

# M.A. PREVIOUS EXAM 2005

## PAPER - I CLASSICAL AND MODERN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES

### Objectives :

Industrial Revolution and consequent transformation of mode of production brought out dramatic and traumatic changes in the traditional feudal structure of the societies in Europe through the emergence of capitalism. The changes that were brought by these events which have had far-reaching effects on the economic and social systems of these societies that they commanded attention of thinkers. That give rise to the discipline of Sociology. Different thinkers viewed the social changes from different perspectives, presented their distinct analysis, causal and otherwise of these changes made efforts to highlight the different features of the emerging modern industrial capitalist society and also attempted to predict the future of this society. Some of them engaged their attention on the issues related to development of Sociology as a Science. They laid down the theoretical foundations of Sociology on which edifice of modern Sociological theories is erected. Besides, they also tried to analyse and interpret other sociological issues such as education, power structures, religion and the like. Among these Sociological thinkers prominent are Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim, Max Weber Talcott Parson contributed to modern sociological theory.

Acquaintance with the writings of these four thinkers would equip the students with theoretical insights to know, analyse and interpret the social scenario around them and would also familiarize them- with the different sociological perspectives and theories. While teaching, emphasis should be on critical analysis of the writing of these four thinkers.

- UNIT-I**      Historical Socio-Economic, background of the emergence of sociology
- Traditional feudal economy and social structure
  - Impact of industrial revolution and of new mode of production on society and economy
  - The emergence of capitalistic mode of production- Nature and features of capitalism.
  - The enlightenment and its impact on thinking and reasoning.
- UNIT-II**      **Karl Marx**
- Marx's theory of social change
  - Marxian Dialectical materialism as a philosophical perspective of change and its laws.
  - Materialistic interpretation of history : As a perspective of explaining transformation of human society through different stages. Economic determinism. Mode of production and social structure. Basic structure and super structure.

Marx's analysis of emergence and development of capitalism in terms of laws of increasing accumulation and concentration of capital and of increasing misery. Concepts of surplus value and exploitation.

Emergence of classes and class conflict. Proletariat revolution and future of capitalism. Classless society.

Alienation in the capitalist society- Factors responsible for alienation and its social implications.

Views on political power. The state in relation to social classes. Future of the State after proletariat evolution. Theory of ideology - Ideology as a part of super structure. Three views with regard to ideology.

#### **UNIT-III Emile Durkheim**

Intellectual background. His preoccupation with the order and disintegration of society. Social disintegration as a legacy of industrial revolution. Increasing division of labour in the capitalist society Mechanical and organic solidarities. Explanation of increasing division of labour. Pathological forms of division of labour.

**Theory of suicide** : Review of earlier theories of suicide. Suicide rate. His distinctive sociological approach. Types of suicide, Problem of integration of the individual with society.

**Theory of Religion** : Earlier theories of the emergence and role of religion-structure of religion - sacred and profane - source of sacredness of the sacred things of symbols of ultimate values. Society as a supreme God. Religious rituals - their types, Social role of religious beliefs and rituals.

**Contribution to the methodology of Sociology** : Sociology as a Science social facts - sociologism.

#### **UNIT-IV Max Weber**

**Theory of social action** - Types of social actions

Intellectual background, Analysis of modern capitalism. Views of the role of ideas and values in social change with reference to the relationship between Protestant ethic and emergence of capitalism.

**Theory of Authority** - Authority and power - Types of authority and bases of their legitimacy - Their distinctive features, methods of administration and modes of inheritance.

**Theory of Bureaucracy** - Capitalism and growing nationalism and emergence of modern bureaucracy, His model of bureaucracy. Relationship between political leaders and bureaucracy. Concept of status, class and power.

**Contribution to the methodology of social science** - Distinctive nature of social realities because of meanings attached them - Sociology as an interpretative science. Concept of Verstehen and Ideal Types.

#### **UNIT-V Talcott Parsons**

**Intellectual background** : His attempts to synthesize various elements into one overall conceptual framework.

The structure of social action.

**The social system** : Action frame of reference, structural components of social system, mechanism of socialization, belief system, AGIL. Paradigm and Pattern variables.