

# The Need for Sociological Approach to Education

1. Theoretical approaches or perspectives are used by scientist to provide logical explanation for why things happen the way they do.
2. It gives us a particular conception of how the social world works.
3. There are several sociological perspectives on why things happen the way they do in society.
4. A theoretical approach helps to determine the question to be asked by researchers and the way to organize research in order to get answers.
5. These three approaches also focus on different levels of analysis, the functional and conflict approaches tend to deal with a Macro view of social relations and the culture of the school, large scale societal and cultural systems. Where as the interactionist approach focuses small scale interaction between individual and small groups.

# Functionalist or structural functionalism

- What may also be called structural functionalism, is about social structure and how the various parts of society relate to society as a whole.
- It is attempting to look at what function each group in society has to fulfill in order to maintain the existing structure of the society.
- There is an acknowledgment that parts of society may become dysfunctional and as such, balance is not always maintained.
- The aim than is to implement strategies, which will restore the balance.
- According to this theoretical approach, it is the school roles in society to prepare its students to full fill a role in society.
- It is there for important that the schooling process sorts students in to categories according to there abilities.

# Conflict or critical Theory

- Functionalist emphasize consensus and the general smooth running of society
- there are significant differences of interest between class stratification` classification groups. These differences are power related and result in conflict . conflict theorist speak of life chances and argue that social groups have differing access to life chances such as ` education , health care , housing , transport , employment and a clean environment.
- factor such as social class, gender , race , ethnicity , and age affect this access , and unequal access leads to social inequality and than social conflict.
- There are more powerful groups in society and in situations that lead to exploitation and oppression . The educational reforms movement is one example of special groups challenging the existing social order.

# Symbolic Interactionism.

1. Symbolic interactionism or action theorists , they focus on individual rather than broad social structure.
2. They believe that people attach meaning to their actions and this meaning give direction to their actions.
3. So symbolic interactionist believe claim that individual actions give meaning to the social world.
4. They also interested in every day life , and how the actions of every day life contribute to construct our social world.
5. Symbolic interactionism is an American branch of sociology, it developed from the work of ` John Dewey` William Thomas , and G H Mead.

- Interaction theory approach has been used increasingly since World War II, and emphasizes social, psychosocial questions. Sociologists of education using this approach are likely to focus on interactions between groups, peers, teacher-student, teacher-principal, on students' attitudes and achievements, on students' values, on students' self-concepts and their effect on aspirations, and on socio-economic status as it relates to students' achievements.
- These theorists stress the need to understand our common-sense view of reality, how we come to view the events and situations around us and react to them as we do.
- Applied to education, this has taken the form of studying interaction processes in classrooms, the management and use of knowledge, the question of what is to be educated, curriculum contents, and so forth.

- Sociology of education can not be discussed with In the fields of education and sociology alone. Examples of the related fields are numerous. , economics and school financing , political science , power and policy issues , the family and the child , church and state controversies , health fields and medical care of children , humanities and the arts , and the school`s role in early childhood training.
- So several social scientist have pointed to the value of an open systems approach in organization approach.

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The End.