

# Sociology - Final mock

Q1- Sociology is a branch of social sciences that deals with culture, socialisation, social stratification, deviance, social control, social institutions, etc. These areas are perceived through three lenses: Functionalist, conflict, and Symbolic <sup>interactionist</sup> perspectives. Functionalist perspective deals with one function as a part of a social group. Conflict perspective constitutes of oppositions over a social structure. Symbolic Interactionist perspective identify social symbols that runs in society. Each of these perspective aids in understanding social behavior through different views.

The sociological structure of these perspectives

Functionalist Perspective:

Functionalist Perspective advocates to function in existing system of culture, values, norms and traditions. It works to bring harmony in the society and feel comfortable within existing system. Such harmony could indicate peace with current situation or in other possible scenarios, acceptance of oppression. For example, the opinion and decision of elder is highly valued since generations in Pakistani society. Hence, maintaining the current system of sociological approach.

Conflict Perspective:

Conflict Perspective voices for change in ~~current~~ existing system. According to this perspective, the existing

social system is challenged. This is one of the reasons why revolutions happened. Be it Arab Spring or French Revolution, it happened as a result of opposition in current setup. It could involve both radical and gradual changes in a social system.

### Symbolic Interactionist perspective:

Symbolic Interactionist perspective is based on the idea that social system is formed through interaction via the established symbols. These symbols are generally the ways society communicate and expects other to behave. It varies from society to society with each having its own unique symbols. For example, a thumbs-up in Western culture symbolises approval. Whereas, in the subcontinent, it is a strong disapproval to something.

### Social Stratification through the lens of these perspectives

#### Functionalist Perspective:

Functionalist Perspective acknowledges social classes as essential for functioning of social structure. It believes that each person has its own role in the existing system. A person can move up or down the hierarchy depending on his his functionalism in the social net. One ~~part~~ of the prominent functionalist theories are is the Theory of Bureaucracy by Max Weber. According to his theory, a strict social hierarchy exists with centralisation of command on top. Movement in the hierarchical structure is based on experience, seniority and ~~age~~ qualification. Hence, it ensures smooth functioning and defined social classes with their own roles and responsibilities.

## Conflict perspective and social stratification:

Conflict perspective ~~is~~ challenges the existing difference in class system. As a result, conflict arises and the current system of social class system comes under threat. This perspective has prominence in theories of Karl Marx. Karl Marx of the view that social stratification leads to exploitation of those in lower class by those in upper class. Hence, the lower class eventually rose to overthrow the upper class. A classless society could form, as a result.

## Symbolic interactionist perspective and social stratification

In Symbolic interactionism, people takes the roles other expect them to have. Hence, role taking results in class divisions. Each class is expected to act in his position. How this position is viewed depends on society. The idea of role taking is taken from the sociological theory of Meads. He stated that a person acts in society identify his place in social structure through playing role and mimicing others. For example, a female takes the role of femininity because society expects her to play this role.

## The idea of social change through these perspectives:

### The stance of functionalist perspective to social change:

Functionalist perspective embrace social change if it maintains the functions of existing system. It does not

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challenges the existing system but becomes a part of it. Hence, maintaining harmony and ensuring society functions. One prominent example is Liberal Feminism. Liberal Feminism does not challenge the existing system but demands equality in it. Therefore, social change does not disrupts the system.

### Conflict perspective and social change:

Conflict perspective states that social change outrightly challenges the existing system. It disrupts the functions of the system and demand for a new system to replace it. For example, Radical Feminism challenges the system of patriarchy and demands its elimination. It is skeptic of the system and has declared it as flawed system that men created to ensure their dominance. Hence, social change in through conflict perspective would mean the establishment of new system.

### Symbolic perspective and social change:

Symbolic perspective is the induction of new symbols in social structure. For example, the dawn of internet has introduced new values, norms, ideas and perspectives. Hence, the individuals determine and expect as accordingly. A social media influencer with millions of followers perceives the role of disseminating idea, trends and opinions.

