**Chapter.1 INTRODUCTION**

**“Nature, Scope, Subject matter of Sociology & Relation with other Social Sciences subjects”**

**Science**

Science is the systematic methods used to obtain knowledge and the knowledge obtained by those methods.

**Division of Science**

Science is further divided into following:

1. Natural Sciences
2. Social Sciences.

**Natural Sciences:**

The natural sciences attempt to comprehend, explain, and predict events in our natural environment.

**Examples:**

Life Sciences (Biology, Zoology, Botany etc)

Physical Sciences (Physics, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy etc)

**Social Sciences:**

Social Sciences attempt to objectively study the social world.

**Examples:**

Like the natural sciences, the social sciences are divided into specialized fields based on their subject matter as well.

1. **Economics**

Economics analyzes the production, distribution, and allocation of the material goods and services of a society.

1. **Psychology**

Psychology concentrates on processes that occur within the individual.

1. **Political science**

Pol. Sciences focuses on politics or government.

1. **Anthropology**

It attempts to understand culture (a people’s total way of life) by focusing primarily on proliterate people.

1. **History**

A distinctive discipline that encompasses the totality of past human experiences.

1. **Sociology**

**Meaning**

The word Sociology came from two prominent languages of early advanced civilization. “Socious”, a Latin word, meaning, companion, or society and from the Greek word “logos”, meaning to study. From this coined words, it could be further deduced that, sociology is the study of society and human behaviour.

Kingsley Davis says that “Sociology is a general science of society” •

Harry M. Johnson says that “sociology is the science that deals with social groups”. •

Ogburn and Nimkoff define sociology as “the scientific study of social life”. • Franklin Henry Giddings defines sociology as “the science of social phenomena”.

**Definition**

The systematic and objective study of human society and social interaction.

**American Sociological Assosiation** defines sociology as:

Its the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.

**Nature of Sociology**

* Sociology is an Independent Science (Not treated as the branch of the any other science)
* Sociology is a Social Science and not a Physical Science (Distinguish from astronomy, physics, chemistry )
* Sociology is a general Science and not a Special Social Science (The areas of inquiry of sociology is general, Ex. Study of human life and human interactions)
* Sociology is a Categorical and not a Normative Discipline (Confines itself to the statement what is, not what should be or ought to be)
* Sociology is a Pure Science as well as an Applied Science ( It’s main aspect is acquisition of knowledge about human society )
* Sociology is Relatively an Abstract Science and not a Concrete Science (Concerned with the forms of human events and patterns)
* Sociology is a Generalizing and not a Particularizing or Individualizing Science(Conclude all the principles on general not on individuals)
* Sociology is Both a Rational and Empirical Science (Empiricism emphasis on the observation and experimentations ,Rationalism emphasis on the logical interferences)

**Subject Matter of Sociology**

All human behavior is social so the subject matter of sociology ranges

from the intimate family to the hostile mob;

from organized crime to religious cults;

from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture;

from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports.

Basically divided in following:

* **Sociological Analysis**

Sociologist seeks to provide An analysis of human society and culture with a sociological perspective. Also to analyze the factors & forces underlying historical transformations of society.

* **Study of the primary units of social life**

It is concerned with social acts and social relationships, individual personality, groups, communities, associations, organizations and populations.

* **development, structure and function of a wide variety of basis social institutions**

Such as the family & kinship, religion & prosperity, economic, political, legal, educational and scientific, recreational & welfare, aesthetic & expressive institutions.

* **Fundamental Social Process**

Such as cooperation & competition; accommodation & assimilation; social conflict including war & revolution; communication; social differentiation & stratification; socialization & indoctrination; social control & deviance (crime, suicide); social integration & social change.

* **Method of the Research**

sociology has tended to become more and more rational & empirical rather than philosophical & idealistic.

Sociologists use research techniques similar to those of the natural sciences. They often conduct research using ***scientific method***. That is, they collect data and establish testable hypotheses and decide ahead of time which results will lead them to accept or reject the **hypotheses**. Like other scientists, sociologists strive to reach conclusions and present findings that are **objective**—not biased by emotion or preferences. It is this commitment to scientific methods that makes sociology different from the nonscientific disciplines of the humanities.

* **Specialization**

In the present era, sociologists go for specializations as well. Such as sociology of knowledge; sociology of history; sociology of literature; sociology of culture; sociology of religion; sociology of family, sociology of health, sociology of sports, sociology of education, sociology of work, sociology of change, sociology of development etc

**Relation between sociology and other social sciences subjects:**

**Similarities:**

* Like political scientists, sociologists study how people govern one another, specially the impact of various forms of govt systems on society.
* Like economists, sociologists are concerned with what happens with the goods and services of society, but sociologists place their focus on the social consequences of production and distribution.
* Like anthropologists, sociologists study culture, and have a particular interest in the social consequences of material goods, group structure, and belief system, as well as in how people communicate with one another.
* Like psychologists, sociologists are also concerned with how people adjust to the difficulties.

**Differences:**

* Unlike political scientists and economists, sociologists do not concentrate on a single institution.
* Unlike anthropologists, sociologists focus primarily on industrialized societies while many anthropologists remained focused on trival societies.
* Unlike psychologists, sociologists stress factors external to the individual to determine what influences people.

**Scope of Sociology**

* Use of Concepts in Sociology
* Careers
* Roles of a Sociologist