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Q7. Define applied anthropology. How it can be utilized to solve the problem like social inequality, ethnic violence, political instability and terrorism.

ANSWER # 7

INTRODUCTION :

Applied anthropology is the field of anthropology in which different types of anthropological studies are applied in the practical realm for the betterment of humankind, and to seek solutions to various social, economic, medical or cultural problems. The field of applied anthropology offers various mechanisms as well as perspectives which help governments understand the root causes behind prevalent social problems in their country. Thus, an effective policymaking to curb the social problems is only possible with the nuanced understanding of the root causes behind them and therefore, anthropology comes to the rescue.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS SOLVED THROUGH APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

- 1- **SOCIAL INEQUALITY:** It refers to the disparities in wealth, access to resources, and opportunities among different social groups. These inequalities can manifest themselves in areas like education, healthcare, employment and political participation.

SOLUTION THROUGH APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

- a. Conducting Ethnographic studies to

Understand the root causes: Anthropologists can conduct ethnographic studies to explore the root causes that promote social inequality in the 'under-research' culture. The technique used to explore should be created through emic methods, in order to grasp the perceptions of the local communities which nurture the inequality in the society. By identifying the social, economic, and cultural dynamics that perpetuate inequality, anthropologists can help design effective interventions.

Example → In addressing gender inequality leading to lack of education for females in an area or culture, the anthropologists could examine how traditional gender roles in a community affect women's access to education. The findings could

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lead to the development of policies that promote to challenge these roles and promote equality.

b. Use of Cultural Relativism while Suggesting Techniques to curb social inequality:

Cultural relativism refers to understanding a culture in the context of its own history and ideas. Thus, while formulating policies to combat gender inequality, cultural relativism should be thoroughly practiced in order to respect traditional perceptions and for the policies to be more effective.

2. **Ethnic Violence**: It is the idea that refers to conflict between multiple ethnic communities or cultures, often resulting in serious physical harm.

SOLUTION THROUGH APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

a. **Mediation and Conflict Resolution**:

Anthropologists can play a role in curbing ethnic violence through the anthropological understanding of mediation in conflict resolution. They can try to explore historical grounds of tensions between the conflicting groups and bring forth a common ground for mediation, in order to reduce tensions.

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Example: In the ethnic violence occurring in the Kurram district of Pakistan due to sectarian issues, can be reduced by suggesting mediation on common grounds. The 'Pashtun' identity of both conflicting groups can serve as the common point for mediation in their mother tongue and promoting their 'Pashtun' ethnicity as the focal point of brotherhood.

b. **Promoting Cultural Understanding through Cultural relativism:** Applied anthropologists can promote the importance of cultural differences by providing a platform for dialogue, practicing cultural relativism.

Intellectuals from both the conflicting groups can serve as bridges to bring forth the importance of cultural diversity and to understand each other's culture through an emic lens.

Example: In the Kurram issue, local imams from both the sect can be used by anthropologists as vehicles of peace. The imams can give sermons on the importance of unity among the Muslims and foster understanding between both sects by trying to understand differences and celebrate the common stage of Islam.

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3. **Political Instability**: It involves the disruption of a political system in a country leading to unrest, protests, coups, or civil war.

HELP THROUGH APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

- a. **Understanding Power Structures through Political Ethnography**: Applied anthropologists can conduct political ethnographies to examine local power structures, political ideologies, and the relationship between the citizens and the state. They can, thus, help formulate crucial interventions to stabilize the communities.

Example: The political turmoil in Syria after the fall of Al-Assad government can be reduced by understanding the local perceptions about the new government and their past traumas from the previous government. This can help ensure new policies built on earning the public trust through filling the gaps from the previous government.

- b. **Community Participation in decision making Process**: Applied anthropologists encourage participatory approaches, where communities are actively involved in decision making process.

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By understanding local needs and preferences, anthropologists can help governments develop political solutions that are more likely to be accepted by the general population.

Example: For bringing peace in the Bangladeshi society post political turmoil, anthropologists can work with grass root organisations to ensure that the voice of marginalised groups is heard and to ensure their say in the elections or peace negotiations.

4. **Terrorism**: It involves the use of violence or threats to create fear, often to achieve political or ideological goals.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS IN COMBATING TERRORISM.

a. **Understanding different factors leading to Radicalization:** Anthropologists can explore the cultural, social, and psychological factors that draw extremists to radicalization. Understanding those factors can help policymakers design prevention programs which address the root causes of terrorism.

Example: In terror ridden areas, anthropologists can explore the role of social networks, lack of opportunities, economic hardships, and cultural alienation in fostering radicalization among young people. This ethnographic research can help policymakers provide alternative paths for youth such as education, employment and social integration.

b. **Improving Counter-Terrorism Strategies through Cultural Relativism:** Applied anthropologists can help government agencies to design such strategies that respects human rights and cultural differences. By avoiding on culturally sensitive approaches, anthropologists can help avoid alienating communities and exacerbating tensions.

Example: In areas like ex-FATA, anthropologists can work with government institutions to help avoid broad-based stigmatization of entire communities based on race or ethnicity, instead promote targeted interventions that engage the communities as partners in security efforts.

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CONCLUSION: Anthropology, when applied, can help eradicate various social problems like inequality, violence, political instability, and terrorism through anthropological mechanisms such as Ethnography and Cultural relativism. Moreover, anthropologists dig deeper into the societies to understand the root causes behind mentioned social problems and help ensuring an effective policy making to combat these problems. Thus, applied anthropology offers solutions to all social problems faced by the contemporary world.

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Q8. Write short note on any Four of the following

1. Ethnology and ethnography.

INTRODUCTION: Anthropologist present their work through anthropological research and there are various tools that drive the anthropological research. Ethnology and ethnography are two such tools of research in cultural anthropology, where the descriptions of the way cultures and their members interact with each other, are explored.

ETHNOLOGY IN CULTURAL

ANTHROPOLOGY: It is an attempt to find general principles or laws that govern a specific cultural phenomenon. Ethnology tends to compare and contrast practices in different cultures to find regularities.

Example: Franz Boas' Comparative Studies of Native American Cultures:

Franz Boas conducted extensive ethnological research working with the native American people in the late 19th and 20th century.

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His work as an ethnologist was based on analyzing and comparing cultures to understand the diversity of human societies.

ETHNOGRAPHY: It is the description of a society or culture, and it refers to both qualitative fieldwork based research and the written results of that research. Ethnography describes a culture in such a way that it gives the reader a sense of being part of the culture. Moreover, ethnography has two types, emic and etic. Emic ethnography explains the ideas and practices through the lens of their own members, while etic ethnography explains and analyses a culture according to principles or laws drawn largely from Western scientific traditions. Thus, ethnography formulates the description of a specific culture.

Example: Margaret Mead's field work in Samoa: Margaret Mead's work in Samoa in the 1920s is the classic example of ethnography. She lived with the Samoan people for several months and gathered data through participatory observation, interviews and direct involvement.