Chapter 1

Introduction to Sociology

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What is Sociology?

scientific study of society, social relationships, and human behavior

- **Sociology:** Scientific study of social behavior in human groups
- Focus on:
  - How relationships influence people's attitudes and behavior
  - How societies develop and change

Continued…

- Ogburn and Nimkoff define sociology as “the scientific study of social life.”
- Sociology is concerned with man, his social relations and his society.
- August Comte is considered to be the father of Sociology
- Sociology is composed of two words: socius, meaning companion or associate; and logos, meaning science or study.
- Sociology is the study of the social features of humans and the ways they interact and change.

Development of Sociology

Developed in the middle of the 19th century as a result of three factors-

1)Industrial and political revolutions in England and France

2)Imperialism

3)Development of science instead of religion to understand the world.

The Sociological Imagination

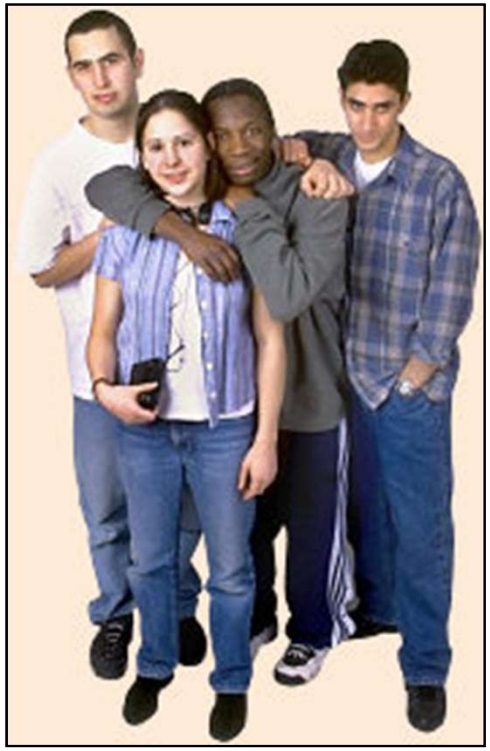
- C. Wright Mills describes sociological imagination as

An awareness of the relationship between an individual and the wider society, and…

the ability to view one's society as an outsider would, without one's limited experiences and cultural biases

The Sociological Imagination

- Looks beyond a limited understanding of human behavior
  - View the world and its people in a new way
  - See through a broader lens



Sociology and Science

- **Science:** body of knowledge obtained by methods based on systematic observation.

Natural Science: study of physical features of nature and the ways they interact and change	**Social Science**: study of social features of humans and the ways they interact and change

Sociology and Science

- Study the influence that society has on people's attitudes and behavior
- Seek to understand ways in which people interact and shape society
- Examine social relationships with others scientifically

Social sciences & Sociology: Differences

- Anthropology: past culture, origins of humans (focus= human being)
- Economics: production, supply, demand, market, capital (for whom= human being)
- History: event of past and its significance (whose= human being)
- Political science: government, election, power, authority (for whom= human being)
- Psychology: mental process, memory, cognition (for whom = human being
- Sociology: behavior related with social institution and organization (human being)

Sociology and Common Sense

- Sociologists do not accept something as fact because “everyone knows it”
  - Each piece of information must be tested, recorded, and analyzed

Women tend to be chatty

Military marriages more likely to end in separation or divorce

Nature of Sociology

1. Independent Science
2. Social Science and not a Physical Science
3. Categorical and not a Normative Discipline
4. Pure Science and not an Applied Science
5. Abstract Science and not a Concrete Science
6. Generalizing and not a Particularising or Individualizing Science
7. General Science and not a Special Social Science
8. Both Rational and Empirical Science

Scope of Sociology

1. Sociological Theory
2. Historical Sociology
3. Social Concept
4. Social Change
5. Sociology of Family
6. Sociology of Demography
7. Rural and Urban Sociology
8. Sociology of Religion
9. Sociology of education
10. Political Sociology

Scope of Sociology(Continued…)

11.Cultural Sociology
12. Sociology of Law
13. Social Psychology
14. Social Thought
15. Social Statistics
16. Medical Sociology
17. Gender and Development
18. Sociology of Literature
19. Industrial Sociology
20. Industrial Sociology

What Is Sociological Theory?

- **Theory**
  - Set of statements that seeks to explain problems, actions, or behavior
  - Effective theories have explanatory and predictive power
  - Theories are never a final statement about human behavior

The Development of Sociology

- Philosophers/religious authorities of ancient and medieval societies made observations of human behavior
- European theorists in the 19th century made pioneering contributions to the development of the science of human behavior

Early Thinkers

August Comte(1798-1857)

- French philosopher, considered the ‘Father of Sociology.’
- Introduced the word ‘sociology’ in his famous work “Positive Philosophy” at about 1839.
- Positivism holds that science should be concerned only with observable entities, and understood the causal relationship between events.
- Comte’s law of there stages claims that human efforts to understand the world have passed through theological, metaphysical and positivism stages.

