

SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL SYLLABUS

PAPER–I

FUNDAMENTALS OF SOCIOLOGY

1. Sociology - The Discipline:

- (a) Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of Sociology.
 - (b) Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences.
 - (c) Sociology and common sense.
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2. Sociology as Science:

- (a) Science, scientific method and critique.
 - (b) Major theoretical strands of research methodology.
 - (c) Positivism and its critique.
 - (d) Fact value and objectivity.
 - (e) Non-positivist methodologies.
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3. Research Methods and Analysis:

- (a) Qualitative and quantitative methods.
- (b) Techniques of data collection.
- (c) Variables, sampling, hypothesis, reliability and validity.

4. Sociological Thinkers:

- (a) Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle.
 - (b) Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society.
 - (c) Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism.
 - (d) Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables.
 - (e) Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups.
 - (f) Mead - Self and identity.
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5. Stratification and Mobility:

- (a) Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation.
 - (b) Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist theory, Marxist theory, Weberian theory.
 - (c) Dimensions - Social stratification of class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race.
 - (d) Social mobility - open and closed systems, types of mobility, sources and causes of mobility.
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6. Work and Economic Life:

- (a) Social organization of work in different types of society - slave society, feudal society, industrial capitalist society.
 - (b) Formal and informal organization of work.
 - (c) Labour and society.
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7. Politics and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of power.
 - (b) Power elite, bureaucracy, pressure groups and political parties.
 - (c) Nation, state, citizenship, democracy, civil society, ideology.
 - (d) Protest, agitation, social movements, collective action, revolution.
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8. Religion and Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of religion.
 - (b) Types of religious practices: animism, monism, pluralism, sects, cults.
 - (c) Religion in modern society: religion and science, secularization, religious revivalism, fundamentalism.
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9. Systems of Kinship:

- (a) Family, household, marriage.
 - (b) Types and forms of family.
 - (c) Lineage and descent.
 - (d) Patriarchy and sexual division of labour.
 - (e) Contemporary trends.
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10. Social Change in Modern Society:

- (a) Sociological theories of social change.
- (b) Development and dependency.
- (c) Agents of social change.
- (d) Education and social change.
- (e) Science, technology and social change.

PAPER–II

INDIAN SOCIETY : STRUCTURE AND CHANGE

A. Introducing Indian Society:

(i) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society:

- (a) Indology (G.S. Ghure).
 - (b) Structural functionalism (M. N. Srinivas).
 - (c) Marxist sociology (A. R. Desai).
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(ii) Impact of colonial rule on Indian society:

- (a) Social background of Indian nationalism.
 - (b) Modernization of Indian tradition.
 - (c) Protests and movements during the colonial period.
 - (d) Social reforms.
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B. Social Structure:

(i) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure:

- (a) The idea of Indian village and village studies.
- (b) Agrarian social structure—evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

(ii) Caste System:

- (a) Perspectives on the study of caste systems: G. S. Ghurye, M. N. Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille.
 - (b) Features of caste system.
 - (c) Untouchability-forms and perspectives.
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(iii) Tribal Communities in India:

- (a) Definitional problems.
 - (b) Geographical spread.
 - (c) Colonial policies and tribes.
 - (d) Issues of integration and autonomy.
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(iv) Social Classes in India:

- (a) Agrarian class structure.
 - (b) Industrial class structure.
 - (c) Middle classes in India.
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(v) Systems of Kinship in India:

- (a) Lineage and descent in India.
- (b) Types of kinship systems.
- (c) Family and marriage in India.
- (d) Household dimensions of the family.
- (e) Patriarchy, entitlements and sexual division of labour.

(vi) Religion and Society:

- (a) Religious communities in India.
 - (b) Problems of religious minorities.
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C. Social Changes in India:

(i) Visions of Social Change in India:

- (a) Idea of development planning and mixed economy.
 - (b) Constitution, law and social change.
 - (c) Education and social change.
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(ii) Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India:

- (a) Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes.
 - (b) Green revolution and social change.
 - (c) Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture.
 - (d) Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.
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(iii) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India:

- (a) Evolution of modern industry in India.
- (b) Growth of urban settlements in India.
- (c) Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization.
- (d) Informal sector, child labour.

- (e) Slums and deprivation in urban areas.
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(iv) Politics and Society:

- (a) Nation, democracy and citizenship.
 - (b) Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite.
 - (c) Regionalism and decentralization of power.
 - (d) Secularization.
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(v) Social Movements in Modern India:

- (a) Peasants and farmers movements.
 - (b) Women's movement.
 - (c) Backward classes & Dalit movements.
 - (d) Environmental movements.
 - (e) Ethnicity and Identity movements.
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(vi) Population Dynamics:

- (a) Population size, growth, composition and distribution.
 - (b) Components of population growth: birth, death, migration.
 - (c) Population Policy and family planning.
 - (d) Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health.
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(vii) Challenges of Social Transformation:

- (a) Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability.

- (b) Poverty, deprivation and inequalities.
 - (c) Violence against women.
 - (d) Caste conflicts.
 - (e) Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism.
 - (f) Illiteracy and disparities in education.
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