

# Scope of sociology

1. It is the systematic study of society.

It studies human society as an interconnected whole. It looks into how individuals and society interact with each other.

2. Sociology seeks to explore how societies emerge, persist and then change. Its scope includes study of social groups, social institutions and social processes.

3. Scope of Sociology is more in the direction of an analysis of social problems and not in normative suggestion of solutions for these social problems.

# Scope of sociology

4. Scope of sociology is very wider/large because whole society is the subject matter of sociology.
5. Calbortan says- Scope of sociology is so elastic. It is difficult to determine that where sociology begin and its boundaries.

## opinion about the scope of Sociology.

- Scope means the subject matter or the areas of study.
- Every science has its own field of inquiry. It becomes difficult to study a science systematically unless its boundary or scope is determined precisely.
- Sociology as a social science has its own scope or boundaries.
- But there is no one opinion about the scope of Sociology.

## Two main schools of thought regarding the scope of Sociology:

- Sociology as a social science has its own scope or boundaries. But there is no one opinion about the scope of Sociology.
- However, there are two main schools of thought regarding the scope of Sociology:
- **1. The Specialist or Formalistic school and**
- **2. the Synthetic school.**

# VIEWS OF THINKERS ON SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

- 1. **Radcliffe Brown** observed that the subject-matter lies in the structures or patterns of social interactions which can be studied by field work.
- 2. **Marx** opined that scope of Sociology is to study the dynamic of forces and relations of production.

# VIEWS OF THINKERS ON SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

- 3. Weber on the other hand defines scope of sociology in terms of study of social action whereas Parsons define scope of sociology as a study of action systems.
- 4. Merton combined psychological and structural aspects of society.

# SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT ABOUT THE SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY

## 1) Specialistic school:

The supporters of this school of thought are **George Simmel**, Vierkandt, Max Weber, Vonwise, and F. Tonnies. The main views of the school regarding the scope of Sociology are –

- i) Sociology is a specific, pure and independent social science.
- (ii) Sociology studies the various forms of social relationships.
- (iii) Scope of Sociology is very narrow and limited.

## **1) Specialistic school:**

- (iv) Sociology deals with specific form of human relationship.
- (v) Sociology need not study all the events connected with social science.
- (vi) Simmel believes that it is a specific social science and it should deal with social relationships from different angles.

## (II ) Synthetic school:

- The supporters of synthetic school are the sociologists like Ginsberg, Durkheim, Comte, Sorokin, Spencer, F. Ward, and L.T. Hobhouse.
- According to this school-
  - (i) Sociology is a general and systematic social science.
  - (ii) Scope of Sociology is very vast.
  - (iii) Sociology needs help from other social sciences.
  - (iv) It is a synthesis of social science.
  - (v) Sociology is closely related with other social sciences.

## Conclusion:

- From the above discussion, we come to know that formalistic school believes in the study of the parts, which makes up the society and synthetic school advocates the study of the whole society. However, both the schools complement to each other. They are not opposed to each other. Thus, Sociology is a general science of society and specialised discipline. Sociology is a growing science. Therefore, it is neither possible nor desirable to restrict its scope.