

# Sociology

02

## Introduction

The conflict theory states that owing to society's finite resources, there would always be conflict for the ownership of these resources. Moreover, there would be conflict to dominate and gain power. While a society may appear to be living harmoniously, beneath the surface all social existence is characterized by conflict. Everyone in the society is competing for one thing or another. Conflict is present in all layers of society. The conflict theory while having many merits has several demerits; too.

## The conflict theory

- 1) Conflict between the elite and working class

Pros in the current era: In the current era, there is a conflict between the elite and the working class. The elite controls means of production and the working class is forced to work and be exploited by it. Thus, the

theory is useful for understanding the current situation.

Cons in the current era: Over a period of time, the working class has become more aware of its rights - Hence, it has made headway in terms of securing these rights - For this reason, the conflict theory does not provide much perspective in understanding the current societal setup

## ii) Conflict theory and gender relations

Pros in the current era: Gender relations are fast evolving in the current era - Females are becoming more economically independent, they are better educated and do not need men for the meeting of their needs. This puts females in conflict with their male counterparts. In turn, this makes the conflict theory relevant for the changes taking place in the current era.

Cons in the current era: As men and women are finding new ways of coexistence



in the current era, the conflict between them and the struggle for dominance is decreasing. This reduces the utility of the conflict theory in understanding the evolving gender relations.

### iii) Conflict theory and criminal justice

Pros in the current era: The conflict theory comes in handy when trying to make sense of the criminal justice system. Justice is available for the wealthy and those who have power. While for the poor and the weak, there is no justice and their petty crimes are always persecuted. This leads to a conflict between justice for poor and justice for rich. The conflict theory in effect, helps understand this conflict.

Cons in the current era: The criminal justice system is becoming more fair and is not discriminating between the rich and the poor. In recent times the prosecution of famous personalities and organizations

demonstrates it. This makes the conflict theory lose its appeal in this area.

## Functional Theory as a counter perspective

The functional theory presents a counter perspective to the conflict theory. The functional theory states that the society exists as a harmonious whole with the different functions being carried out by the institutions and people complementing each other. This opposes the conflict theory which incorporates competition and conflict for the attainment of resources.

## Conflict Theory - Conclusion

To conclude, the conflict theory is relevant to the current era. It does help in analyzing and understanding the society in a better manner. However, along with the many insights that the conflict theory offers, it has its limitations. Hence, the conflict theory must be used in the current times as well, but in conjunction with other social theories.

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## Introduction - Reliability Research Process

A reliability research process is a process of research for the sake of seeking reliability. It means that the data collected through research is dependable and can be relied on. Moreover, the research process is designed in such a manner that it leads to reliable and correct answers. Reliability essentially results from designing the research questions in such a manner that the most accurate results or outcomes are obtained.

## Difference between reliability and validity

- 1) **Reliability** :- Reliability basically measures the dependability of the data being collected. It helps determine the accuracy of the research process. Moreover, consistency is integral to reliability. Inconsistency in results means that the research is not reliable; there are discrepancies in it and it cannot be depended on.



(ii) Validity consistency: Validity measures whether the research questions actually answer the questions which need to be answered. If what the researcher sets out to seek answers for is not being answered, the research becomes useless and invalid. The answers obtained or the insights discovered would not address the main contention of the research.

### The difference between data and information in Social sciences

1) Data: Unorganized and random form of information is usually referred to as data. Data is unstructured in nature and is usually found in its raw form. Data can also be referred to as a collection of different phenomena and observations.



ii) **Information:** Information refers to data which is in organized form. Sense can be made out of this information. Moreover, it is information <sup>based</sup> on which actions are ~~made~~ <sup>taken</sup> and decisions are ~~made~~ <sup>taken</sup>. Information is structured in <sup>native</sup> ~~native~~ and insights can be drawn from it. Various <sup>Social</sup> fields can be developed based merely on the information available <sup>about them</sup>. Social response and actions are based on the information available <sup>to</sup> those who are part of the society.

