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## **URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

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*By: Dheeraj*



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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

## URBAN SOCIOLOGY

M.S.O.E.-4

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note : Answer any **five** of the following questions. All questions carry **equal** marks. Attempt at least two questions from each section.

### SECTION – A

**Q. 1. Discuss the ecological approach to the study of urban phenomenon.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 20-21, 'Ecological Perspective'.

**Q. 2. Discuss the functions of cities as urban spaces.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 46, 'Functions of Cities'.

**Q. 3. Critically analyse the concentric zone theory of structure and growth of a city.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 23, 'Concentric Zone Model'.

**Q. 4. Describe the major trends in growth of cities in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 37-38, 'Introduction' and 'City: Emergence and Growth', 'Cities and Their Types'.

**Q. 5. 'Slums have a role to play in urban society'. Discuss.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-23, Page No. 121, 'Introduction' and Page No. 122, 'Functions of Slums'.

### SECTION – B

**Q. 6. Discuss the impact of economic liberalisation on the occupational structure in urban India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-21, Page No. 104, Q. No. 2 and Page No. 105, Q. No. 3.

**Q. 7. Describe the major features of urban poverty in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-22, Page No. 113, Q. No. 3.

**Q. 8. What do you understand by 'urban planning'? Discuss its major concerns.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-26, Page No. 145, 'Urban Planning: Nature and Scope' and Page No. 146, 'Main Concerns of Urban Planning'.

**Q. 9. What is a pre-industrial city? Bring out its major characteristics.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 43-44, 'Pre-Industrial Cities'.

**Q. 10. Describe the patterns of urban growth in India.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-12, Page No. 50, 'Trends and Pattern of Urbanization in India Across Size Class of Urban Settlements', 'Pattern of Urbanization: An Inter State Analysis', Page No. 51, 'Trends and Pattern of Urbanization Across States at the Size Class Level' and 'Growth Pattern During 1991-2001'.



# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

## URBAN SOCIOLOGY

M.S.O.E.-4

Time: 3 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 100

Note : Answer any five of the following questions. All questions carry equal marks. Attempt at least two questions from each section.

### SECTION – A

**Q. 1. Critically analyse the rural-urban continuum approach to the study of urban phenomenon.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 17, Q. No. 1 and Q. No. 2.

**Q. 2. Describe briefly the various models of urban growth in contemporary India.**

Ans. Models of urban growth explain various aspects of cities and their formations. Cities are urban areas as opposed to villages and have large, dense and heterogeneous population. Non-agriculture occupation such as industrial and commercial as well as services are characteristic features of urban areas. Various processes such as invasion and succession, concentration and centralization and segregation are also important aspects of urban life.

Also Add Ref.: Chapter-6, Page No. 24, 'Multiple Nuclei Model' and Page No. 26, Q. No. 3.

**Q. 3. What is a folk society ? Discuss Oscar Lewis' critique of it.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 16, 'Explanation', 'Critique' and Page No. 17, Q. No. 2

**Q. 4. Discuss the post-modern theory of urbanisation.**

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 56, 'Post-modern Urbanism' and Page No. 58, Q. No. 4

**Q. 5. Outline the major features of poverty in India. Discuss the factors that influence poverty in urban India.**

Ans. Here's an outline of the major features of poverty in India:

#### 1. Widespread Prevalence:

(a) **High Poverty Rate:** Despite economic growth, India still has a significant portion of its population living below the poverty line.

(b) **Rural vs. Urban Poverty:** Poverty is more prevalent in rural areas compared to urban centers, though urban poverty is also a growing concern.

#### 2. Multidimensional Nature:

(a) **Income Poverty:** A significant number of people live on less than the national poverty line or the international standard of \$1.90 per day.

(b) **Lack of Access to Basic Services:** Many poor households lack access to clean drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, and education.

(c) **Malnutrition and Hunger:** A large section of the poor population suffers from malnutrition, especially children.

#### 3. Social Inequality:

(a) **Caste and Gender Disparities:** Poverty disproportionately affects lower castes (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes) and women, reflecting deep-rooted social inequalities.

(b) **Regional Disparities:** Certain states, particularly in the northern and eastern regions of India, have higher poverty rates compared to others.

#### 4. Employment Issues:

(a) **Unemployment and Underemployment:** High levels of unemployment and underemployment contribute significantly to poverty. Many are engaged in low-paying, insecure jobs in the informal sector.

(b) **Agrarian Distress:** A large portion of the rural poor are dependent on agriculture, which is often subject to low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, and poor market access.

#### 5. Vulnerability to Shocks:

(a) **Economic Shocks:** The poor are highly vulnerable to economic downturns, inflation, and job loss.

