whole. Micro theories deal with the sub-systems that make up the whole.

- Parsons System theory is macro whereas Homan's exchange theory is molecular.

- Macro theories belong to grand theory category; Micro theories come under miniature theories.