

TEST CODE : 5 3 2 7 1

FIAS – ATS2022 - SOC #1

ForumIAS**SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)**

Name Of Candidate

Yash Vishen

Roll No.

1910086978

Date:

24 June 2022

Time Allowed: Three Hours

Maximum Marks: 250

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Max. Marks	Marks Obtained
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
Total:	250	

INSTRUCTION

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Roll No, Date).
2. There are FIVE questions in the question paper. Section A contains 2 Questions and Section B contains 3 questions.
3. All Questions are Compulsory.
4. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
5. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided.
6. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
7. Content is more important than content length.
8. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum Answer Booklet must be clearly Struck off.

Any specific messages for ForumIAS Mentors/ Evaluators with respect to your copy? Write it here.

Evaluator's Discretion:**For Student Only**

Start Time | 0830 pm

End Time | 0930 pm

Total Marks:

Mode Of Examination:

Online ☒Offline ☐

Evaluator's Discretion: This is the marks awarded at the discretion of the evaluator based on your overall impression, on the basis of (but not limited to) your handwriting, presentation, use of diagrams, flowcharts, facts and figures or absolutely anything that he/she liked in your copy.

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ECN CODE:

EG:

Evaluation Date:

Note: You can discuss your evaluated copy with the Mentor. Raise a ticket from your portal to schedule a mentor call or visit the offline centre to meet mentor (all 7 days, Timings – 11 AM to 6 PM). Further if you are unsatisfied with the evaluation, you can seek re-evaluation of the copy.

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Presentation						
Handwriting						
Content						
Attempt						

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Section- A

Q.1) Answer the following questions in about 150 words each (10 * 5 = 50 Marks)
a) How to evaluate the effectiveness of a qualitative research?

(10 Marks)

Qualitative Research are those methodologies used by Non-positivists in order to understand idiographic and individual's view point of society.

[Weber] has advocated Interpretivist style of sociological research which uses Qualitative means.

To evaluate qualitative research :-

1. N.K. Design :
 - face triangulation
 - criteria triangulation
 - construct triangulation

to check effectiveness of Qualitative research.

2. Peer review and stating bias beforehand.

eg. Elwin studied tribals despite marrying a tribal girl.

- Thus, even in Qualitative research, effectiveness can be gained. Alan Bryman calls for purposive Research for better effectiveness.

Structure/
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b) Is Sociology just an extension of common sense? Justify your stand.

(10 Marks)

Common sense is typical organized stacks of taken-for-granted knowledge as per Alfred Schutz.

Sociology is a discipline which studies society and social institutions.

Sociology an extension of common sense

1. Weber believes that sociology is nothing but scientific knowledge of the society and confirms social knowledge which people already had.

2. Common sense knowledge is used by Ethnomethodologist. They hail themselves as lay method based on Conversational Analysis.

3. Common sense is enriched through Sociology. eg. Sociology finds that marriage is a risky

business in post-modern society and now it has become common-sensed among Millennials.

4. Sociology frame theories out of common sense. eg. Howard Becker's theory of Deviance

However, sociology is much more than common sense :-

(1) Common sense is stereotypical but sociology is critical and challenges prejudices. eg. Margaret Mead's study of PNG tribe

(2) Sociology gives new dimension eg. Poverty

Common sense : due to lack of skill

Sociology : culture of poverty (social context)

(3) Sociology is not based on intuition.

(4) Sociology is backed by facts, empiricism eg. Durkheim's theory on suicide

Unless we are ready to call a stargazer an astronomer, we can't say a layman a sociologist

Feedback

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c) What are the limitations of standardised surveys?

(10 Marks)

Surveys as a research method to gain information from a large set of people through Quantitative tools and use the data for comparison and policy formation.

Standardised Surveys are those having pre-set questions on pre-set order to give structure to social research.

Limitations

1. Non-response bias.

eg. Survey of serology during COVID-19 times.

2. Researcher's bias in setting questions to get desired result.

eg. Opinion polls conducted by biased media houses.

3. Language barrier, Accent problem,

pronunciation problem.

eg. Survey in Tribal Areas.

4. Return Rate problems : In Standardized

Survey related to posts, there is very low response rate.

eg. Survey by PWD department.

5. Can't guarantee representation of each strata : sometime

convenience Survey and snowballing methods are used to save time

6. Agreement bias : Respondents say "yes" for certain benefits.

eg. In Swachh Sarvekshan Survey, many respondents gave positive response to earn prize for their city.

However, such limitations can be countered by supplementing Survey with Unstructured Interviews and Case Studies.

Feedback

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d) Describe the history of sociology as a discipline.

(10 Marks)

Sociology has a long history but a short past. Although, the study of societies can be traced through Kautilya's Arthashastra and Republic of Plato. But, sociology as a formal discipline was conceptualized by Auguste Comte and Emile Durkheim.

History of Sociology

- ① Revolutions
 - Commercial Revolution (14th century)
 - Intellectual Revolution → Locke, Rousseau, Montesquieu
 - Industrial Revolution (production by mass production → mass)
 - French Revolution (liberty, equality, fraternity)

- ② Counter Revolution by Joseph de Maistre and Louis de Bonald highlighted the chaos in Europe and rising crime

state due to changes by these evolving
 (3) from Europe, sociology expanded
 in America through Chicago School.
Structural Functionalists like Parsons
 analyzed American society in
 greater depth whose lacunae were
 commented by Merton.

