The Study of Sociology and Anthropology

Chapter 1

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What is Sociology?

- logus (science or study)
- socius (group or partners)
- it is the study of groups
- scientific study of patterned, shared human behaviour (Joseph Fichter)
- deals with the study of the patterns and processes of human relations (Rodney Stark)
What is Sociology?

- it deals with either small group (face-to-face) interaction between humans known as micro-sociology or the larger view of the society known as macro-sociology (large scale social relations)
- the focus of sociology is NOT on individuals and individual behaviours but on SOCIAL behavior
What is Sociology?

Therefore, it is the *scientific* study of patterns of human interaction that deals with the study of group life.

It is the science of society and the social interactions taking place therein.

It deals with the current issues and problems such as ethnic relations, family life, community life and participation, social mobility, social problems, community beliefs and practices, and similar subjects.
Science is a systematised body of knowledge or facts.

As science, it uses methods and techniques of inquiry and investigations which are scientific through observation and recording of patterns of interactions and behaviors.
Areas of Sociology

» Social Organization - study of social groups

» Social Psychology - study of human nature such as attitudes, behavior, and personality formation

» Social Change and Social Disorganization - study of change in culture and social relations and disruption that may occur in society

» Human Ecology - studies the nature and behaviour of given population and its relationships to the group’s present social institutions
Areas of Sociology

- Population or demography - study of population, composition, change, and quality as they influence the economic, political, and social system.
- Sociological Theory and Method - concerned with the applicability and usefulness of the principles and theories of group life
- Applied Sociology - utilizes the findings of pure sociological research
What is Anthropology?

- *logos* - study and *anthropos* - man

- scientific study of man, his works, his body, his behavior and values; physical and cultural development; human evolution; fossils of man

- it also deals with the works and achievements of man in the form of arts, sciences, technology, literature, music, architecture, sculpture, inventions, etc
What is Anthropology?

- It also studies man’s biological foundations, physical similarities and differences, evolution, differentiation, and classifications including daily activities such as behavior in politics, religion, social life, aesthetics, health, etc.
Branches of Anthropology

classified into physical and cultural

Physical - biological anthropology (biological foundations, race evolution, race classifications and differentiation

Racial History — study of the nature of races

Paleontology — origin of man

Human Genetics — inheritance
Branches of Anthropology

- **Cultural** — also known as social anthropology

  - it deals with the concept of culture (technology or material culture; economic life; community organisations; family life; clans; secret societies; government and law; magic; religion; arts)
Meaning of Culture

- the way of life of people which has been learned, shared, and transmitted from one generation to another by means of language and symbols
Subdivisions of Cultural Anthropology

- Ethnography — pure description of the culture of people or ethnic group
- Ethnology — analysis, comparison, and contrast of cultures of peoples
- Social Anthropology — generalisations about social life based on Ethnography and Ethnology
- Cultural Anthropology — total life of man
Branches of Anthropology

- **Archeology** — study of man’s culture and society in the past *(fossils and artifacts)*

- **Fossils** — remnants of the past that have organic life which withstood the test of time and forces of nature

- **Artifacts** — man-made and man conceived remains of prehistoric times that have endured through time
Branches of Anthropology

- **Linguistics** — systematic study of recorded and unrecorded languages all over the world; it also deals with the relationship between language and culture, how culture affects language, and vice versa
Relationship with other Social Sciences

- Psychology
- History
- Economics
- Political Science
- Sociology