## Conclusion

To conclude, the triple lens of sociological perspectives in the form of functionalist, conflict and symbolic interactionist approach aids in better interpretation of sociology and its theories. It guides on views regarding social stratification, social change and overall social structure. These perspectives can be taken together for a more holistic approach to understanding sociology.

Q2 Social Stratification refers to established hierarchies in social structure. This includes stratification through the form of wealth, status, education, qualification, nationality, etc. Many prominent sociologists like Karl Marx and Max Weber have given scientific understanding to social stratification. Karl Marx views social stratification as a cause of social conflict. On the other hand, Max Weber understands it as a position in established hierarchical system.

Karl Marx and his idea about social stratification:

Karl Marx views social stratification as an eminent threat to social conflicts. This is because differences in social class creates frustration among those who are lower in positions. They feel exploited by those in upper class for economical gain. This frustration causes them to rise and revolt. Hence, an attempt to overthrow the existing system is made. The War of Independence, 1857 is a classical

example of conflict due to social stratification. The Hindu and Muslima soldiers were fed up of exploitative and insensitive nature of British, causing mutiny.

### Karl Marx and the capitalist system.

Post-industrial revolution gave birth to exploitative nature of capitalism. Karl Marx was critical to Adam's Smith theory of profit maximisation by a businessman. The industrial society at that time ran on generating profits. This gave rise to two classes: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. Bourgeoisie were the owners who exploited proletariat for profit. Proletariats were the working class of industry. Bourgeoisie, according to Marx, ensures that the current system of exploitation remains. On the other hand, proletariat challenge the poor working conditions and low pay through the Labour Unions, trade Unions and protests.

### Max Weber and the theory of Bureaucracy:

Max Weber established a system of Bureaucracy. In this system, the organisation would run on a strict hierarchical structure. Those above in hierarchy have more power and better monetary benefits than those lower in hierarchy. There is a movement in hierarchical structure based on educational qualifications, experience and seniority. Hence, people are socially stratified on the basis of their position in hierarchy. The lower the hierarchy level is, the lesser is authority with individuals.

Stance of both Max Weber and Karl Marx in addressing class, status and power:

Karl Marx:

Karl Marx states that Bourgeoisie work together to keep proletariat under their control. Proletariat resolve to conflict to challenge the owners. There is an increase in demand to improve working conditions, establish work ethics and provide better pay. Hence, through force, the class differences are addressed and social status is improved. Moreover, unions and pressure groups are used to pressurise the upper class to concession. Hence, the power web is evolved with working class flexing muscles. Moreover, Karl Marx stated that economic system evolves. It has evolved from feudalism to capitalism and will evolve to socialism. Socialism, in essence, will be a classless society with equal status, power and wealth.

Max Weber:

Max Weber deals with ~~social~~ softer approach to class systems. He acknowledged differences in classes, power and status. Rather than conflict the social position could improve through qualifications, experience and seniority. Hence, the element of social mobility ~~exists~~ exists in the class system. However, the system is not challenged altogether.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, both the sociologists took different views to social stratification. Karl Marx emphasised the idea of social class through pure economic system in which those who own exploit the working class hence, conflict is inevitable. On the other hand, Max Weber established existing hierarchy as a system of social functions. Rather than conflict, social mobility in the hierarchy is provided to address social stratification.

Q5 - Many feminist theories have been established during the first, second and third wave of feminism. Liberal feminism demands participation in existing system. Radical feminism challenges the existing social structure. Marxist feminism take economic lens to the issue. Psychoanalytical feminism undertakes positivism to address gender issues. Each perspective provided their understanding of addressing gender inequality in education, employment and politics.