August Comte



- ***Auguste Comte*** coined the term "***sociology***"
- Systematic investigation of behavior needed to improve society
- became interested in the twin problems of ***social order and social change***
- Queen of science & scientist-priest

Positivism

- Positivism is nothing but a philosophy of science.
- Positivism refers to “the doctrine which asserts that the only true knowledge is scientific knowledge which describes and explains the co-existence and succession of observable phenomena, including both physical and social phenomena.
- Positivism holds that science should be concerned only with observable entities that are known directly to experience.

Nature of Positivism

- Positivism as a way of thinking
- Positivism implies the uses of scientific method
- Positivism deifies observation and classification of data
- Impact of positivism as a social thinking
- Criticism of positivism

Law of three stages

- Comte's law of there stages claims that human efforts to understand the world have passed through theological, metaphysical and positivism stages.
- The positive stage, ushered in by the discoveries and achievements of Copernicus, Galileo and Newton, encouraged the application of scientific techniques to the social world.

1. The Theological Stage
2. The Metaphysical Stage
3. The Positive Stage

Three Stages	Theological Stage	Metaphysical Stage	Positive Stage
Nature of Societies	Military Society	Legal Society	Industrial Society
Unit of Society	Family	Nation	Entire Humanity
Basic Principle: Or Type of Order	Love of Family Or Domestic Order	Manual Co-Existence Or Collective Order	Universality or Universal Order
Prevailing Sentiment	Affection or Attachment	Mutual Respect Or Veneration	Kindness or Benevolence

Herbert Spencer

English sociologist (1820-1903)



- sometimes called the second founder of sociology.
  - Studied "evolutionary" change in society
- used an *organic analogy* that compared society to a living organism made up of interdependent parts.
- Spencer was convinced that societies evolve from lower ("barbarian") to higher ("civilized") forms

- As generations pass, he said, the most capable and intelligent ("the fittest") members of the society survive
- believed that if left alone, social problems will work themselves out through the process of natural selection called "survival of the fittest"
- this implies that the "fittest" (rich and powerful) deserve to enjoy their wealth or success because they have been "selected" by nature to be what they are.

Emile Durkheim(1858-1917)

- French thinker
- Books: The Division of Labor in Society(1893), Suicide: A Study in Sociology(1897), Elementary Forms of Religious Life(1912)
- Durkheim believed that we must study social life with the same objectivity as scientists study the natural world.
- According to Durkheim, social facts are ways of acting, thinking or feeling that are external to individuals and have their own reality outside the lives and perceptions of individual people.
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Emile Durkheim



- Durkheim's major goals was to study how individual behavior is shaped by social forces.
- Was interested in the rates of suicide and how they varied form country to country
- Durkheim insisted that behavior cannot be fully understood in individualistic terms, instead it must be understood within a larger social context.

- Durkheim found that Protestants, males, and the unmarried killed themselves at a higher rate than did Catholics, Jews, females, and the married.
- The force that he found to have a great impact on suicide was ***social integration***

Theory of Division of Labour

- In his famous work “The Division of Labor in Society” Durkheim tried to determine the social consequences of the division of labor in modern society.
- Durkheim was cautiously optimistic about the division of labor in society. He saw a number of problems arising from specialization in industrial society but believed that the promise of the division of labor outweighed the problems.
- For understanding the relationship between the individual and society, he drew up a distinction between two forms of solidarity namely

a)Mechanical Solidarity
b) Organic Solidarity

Mechanical Solidarity:

Mechanical solidarity is based upon a homogeneity of values and behavior, strong social constraint, and loyalty to tradition and kinship

Organic Solidarity:

Organic solidarity refers to a type of societal typical of modern industrial society, in which unity is based on the interdependence of a very large number of highly specialized roles in a system involving a complex division of labor that requires the co-operation of almost all groups and individual of the society.

Difference between Mechanical and Organic Solidarities

Mechanical Solidarity

- Based on resemblance
- Little interdependency
- Highly religious
- Attaching supreme value of society and interests of society as a whole
- Low volume of population
- Relatively low material and moral density

Organic Solidarity

- Based on division of labor
- Much interdependency
- Increasingly secular
- Attaching supreme value to individual dignity, equality of opportunity, work ethic and social justice
- High volume of population
- High material and moral density

Durkheim's Theory of Suicide

Suicide is an indication of disorganization of both individual and society. According to Durkheim, Suicide refers to "every case of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative death performed by the victim himself and which strives to produce this result."

