SOCIOLOGY AS A SCIENCE

Sociology is the only discipline that investigates social relationships and society. Neither any social science has the same "focus" as sociology.

Social sciences cannot be as a precise as natural and physical sciences by thier very nature. However it is not fair to claim that sociology will never be a science. Is sociology a science? Perhaps as a result of this, sociologists became seperated into two opposite groups. So we have two opposing viewpoints on the nature of sociology.

**Sociology as a scientific discipline**

There is a major debate in sociological theory about whether or not sociology is a science. Like Auguste Comte and Emile Durkheim, the first academic sociologists certainly viewed sociology as a science. Positive sociologists held that the scientific method could be applied to social science to produce social facts and universal principles. Human have freedom and will not simply adhere to universal rules like natural phenomena, according to interpretivist sociologists. Sociologists apply multiple study methodologies, and whether or not sociology is considered as a science can be determined in part by the definition of science that has been agreed upon.

**The development of sociology as a science**

**To establish sociology as a science of society, the first step was to view society as a component of reality, as a distinct entity in and of itself. Cultural reality should be an emerging quality for sociology to emerge as a science. Society must have it's reality and act in a predictable, law-abiding manner.**

**Reasons in favour of sociology as a science**

**To explain sociology as a science, the following explanations are used:**

**1. Application of scientific method in data collection process: while sociology does not have a laboratory and cannot contact direct experiments on men(human) social interaction is accessible to scientific research. On the other hand, sociologists frequently apply fundamental scientific procedures like investigations, comparisons, questionnaires, discussion and case studies to analyse or examine social phenomena.**

**2. Prediction: There is a wealthy of knowledge about family connection and children's personal lives. With sociology's development and maturity, it will be important to understand different principles that govern human behavior more comprehensively and make accurate predictions. Natural sciences can forecast natural occurrences that will occur in the future. A sociologist can also anticipate future social contact based on social problem and existence.**

**3. Observation: There is no way to observe human beings in a laboratory. However, the entire social world serves as a laboratory for it. Experiment in the lab assess the link between two variables while controlling additional variables. We perform the same thing in sociology, but not in laboratory setting.We accomplish this using statistical analysis. Astronomy is one of the few physical sciences that doesn't contact experiments in a laboratory. Although heavenly objects cannot be studied in the laboratory, everyone knows that astronomy is a branch of science. Thus, same social scientists consider sociology as a science. Sociology uses society as a laboratory.**

**4. Using a scientific methodology: sociology contacts scientific research on it's object topic. It attempts to analyze social connection and ascertain the relationship between various aspects of social life.**

**5. Cause and effect relationship: sociology, like physical science, is concerned with investigation of cause -and-effect relationships. As an example, it examines the link between divorce and family disintegration and other factor like westernization and divorce.**

**6. Possible investigation: sociology contacts several indirect experiments and employs scientific procedures, including sociometer scales, schedules, questions, interviews, and case studies. These strategies utilise quantitative measures to assess social phenomena. Sociologists do their research using statistical techniques.**

**7. Generalisations: The conclusion drawn at the end of scientific inquiry is one of the most significant accomplishments in natural sciences research. Similarly once the investigation is complete, results about social factors might be generalised .**

**Conclusion**

**As sociology is a science of society, sociologists conduct research according to scientific theories.Using a methodical approach, the scientific method is used in the physical, biological and social sciences to obtain precises and accurate results. Like other social science studies, sociological analysis uses scientific approaches to achieve accurate and consistent results.**