

Sociology Past Paper 2013

Long Questions

(1) What "Sociology" is? Discuss the position of sociology as social science. Also discuss the major perspectives in Sociology?

Answer in past paper 2015.

(2) Define the term "Socialization". Discuss the different processor agents and types of socialization in details?

Socialization is the process of learning social norms in a given culture. This can be gender roles, or rules of what is expected in society whether they are moral or not. Socialization is not the actual acquisition of rules and roles of a culture, rather is the process in which a person accepts and implements those expectations. Socialization is not solely determined by the environment, but results from the interaction of an individual's genetic make-up, personality, educational experience, and environmental influences.

Types of Socialization

Generally, there are five types of socialization: primary, secondary, developmental, anticipatory and resocialization.

1. Primary socialization

This type of socialization happens when a child learns the values, norms and behaviors that should be displayed in order to live accordingly to a specific culture.

Example: A child hears his father talk bad words against an old lady. The child would think that this behavior is socially acceptable, so he would start talking bad words against older people.

2. Secondary socialization

This type of socialization occurs when a person learns an appropriate behavior that is displayed within a smaller group which is still part of a larger society. The changes within the values, attitudes and beliefs of an individual are seen to be

less important than the changes made in him as he participates in the larger society.

Example: A high school graduate chooses a career in Business Management after participating in a small group career seminar led by college business majors.

3. **Developmental socialization**

This type of socialization involves a learning process wherein the focus is on developing our social skills.

Example: A shy senior high school student starts to teach English to new freshmen students in order to develop verbal communication.

4. **Anticipatory socialization**

This type of socialization refers to the process wherein a person practices or rehearses for future social relationships.

Example: A child anticipates parenthood as he observes his parents perform their daily roles.

5. **Resocialization**

This type of socialization involves rejecting previous behavior patterns and accepting new ones so the individual can shift from one part of his life to another. Resocialization is said to be happening throughout human life cycle.

Agencies of Socialization

The family: this is the primary and chief agent of socialization for most people, especially in the first five years of their life. The family provides the child with his/her first social contact with the social world and it is through it that the correct patterns of behavior are internalized and learnt.

The School: when a child reaches school age, he/she started to widen his/her socializing cycle via school setting here learning is more of formal type since there is an obvious transition from an environment of personal and intimate relationship to one which is more impersonal. At school, talents are evaluated on the basis of sets of standards and requirements. The school helps the child to adapt to social

order through the hidden curriculum and functions in order to prepare the latter for a stable adult life.

The Peer group: this is the second important influence that a child encounters during his/her lifetime. Play patterns with his playmates is highly influential on the way he/she thinks and the way he/she will act later. Peer group are usually people who are of the same age and have similar status, and association is usually accidental. For instance, a child who enters the standard one and find him/herself in a class of children of the same age and he/she might become friends with only some of them. Yet, the whole class constitutes his/her peer group.

The mass media: It is recognized by many sociologists that the mass media exerts a powerful socializing influence but the extent of its effects is difficult to measure. Mass media transmit information in an impersonal manner which is all the time conducted in a one-way flow since the audience are passive receivers, although the mass media is perceived as empowering us with wider information, knowledge about the wider world, it becomes clear that it also harms its audience and receivers.

(3) When and How did sociology established itself as social science. Explain the contribution of August Comte and Ibn e Khaldun in the development of sociology?

"when"

Sociology is the study of social behavior or society. The first formal development of sociology in the world was established by Albion small.

"How"

In the eighteen centuries, Western Europe was rocked by, technical, economics, and social changes that changes the social order.

Science and technology was developing rapidly in society, it is the great for the society.

What is the main contribution that Auguste Comte made to sociology?

Auguste Comte is best known for coining the term "sociology." Comte was born in France shortly after the French Revolution. In response to the social upheaval and alienation of the period, he devoted himself to the study of society, which he called sociology.

Comte divided sociology into two main branches: **social statics**, which is the study of forces holding society together, and **social dynamics**, which is the study of forces causing social change. Comte's observations and analyses were based on **scientific principles**. He believed that because society operates according to its own set of laws, similar to the way the physical world operates according to physical laws, it should be studied as a social science. He called this approach positivism. According to positivism, sociologists should focus only on what they can observe with their senses so they can acquire reliable, valid knowledge about how society works.

They can then use that knowledge to stimulate social change and improve the human condition.

Comte was a major influence on other writers and thinkers of the 19th century, including George Eliot, Karl Marx and John Stuart Mill. Comte's ideas and methods also advanced the field of sociology in general, especially modern academic sociology, which emphasizes practical and objective social research.

Short Questions

(Q1) Define the term ethics , can ethics play an important role for peace and prosperity in society , comment?

Ethics is the branch of philosophy that involves systematizing, defending, and recommending concepts of right and wrong conduct. Basically, it asks the questions “What is the best way for people to live?” and “What actions are right or wrong in particular circumstances?” Ethics can be important in a society in that they guide the general intercourse between people. Different societies often have different ethics. For instance, in ancient Athens and Sparta both considered it ethical to hold slaves. But the Athenians thought it was unethical to have Greek slaves while Sparta thought it was perfectly fine to have Greek slaves.

(Q2) What is research? Explain the different methods of Social research?

A systematic method of exploring, analyzing and conceptualizing social life in order to extend, correct or verify knowledge whether that knowledge aids in the construction of a theory or in the practice of an art is called social research or research.

Social research methods (procedures) are the observational, questionnaire, interview, survey, experimental, statistical, case study method and historical methods.

