

# **SUBJECT : SOCIOLOGY**

**Course : social research**

**Course code: 606 (CORE)**

**Credit hours : 03**

**Muhammad Rahim**

**Lecturer**

**Department of Sociology**

**University of Balochistan Quetta.**

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**I welcome you all to University of Balochistan in the department of sociology.**

**I will teach you the subject named “Social Research” in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester M.Sc. Sociology. I hope that you will find the subject easy and interesting.**

**We will cooperate with each other. I will try my best to teach you in easy and understandable way, and expect from you people that you would devote your maximum time to learn the subject. If there was any question or difficulty, I am ready any time that you may ask.**

**Though the subject mentioned above means “social research or research methodology” is a little bit technical or complex, however, I will try my best to explain it in easy way.**

**In the slides below we will switch towards the contents of the course.**

# **CHAPTER # 01**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Lecture no: 01**

**In today's lecture we will go through the following points.**

- **What is sociology ?**
- **Definition of sociology**
- **Brief history of sociology**
- **The role of social research in sociology**

# WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY

**The word sociology is the combination of two words. “Socius” a Latin word which means “being with others or companion” (more than one individuals) and “logy or logos” a Greek word which means “to study”. So, combining the two words we come to know that sociology is the study of human beings. (James M Henslin, 2007)**

**In sociology we deal with the social life of human beings. We discuss sociological perspectives, social relations, culture, social actions, social issues, social institutions, social change, social inequality, social groups, social order, social control, socialization and many other things that have direct or indirect impact on the social life of a society.**

# **DEFINITIONS OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Different sociologists define in different way. Some of the definitions are given below**

- **Sociology is the scientific study of social institutions. (Emile Durkheim)**
- **Sociology is the systematic study of social society and social interaction. (Diana Kendall)**
- **Sociology is the scientific study of the social action. (Max Weber)**
- **Sociology is the science of society and human behavior. (James Henslin)**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology was introduced in 1838 by a French philosopher and professor Auguste Comte. After French revolution when there was disorganization and anarchy in the French society. The people asked why war exists, why some people become more powerful than others, and why some are rich but others are poor. These and some other questions made Auguste Comte to think about the social life of human beings. He expressed that how a man is careless that he has studied many other disciplines i.e. astronomy, physics, chemistry, geography etc. but never thought of himself. He explained that there is dire need of a discipline to study social life of people. As a result he introduced this subject/discipline. At first he named this discipline a “*social physics*”, because he was a physics professor but later on the word changed to sociology. (James Henslin, Diana Kendall)

## **THE ROLE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH IN SOCIOLOGY**

The above mentioned definitions clearly explicit that sociology is a science. Sociology apply scientific methodology/methods to test the ideas of people. It conducts research on social issues, so that to brings out a workable solution. Auguste Comte stressed that I am not going to introduce a discipline that may just based upon some social principles but it will apply scientific methods to solve the social problems. He said that this new science/subject would apply these social principles to bring reforms in society. He explained that a sociologist would reform the entire society, making it a better place to live. (James M Henslin, 2007)

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- Auguste Comte stressed that like other sciences i.e. physics, chemistry, astronomy, geography etc. apply scientific method for doing their research, experiments, and their laws, findings and theories are universally accepted, in the same way a sociologist must apply scientific method for developing theories or solving the social problems, so that its laws and theories must recognize and accept universally. Though he did not conduct any systematic research on any social issue however, he stressed more on systematic process for developing any theory or law. His outstanding contribution to sociology is the “Law of three stages”.
- Emile Durkheim was the first sociologist to conduct research in sociology. He conducted a research on “suicide” and developed a theory.

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These were some introductory points, in the next class insha Allah we will discuss the following points.

- **Definition of social research.**
- **Importance of social research**
- **Is sociology a science**

Thanks and take care