

Introducing Sociology

TEXTBOOK FOR CLASS XI

SOCIOLOGY

Class 11th NCERT
SUMMARY

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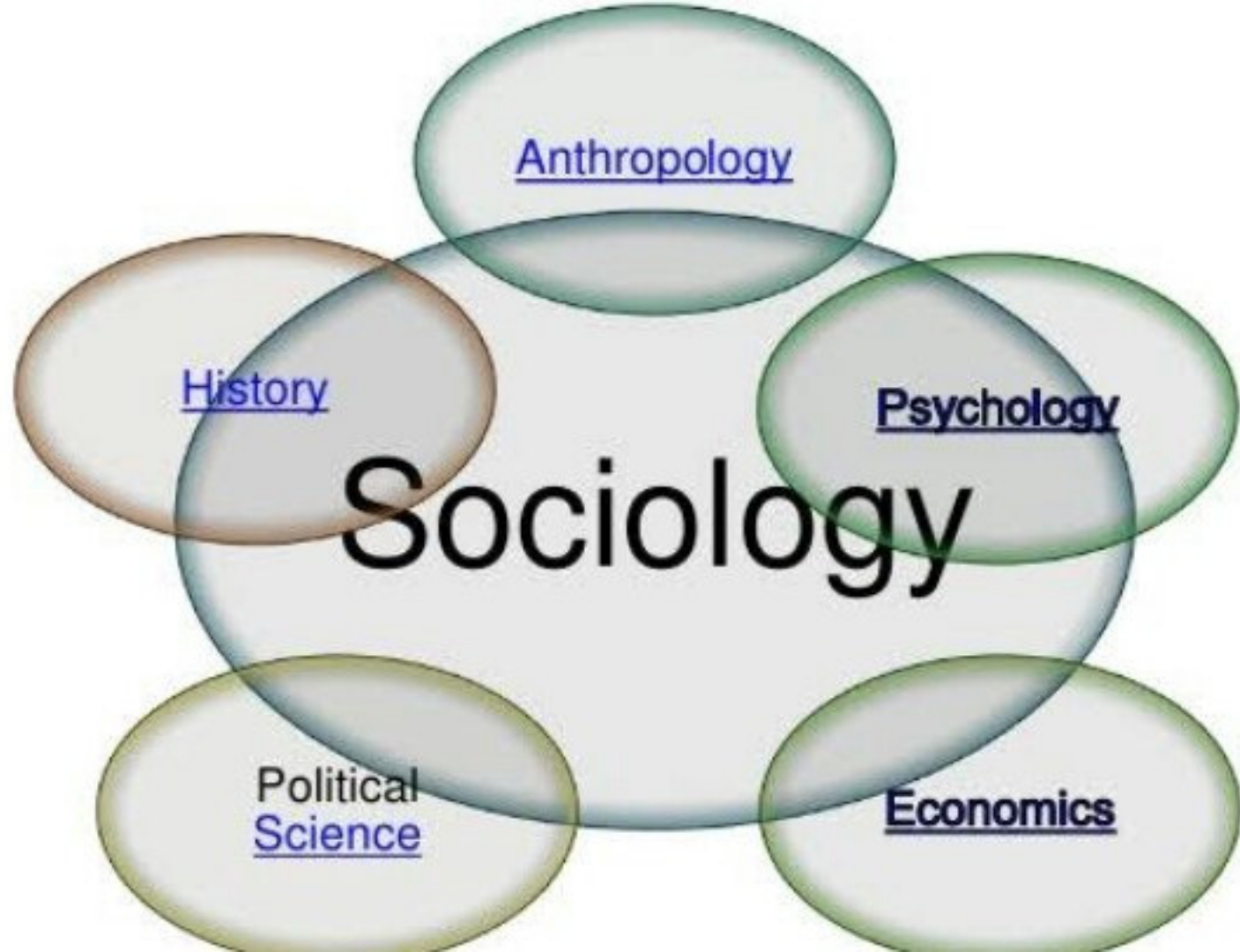
THE GROWTH OF SOCIOLOGY IN INDIA

During the course of their rule in India, the British officials realised that for smooth administration, it was important that they acquire knowledge of Indian society and culture. This prompted the origin of Sociology in India.

Sociology in India also had to deal with western writings and ideas about Indian society that were not always correct. These ideas were expressed both in the accounts of colonial officials as well western scholars. For many of them Indian society was a contrast to western society

THE SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES

The scope of sociological study is extremely wide. It can focus its analysis of meaningful interactions between individuals such as that of a shopkeeper with a customer, between teachers and students, between two friends or family members. It can likewise focus on national issues such as unemployment or caste conflict or the effect of state policies on forest rights of the tribal population.



Sociology is one of a group of social sciences, which also includes anthropology, economics, political science and history.

SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS

Economics is the study of production and distribution of goods and services. Economics is in many ways the most advanced of the social sciences. But the economy is also a part of society; goods and services do not produce, distribute and consume themselves. The economic processes depend upon Society.

"Sociology of economics", one of the major branches of sociology.

SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Conventional political science was focused primarily on two elements: political theory and government administration. Sociology is devoted to the study of all aspects of society, whereas conventional political science restricted itself mainly to the study of power as embodied in formal organisation.

Sociology is the science of society whereas political science is the science of state and government. Sociology studies all kinds of society organized and unorganized while political science studies politically organized society.

SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY

Historians almost as a rule study the past, sociologists are more interested in the contemporary or recent past.

Conventional history has been about the history of kings and war. The history of less glamorous or exciting events as changes in land relations or gender relations within the family have traditionally been less studied by historians but formed the core area of the sociologist's interest. Today, however history is far more sociological and social history is the stuff of history. It looks at social patterns, gender relations, mores, customs and important institutions other than the acts of rulers, wars and monarchy.

SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is often defined as the science of behaviour. It involves itself primarily with the individual. It is interested in her/his intelligence and learning, motivations and memory, nervous system and reaction time, hopes and fears. Social psychology, which serves as a bridge between psychology and sociology, maintains a primary interest in the individual but concerns itself with the way in which the individual behaves in social groups, collectively with other individuals.

Sociology attempts to understand behaviour as it is organised in society, that is the way in which personality is shaped by different aspects of society.

SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Sociology and Anthropology are social science disciplines that focus on studying the behavior of humans within their societies. ... The key difference between the two social sciences is that sociology concentrates on society while anthropology focuses on culture.

Sociology is deemed to be the study of modern, complex societies while social anthropology was deemed to be the study of simple societies.

The traditional study of simple, non-literate societies by social anthropology had a pervasive influence on the content and the subject matter of the discipline. Social anthropology tended to study society (simple societies) in all their aspects, as wholes. In so far as they specialised, it was on the basis of area as for example the Andaman Islands, the Nuers or Melanesia. Sociologists study complex societies and would therefore often focus on parts of society like the bureaucracy or religion or caste or a process such as social mobility.