Case study research

In **case study research**, an investigator studies an individual or small group of individuals with an unusual condition or situation. Case studies are typically clinical in scope. The investigator (often a clinical sociologist) sometimes uses self-report measures to acquire quantifiable data on the subject. A comprehensive case study, including a long-term follow-up, can last months or years.

On the positive side, case studies obtain useful information about individuals and small groups. On the negative side, they tend to apply only to individuals with similar characteristics rather than to the general population. The high likelihood of the investigator's biases affecting subjects' responses limits the generalizability of this method.

Survey research

Survey Research involves interviewing or administering **questionnaires**, or written surveys, to large numbers of people. The investigator analyzes the data obtained from surveys to learn about similarities, differences, and trends. He or she then makes predictions about the population being studied.

As with most research methods, survey research brings both advantages and disadvantages. Advantages include obtaining information from a large number of respondents, conducting personal interviews at a time convenient for respondents, and acquiring data as inexpensively as possible. "Mail-in" surveys have the added advantage of ensuring anonymity and thus prompting respondents to answer questions truthfully.

Disadvantages of survey research include **volunteer bias**, **interviewer bias**, and **distortion**. **Volunteer bias** occurs when a sample of volunteers is not representative of the general population. Subjects who are willing to talk about

certain topics may answer surveys differently than those who are not willing to talk. **Interviewer bias** occurs when an interviewer's expectations or insignificant gestures (for example, frowning or smiling) inadvertently influence a subject's responses one way or the other. **Distortion** occurs when a subject does not respond to questions honestly.

Observational research

Because distortion can be a serious limitation of surveys, **observational research** involves directly observing subjects' reactions, either in a laboratory (called **laboratory observation**) or in a natural setting (called **naturalistic observation**). Observational research reduces the possibility that subjects will not give totally honest accounts of the experiences, not take the study seriously, fail to remember, or feel embarrassed.

Observational research has limitations, however. Subject bias is common, because volunteer subjects may not be representative of the general public. Individuals who agree to observation and monitoring may function differently than those who do not. They may also function differently in a laboratory setting than they do in other settings.

Experimental research

Experimental research attempts to determine *how* and *why* something happens. Experimental research tests the way in which an **independent variable** (the factor that the scientist manipulates) affects a **dependent variable** (the factor that the scientist observes).

A number of factors can affect the outcome of any type of experimental research. One is finding samples that are random and representative of the population being studied. Another is **experimenter bias**, in which the researcher's expectations about what should or should not happen in the study sway the results. Still another is controlling for **extraneous variables**, such as room temperature or noise level, that may interfere with the results of the experiment. Only when the experimenter carefully controls for extraneous variables can she or he draw valid conclusions about the effects of specific variables on other variables.

(Q3) How culture and society always go together? Comments

Every society has expectations about how its members should and should not behave. A **norm** is a guideline or an expectation for behavior. Each society makes up its own rules for behavior and decides when those rules have been violated and what to do about it. Norms change constantly.

How Norms Differ

Norms differ widely among societies, and they can even differ from group to group within the same society.

- **Different settings:** Wherever we go, expectations are placed on our behavior. Even within the same society, these norms change from setting to setting.

Example: The way we are expected to behave in church differs from the way we are expected to behave at a party, which also differs from the way we should behave in a classroom.

- **Different countries:** Norms are place-specific, and what is considered appropriate in one country may be considered highly inappropriate in another.

Example: In some African countries, it's acceptable for people in movie theaters to yell frequently and make loud comments about the film. In the United States, people are expected to sit quietly during a movie, and shouting would be unacceptable.

- **Different time periods:** Appropriate and inappropriate behavior often changes dramatically from one generation to the next. Norms can and do shift over time.

Example: In the United States in the 1950s, a woman almost never asked a man out on a date, nor did she pay for the date. While some traditional norms for dating prevail, most women today feel comfortable asking men out on dates and paying for some or even all of the expenses.

The way in which people think and act is dictated by their cultural heritage. These ideas and actions are applied to society at large. For this reason, culture plays a key role in the formation of cultural norms. People who subscribe to the traditions, customs and rituals that are prevalent within a society are viewed as being within the circle of society. Those who shun or reject these cultural norms are considered

deviant or outside the societal norm. However, culture within society evolves over time. As populations mature, new traditions, customs and rituals are adopted by society. It is possible that what was at one time considered deviant based on cultural unfamiliarity may eventually become a norm. The ability of societies to adapt is critical to long term survival. Progress is difficult for rigid societies. Often, they either break apart and are absorbed by other cultures and societies or they die out completely. The United States, for example, is renowned for being a cultural melting pot. The very culture of the United States is conglomeration of many different cultures.

(Q4)

What is critical thinking?

Critical thinking is that mode of **thinking** — about any subject, content, or problem — in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her **thinking** by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it. **Critical thinking** is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective **thinking**.

What is analytic thinking?

Analytic thinking is the thought process that involves breaking down a problem into multiple parts and thinking each part through to find a solution. It can be used to solve a variety of problems, and it is commonly used in systems analysis and cost-benefit analysis.

To Analyze Thinking

Identify its purpose, and question at issue, as well as its information, inferences(s), assumptions, implications, main concept(s), and point of view.

To Assess Thinking

Check it for clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, significance, logic, and fairness.

The Result

A well-cultivated critical thinker:

- Raises vital questions and problems, formulating them clearly and precisely
- Gathers and assesses relevant information, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively
- Comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards
- Thinks open mindedly within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, as needs be, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences
- Communicates effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems