



RADHAKAMAL MUKHERJEE

PART 1

ANTARA CHAKRABARTY



BIOGRAPHY

- ▶ **Radhakamal Mukerjee (1889-1968) along with D.P. Mukerji - his colleague in Lucknow University - and G.S. Ghurye of Bombay University, are considered a great pioneer in sociology in India.**
- ▶ **Lucknow University was a major centre of sociology and social anthropology.**
- ▶ **Under the scholarship of the triumvirate - Radhakamal Mukerjee, D.P. Mukerji and D.N. Majumdar - Lucknow soon emerged as a leading centre for social science studies and it remained so until the mid-1960s.**

- ▶ Mukerjee had his early education in Berhampur. He went to the Krishinath College of Berhampur. He got an academic scholarship in the leading educational institution in India - the Presidency College, Calcutta.
- ▶ He took his honours course in English and History in this college. Here, he came in contact with scholars such as H.M. Percival, M. Ghosh, brother of Aurobindo Ghosh, and the linguist Harinath De.

- ▶ A brilliant student of Presidency College, Mukerjee read meticulously the works of Comte, Herbert Spencer, Lester Ward, Bagehot, Hobhouse and Giddings.
- ▶ But, his interest in understanding the social life ameliorating the conditions of the poorer segments of the society was the result of his contact with the masses during the Swadeshi days of 1905-6.
- ▶ His patriotism found expression in his educational work among the slum dwellers in Calcutta. “Only educational and social work among the masses could be silently ... pursued without being nipped in the bud by political oppression”.

- ▶ **The Renaissance, particularly the intellectual and political ferment, specially caused by the partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon, kindled in Radhakamal the flame of patriotism and the eagerness to do something for the suffering masses. His interest in economics and sociology in preference to history was a sequel to this.**

- ▶ In 1910, Mukerjee joined his alma mater in Berhampur as a teacher in economics. During this period, he wrote his early works in economic, such as the Foundations of Indian Economics.
- ▶ At this time, he also became the editor of the renowned Bengali monthly, *Upasana*.
- ▶ He was awarded the Premchand Raychand Scholarship in 1915 and PhD degree in 1920 (Calcutta University) on his study of “Socio-Economic Change in the Indian Rural Community”.

- ▶ **Radhakamal Mukerjee's vision of sociology, though rooted in the Indian tradition, was still universalistic.**
- ▶ **He saw the possibility of developing a general theory of sociology based on a social action theory. In the Indian case this theory would be derived from Indian philosophy and tradition.**

- ▶ According to R K Mukherjee (1989):
- ▶ Radha Kamal Mukerjee has pioneered three approaches to social science for which he should always be remembered:
 1. Conceiving economics as a specialization, and not as a discipline, in the realm of social science.
 2. Introducing the "institutional approach" to planning which should not be regarded as the exclusive prerogative of the economists but should be treated under the rubric of social science.

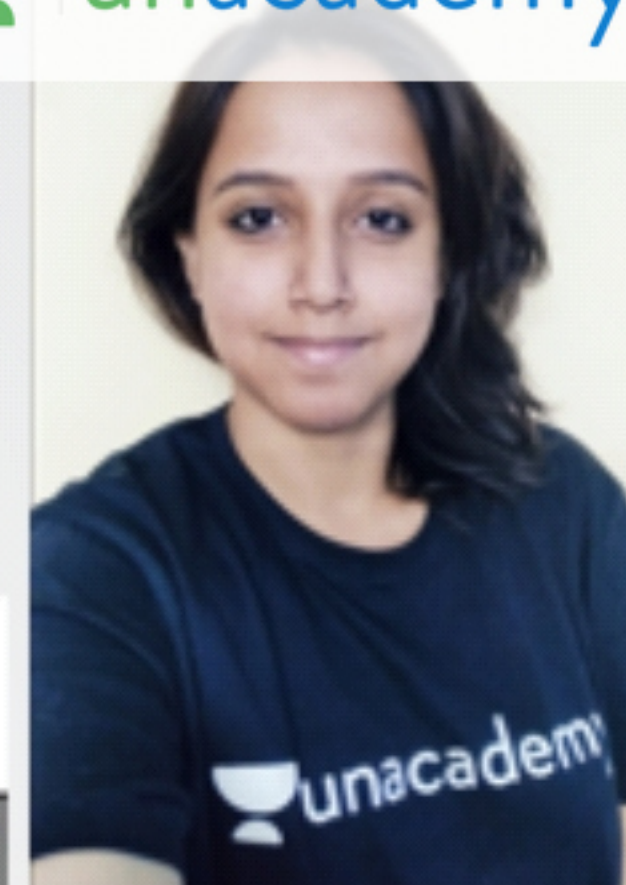
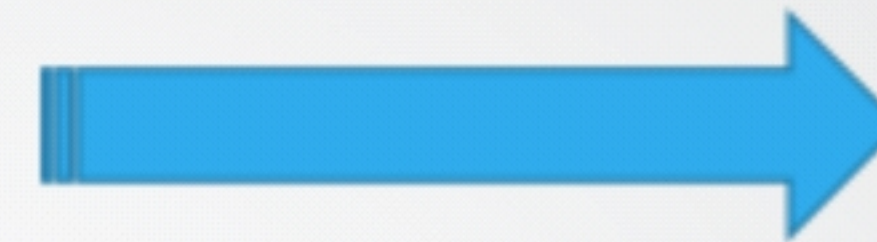
3. Raising the sight of appraisal of social reality from the unidisciplinary or interdisciplinary outlook of the social scientists to a transdisciplinary perspective, bearing in mind the common acceptance of the term 'social sciences' comprising various 'disciplines' like economics, political science, psychology, sociology and so on.