(4) Then sociology was introduced to
 Asian sub-continent by Max Muller
 and William Jones' works.

Several stands on Asia:

- a) Indology: Ghurye, Irawati Karve
- b) Marxism: A.R. Desai
- c) Feminism: Veena Das
- d) Structural Functionalism: S.C. Dubey, M.N. Srinivas

(5) In present times, it has evolved into
Environment sociology, Social Anthropology
 etc.
 Thus, sociology has grown since its birth

Feedback

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e) Examine the relationship between sociology and political science. (10 Marks)

The emergence of sociology can be traced from the political event of French Revolution. Thus, sociology and political science are deeply related.

Similarities

1. Both understands social institutions which guide the subjects through "State".
2. The sociological theories and understanding were used by Karl Marx to give a political structure of Socialism and Communism in "Das Capital".
3. Understanding of society for political election. eg. Caste alliances (ATGAR, MP)
4. Political tools for social emancipation

eg. Article 15(4), Article 16(4) for Reservation to SCs (STs),

5. The Institutions like Democracy is functional due to social stability. Nonetheless, run by few elites in the society. eg. C.W. Mills' theory on Power Elites

Difference

Political Science	Sociology
① Relatively narrow scope	① wider scope
② Restricted to State, nation, rule of law	② Expands to study other institutions like family, religion, caste
③ More codified. eg. IPC, Constitution, Bill of Rights	③ less codified

India's Atma Nirbhar Bharat Campaign is a political narrative setup in unique social context

Feedback (For OFFICE use only)

Structure/
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Q.2) a) Human behaviour and sociological research feed into one another. Keeping this connection in mind, mention the possible ethical dilemmas in pursuing sociological research.
(20 Marks)

Ever since the formal conceptualization of sociology as a distinct discipline by Auguste Comte, there has been a concern that human behaviour might impact sociological research and cause certain ethical dilemmas.

To counter such dilemmas, positivists vouched for quantitative methodologies :-

- a) Emile Durkheim called for Observation, Classification, Distinction and Explanation in "Rules of Sociological Method".
- b) Auguste Comte advocated for social statics and social dynamics.

However, with the evolution of discipline

Non-positivist like Dittney, Habermas,
weber called for interactionist approach
which led [Ethical concerns] as :-

- ① Concern for Informed consent
by the subject in Field study
as per [Payne and Payne]
- ② The researcher's own bias
eg. Researcher from Brahmin caste
may neglect latent untouchability
in a society
- ③ Intermixing of emotions: William
Whyte stated that he started as
a Non-participant Observer but ended
up as Participant Non-Observers in
the study of Italian criminals
- ④ Risk of Hawthorne effect and

related change in behaviour.

⑤ Phenomenologist like E. Husserl calls for the study of phenomena from the perspective of those who witness it. This will lead to more Subjectivity and reduce Validity and Reliability.

⑥ Personal prejudices shapes social construct. eg. Early sociologist like Marx, Durkheim are accused for ignoring Feminist perspective.

⑦ Habermas states that since humans study humans, complete objectivity is not possible.

eg. Study of impact of religion in politics is hard to study objectively.

Thus, to negate such Ethical Dilemmas:

① Weber: tools like verstehen and ideal types

② Newton: 'CUDOS' principle and stressed an functional paradigm

③ Triangulation, facilitation and complementing other research methods

④ Durkheim: stick on social facts

⑤ state one's own biases beforehand

However, post modernists argues that Interpretation of facts can be multiple and truth is subjective. Thus, there is no ethical dilemma as such.

Feedback

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b) Is Marxist sociological theory relevant in the contemporary world? Comment.

(20 Marks)

Marxist sociological theory is based on historical materialism which is written in "A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, 1859."

His theory also called for "CLASS STRUGGLE" mentioned in Communist Manifesto. He further talks about 'Alienation' in "Economic and Political Manuscript, 1844"

Relevant in contemporary world :-

① Economic determinism and class divide based on "haves" and "have nots" is very much evident through Oxfam's Study : 1% Indians hold 60% wealth

② Capitalist class enjoys real share of power. eg. Dominance of Ambani, Adani

3. In the sphere of other institutions, class is playing a role :-

a) family \Rightarrow the bread earner holds highest prestige

b) Religion \Rightarrow Commoditized
eg. Diwali Mega Sales

4. Use value is overshadowed by exchange value.

eg. Growth of cryptocurrency and NFTs.

5. Increasing Alienation and powerlessness at workplace.

eg. As per McKinzie Report : 54% of working professionals in India are depressed.

6. There is a struggle by proletarian against Capitalist class.

eg. Strikes in West Bengal (Jaguar) against Maan Sugar

Marxist theory not relevant :-

① As per Dahrendorf, the modern society will face :-

-) Dissolution of Capital
-) Dissolution of Labour
-) Welfare state (eg. ~~not~~ NREGS)
-) Increase social mobility (eg. Reservation, Jansiksha)
-) Rise of middle class (25% of population as per NCAER)

② Revolution of proletariat to topple the rule of Bourgeoisie is a distant possibility.

