

SOCIOLOGY - REALISING A NEW DAWN

Abstract

The function of Sociology, as of every Science, is to reveal that which is hidden” -Pierre Bourdieu.

Staying true to the above lines, this writing is to bring to limelight the newer dimensions of an unique discipline that draws a connect with many and how its growing attributes add more remarkable mention and proclaim its unbeatable position in the multitude of sciences.

The paper focuses on revealing the multifaceted quality of the youngest social science. The discipline of Sociology is constantly changing and evolving as it tries to make us understand about the world around us. It is important to have an informed perspective about the society in which we live. The writing gives us a broad overview of the apex in the hierarchy of sciences- Sociology, its interdisciplinary areas of study, most importantly the focus on the Sociological Career Paths in the Contemporary period.

Keywords: Sociology; Scope of Sociology; Fields of Sociological studies; Application of Sociology

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I. INTRODUCTION

The elixir of Life - water is known as Paani, jal, thani, neelu and many more. But it is a very common fact that every human living organism needs and cherishes the gift of water, the thirst quencher for its survival.

Talking on a similar note, though the higher education taken up by the students are labelled differently and attractively they are all means to the making up of a living. But here a new form of stratification has unnoticeably developed. Certain streams of education are considered to have an upper hand over the other while few others are left neglected not that they are less valuable - but because their value and treasures remain covered. This is just the tale of one such hidden valued stream of education brought to the limelight.

II. THE SOCIOLOGY IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT

On asking a few (who for the very first time heard the word Sociology) what they thought the study to be gave varied reply of which the funniest assumptions are those when they related Sociology to History, Civics (Social Studies) and all the varied sort filled with village visits, slum visits, working with deviants, abandoned, fighting for rights. Before we go any further asking, has it not drawn to any of you that though these activities can also be a part, if viewed for the entire idea about the subject is simply one grand misunderstanding.

Sociology is a science too. The social sciences are generally held to include history, political science, economics, sociology, social psychology and cultural anthropology. The general subject for all of them is human social life. Each special social science has within this broad field a roughly delimited plot of its own to cultivate.

Sociology being the youngest in the discipline, during its history of years alone has gardened intensively in several different patches. But trying to know which belongs exclusively to the discipline and drawing exact boundary lines between the social science disciplines, might be tougher.

Social relations are social, not merely sociological, economic or political. As a consequence, the boundary lines have not been set up in any rigid fashion. This makes the study of Sociology a unique exposure and it can also be considered as an insight into the other sisterly disciplines with considerable freedom.

Sociologists are more interested in the governmental functions than a political scientist, more in the process of making a living than an economist, more in the social aspects of personality than a social psychologist. Hence the holistic study with different inputs religious, political, scientific and everyday attributes are understood to differentially flourish within varying social milieu.

Sociology is now further branching and pushing out into new frontiers. Even material which at first looks like 'old stuff' will when really grasped be seen in a new light. The new result will be a new point of view, a new orientation and a more valid understanding and perspective of human life which will mean an effective way of tackling problems. Eventually leading to effective citizenship and a genuine enrichment of the personal life.

III. IS THERE, AFTER ALL, ANY MORE IMPORTANT REASON FOR ACQUIRING AN EDUCATION?

It is natural for students who find Sociology interesting to wonder about combining a further pursuit of that interest with the preparation for some vocation or profession. The discipline of Sociology is desirable and accepted as eligible graduation for those planning to continue higher education in focus areas in Law, Education, Gender, Social work, Religion, Culture, Economy, Social Stratification, Race and Ethnicity, Social Inequality, Family relations and Children, Globalization, Criminology, Indian Society, Political system, Food and its changing dimensions, Social Movements, Sociological analysis, Population studies, Business Administration (giving tough competition to those from business studies also), Marketing and most preferred of all Public Administration (civil service aspirants). Not to forget Journalism, Health Education, Vocational rehabilitation and of recent even into Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Information Technology, Media (even those who work with computers also need to be social and understand how the human mind works for their algorithms and networking, don't they?)

Doesn't it sound astonishing? It is all factual that Sociology can be compared to that of the railway overhead bridge which branches out into all the platforms, irrespective of the trains stationed there leading to varied interesting destinations.

