

Pre-Ph. D. Course Work (2019-20)

Optional Paper- Sociology & Social Anthropology

Unit- II (B. N. Prasad)

Part- I

Structural-Functionalism: R. Brown, Malinowski, Durkheim, Parsons & Metron

Structure- Directly and indirectly related constituting units in systematically organized form and remain at its predetermined places. Appearance of outer form of the system is structure

Function- Role played by the constituting units for maintenance of the system is function

Redcliffe Brown:

References-

- The Adman Islanders,
- Structure and Function of Primitive Society
- Social Morphology and Social Physiology
- Theology, Metaphysical and Scientific Rational

Malinowski:

References-

- Argonauts of West Pacific,
- The Family of Austrian Aborigines,
- A Scientific Theory of Culture
- Theorised in the context of culture- material and non-material aspects
- Comparative methods for the study of different cultures

Functionalism of Durkheim:

References-

- The Division of Labour,
- The Rules of Sociological Method

- Exteriority and Constrains, e. g, Crime and Religion
- Division of labour- Organic solidarity and Mechanical solidarity- traditional and modern societies

Talcott Parsons:

References-

- The Structure of Social Action,
- The Social System
 - Value consensus
 - AGIL model- (Adaption, Goal attainment, Integration and Litany), functions performed by Economy, Polity, Court and Social Institutions
 - Moving equilibrium

R. K. Merton:

References-

- Social Theory and Social Structure
 - Function, Dysfunction and Non-function
 - Latent and Manifest functions
 - Merton's Paradigm- standardised pattern, subjective nature, objective consequences, Specific and universal function, Functional alternative, Structural constraints and dynamics, functional validation, etc.

Part- II- Conflict theory, Neo-Marxism and Post Modernity

Simmel, Coser, Dahrendorf, Marx, Althusser

- Two dominant schools of thoughts- **Structure-Functionalism** and **Marxism**

Structure-Functionalism: Change within the system- equilibrium is maintained through inherent two mechanisms (Socialisation and Social control), concept of moving equilibrium

Marxism: Change of the system due to inherent contradiction within the system

Simmel's Theory of Conflict-

Reference:

- Conflict
 - Human life is based on 'Dualism'
 - Conflict has positive function- it increases solidarity within the in-group
 - Propositions of Simmel's theory-
 - ❖ Essential to maintain group commitment
 - ❖ Works as safety-valve
 - ❖ It may be real or unreal
 - ❖ Conflict is directly related to closeness of relationships
 - ❖ Conflict has ubiquitous presence in human society
 - ❖ Provides stability in the group
 - ❖ Source of new values and reestablishment of old values

Coser's Conflict Theory-

Reference:

- The Functions of Social Conflict
 - Typology of Conflict- Real and Unreal
 - New forms of conflict- External and Internal conflicts
 - Social function of conflict-
 - ❖ Indicator of stable relationship
 - ❖ Determines boundary of the group
 - ❖ Increases unity in the group
 - ❖ Creates organisation and leadership

- ❖ Leads to decrease of tension and disintegration within the group

Dahrendorf's Theory of Conflict-

Reference:

- Class and class Conflict in Industrial Society
- Two essential elements- Violence and Intensity
- Theory is based on two propositions- Power and Authority
- Power and authority are two essential elements of any organisation
- Super-ordination and sub-ordination
- Class conflict, due to opposite interests of the groups leads to change
- Every organisation is imperatively coordinated association

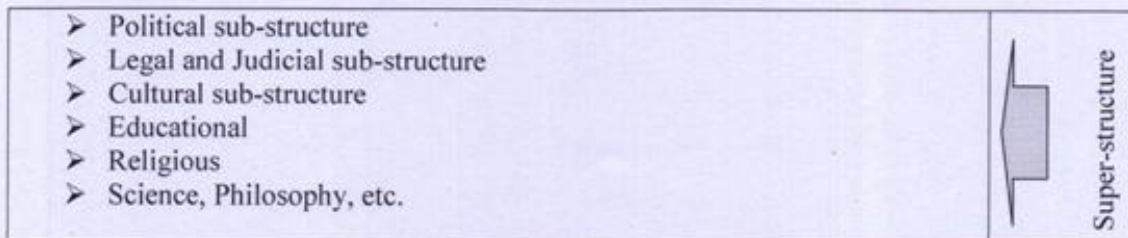
Marxism-

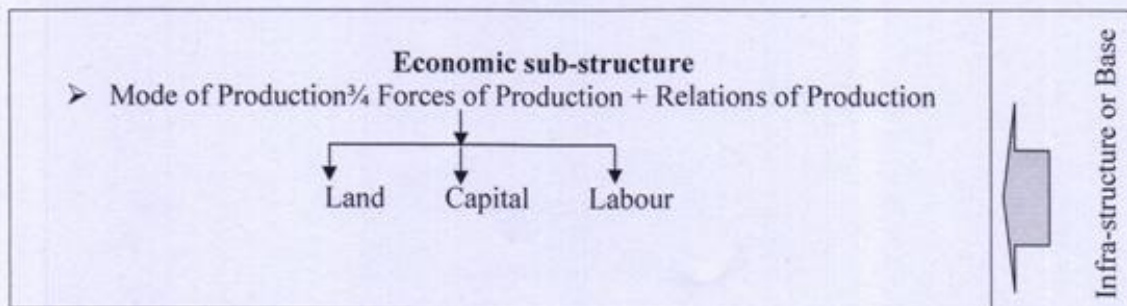
References:

- Communist Manifesto
- A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy
- Das Capital
- Class Struggle
- Dialectical Materialism

Marxism or Marxist School:- Two dominant school of thoughts-

Social System





Deterministic school- Lenin, Trotsky, George Plekhanov, Karl Kautsky...