③ Alienation at workplace is now being countered by tools like :-

- a) work from home
- b) creche facilities
- c) foreign travel

④ Eric O. Wright in "Contradictory class locations" mentioned about increasing role of managers who are neither employees nor workers.

⑤ In present society, not only the class, but other social determinants like caste, gender, status, race holds value.

eg. Army men are hailed with higher status despite average salary.

Thus, Marxian theory helps to understand the larger context in a society but absolute Marxism is a distant reality.

Feedback

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Structure/
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c) Differentiate between quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection.

(10 Marks)

Quantitative methods are the ones based on causal-effect-theories and used by the early sociologists like Comte, Spencer, Durkheim and Saint Simon.

Qualitative methods denies such causal-effect-relations and used by the likes of Dithey, Hobson, Mead and Anthropologists like Malinowski.

Quantitative Method

① More structured method

② Nomothetic

③ Focus on generalization
eg. Durkheim's theory on religion

Qualitative Method

① Less structured

② Idiographic

③ Focus on particularization
eg. Margaret Mead study of PNG tribe

④ It has objectivity and tries to achieve value neutrality

⑤ It is reliable and valid

⑥ It is trying to learn sociology in similar terms like Natural Science.
eg. Durkheim's moral volume and moral density

④ It is value laden as per Gunnar Myrdal

⑤ lacks reliability and validity

⑥ It is trying to learn sociology from personalized way - eg. Ethnomethodology using lay method based on Conversational Analysis

However, Ray Pawson settles the debate between Quantitative and Qualitative calling it as a 60s hangover and vouching for Methodological Pluralism.

Feedback
(For OFFICE use only)

Structure/
Question
Content
Value
Total

Section- B

Q.3) Answer the following questions in about 150 words each: (10 * 5 = 50 Marks)

a) Describe the steps followed in a sociological research process. (10 Marks)

Sociological research process as per [G.A. Lundberg] is classification, Observation and presentation of data to get desired result.

Steps Followed

- ① Identification of a problem
eg. Durkheim identified the problem of Suicide in Europe
- ② Reading already written text.
eg. J.M. Atkinson to study Suicide, first studied already done work of Durkheim.
- ③ Forming a hypothesis.
eg. Durkheim formed a hypothesis that Suicide is a social phenomenon.
- ④ Checking validity and reliability.

eg. Durkheim checked his theories through the findings from several police stations.

⑤ Rechecking hypotheses with facts

⑥ Generalization of the finding in a larger context to give grand theories.

eg. Durkheim concluded suicide rates as -
Male) Female
Urban) Rural
Protestants) Catholics

Also concluded that certain rate is constant

⑦ presentation of data

However, non-positivist like Gunnar Myrdal states that these fixed steps are not required and sociological researchers should find truth in his/her own way.

Feedback

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Structure/
Question
Content
Value
Total

b) What is ethnomethodology? How can ethnomethodology put to utility in sociological research? (10 Marks)

Ethnomethodology is a branch of Interpretivism in sociology pioneered by H. Garfinkel and furthered by Alfred Schutz.
(Ethnomethodology)

1. tries to understand "How" such event occurs in a social setting

2. It is based on two pillars

Indexicality

→ Researcher may get different responses at different places

Reflexivity

→ Study should not be done based on pre-set order but on Conversational Analysis

3. It professes itself as lay method for ordinary people in a social setting.

4. It believes in Construction → Deconstruction → Reconstruction

eg. A tribal family living their normal day in Grew hills can't be understood through predefined social order.

Ethnomethodology : Utility in Sociological Research

- ① To study daily lives of the subject for policy making. eg. Rehabilitation camps of Cox Bazar
 - ② For longitudinal study of a subject to relate historical facts with present.
 - ③ To study basic human nature and their impulses to stimuli for job selection. eg. Ethnomethodology in SSB selection of NSA.
 - ④ This method will broaden the scope of researcher to understand emotions like jealousy, envy, compassion which can't be done in quantitative method.
- Although, criticized for vagueness, ethnomethodology holds great value in present time.

Feedback
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Structure/
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Value
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c) Is sociology a general science of society or a specialised discipline? Analyse. (10 Marks)

Ever since the formal conceptualization of sociology as a discipline by Auguste Comte, there has been a debate whether this discipline is specialised or more general science.

Sociology : A generalised science

1. It borrows facts, terms, ideas from other discipline.

eg. (1) Research methodology : Anthropology
(2) Subjects (State, Democracy, Class) : Political Science

(3) Facts, Data : History

(4) Theoretical orientation : Philosophy

2. Sociology is generalized as there is nothing called eternal truth and can be easily falsified.

eg. Theories of Pareto contradicted as false, sterile by Merton

3. Sociologist studies can be done by laymen through ordinary methods (Ethnomethodologists)

4. Sociology only substantiate common sense knowledge of everyday life as per Weber.

eg. class oppression in Capitalism is known to all despite learning Marx's theory

Sociology: A specialized science

1. Distinct methods: Quantitative Analysis (Durkheim), Ideal types (Weber)

2. Different & Distinct School of thought

- Symbolic Interactionism
- Phenomenology
- Neo-functionalism

3. Its subject matter is unique: Third gender studies, Study of family household

4. Analyzes society to know the truth
Hence, Sociology helps us understand the very society we live in a distinct way thus it is a specialized science

Feedback

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Structure/

Question

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Value

Total

d) What is value free sociology?

(10 Marks)

Values are subjective predisposition arising out of experience, preference, bias and belief and may change with time. Values are personal, cultural, situational, temporal and drives one's goals and measures to attain such goals.

Value free sociology is remaining value neutral in the study of society and giving no opinion about the matter in hand. It increases the autonomy of the researcher to investigate on multiple subjects.

Eg. V. G. V. G. V. studied tribals even though he married with a tribal girl, that shows his value neutrality.

Most of the positivists called for value neutrality like Durkheim, Comte to study sociology in similar manner of natural science.

Eg. If a Brahmin scholar studies a village objectively through positivist tools like Survey, Comparative method and at the end, he gives a value based judgement that upper caste should not oppress dalits. Then, the study is not value neutral.

However, Jurgen Habermas believed that since humans studies humans, complete value neutrality is not possible.

Max Weber vouched for VALUE RELEVANCE rather than VALUE NEUTRALITY.

Feedback

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e) Psychology misses the more significant issues of society by focusing too closely on the "trees" rather than the "forest." In this context, draw a comparison between sociology and psychology. (10 Marks)

"Sociology is the sum total of social and psychic behaviour of man" — Alfred Vierkant

[Psychology focuses closely on "trees"]

1. It is a distinct and specialized science to know human behaviour
2. Psychology's subject matter is : impulses, emotions, anger, joy, etc.
3. It has better testability due to its scientific and particularizing nature.
4. Lab experiments are possible
eg. Study of healthy sleeping cycle in Sweden
5. Psychology understands "micro" perspective and it is idiographic

[Sociology focus on "forest"]

1. Sociology understands a social situation in a broader way at a macroscopic lens.
2. It has subject matter like: Caste, Gender, State, etc.
3. Sociology because of its grand theories derive universal ideas.
eg. i) Durkheim's Division of Labour
ii) Spencer's Organism Analogy.
4. Tough for lab experiment as per [Payne and Payne] because of ethical issues.

Similarities between Sociology and Psychology

- ① Both self & society interact
C.G. Mead's Symbolic Interactionism
 - ② Individual and Society together form social structure (patterns)
 - ③ Society makes the image of individual
eg. Cooley's Looking Glass self
- Thus, both together can be used to have a better view of society.

Feedback

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Q.4) a) "Sociology is a child of revolution". Analyse.

(20 Marks)

Sociology has a long past but a short history and its birth as a formal discipline can be credited to multiple revolutions in past centuries.