(b) **Health Crises:** Illness or injury can push households into poverty due to high out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

# **Sample Preview of The Chapter**

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# URBAN SOCIOLOGY

## CONCEPTS



## What is Urban Sociology?

### INTRODUCTION

The Latin word *urbanus* is the root word from which both urban and urbane are derived. They mean “belonging to a city” which indicates towards their same meaning as used originally. First, the word urbane was borrowed from French word *urbain* and urban from Latin term *urbanus*. The meaning of urbane is specialized, refined, elegant or polite and these qualities are considered to be the characteristics of urban people. While urban refers to a town or city as opposite to a village, folk refers to a villager and urbanite to a city dweller. Cities developed about 10,000 years ago, but their study started quite late. Around the 17th century, the scientific study of city began. Urban sociology, however, began much later in the beginning of the 20th century.

### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

#### ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

Giovanni Botero's Italian work *Delle Cause della grandezza della citta* (1598) was translated into English as 'A Treatise Concerning the Causes of the Magnificence of and Greatness of Cities' in 1806. This book was a scientific curiosity but did not create a new science of city. During the 17th century the scientific enquiry about city began properly. Thus, the scientific enquiry is quite a new phenomena compared to the origin of cities about ten thousand years ago.

The city studies by demographers, the political arithmeticians, the economists, the administrators and architect's and historians gave rise to urban sociology. Many scholars like Supan, Graunt, Willcox and others have deal with the basic problems, but their works do not fall in pure urban sociology. Even Rene Maurier's

*L'Origine et la fonction economique des villes* published in 1910 exhibits approach of an economist. Hausserman and Halia (2005) state that George Simmel was the first scientist to write as an urban sociologist. G. Simmel's *Die Grosstadte und das Geistesleben* (The Metropolis and Mental Life) was published in 1903. Max Weber's *The City* (1921) and R.Maurier's *Le Village et la villa* (1929) were other notable work in the beginning of urban sociology.

Professor Patrick Geddes surveyed 50 Indian cities between 1914 to 1924 and brought out two volumes of *Town Planning Towards City Development* for Indore in 1918 but this work could not establish the foundation of urban sociology in India and this field remained out of our universities till 1960. According to M.S.A Rao (1974), the reasons for the neglect were the view that ruler-urban distinction in sociology for India was meaningless and that there was no dichotomy between the traditional city and the village of India.

#### SUBJECT-MATTER AND SCOPE

Urban sociology studies the impact of city life on social relationships, social institutions, and social actions. Erickson considers it as a generalizing science which studies the determinants and consequences of city's diverse social behaviour. The term urbanism was explained by Louis Wirth as a complex heterogeneity in almost every characteristic in which human beings differ. This makes city an opposite of rural society.

Urban sociology overlaps with geography, political science, anthropology and economy with its emphasis in respective fields. For instance, it also studies spatial distribution of social groups and institutions, political power, public policy, taxation and expenditure along with culture of groups.

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**Community:** In sociology, the concept of community has led to significant debate, and sociologists are yet to reach agreement on a definition of the term. There were ninety-four discrete definitions of the term by the mid-1950s. Traditionally a “community” has been defined as a group of interacting people living in a common location. The word is often used to refer to a group that is organized around common values and is attributed with social cohesion within a shared geographical location, generally, in social units larger than a household. The word can also refer to the national community or global community.

Davis emphasizes social completeness in his definition of community and defines it as the smallest territorial group which includes all aspects of social life. McIver and Page have their emphasis on relationship instead of social organization and define community as an entity which consists of all types of social relationships.

**Ecology:** The study of relationship between living things and the environment is called ecology. Like the physical environment influences plants, human beings life is conditioned by city environment. Park, the father of human ecology coined the term for studying this aspect of society borrowing from Botany.

**APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

**Urban Sociology uses Different Approaches to Cover Different Aspects of City and City Life.**

**1. City and Civilisation Relation Approach:** The study of relationship between the city and civilization is one of such approaches which identifies the city and traces the origins of modern city life back to their antecedents. The scholars like Toynbee, Geddes, Spengler, Ghurye, Wirth and Mumford have studied city in the wider context of civilization.

A more specific study of urbanism and urbanization in the context of civilization was done by Redfield and his colleagues who developed concepts and constructed typologies of city. They distinguished between orthogenetic and heterogenetic and worked out the working of city’s organizational and functional aspects. According to them, while the primary urbanization transformed the Little Tradition into the Great Tradition, the secondary urbanization called for freedom from tradition.