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## Conclusion

Reliable research processes are important for the sake of gaining valuable data and information about the society we live in. This not only helps us analyze and comprehend the ~~society~~ in a better manner, but also aids in social progress and development. Thus research processes must be checked for their reliability, validity and relevancy. This will ensure that social research questions are properly addressed and remedies to social problems effectively sought.

Q-5

## Introduction

The concept of social solidarity as proposed by Emile Durkheim expands on the role social solidarity plays in integrating a person into the society. Social solidarity is, in effect, social integration. It is through social solidarity that a person is able to survive in society and live a meaningful life. Individuals cannot exist in isolation, they need people to build relationships with. These relationships help them function in the society and contribute to it.

## The Concept of Social Solidarity

### i) Social Integration

The concept of social solidarity is closely tied to the concept of social integration. Integration into the society leads to social solidarity and vice versa.



## (ii) Becoming part of society

Social solidarity emerges when a person becomes part of the society. Human being cannot exist or survive in isolation. They need to become part of the society if they want harmonious existence through social solidarity.

## Significance in understanding the modern society

### (i) Important for individual's survival

Social solidarity is important for an individual's survival. The main reason why people need to interact with people is to find validation for their existence. They need to become a part of the society so that they can live sustainably in it.

### (ii) Preventing Suicides

Suicides have become a common occurrence in the modern society. People <sup>who</sup> have ~~are~~ not well integrated

into the society resort to suicides. Thus, in order to prevent suicides it is important to get people into the society and build social solidarity.

### (iii), Collectivism

Social solidarity leads to collectivism. Collectivism is an important aspect of an individual's existence. In a modern society, the individual not just exists on an individual level but also on a collective level. Thus, this concept helps in better understanding of the society.

(iv)

### Understanding people's motivations

The concept of social solidarity is also important for understanding people's motivations. People do things not simply because of personal or individual reasons they also do them because of the effect of the society on them. Hence, the level of their social integration into the society affects their actions.



## Conclusion

To conclude, Emile Durkheim's social solidarity theory is important for understanding the modern society. In the modern society, the way people are interacting with each other and building relationships is fast changing. This, in turn, affects the ways in which social solidarity is being built in the modern society. Thus, the study of social solidarity offers valuable insights into the modern society.

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## Short Notes

a) Ethnocentrism and Xenocentrism

**Ethnocentrism:** - Ethnocentrism is the feeling of superiority that is based on one's ethnicity or ethnic or racial background. For example white American's feel that they are ethnically superior to Black or Hispanic Americans. In other words, ethnocentrism leads to the treatment of people or communities from other ethnicities as inferior to one's own ethnicity.

**Xenocentrism:** - Xenocentrism is a feeling of suspicion, fear, and superiority with regard to groups and people from other countries or nationalities. For example, people living in Australia might have xenocentric feelings towards people from Asia or Japan. The feeling usually emerges when a set of xenocentric people believe that



their culture and nationality are superior and better than other culture and ~~solidar~~ nationality.

## b) Major Social Perspective

A major social perspective is a perspective which can be applied to various social situations and phenomena. This perspective helps explain social actions and social developments in a better manner. It also aids in understanding the society in a more holistic and comprehensive manner. A major social perspective is an all encompassing perspective and provides justification for a lot of social occurrences and observations.

## c) Brain Drain

Brain drain is the process completely altering or modifying a person's or a community's thinking. Brain drain takes place through a process of indoctrination and feeding

certain information, whether right or wrong, into people's or a community's mind. Brain drain results in not being able to see the other person's perspective. It leads to single-minded allegiance with a particular cause or undertaking. - Moreover, it deprives a person of the ability to think critically and question or analyse his or her actions. It leads to blind following of a particular agenda and, at times, could be fatal in nature. It can also be referred to brain washing for the sake of putting in rigid beliefs in a person's mind.

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