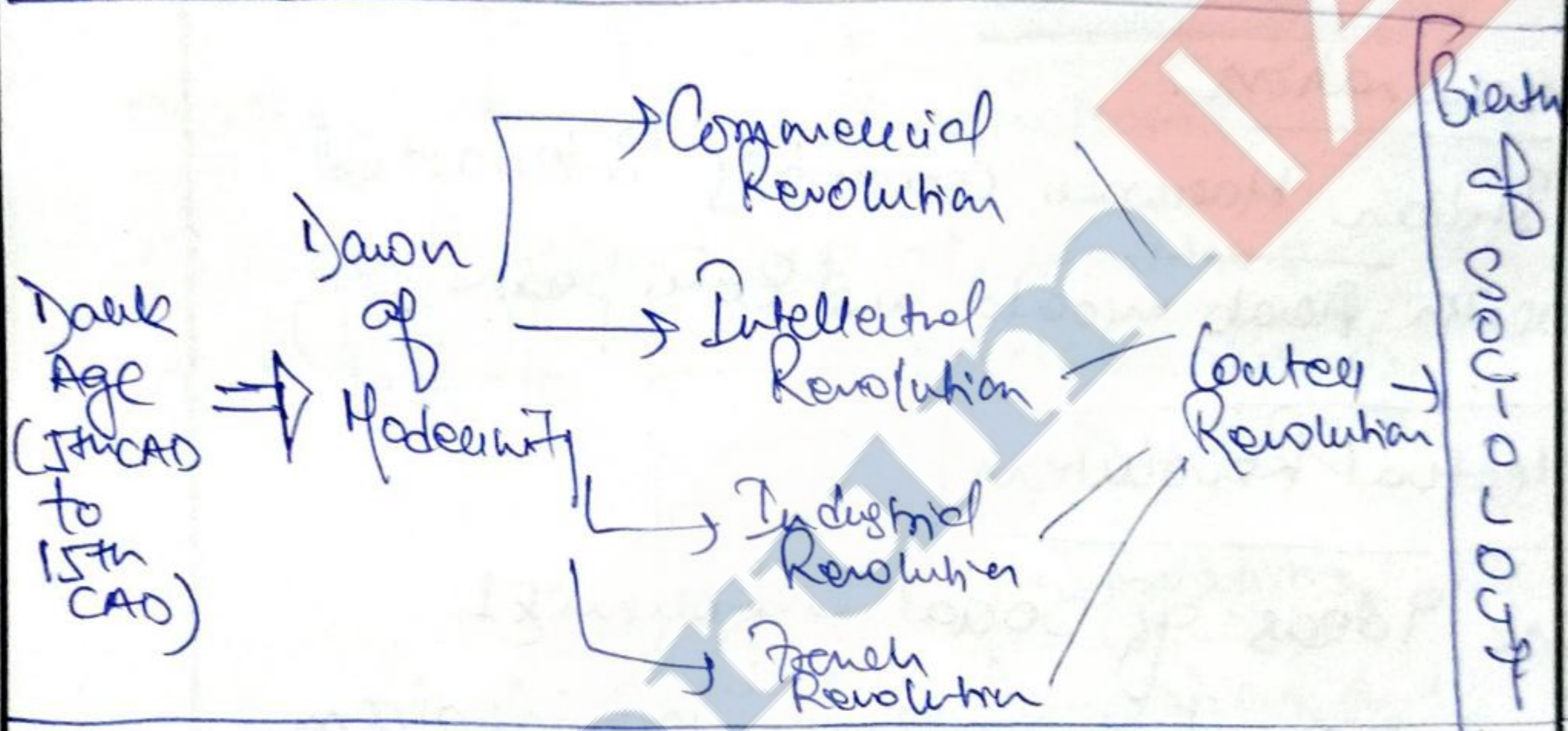


Fig: Evolution of Society

Commercial Revolution

① It started in 14th century when the urge of commerce existed and excited Europeans.

② Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 between Spain and Portugal divided the world

- across Atlantic Ocean for commerce.
- ③ The revolution got further strengthened with Imperialism, Colonisation and British Mercantilism.
 - ④ It led to social contact and value dissemination.
eg. Indian Marwari communities interacted with Arab world and Europeans.

Intellectual Revolution

- ① The ideas of social reforming got aligned to call for individualism, rights and liberty.
- ② Montesquieu for "spirit of law"
called for separation of powers.
- ③ Locke for fundamental Rights.
- ④ Voltaire for religious toleration.

Industrial Revolution

① Invention of spinning jenny by James Hargreave in 1760s initiated Industrial Revolution in Europe

② Transition from 'production by masses' to 'mass production' changed the societal structure and led to

- Nuclear family
- Class Division
- Slumification
- Urbanization and Migration
- Divorce / Increase in crime rate.

③ (Durkheim) highlighted evolution from mechanical solidarity to organic solidarity in the Industrial Society,

French Revolution

- ① led to the ideals of liberty, equality, fraternity
- ② Absolute monarchy of 'Bourbon dynasty' was destroyed which changed the social stratification of the society.
- ③ 'class demarcation' and feudalism got dissolved.

Counter Revolution

- ① Joseph de Maistre and Louis de Bonald highlighted the chaos in the society due to modernity.
- ② The conflict led to friction between radicals and conservative.

Thus, the series of revolution and its synthesis led to the birth of sociology.

Feedback

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b) How is macro sociological perspective different from micro sociological perspective? Explain in detail using any one research methodology for each perspective.

(20 Marks)

Macro sociological perspective is something which focuses on grand generalization and vouched by positivist like Durkheim, Comte

Micro sociological perspective in reaction to excessive positivism followed Kantian epistemology and advocated by Non-positivist like Mead and Weber.

Macro sociology	Micro sociology
→ ① High reliability and validity	① Low reliability and validity
→ ② Can be generalized to form grand theories eg. Parsons' Social Action	② Can't be easily generalized eg. J.W. Brown's Study.

→ ③ Studies
Sociology of
Natural Science
eg. Saint Simon
Theory of
co-existence
(social theory)

→ ④ Nomothetic

→ Can be easily
compared.
eg. Durkheim's
Study of suicide

→ ⑥ More
structured

→ ⑦ Examples:
Sample, Schedule,
Survey, Mathematical
Analysis.

③ Studies
Sociology in its
own
ways.

eg. Phenomenology
Study from the
perspective of those
who witness it

→ ④ Idiographic

→ Can't be
easily compared
eg. Case studies
by Robert K Yin

⑥ Less
structured
and sometimes
vague.

→ ⑦ Examples:
Case study,
Clinical Ethnography

Survey method for Macro Sociology

↳ It allows the data to be collected in a systematic manner by a trained researcher.

↳ Sample is collected based on pre-determined method (Stratified, Simple, Cluster, Systematic etc.)

↳ Data collection is done objectively and interpreted without attaching any value.

↳ The survey is done put in algorithm based flowchart and compared to get the due result.

eg. the sample survey of Demographic Survey during COVID-19 to analyze infection. This data is then extrapolated and generalized.

Critical Ethnography for Micro Sociology
 the method is a qualitative method by the investigator who does research and use it as an evidence of ~~the~~ own research.

eg. Oppression is understood and the victim is taught about the ways to get out of the oppression

↳ [Ann Oakley] used this methodology to understand about Domestic Violence.

However, this method lacks objectivity as per [Mats Alvesson] and can't be generalized for entire society.

However, [Alan Bryman] calls for purposive research and methodological pluralism to understand sociology holistically.

