

MEANING AND NATURE OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY

STRUCTURE

- 7.0 OBJECTIVES
- 7.1 INTRODUCTION
- 7.2 MEANING OF SOCIOLOGY
- 7.3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND SOCIOLOGY
- 7.4 EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY
- 7.5 EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION
- 7.6 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY AND OTHER SUBJECTS
- 7.7 SCOPE OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY
- 7.8 LIMITATIONS OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY
- 7.9 SUMMARY

TESTING QUESTIONS

SUGGESTED READINGS

7.0 OBJECTIVES : After you have read this lesson, you will be able to:-

- understand the meaning of sociology
- differentiate between educational sociology and sociology of education
- define the scope of educational sociology.
- point out the limitations of educational sociology.

7.1 Introduction : Man is born in society and lives his life in society only. He is influenced by the society and influences it in return. The interactions between the individual and the society

7.2 Meaning of Sociology

Sociology owes its origin to four significant sources namely political philosophy, Philosophy of history, biological sciences and social survey movements

The study of Man in society gave emergence to a new discipline called sociology. This term was first used in 1837 by the French Philosopher Auguste Comte. He defined it as the body of data about mankind. He considered this subject as 'pure knowledge' because its study can be made through methodical and pure researches

Etymologically sociology is derived from the Latin Word Societas which means companion and the Greek word Logos which means study or science of. Thus sociology is the 'Science of Society.'

The teaching of sociology as a separate subject started in 1876 in USA, in 1907 in UK, 1889 in France and in India in 1925

Prof. Ginsberg has defined it as "Sociology is the study of society, that is, of the web or tissue of human interactions and inter relations".

In other words, sociology is the study of man's behaviour in groups or the interaction among human beings, of social relationships and the processes by which human group activity takes place.

According to Gillin and Gillin, "sociology is the study of interactions arising from the association of living beings".

Moore and Cole have defined it in these words, "sociology deals with the behaviour of men in groups".

Hence sociology essentially and fundamentally deals with the network of social relationships, we call society. It is primarily interested in man's behaviour in relation to other men.

Sociology studies the group, social heritage, problems related to customs, traditions, castes, cultural heritage and spiritual heritage.

Learning Exercise 1. Define Sociology. 2. Explain the scope of Sociology.

7.3 Relationship between Education and Sociology

Durkheim considered education to be something essentially, social in character, in its origins and its functions, as a result, the theory of education relates more clearly to sociology than to any other science.

Brookover and Gottlieb, "Education is the process of teaching and learning expected patterns of human conduct". Ottway viewed that "Education is an activity which goes on in a society and its aims and methods depends on the nature of the society in which it takes place."

Bhatt and Sharma explain educational sociology as the application of the scientific spirit, methods and principles of sociology, to the study of education, Educational sociology is an important division of sociological studies. It makes an effort to achieve the aims of sociology through educational process which occurs between the individual and the society. A society can perpetuate itself only through education. The society can continue only when it transmits its ideas, beliefs, values, skills and other behaviour expectations to its new members. The society thus has to somehow arrange for such transmission. Education is a process which brings about this transmission.

Brookover and Gottlieb come to the conclusion that, in the broadest sense, education is synonymous

and the individual

to continue

with socialization.

The educational sociology after making a study of the interactions of the different elements of the society with the individual, throws light on their importance in education. This science emphasizes the progress of society through the medium of education. The problems of schooling and instruction are looked upon specially, as the problems of the society. For example, it studies as to what type of education should be given to the children? What should be its curriculum sociology tries to search a suitable solution of these problems. This science throws light on those institutions and organisations and on those social interactions which are of great importance or educational process. In short, we can say that this science utilizes the total educational interaction which helps in the personality development of the individual so that he becomes a better social being.

Education is not a static phenomenon but a dynamic and changing process. It is, in this sense, necessary to make a sociological study of education. Every society with its own changing socio cultural needs will require an education to meet those needs. Since needs change continuously, education must also change. The needs of different societies differ, so the pattern of education in different societies, has to differ. The society thus is the prime factor in determining, the educational patterns, so that its socio-cultural needs may be satisfied and it continues to grow.