Liberal Feminism and its role in resolving gender inequality:

Liberal feminism demands equality in the existing system. It made efforts in ensuring that women receive the same education as men, is given equal pay and employment opportunities. It was liberal feminism which finally gave women the right to vote in 1920 in U.S. It ensured legal changes



with equal allocation of fund ~~in~~ to girls' education in line with boys' education. In Pakistan, steps have been taken to bring women equal to men. In politics and government sector, quotas are established to ensure greater participation of women. Leg. National Assembly has reserved 33% seats to women. Moreover, equal legislations regarding women in harassment and equality in pay has been established.

Radical Feminism and its role in addressing gender inequality:

Radical Feminism does not agree with current system. ~~The~~ It believes that all aspects of the system is made on patriarchal values.

~~But~~ The education, employment and political system are based on system that interest men. Rather than equality, it decries the system as main hurdle to gender inequality. It struggles for new system that decries current social norms, values, tradition and structure. Hence, the advocacy for new system would automatically address gender issues. For example, the scientific and academic discipline of history, sociology, economics, etc is made from a patriarchal perspective. Hence, a change altogether is needed.

Psycho analytical Feminism:

Psycho analytical Feminism based biological and sociological ~~reasons~~ ~~on~~ perspectives as the reasons of status quo and change. For example, in social

institutions like family, education and workplace environment develops the psyche of males and females. A mother teaches her daughter about traditional gender roles. A sociological norm enable men to exploit women. Hence, it advocates for a change in how information is fed in psychology of people. Rather than a subordinate, women can be shown as brave and capable, increasing psychological dignity to it.

### Marxist Feminism:

Marxist Feminism states that gender equality exist, because of economic exploitation of women. Men in power and being the bread winner have the authority to pressure women into subordination. Hence, women should improve their economic status through financial independence and employment for better growth and opportunities. This enable women to participate more in education and qualify for better employment. Women play more active political roles to improve legal aspects for gender.

Q6.

### a) Social Controls:

Social Control are measures that ensure that a person does not deviate. Deviance, on the other hand, is going against norms, traditions, values and law which threatens the society and its structure. Hence, social controls are placed

to prevent deviance and set accountability.  
Hence, it acts as collective measure in the  
society.

## Formal Social Controls:

### 1) Educational institutions

Educational institutions can play significant  
role in social control. It inculcates the  
ideas of right and wrong in children.

Since children are in growing stages, it is  
an effective way to highlight what is  
deviant and what is acceptable. For example,  
people in primary education are taught the  
importance of loyalty to their country and state  
institutions.

### 2) Law enforcement agencies:

Law enforcement agencies act as a deterrence  
to deviance, especially deviance from law.

These agencies are responsible for taking  
legal action against deviant and ensure  
that law is implemented effectively. For example,  
police are authorised to take legal action  
against anti-state elements to maintain law  
and order.

## Informal institutions Social Control

### 1) Family Institution

Family plays an crucial role in upbringing

of a child. He is taught on all social values, tradition, norms and morality. Marriage is established to ~~for~~ ensure sanctity of relations between wife and husband. Accountability is established for children through communication, love and lessons.

## 2) Friends and peers

Friends and peers establish social control by familiarising a person with existing system. The values are introduced which people are more prone to follow - More effective communication and good understanding and trust acts as a social control.

## b) Ethno Centricism

Ethno Centricism is the idea that another culture is superior to one's own culture. Hence, preference is given to that culture, values and society. This makes a person prone to social change and ~~to~~ introduce new ideas and concepts. The globalisation has increased ethno centricism in other countries where people show inclination to adapt to Western culture. This is one of the reasons, various foods got popularity and food chains like KFC and McDonald's became multinational giants in food industry.

Xeno centricism :

Xeno centricism is when other cultures, values, norms and ideas are not welcomed. People are generally show pride in their social structure and culture. They avoid any foreign culture mixing with them. Such approach enhances rigidity to globalisation. However, it helps in preserving distinct cultures. For example, the people of Kerala have preserved their culture by ensuring that other culture and values don't mix up with them.