Feedback

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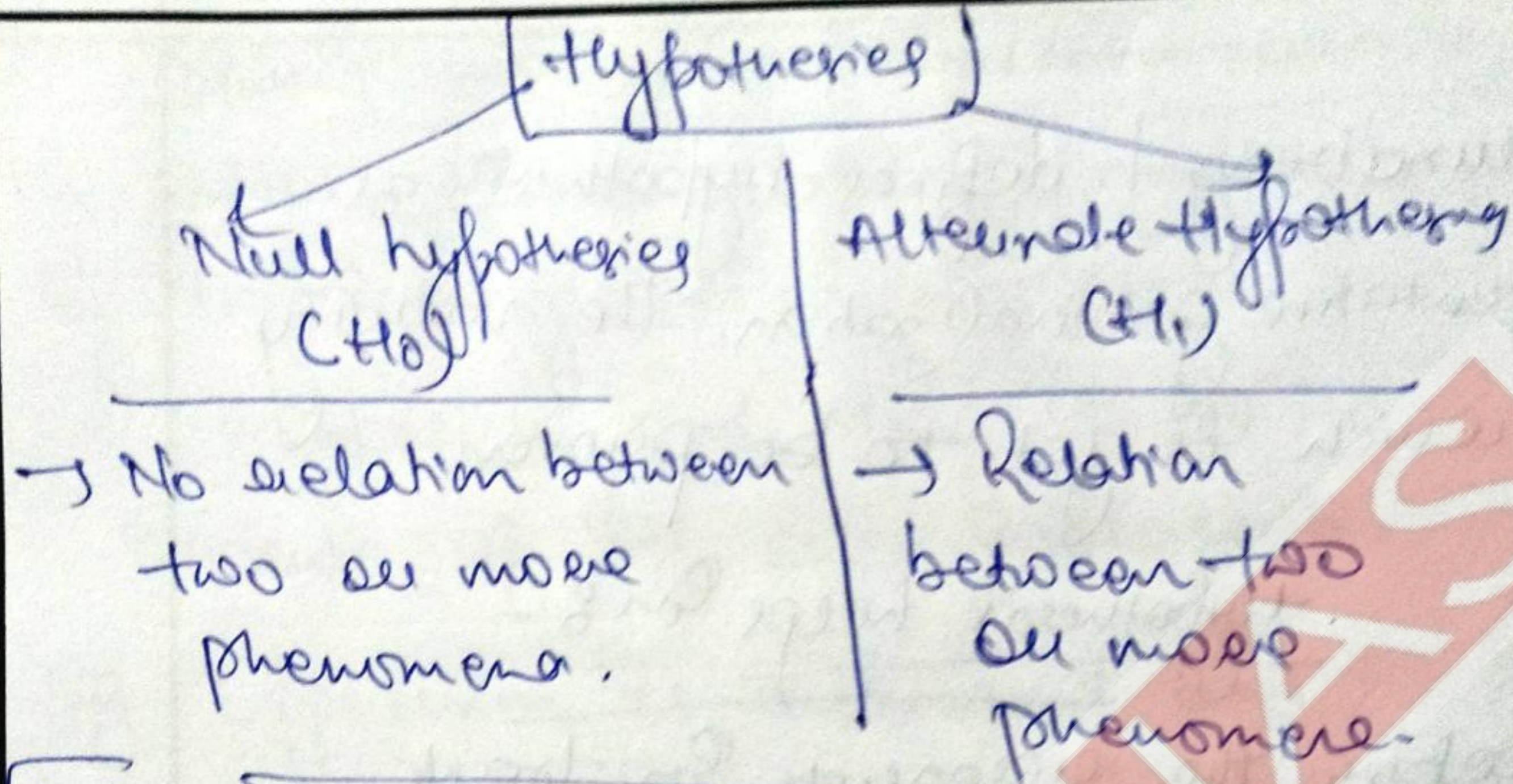
c) Define hypothesis. Hypothesize on casteism in Indian society.

(10 Marks)

[G. A. Lundberg] defines hypothesis as a tentative generalization, the validity of which is yet to be proven.

Hypothesis helps in -

1. Keeping the research on track
2. Initiating the research in a particular direction
3. Analyzing the theme of the research and time to be taken in the research.
4. Makes researchers aware about the cost of the research.
5. Help to collect relevant facts for the research.
6. Theory is built upon hypotheses when proven right.



Hypotheses of casteism:-

- ① Indologist like Ghurye had hypothesis
 - Varina based society
 - Backward Caste are evil
 - Functional society
- ② [Louis Dumont] had hypothesis that Indian society and Western society are different
- ③ Feminist like [Veena Das] argues that women are exploited in all caste based on her hypothesis
- ④ [Andre Beteille] had hypothesis that other than caste, other factors also leads to Stratification

