

Sociology of Environment
M.A.- 1st Semester (New Syllabus)

Course Code: SOC-C- 104

SOCIOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENT

UNIT (1-26)

By: Dr. Mahender Singh Thakur



**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION
(CDOE)**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY, SHIMLA-1171005
HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA**

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1.1 Introduction

Sociology of the environment is a new field of sociology that has developed in relation to people's growing concern about environmental issues. It has a dual focus. On the one hand it deals with the ways in which people in society relate to the natural world. On the other hand, it deals with 'environmentalism' as a social context of actions about the environment. It could be argued that the way people relate to the natural world has always been a concern of sociologist.

M.A. Sociology 1st Semester

COURSE- SOC-C-102

Methodology of Social Research

UNIT: 1-22

**By: Dr. Anjna Thakur
Dr. Suresh Sharma**



**Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)
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Gyan Path, Summer Hill, Shimla-171005**

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UNIT-1

NATURE OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY

STRUCTURE

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1.3 MEANING, OBJECTIVES, TYPES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH

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1.4 SUMMARY

1.5 GLOSSARY

1.6 ANSWERS TO SELF-CHECK EXERCISES

1.7 SUGGESTED READINGS/REFERENCES

1.8 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Positivism considered scientific knowledge as the only valid knowledge for achieving such scientific knowledge- the use of methodological procedure followed by natural science was supposed to be the prerequisite. The Knowledge that could not be based on sensory experience fell outside the purview of science. At the popular level, science is defined as an accumulation of systematic knowledge. It is systemic which ultimately separates science from other branches of knowledge. As Selltitz and others point out, "To do scientific research is to challenge accepted beliefs by submitting them to scrutiny through the use of demanding standards."

1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this lesson you will be able to: -

1. Explain the Nature of science and scientific enquiry.
2. Discuss the main steps in social research.
3. Explain why objectivity and subjectivity are important in social research.
4. We will be able to understand how facts and values are important in social research.

**M.A. - 2nd Semester
(New Syllabus)**

COURSE- SOC-C-203

SOCIOLOGY OF FAMILY, MARRIAGE AND KINSHIP

UNIT: 1-22

By: PALVI THAKUR



**Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE)
Himachal Pradesh University
Gyan Path, Summer Hill, Shimla-171005**

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UNIT-1

NATURE OF SCIENCE AND SCIENTIFIC ENQUIRY

STRUCTURE

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1.2 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1.3 MEANING, OBJECTIVES, TYPES AND SIGNIFICANCE OF RESEARCH SELF-CHECK EXERCISES-1

1.4 SUMMARY

1.5 GLOSSARY

1.6 ANSWERS TO SELF-CHECK EXERCISES

1.7 SUGGESTED READINGS/REFERENCES

1.8 TERMINAL QUESTIONS

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MA 1st Year
Sociology (New Syllabus)

Course Code SOC-C-202

Perspectives on Indian Society

(Unit – 1 – 23)

By: Mr. Sunil Kumar



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**M.A. 2nd Semester
Sociology (New Syllabus)**

Course Code: SOC-O-204

Social Demography

(Unit- 1-20)

By: Dr. Anjna Thakur

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BLOCK-I

UNIT-1

Meaning and Development of Demography

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- 1.8 Summary

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- 1.10 Answersto Self-Check Exercise

- 1.11 Reference/Suggested Readings

- 1.12 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

Demography is the scientific study of human populations. The term originates from Greek, combining the words "demos" (people) and "grapho" (to describe), which together mean the description of people. This field examines various aspects related to population dynamics, such as shifts in population size, birth and death rates, migration patterns, and the demographic structure, including the distribution of gender and age groups. Demography can be divided into different branches, including formal demography, which focuses primarily on quantitative data, and social demography, which explores the social, economic, and political dimensions of populations. Demographic research typically involves data collection methods like censuses or surveys, which gather detailed information about individuals within a defined geographical area.

Demography holds a vital place in sociology and was integral to its emergence as an academic discipline. In the late 18th century, two major developments occurred in Europe: the rise of nation-states as the primary political entities and the establishment of modern statistical science. As the modern state expanded its functions and responsibilities, it began to take on a more proactive role in managing public health, law enforcement, economic policies related to agriculture and industry, taxation, and urban governance.

This broadening of state functions required the systematic and regular collection of social statistics—quantitative data about various aspects of the population and economy. Although the state's collection of such data can be traced to earlier periods, it took on a more structured form at the end of the 18th century. The U.S. census of 1790 is considered the first modern census, and the practice quickly spread across Europe in the early 1800s. In India, the British colonial government began conducting censuses between 1867 and 1872, and regular

decennial censuses have been held since 1881. After independence, India continued this practice, conducting seven decennial censuses, with the latest one in 2011. The Indian census is the largest in the world, as China, despite its larger population, does not conduct regular censuses.