Three types of suicide: results from

a)Egoistic: results from the lack of integration of the individual into his social group. Durkheim studied varying degrees of integration of individuals into their religion, family, political and national communities.

b)Altruistic: results from over-integration of the individual into his social group. Somebody that feels a deep sense of moral obligation and is willing to sacrifice for the group's well being

c)Anomic: results from the state of normlessness or degeneration found in society. It occurs when people have lost their sense of purpose or direction, often during a time of profound social change

Max Weber German Sociologist (1864-1920)



- One of Weber's most important contributions to sociology was his study of the rise of capitalism
- Weber theorized that the Roman Catholic belief system encouraged Catholics to cling to this traditional way of life, while the Protestant belief system, especially Calvinism, encouraged people to embrace change

- Weber also stressed that one cannot understand human behavior simply by looking at statistics

- Weber said "To fully comprehend behavior, we must learn the subjective meanings people attach to their actions- how they themselves view and explain their behavior”

- In other words people should use ***Verstehen*** the German word for "understanding"

Weber theory of Ideal Type

- An ideal type is an analytical construct that serves the investigator as a measuring rod to ascertain similarities as well as deviations in concrete ones.

Weber theory of Bureaucracy

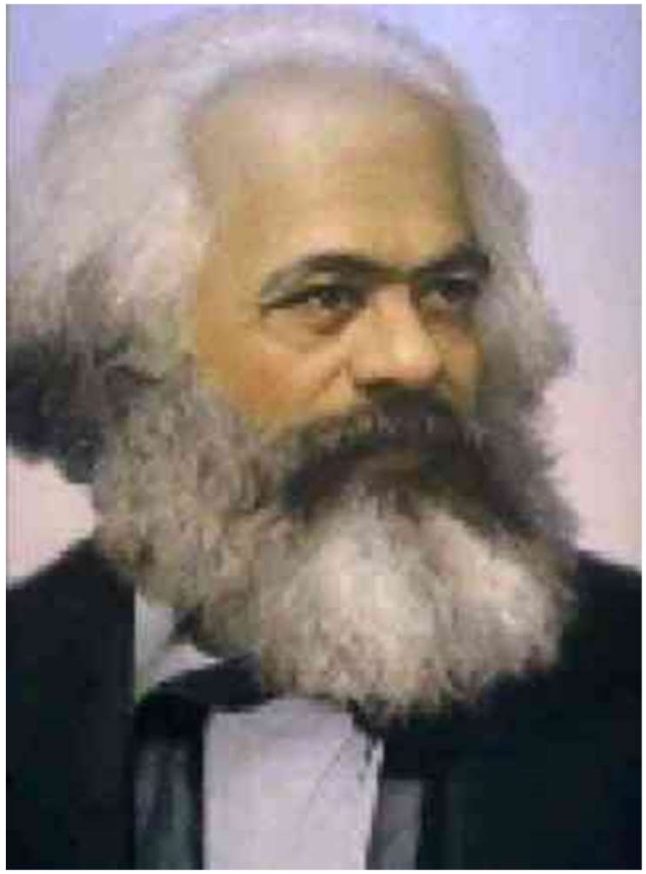
Bureacracy is a type of hierarchical organizations which is designed rationally to co-ordinate the work of many individuals in pursuit of large scale administrative task.

1. Fixed official Jurisdiction area
2. Hierarchy of authority
3. Clear- cut division of labor
4. Fixed salary
5. Supervisions by higher officials
6. Political Neutrality
7. Guidance by procedure

Karl Marx(1818-1883)

- One of the most important thinkers of the 19th century.
- The Communist Manifesto(1848), Das Capital(1867)
- Believed that the economic base of society influences the general character of all other aspects of culture and social structure, such as law, religion, education, government etc.
- Capitalism and Class struggle

Karl Marx, German Sociologist



- Marx believed that the key to human history is **class conflict**
- Divided in two social classes
  1. ***bourgeoisie***
  2. ***proletariat***
- The bourgeoisie rely on the exploitation of the proletariat.

- Marx believed that an entire system of economic, social, and political relationships had been established to maintain the power and dominance of the owners over the workers
- Marx argued that the working class needed to overthrow the existing class system

Historical Materialism

- ✓ Dialectical materialism: Thesis, anti-thesis and synthesis
- ✓ Materialistic and economic interpretation of history

Theory of surplus value

Theory of social change

Mode of Production and Social Structure

- 1. Primitive communism: no private property

Slave society

- 2. Ancient Society: slave and master
- 3. Feudal Society: landlord and peasants
- 4. Capitalist Society: Bourgeoisie and proletariate
- 5. Communist Society: No private ownership

Marx's Concept of Alienation

- Alienation refers to the sense of powerlessness, isolation and meaninglessness experience by human beings when are confronted with social institutions and conditions that they can not control and consider oppressive.

1. Extreme division of labor
2. Its heights in the capitalistic society

Development of Sociology in Bangladesh

- The Department of Sociology was established at the University of Dhaka as early as 1957.
- It established an academic profile under the leadership of Pierre Bessaignet, a UNESCO advisor and famous social anthropologist who first chaired the department of Sociology at the University of Dhaka.
- Professor Nazmul Karim – one of the founders of Bangladesh sociology was the first Bengali head of this department who took charge in 1958.
- In establishing the full, organized sociology department in the university of Dhaka foreign experts from France, Germany, The Netherlands, and USA rendered valuable assistance in the department's early years.
- The foundation of the Department of Sociology at this university paved the way for teaching and research in sociology in Bangladesh.

Thank

You