**2. Physical Mechanism Approach:** The study of the physical mechanism or the ecology of urbanism is another approach. It includes those physical, spatial and material aspects of urban life which are different from deliberate psychological will or consensus. This approach tries to find out why certain groups move to a particular area of the city. In old Indian cities such as Agra, Amritsar and Delhi, the inner parts are inhabited

by a particular caste or occupational groups and are divided into traditional neighbourhoods. The new parts of these cities are colonial or post-colonial usually located at the other side of the railway line and the people are grouped according to their income and plot size making it entirely different from the old ones.

**3. Social Organization Approach:** Urban sociologists have also tried to study city in terms of social organization. They have analyzed the basic forms of urban life directly derived from urbanization. This type of study includes network of individuals and groups, social institutions, bureaucracy and division of labour.

The condition of urban life has produced a special personality of urban individuals who have different life styles. Recent studies show that this has happened as a result of adjustment to the urban complex and for urban survival.

It is believed that in urban society the face-to-face relationship of primary groups would be replaced by segmented and impersonal relationships but primary groups have remained viable parts of urban social organization.

The urban neighbourhoods are more complex social organizations but are less complex than bureaucratic organizations of the city. The social networks are also found in cities and which are more amorphous than neighbourhoods since they are not always tied with a particular geographic location.

Voluntary associations found in cities are also at the middle range of social organization but are more formal and internally differentiated than neighbourhoods or networks and can serve both expressive and instrumental functions.

**Bureaucracy:** These are large-scale complex organizations consisting of an elaborate network of specialized roles or positions which are hierarchically situated. In this modern era, most government and industrial organizations are bureaucratic in nature.

**Social Institutions:** They consist of widely accepted patterns of behaviour and expectations which are created for the recognized needs of a community. These patterns of behaviours and expectations are long-term solutions and evolve in relatively long periods of time. For instance, family and religion are social institutions which function in order to fulfil certain needs. They are pre-urban in nature but have changed in urban circumstances.

**4. Social Problems Perspective:** Urban sociology has studied city from the social problem perspective also. These problems such as poverty, crime, poor housing, ethnic and class conflicts, pollution and drug abuse have been termed as “the urban crisis” by the scholars. However, it must be noted that describing city

as a pile of problems only would be similar to describing human beings only as a set of disease. This approach of social problem only touches one important aspect of city.

All the above four approaches are thus useful but we cannot understand city only with one of these.

### **URBAN SOCIOLOGY AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The non-material culture rather than physical objects is the focus of urban sociology. Human beings not spatial patterns, social techniques not technology, social institutions and not infrastructure are the objects of study in urban sociology. The urban studies use multidisciplinary approach taking help of social anthropology, demography, history and sociology. The interdisciplinary approach was particularly emphasized during the 1960s and the 1970s. Even political activism was mixed with these studies and social conflict as well as control of resources, power access etc. was stressed.

### **SELF-ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

**Q. 1. Write a short note on the origin and development of urban sociology.**

**Ans.** Urban sociology is one of the newly developed branches of sociology dealing with the sociological study of the urban life. It encompasses a study of the people living in the urban area, their problems, institutions and efforts made to solve those problems.

Urban sociology is one of the latest branches of sociology emerged only in 20th century. United States of America is the country where the beginning in the study of urban social condition and urban social problems was made. There emerged literature concerning the life of city people in the form of books. In the area of social reform of urban life, a great deal of work has also been done in U.S.A. from there the subject has percolated to other countries making urban sociology a distinct branch of sociology.

Like most areas of sociology, urban sociologists use statistical analysis, observation, social theory, interviews, and other methods to study a range of topics, including migration and demographic trends, economics, poverty, race relations, economic trends, etc.

After the industrial revolution, sociologists such as Max Weber, and particularly George Simmel in works such as *The Metropolis and Mental Life* (1903), focused on the increasing process of urbanization and the effects it had on feelings of social alienation and anonymity.

The Chicago School is a major influence in the study of urban sociology. Many of their findings have been refined or rejected, but the lasting impact of the Chicago School can still be found in today's teachings.

**Q. 2. Discuss the subject-matter and scope of urban sociology.**

**Ans.** Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies, and how people interact within these contexts. Since human behaviour is shaped by social factors, the subject-matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the hostile mob; from organized crime to religious cults; from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture; and from the sociology of work to the sociology of sports. In fact, few fields have such broad scope and relevance for research, theory, and application of knowledge.

Urban sociology is the study of cities and towns. The scientific study of the problems which crop up in the city life as a result of the development of the industrialization is the main subject-matter of urban sociology. Apart from it, the study of city communities and organization etc. also comes under the purview of the urban sociology.

**Study of principles governing the city life:** The urban sociology introduces the basic principle of the city life. According to Anderson urban sociology concerns societies living in towns and cities. This involves the study of the following two aspects of urban life.