- Mode of Production- forces of production and relations of production
- Base determines super-structure in the first instance

Structural Marxism or Relative autonomy model- Althusser, Gramsci, Poulantzas..

- Base determines super structure in the last instance
- Evolution of hitherto human society-
 - ❖ Primitive Communism
 - ❖ Slavery
 - ❖ Feudalism
 - ❖ Capitalism
 - ❖ Communist and Socialist Society

Part- III- Conceptual Issues and Theoretical Dimensions of Social Movements

Conceptual Issues:-

1. Definition,
2. Differences from other related phenomena, such as trends- mob, riot, etc,
3. Typology

Definition-

- Collective actions
- Change through conflict or consensus
- Within or of the social system

Movement- Goal oriented, Mobilisation mechanism, Communication pattern, Leadership and strategy.

Social movements consist of following characteristics-

1. Ideology or normative aspects,
2. Means employed and collective mobilisation,
3. Organisational aspect, i.e. leadership, strategy, etc., and
4. Change-orientation.

Differences from other related phenomena (Trends- Mob, Riot, etc):-

Three elements- Ideology, Collective mobilisation and Organisational structure

Gusfield- Structure and Ideology

Heberle- Group identity, Group consciousness and feeling of solidarity

Rude, John Wilson, Niel Smelser, etc-

Social Movement	Trends
1. Group identity	No such identity
2. Organised and structured	Unorganised and unstructured
3. Exists for longer period of time	Shorter time
4. Reject or change- established values	No such efforts
5. Conscious efforts for social change	No concept of change

Typification of Social Movements

Social movements have been classified by using one or other criteria-

Objective, change orientation, spatial spread, dominant issues, ideology, etc.

M.S.A.Rao- Reformist, Transformative, Revolutionary

P. N. Mukherji- Accumulative, Alternative, Transformative

Ghanshyam Shah- Political context- Reformist, Revolt, Rebellion and Revolutionary

Similar typification by Johnson, Turner and Killian, J. Wilson, T.K. Oommen

Four comprehensive types:-

1. Reform,
2. Revolt,
3. Rebellion, and
4. Revolution.

Theoretical Dimensions for the Study of Social Movements

Broadly speaking, there are three dimensions in the study of social movements-

1. Sequential or historical study:-

- Sequential presentation of events and details of social movements
- No cause-effect relationship, structure and organisational aspects ignored
- Important for primary facts – future study

2. Psychological study:-

- Focus on motivational factors- repression & failure- frustration- aggressions
- if not released- joins social movements
- McCarthy Movement- USA- Conservatism v/s International communism
- “Who are revolutionaries”, rather “What causes revolution”
- Social bases, social structure and organisation of movements- ignored

3. Sociological study:-

Two discordant theoretical perspectives- **Functionalist and Marxism-**

- Provides divergent tools, concepts, hypotheses, methods, arguments and presentations for the study of social movements:-


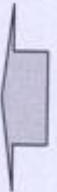
Functionalism:- four streams-

1. Organic or Mechanical- K. Davis, Durkheim- primacy of society over individual
2. Functionalism- Weber, T. Parsons-
3. Structuralism-Functionalism- R. Brown, Malinowski, R. K. Merton.....

4. Conflict School- Coser, Simmel, Dahrendorf...
 - Social movement- deviance- equilibrium restored- 'socialization, and 'Social Control'
 - Parsons- 'moving equilibrium'

Marxism or Marxist School:- Two dominant school of thoughts-

Social System

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Political sub-structure ➤ Legal and Judicial sub-structure ➤ Cultural sub-structure ➤ Educational ➤ Religious ➤ Science, Philosophy, etc. 	 <p style="margin: 0;">Super-structure</p>
<p>Economic sub-structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mode of Production ¼ Forces of Production + Relations of Production <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; align-items: center; gap: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>↓</p> <p>Land</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>↓</p> <p>Capital</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>↓</p> <p>Labour</p> </div> </div>	 <p style="margin: 0;">Infra-structure or Base</p>

1. **Vulgar or Deterministic school-** Lenin, Trotsky, George Plekhanov, Karl Kautsky...
 - Mode of Production- forces of production and relations of production
 - Base determines super-structure in the first instance
2. **Structural Marxism or Relative autonomy model-** Althusser, Gramsci, Poulantzas..
 - ❖ Base determines super structure in the last instance

III. Challenges for Social Science Research

1. Conceptual issues
2. Theoretical understanding
3. Multi-disciplinary approach
4. Acceptability
5. Objectivity
6. Value neutrality- participant/ non-participant observation

Selected Readings:-

1. M. S. A. Rao (ed.)- Social Movements in India
2. W. Bruce Cameron- Modern Social Movements
3. L. P. Gerlach- People, Power, Change: Movement of Social Transformation and V. H. Hine
4. Rudolf Heberle- Social Movement
5. Paul Wilkinson- Social Movement
6. John Wilson- Introduction to Social Movement

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