Educational sociology makes an attempt to achieve aims of sociology through educational process- which occurs between individual and society.

Learning Exercise : Explain how education is synonymous with socialization.

7.4 Educational Sociology (a science)

The meaning of Educational sociology has been very well explained by George Payne : By Educational sociology we mean the science which describes and explains the institutions, the social groups and social processes, that is, that social relationship in which or through which the individual gains and organises the experiences". Brown defines it as; "Educational sociology is the study of the interaction of the individual and his cultural environment which includes other individuals, social groups and patterns of behaviour". Dewey to stressed that educational process is a social process, school is the social institution. In the broadest term education is synonymous with socialization.

In simplest terms, educational sociology utilizes all that has been learned in a social and educational field but joins them in a new science called 'Educational Sociology' by applying sociological principles to the whole process of education, including subject matter and activities, methods, social organisation and measurement.

Roucek, "Educational sociology is sociology applied to the solution of fundamental educational problems.

7.5 Educational Sociology and Sociology of Education

Smith Zorbaugh, Kulp and many others subscribed to the view point that educational sociology is the application of sociology to educational problems. According to this view education is strictly technology and not science at all i.e. Educational sociology can be described as that discipline which applies the general principles and findings of sociology to the process of education. Educational sociology formulates ideals by which educational planning is to be guided. Thus the sociological researches provide the guidelines for education. But over the past many years, there have been differences of opinion regarding what type of

researches are to be classified under the head of educational sociology. This led to the thinking that there is a separate branch of knowledge which can be designated as 'Sociology of education.'

Angell in 1928 expressed the view that Educational Sociology is merely a branch of the science of sociology. He preferred to call the area of the discipline developing on the basis of the researchers in this situation as the 'Sociology of Education', thereby indicating that the school, as a source of data, could be analysed.

Sociology of education may be defined as the scientific analysis for the social processes and social patterns involved in the educational system. No doubt both educational sociology and sociology of education are concerned with the relation between education and society, but they differ in their functions.

According to Hansen, 'Sociology can focus 'within' education examining educational theory, practice and processes. With such a focus, sociology performs much as does educational psychology and this approach is labelled as Educational sociology. From another perspective, sociology can focus 'On education' and attempt to understand educators, schools and other educational institutions, their social and cultural contents, this is called Sociology of education and it studies relationship between education and society'.

Sociology of education is relatively new term than Educational sociology, which is the traditional term.

William Taylor considers that, "it does help us to distinguish between sociology of education, which is usually an activity of sociologist and educational sociology, which is an activity principally of educators."

Thus we understand that Educational sociology is concerned with the application side of sociology, whereas sociology of education is concerned with purest traditions of sociology.

Znaniecki has summed up the distinction between the two as "Educational sociology like educational psychology, evolved as a discipline designed to prepare educators for their future tasks. It was the result of sociological research in planning educational activities and in developing effective methods of realizing these plans and on the other hand, sociology of education is that branch of knowledge which present a sociological theory of education developed through the various analytical studies of the interactions between individuals, in the formal school like educational situations or the other multiple and informal educational situations".

Learning Exercise : What do you understand by Educational sociology? How educational sociology differs from sociology of Education.

7.6 Relationship between Educational Sociology and other Subjects

Educational sociology is the applied side of sociology. But it has close relationship with other subjects as well. It influences those subjects and in turn is influenced by them.

a. **History:-** History deals with events significant for mankind in terms of time. It studies all those forces from the ancient times to the modern times which help very greatly in social change. This knowledge of history gives to sociology an insight into social forces, their native form and activities.

b. **Psychology:-** Educational sociology is closely related to psychology. Psychology studies the human life and behaviour. It analyses and discusses all the effects of heredity and environment on the individual. It tries to analyse the instincts, emotional tendencies and influences of unconscious on personality. On this basis it helps to make the learning process easier and healthy. Educational sociology emphasizes the

social elements in the learning process. In this way, both the subjects give great importance to education and instruction. The subject of both the disciplines is 'individuals' i.e. both study the human being.