Demographic data plays an essential role in shaping and implementing state policies, particularly those focused on economic growth and public welfare. However, the emergence of social statistics also laid the groundwork for the development of sociology as a distinct discipline. Aggregate statistics, which capture numerical characteristics of large populations, offer persuasive evidence for the existence of social phenomena. For example, statistics like the death rate (the number of deaths per 1,000 people) are calculated by adding individual deaths, but the death rate itself is a social phenomenon that must be interpreted in a broader social context. A key example is Émile Durkheim's famous study on suicide rates, where he showed that differences in suicide rates across countries could be linked to social factors, even though individual suicides were influenced by personal circumstances.

A distinction is often made between formal demography and the broader field of population studies. Formal demography mainly focuses on the measurement and analysis of the factors that drive population change. It is centered around quantitative methods and advanced mathematical techniques to project population growth and demographic shifts. In contrast, population studies, or social demography, examines the social causes and effects of changes in population structures. Social demographers emphasize that social processes and structures play a significant role in shaping demographic trends. Similar to sociologists, they seek to identify the social factors that influence population changes.

1.2 Objectives

In this lesson, we will explore the concept, nature, and evolution of demography, as well as highlight key concepts within the field. By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Define the concept of demography
- Explain the nature of demography
- Describe the development of demography

**MA 1st Semester
Sociology (New Syllabus)**

Course Code: SOC-C-101

Classical Sociological Tradition-I

(Unit- 1-22)

By: Dr. Anjna Thakur

Miss. Vaneeta Bhandari



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BLOCK-I

UNIT-1

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SOCIAL THOUGHT

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- 1.6** The Conservative Reaction to the Enlightenment
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- 1.7** Summary
- 1.8** Glossary
- 1.9** Answers to Self-Check Exercise
- 1.10 Suggested Readings
- 1.11 Terminal Question
- 1.1 Introduction**

Sociological traditions are unique in that they discuss in detail the extent to which their theories explain social reality and methodically describe their assumptions or hypotheses. More significantly, they offer fresh perspectives on social dynamics and behavior. A collection of concepts that seeks to describe how society or certain facets of society function is called a sociological theory. It might appear to be a collection of viewpoints that have little in common other than their formalizing and universal approach and their interest in comprehending human behavior. Theoretical viewpoints on the topic distinguish quite clearly between those that focus on the finer points of human interaction and person-to-person interaction and those who are interested in the broad features of social structure and role, on macro- sociology.

1.2 Learning Objectives

In this unit we will be able to

- Recognize how social forces influenced the development of sociological model.
- Know about the academic services and the growth of sociological theory.
- Discuss the social thought.

M.A. 2nd Semester
Sociology (New Syllabus)

Course Code: SOC-C-201

Classical Sociological Tradition-II

(Unit- 1-20)

By: Dr. Anjna Thakur

Mr. Satish Kumar



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BLOCK-I
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- 1.13 Terminal Questions

1.1 Introduction

Classical economic theories have long influenced sociological thought and broader social theory. From this economic standpoint, humans are often viewed as rational beings who strive to maximize benefits while minimizing losses. Social life is frequently likened to a marketplace, where individuals exchange their skills and attributes to gain psychological or material advantages. Within this framework, social interactions resemble a strategic competition, where individuals pursue their interests, and social order emerges as a consequence of these interactions.

This perspective aligns with utilitarianism, which assumes that people act rationally and are driven by the pursuit of rewards and personal gains. Adam Smith is widely recognized for his contributions to this viewpoint, as he systematically examined how competitive markets function. His idea of the "invisible hand" suggests that economic order and efficiency develop naturally through competition in free markets. While

utilitarian principles remain relevant today, their impact was even more significant in the past century.

However, sociology has historically challenged the limitations of this reductionist view of human behavior. Just as contemporary sociology seeks to move beyond narrow economic determinism, early sociological theories emerged in direct response to utilitarian thought. In particular, functionalism—often regarded as sociology’s first major theoretical framework—developed as a critique of utilitarianism. Rather than viewing society as a mere aggregation of individual choices, functionalism proposed an alternative perspective rooted in organicism. This approach emphasized the interdependence of social institutions and the ways in which they contribute to overall societal stability and cohesion.

By questioning the assumptions of utilitarianism, sociology sought to develop a more nuanced understanding of human behavior and social organization—one that accounts for collective structures, cultural influences, and the complexities of social life beyond individual self-interest.

1.2 Learning Objectives

Subsequently completing this unit, you will have the ability to:

- Understand the structural functionalism.
 - Discuss the Radcliffe Brown structural functional approach.
 - Know about the further development of functional and structural functional approach.

Social Stratification and Change
M.A.- 1st Semester (New Syllabus)

Course Code: SOC-C-103

Social Stratification and Change

UNIT(1-20)

Dr. Anjna Thakur



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AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

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