**Scope relating to analytical study:** This is the second important field of urban sociology to study after the introductory part. It includes a study of various concepts in important phases of urban life, comprising the following:

**City or town:** A city is a relatively large and permanent urban settlement. City generally means a municipality, which would typically have locally elected administration, such as a city council and a mayor. In some cases a city can also be a higher-level region. Cities generally have advanced systems for sanitation, utilities, land usage, housing, and transportation. The concentration of development greatly facilitates interaction between people and businesses, benefiting both parties in the process.

A "city" refers to a place of relatively dense settlement—dense enough so that city residents cannot grow their own food. A city population, therefore, is always dependent upon its "hinterlands" to provide it with food. Not until agriculture developed could hinterlands provide food for their own populations and enough of a surplus to feed a city population. And in agricultural societies the surplus was so small that only a tiny proportion of an entire population could live in cities. Up until very recently—about 200 years ago—that proportion was limited to about 5% of an entire population. So cities existed, but there was no urbanization.

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**Urban community:** Usually a small town or city, that is composed mostly of residents, as opposed to commercial businesses and/or industrial facilities, all three of which are considered to be the three main types of occupants of the typical community.

**Urbanization:** Urbanization refers to a process in which an increasing proportion of an entire population lives in cities and the suburbs of cities. Historically, it has been closely connected with industrialization. When more and more inanimate sources of energy were used to enhance human productivity (industrialization), surpluses increased in both agriculture and industry. Larger and larger proportions of a population could live in cities. Economic forces were such that cities became the ideal places to locate factories and their workers.

**Reformative scope:** This part of urban sociology attempts to study the problems and solutions of the urbanization and include the following:

**Urban problems:** Following are the major urban problems:

- Unemployment
- Insufficient solid waste disposal
- Urban poverty
- Inadequate housing stock
- Insufficient solid waste collection
- Inadequate water/sanitation facilities
- Inadequate public transportation
- Traffic congestion
- Poor health services
- Insufficient civil society participation
- Inadequate education services
- Air pollution
- Urban violence/crime/personal safety
- Discrimination (women, ethnic, poor).

Other important areas under urban sociology are urban ecology and urban morphology and urban planning.

**Q. 3. Discuss the importance of urban sociology.**

**Ans.** Urban sociology is the sociological study of social life and human interaction in metropolitan areas. It is a normative discipline of sociology seeking to study the structures, processes, changes and problems of an urban area and by doing so providing inputs for planning and policy-making.

Urban sociological studies includes research work in which spatial density is a major focus, because how close people live, work, and go to school with each other affects how people think, their behaviour, work performance and even how children are educated. Using sociological theory, the writer explains many urban problems associated with cultural diffusion, immigration, gang warfare, pollution and more. Spatial/ environmental considerations are of primary importance to this discussion. In Urban Sociology, Studs Terkel, Elijah

Anderson and Elliot Liebow and consider their works with regard to race, poverty, gender and ethics.

**Q. 4. Write about nature of urban sociology.**

**Ans.** Urban sociology is an important branch of sociology. In general, it studies the social relations to a limited extent that is those existing in the urban communities. There are the relations which occur in an urban society. The urban society is studied and investigated of course are scientific. The study of urban society can be general as well as specific. In every city we find certain features which are to be found in every urban society and are therefore, to be found regarded general. Urban sociology includes the extreme and specialized study of specific features as well as general features of the urban community living in varied social conditions and exposed to different social amenities.

**Q. 5. Write an essay on sociology urban.**

**Ans.** When we talk about urbanization there is a massive development in a certain empty area. In the west, it was a notion of progress of exploitation of culture by nature. Ecological school as it is referred to the Chicago school emerges its body of work during 1920's and 1930's that deals with the urban sociology, which conducts research into the urban environment. It is considered the positivist school as it applies the deductive and collection analysis techniques which explain the social phenomena and individuals than its personal characteristic. The school believed that the community which is the habitat of the living and non-living creatures is the major factors that enhance the human behaviour, as well as the city considered as the microcosm.

In the urban area all the passions, and the mankind energies are released we have given the position to investigate the civilization that we acquire under a microscope. The subject of the study is the Chicago hence, the community develops a pattern of successional stages. With which inception is related from the self-regulating state or climax of equilibrium. As the community continues to grow as the inhabited land, people will born , matures and then unfortunately die, this were the focus of the study since they experience social problems they are seeking evidence whether urbanization causes the contemporary problem. History shows that before urbanization, Chicago state was an empty environment with a very clean environment. In 1860 it was developed in to a town and then as years passes by the population increases. And its effects are tremendous there were numbers of homeless due to the increase of immigrants and poor working condition. An ecological study is persistently conducted to know the specific behaviour of its individual in that community, just as they want the community to prosper.