* **c. Science:-** The knowledge of science too helps in understanding of personality. Biology helps to gain knowledge about the personality of the individual. This knowledge is very helpful to educational sociology. The knowledge of inborn traits and those traits which can be affected through environment, helps in developing an educational system, in which a conducive environment can be created for education. And the products of science are proud possessions of the race. They mould the life of the people and give a new meaning to existence. The social living of man has been greatly influenced by science. The betterment of society has resulted through influence of sciences.

d. Cultural Anthropology:- The cultures of different countries are influencing each other today. Through education also cross-cultural transmissions are taking place. But education can make such a contact profitable only when it is planned in keeping with the cultural needs of the people to whom it is being provided. An understanding of the cultural needs is provided through a study of cultural anthropology. It is concerned with all of man's behaviour e.g. man's attempts to earn a living, coping with unknown, his learning of aesthetics etc. For an educational sociologist, the studies concerning the bringing up and caring of the young and transmission of culture are of special importance. In these two areas the anthropological studies can provide to an educational sociologist a cross-cultural understanding of the nature of culture.

More and more educational sociologists refer to anthropological studies, to understand the process of education and socialization.

e. Economics:- In its three phases of production, distribution and consumption, it influences the social life of man. Sociology is interested in economic activities like factories, trade, transportation etc. as they influence social institutions and create social problems. Hence educational sociologists get an insight into such problems through the knowledge of economics.

Learning Exercise :- Explain the relationship of Education Sociology with Psychology and cultured Anthropology.

7.7. Scope of Educational Sociology

The scope of educational sociology is

1. It makes a normative survey of what already exists and on the other hand it suggests how social changes and social progress can be brought about.
2. Where social control is desired and how it can be affected.
3. Its chief contribution is to make the educational system is conformity with the ideals and traditions of the society.
4. It studies the relationship between school and society, teacher and taught.
5. It studies interaction between education and society.
6. It studies what is the importance of teacher in the society and how can he be given a place of honour in it.
7. How can mutual relationships be established between school and other agencies?
8. How can through ideal social life and good schooling democratic feelings be in calculated?

- 9. What is the importance of process, radio and films in the sociological process?
- 10. What are the needs and motives of the local community?
- 11. It studies human population and various social groups and institutions.
- 12. It helps in the three functions of education i.e. conservation, transmission and progress of culture.
- 13. It studies the various forms of maladjustments between individuals in social relations.
- 14. Agencies of socialization.
- 15. It deals with different systems of society, how they effect education and how education can effect them e.g. political system, economic system etc.
- 16. It suggests ways to achieve national goals through education e.g. national integration, more production and success of democracy.
- 17. It identifies the needy sections of society and uses education for their betterment.

4.
5.
uggest
Soc
Ed
A S
Fo
Fo
Ar

7.8 Limitations of Education Sociology

Educational sociology has clearly described social progress an important factor in the education of the child, his personality development. When we have to decide the aims, methods, curriculum, discipline etc. on the basis of our knowledge of educational philosophy, we are helped by the knowledge of educational sociology. It helps us to understand the social nature of education and emphasizes the mutual relationship of education and society. But it fails to tell us to what type of society is needed? What should be its aims? What should be its values and ideals? Only philosophy can provide answers to these questions. Therefore we can say that educational sociology can function effectively only within certain limits. It does not determine the important factors in education.

Learning Exercise : What is the content area of Educational Sociology?

7.9 Summary

Gilm and Gilen define "sociology is the study of interaction arising from the association of living beings. There are many other definitions which emphasize the study of sociology. There is close relationship between education and sociology. Educational sociology is the application of sociology to educational problems. Sociology of education is the scientific analysis of the social processes and social patterns involved in the educational system.

Educational sociology is closely related to Psychology and cultural anthropology. It is also related to the subjects like Economics, History, Science etc.

The scope of Educational Sociology is quite wide but for comprehensive presentation of the aims, methods, curriculum etc. for education it has to reach the help of philosophy.

For further study the books given under reference are to be consulted.

Testing Questions

- 1. Describe the nature and scope of Educational sociology.
- 2. Briefly discuss the relationship between sociology and Education.
- 3. "Education and society continuously effect each other" Discuss.