WEBSITES

- ▶ <http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/sociology/radhakamal-mukherjee-biography-and-contribution-to-sociology/35010>
- ▶ <http://www.sociologyguide.com/indian-thinkers/radhakamal-mukherjee.php>

I am Antara Chakrabarty and I am currently doing my MPhil in Development Studies from Jamia Millia Islamia.

I teach 11th and 12th Humanities along with NTA NET Sociology!

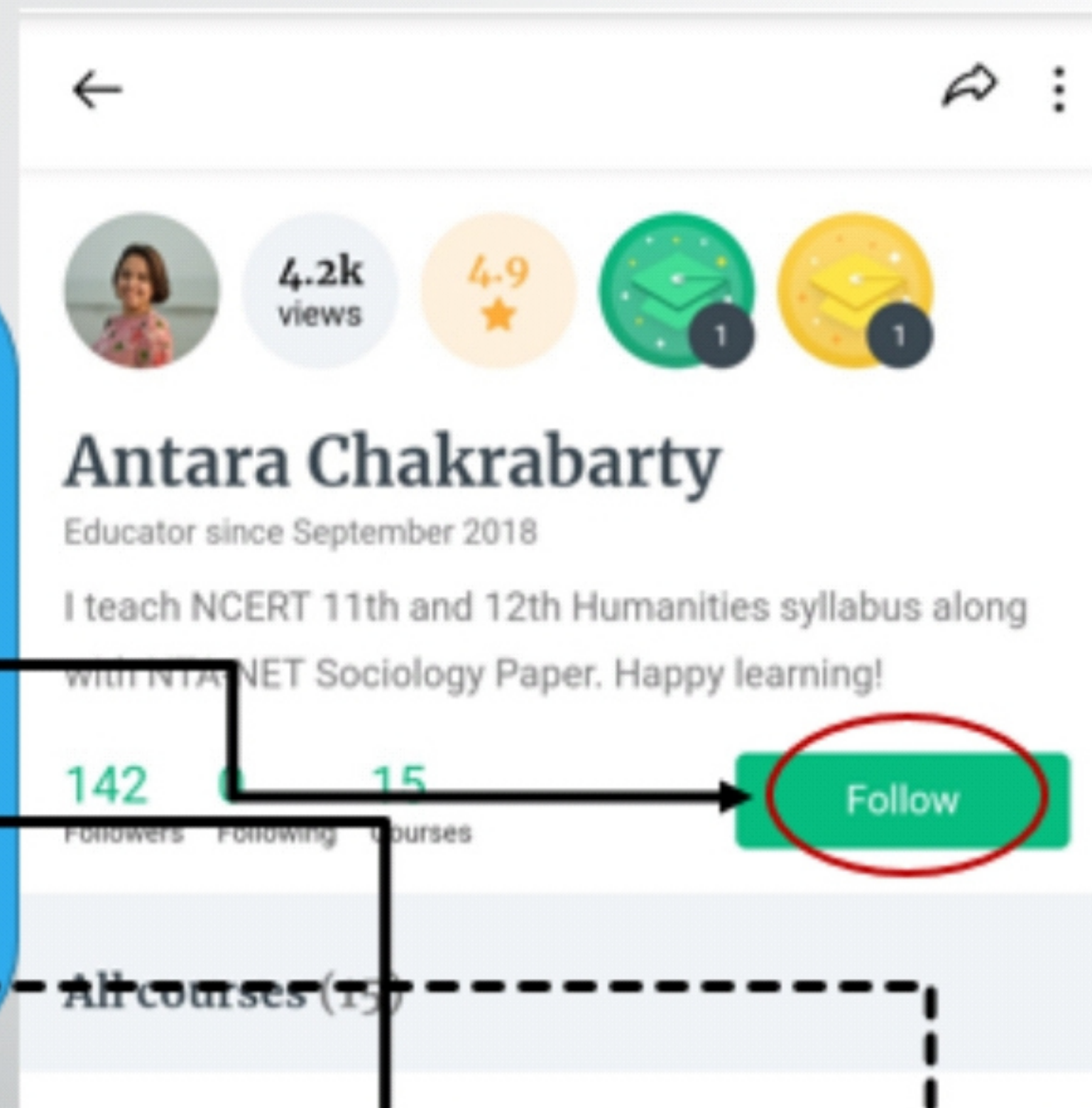


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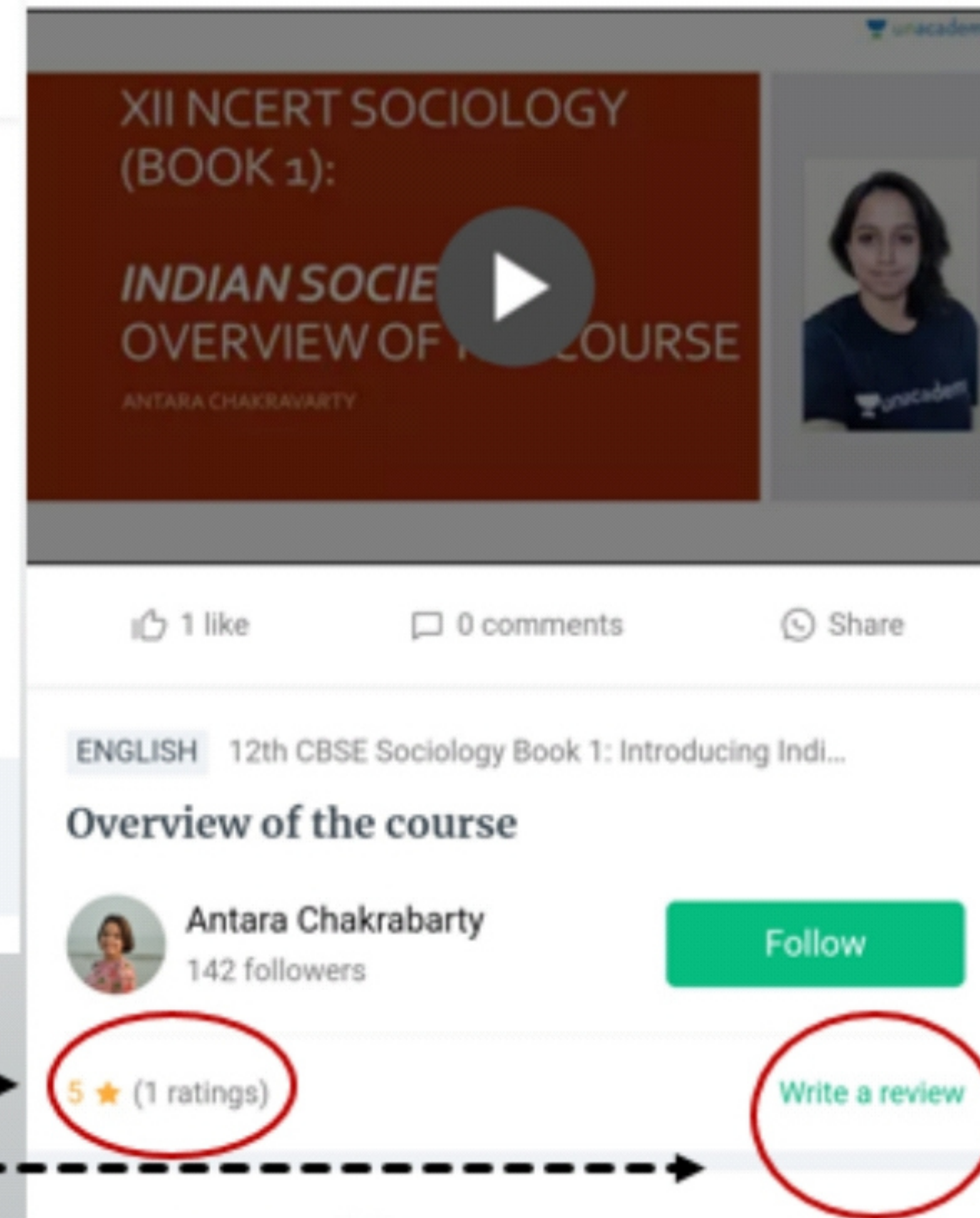
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RADHA KAMAL MUKHERJEE

Born: 1889 Died: 1968

Field: Economics and Sociology

Known for: Agrarian Society, Urban India etc

— Contemporary of D. P. Mukherjee