

Hello students, I am Preeti Padgaonkar from Rosary College of Arts and Commerce, Navelim.

Today I'm going to present from the paper Urban Society in India. This paper is introduced for Bachelor of Arts, Third Year, Semester 6. The paper Code is SOC 109. The title of the unit is Urban society in India and module name is Nature, Scope and significance of Urban Sociology.

The outline of this presentation

is Introduction, Meaning and definition of urban sociology, Nature of urban sociology, Scope of urban sociology, Significance of urban sociology, Summary and references.

The learning outcomes are:

At the end of this module, Students will be able to understand the meaning and definitions of urban sociology; Understand the nature, scope and significance of urban sociology.

To introduce urban sociology, Urban Sociology is that branch of sociology which deals with the description and analysis of urban life. Today the majority of the world's population are living in urban places and therefore we can say that the study of society is the study of urban society. Urbanization is increasing at a rapid pace. Urban Sociology is the study of the special form of Community organization called Cities.

The principle questions of urban sociology are

How and why cities came into being? Why they take on certain forms of social organization? How they are spatially structured? how people living in cities interact with one another? How cities affect their host regions and nations? and how problems arise from urbanism or urbanization.

Now let us look at the term urban. What does the term urban mean?

The term urban is understood as follows:

Any place where there is agglomerate population i.e., communities of 20,000 or more.

So any region which has a population of 20,000 or more people can be called as a urban area.

It also refers to a 'way of life' that is distinct from rural or small town lifestyles.

A centre known for its political, economic or cultural power, i.e., government centre.

A hub of change where innovation and creativity abound, i.e., employment.

A population centre that spawns and fosters alternate value systems, i.e., diversity over uniformity; freedom over security and anonymity over familiarity.

Now let us look at the meaning and some of the definitions of urban sociology.

According to Ergon Ernest Bergel Mearning, 'urban sociology deals with the impact of the city life on social action, social relationships, social institutions and the types of civilizations derived from and based on urban modes of living and so on. This impact is considerable without cities, mankind would have remained on a much more primitive level. Thus, urban sociology is a special study of the influence of environment on man.'

Professor House has defined urban sociology as 'the specialized study of city life and problems.'

According to Kent P. Schwirian, 'urban sociology is the sociology of urban life and activities.'

According to James A. Quinn, 'urban sociology is that branch of sociology, which deals with the city of urban community, with urbanization and urbanism as its main components.'

Urban Sociology examines social structures and processes of modern urban ways of life and its implications for city dwellers with the socio-cultural milieu.

Now let us look at nature of urban sociology.

If you look at the major currents in urban sociology, this can be divided into 2.

The first one comes from the sociologist from the University of Chicago, and the second comes from the Community studies.

The first one that is sociologist from the University of Chicago emphasized the demographic and ecological structure of the city, the social disorganization and pathology of the urban normative order and social psychology of urban existence. Whereas community study consisted of ethnographic studies of the social structure of individual communities and ways of life of the inhabitants. So Community studies basically focused on the scientific study of the social structure of individual communities, and the ways of the life of the inhabitants.

Now these two orientations are divided into 2 approaches that is the culturalist approach and the second one is the structuralist approach.

The Culturalist approach emphasizes on how urban life feels, how people react to living in urban life and how the city life is organized. It also studies cultural, organizational and social psychological consequences of the urban life, whereas on the other hand we have the structuralist approach which investigates the interplay between the political and economic factors, the growth, the decline and changing spacial organization of urban space.

Now let us look at the scope of urban sociology,

The scope of urban sociology is very vast and multi dimensional.

Urban Sociology relies on the related sciences and borrows from history, economics, social psychology, public administration, and social work. So it is not only related only to sociology, but it borrows from other social sciences as well.

The subject matter of sociology is cities and their growth, and it deals with such problems like planning and development of cities, traffic regulations, public waterworks, social hygiene, sewerage works, housing, beggary, juvenile delinquency, crime, and so on.

The scope of urban sociology can be divided into : introductory scope and reformative scope.

Introductory scope of urban sociology.

The main aim of urban sociology is to study the basic principles of the city life. Under introductory scope, the study covers the following areas:

Urban ecology: studies the facts of the urban environment. It also emphasizes on the study of population in the cities.

The second one is Urban morphology. It studies the social life of urban areas and urban organisation.

Third one is Urban psychology which covers the behaviour and the mode of living of the people in urban areas.

Analytical scope: various concepts and important phases of urban life are developed and studied.

Secondly we have reformative scope which studies the problems of urbanism. This includes some of the important issues such as the impact of urbanization on urban society leading to urban disorganization, urban planning and development.

Now let us look at the significance of urban sociology

Urban sociology study the urban life of both developed and developing countries. The urban life of an advanced country is taken as an example to be followed by the less developed and developing nations. So what the less developed nations are doing is they are taking urban life of the advanced country as a model for them to imitate or for them to follow.

The importance of urban sociology can be realized from the following reasons cited below:

OK, some of the reasons are: Reconstruction of urban society. Study of urbanization, to solve the problem that crop up due to the extension of urbanization, urban planning, Proper implementation of Community projects, Study of ever changing urban social structure.

To summarize, I would say urban sociology deals with the description and analysis of urban life. The scope of urban sociology is very vast and multi dimensional. Urban Sociology relies on the related sciences and borrows from history, economics, social psychology, public administration and social work. Urban sociology occupies an important place as it tries to study the urban life of both developed and developing countries.

These are the references.

Thank you students.