Feedback
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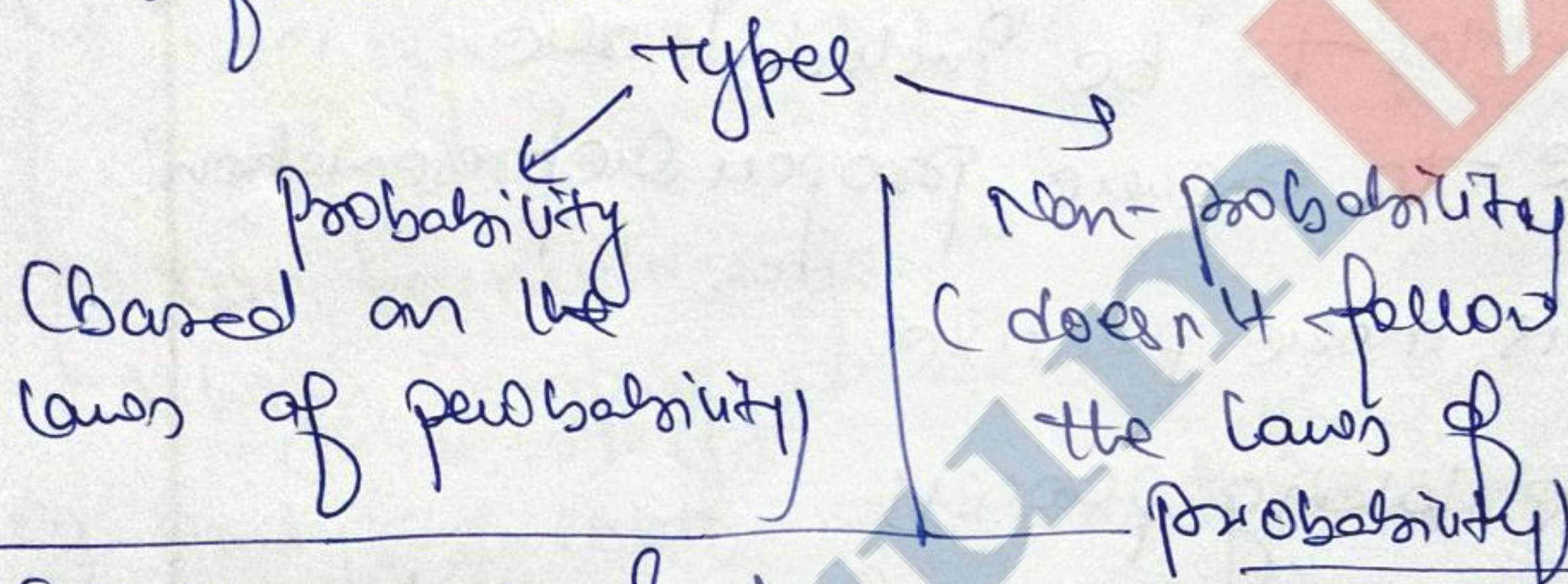
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Q.5) a) What is sampling? Elaborate on the different types of sampling.

(20 Marks)

Sampling is a process of selection of a cross-section which is a representative of a society. It helps to do sociological research to get the relevant information.



(A) Probability Sampling

1. Random Sampling

- ↳ It is based on pure chance and randomness
- ↳ Each entity has equal chance of getting selected
- ↳ Used in computer algorithm
- ↳ Can't represent each & every part of society.

eg. Used in the places where entities are homogenous :
Selection of 1 red ball from the pack of balls.

2. Stratified Sampling

↳ Different cross-section based on variables to be included are made to ensure proper representation.

↳ It is more precise

↳ Time taking process

eg. Allocation of seats in examination to ensure all religious group are represented based on population ratio.

3. Systematic Sampling

↳ Based on pre-determined conditions

↳ Every 20th candidate to be selected

↳ Less random than probability sampling

eg. Selection of volunteers from a crowd of political rally.

4. Cluster Sampling ↳ temporal sampling
↳ spatial sampling

↳ Selection is based on clusters of the popu

↳ heterogeneous population, cheaper method

↳ can be multistage

↳ high sampling error.

eg. Analyzing COVID-19 spread in slums by choosing the cluster of Dholavi, Mumbai.

(B) Non-probability sampling

1. Snow Balling: when one member is chosen based on relevant information and others are chosen based on "word-of-mouth" and chain reaction

eg. Sampling to find members in a drug nexus.

2. Convenience Sampling: The Sampling done without probability when there is sufficient reason to believe that the information will be representative for the entire society.
eg. talking to aspirants of OLD Rajinder Nagall to understand the possible cutoff of UPSC-CSE prelim.

3. Quota Sampling: pre-set threshold to ensure certain number of candidate gets into final sample based on certain variables

↳ Proportional ↳ Non-proportional
eg. 10% EWS Reservation in examination.

Thus, multiple types of sampling is used in sociological research.

Feedback

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b) What is positivism? Discuss at length its promises and limitations.

(20 Marks)

Positivism is a way to understand Society in similar means of Natural Science using causal-effect phenomena.