IV. THE ONE IN ALL SOCIOLOGY

The foremost ability that is required for any sort of an aspiring career is to get along well with others. As a sociologist this becomes their nature giving them an edge over the others. Usually the attractive professional titles are only visible like the bright stars forgetting the base - the sky which holds them all. The scientific study of society in which we survive - Sociology, imagine the absence of the sky what would become of the stars? This fresh perspective would change the things we take for granted - the light of the more objective view of Sociology.

Sociology as a discipline is conditioned to prepare the budding sociologist for their career opportunities in the new millennium. It is imperative to develop strong critical thinking, good communication skills, and creativity, develop solutions to complex problems, ethical judgment: ability to work in diverse teams, conduct research, have information literacy, do content based analysis and develop Technological and digital knowledge. In the age of globalization, the career of a sociologist takes place in an increasingly diverse global society and being able to work with diverse populations in the global work has become a basic workplace requirement of the Sociologist.

In the contemporary time the scope of the discipline is boundless. The discipline has many interdisciplinary areas of studies and endless career opportunities. Some of the interdisciplinary study areas include Socio Ethnobiology, Social Anthropology, Sociology of Media, Sociology of Crime and Deviance, Medical Sociology, Corporate Sociology making it an endless list.

These many higher prospects bring in much more diversity in the nature of job opportunities as well. The most sought after or preferred area of work as a Sociologist is to work in the Government Sector as Foreign Service officer, Administrative officer, Revenue

Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Human right officer, Programme Supervisors, Urban planner etc. In Community and Social Service endeavours through Non-Government Organisations and Civil Rights Group Sociologists work as Child Development Specialist, Environment organizers, Hospital Administrators, Career Counsellor, Public Health Supervisor, Rural Health outreach worker, Substance abuse counsellor and so on. Another significant avenue of work is Research, in which they work as Statisticians, Social Researcher, Survey Research Technician, Data Analyst, Census researcher and Investigator.

It is not a constraint to work in the area of business as the Sociologists possess effective interpersonal and communication skills with the understanding of the society they work as Business and Market Analyst, Human Resource Manager, Project Manager, Consumer Relation Specialist, Technical Writer and many more possibilities.

In the field of Education, Sociologists place themselves as Correctional and Rehabilitation Counsellor, Criminal Investigator, Parole officer and so on. Teaching is another very important career for Sociologists wherein once they get into the profession of Teaching they create all other professions, thereby enabling budding and developed Sociologists who would branch out themselves into various fields of work for the betterment of the society.

As propounded by the earlier pioneers on the scope of Sociology into two schools of thought, the career paths of sociology are so wide and the avenues of work for a Sociologists could range from private to public agencies and not for profit organizations. They are concerned with changing the current state of social life for the betterment of people in the society. This can include work for the wellbeing of the disadvantaged communities to become well established policy makers.

V. NEWER WAVES AND SOCIOLOGY

“Whatever Sociology may be, it is the result of constantly asking the question, what is meaning of this? Says

C. Wright Mills

Our discussion reveals how the discipline of Sociology is concerned with many distinctive perspectives on the world, generating new ideas and analysing old ideas and dealing with the most challenging issues of our times. Slowly widening the traditional focuses on the aspects of existing social stratification, the emancipation of the social class system, the possibilities and nuances of social mobility entwined with status and role, the prospects of religion and its informal ways of control, the potentiality of law in regulation, more broadened areas of secularization, the significance and awareness of the spectrum of gender and sexuality, more so of the conforming patterns and deviance exhibited in a society. Rapid in its growth this field's potential is increasingly being utilized in multidisciplinary approaches. It makes it very exciting to be journeying in this specialisation. Even Artificial Intelligence needs to borrow a lot from this discipline to equip itself as trending and latest.

Though the youngest science, Sociology adapts to becoming more and more Interdisciplinary, educating about the social processes that affect, maintain, sustain and develop our society. In the contemporary period Sociologists are Social engineers who work towards inferring knowledge, developing theories and actions for development of the

society. Quite a remarkable prospect and the wait to see what further unimaginable tracks would add on to the ever expanding scope of Sociology the apex and Queen of Social sciences.

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