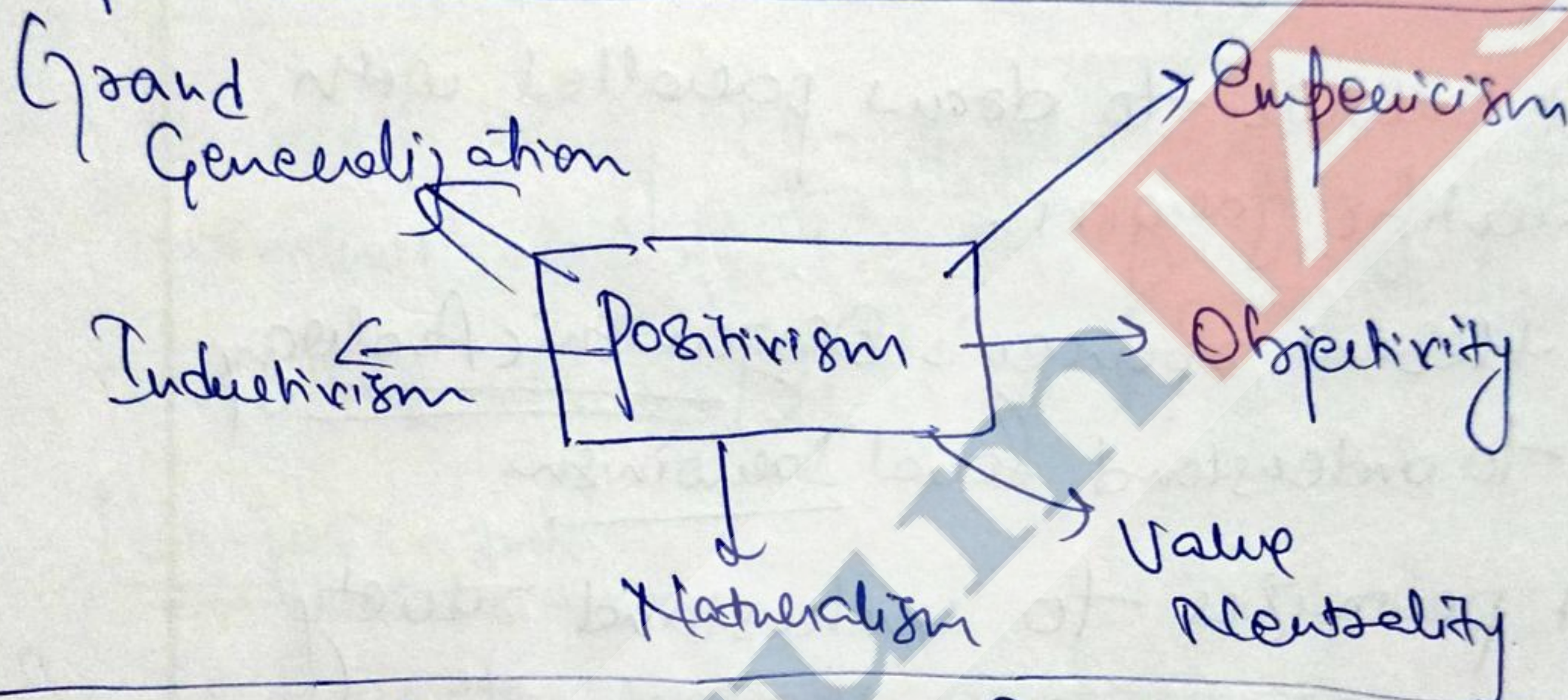


fig: positivism in sociology

Promises

1. positivism vouches to study society based on facts and figures.

eg. Durkheim Study of Social fact

2. It allows sociologists to relate and compare societies (time / era).

eg. Karl Marx understood society through Modes of production -

Primitive Communism \Rightarrow Ancient \Rightarrow Feudalistic \Rightarrow Capitalistic \Rightarrow Socialism \Rightarrow Communism

3. It allows to draw parallel with Scientific Gargon.

eg. Herbert Spencer's Organismic Analogy to understand Social Darwinism.

4. It promises to understand society as a whole without attaching values and prejudices.

5. [Saint Simon] promised to study society through theories

→ Theory of co-existence (Social Statics)
→ Theory of succession (Social Dynamics)

6. The premises of objectivity are met through the methodologies like: Questionnaire, Schedule, Structured Interview etc.

Limitations

1. It can't study Idiosyncrasy and individual's perspective as per Weber and thus there is a need for

Non-positivism

2. It fails to study human feelings, emotions, love, etc as per Cartier

3. Paul Feyerabend has accused it to suffer from 'Epistemological Anarchism'

4. It is unable to study from the perspective of those who witness the phenomena as per Alfred Schutz
eg. Experience in Kedarnath flood

disaster of 2013 can't be understood through positivism.

5. Since, human studies humans, complete objectivity is not possible which positivism is trying to being.

6. The [ethnomethodologists] calls for studying of the society subjectively based on indexicality and reflexivity. This is not possible in positivism.

Thus, [Alan Bryman] calls for methodological pluralism to have purposive study based on requirement and settle the discourse.

Feedback

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Structure/
Question
Content
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Total

c) Write a short note on symbolic interactionism.

(10 Marks)

Symbolic Interactionism is a branch of interpretivist sociology and pioneered by Herbert Blumer to understand how human beings draw meaning by interpretation through social symbols.

Symbols helps to build the self image in the society through interaction and interpretation.

G.H. Mead in Mind, Self, Society, 1937 gave an evolutionary, pragmatist, cosmological, empirical study to state how society helps in the building of the image through symbols

eg ① Tilak on someone's forehead is a symbol of his "Religion"

② Symbol of a statue with eyes covered by a cloth and

holding a measuring rod signifier
"JUSTICE"

C.H. Cooley through looking glass self theory shows how society helps in building the image of oneself. What we see in a mirror is not what we are but what "society" thinks we are.

Criticism

1. Too subjective and vague.
2. Difficult to determine where society, self, symbols meet.
3. Ignores social structure.

Nonetheless, Symbolic Interactionism has broadened the preview of sociology especially in modern society where symbols accompany our lives through technology.

Feedback
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Question
Content
Value
Total