

COURSE CODE- EDCACOR03T

EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY

SEMESTER-III

UNIT-I

CONCEPT OF EDUCATIONAL SOCIOLOGY:

What is Sociology?

Sociology primarily concerns itself with social relationships. A network of social relationships is called the society. The society is the sole concern of sociology. Though, there are other aspects of the social science that focuses on some other aspects of the society, the central concern of sociology is the social relationships of mankind. Sociology also uses scientific method in its study. Science is an accumulated body of systemized knowledge and widely accepted processes dedicated to the discovery of generalizations and theories for refining and building on the existing knowledge. The scientific method which is universal (though now objected to by some scientists) consists of formulating a problem to be investigated, formulating some hypotheses and conducting a research which must be public, systematic and replicable.

Sociology is therefore a scientific study of human behaviour in groups, having for its aim the discovery of regularities and order in such behaviour and expressing these discoveries as theoretical propositions or generalizations that describe a wide variety of patterns of behaviour. Members of a group interact with one another at the individual level. The patterns of behaviour are the sum of the activities of one member on another in the group. Thus, sociology is also seen as the study of the formation and transformation of groups and the relationship of groups and group members with one another, noting that where there are groups there are tendencies for participation, cohesion and conflict. Sociology also involves the study of human groups and how they operate through established institutions and institutionalized patterns of behaviors which are more or less adapted to the specific functions of society assigned to each institution.

What is Education?

To the sociologist, education takes place in the society and is a social thing. Durkheim (1950) argued that:

“It is society as a whole and each particular social milieu that determine the ideal that education realizes. Society can survive only if there exists among its members a sufficient degree of homogeneity; education perpetuates and reinforces this homogeneity by fixing in the child from the beginning, the essential similarities that collective life demands. But on the other hand, without certain diversity all cooperation would be impossible; education assumes the persistence of this necessary diversity by being itself diversified and specialized”

Swift (1969) noted that:

1. Education is everything which comprises the way of life of a society or group of people is learned. Nothing of it is biologically inherited.
2. The human infant is incredibly receptive to experience. That is, he is capable of developing a wide range of beliefs about the world around him, skills in manipulating it and values as to how he should manipulate it.
3. The infant is totally dependent from birth and for a very long period thereafter upon other people i.e. he is incapable of developing human personality without a very great deal of accidental or intended help from other people

Sociology of Education:

Briefly, sociology of education is defined as a study of the relations between education and society. It is an investigation of the sociological processes involved in an educational institution. To Ottaway (1962), it is a social study and in so far as its method is scientific, it is a branch of social science. It is concerned with educational aims, methods, institutions, administration and curricula in relation to the economic, political, religious, social and cultural forces of the society in which they function. As far as the education of the individual is concerned, sociology of education highlights on the influence of social life and social relationships on the development of personality. Thus, sociology of education emphasizes sociological aspects of educational phenomena and institutions. The problems encountered are regarded as essentially problems of sociology and not problems of educational practice.

Sociology of Education, therefore, may be explained as the scientific analysis of the social processes and social patterns involved in the educational system. Brookover and Gottlieb consider that —this assumes education is a combination of social acts and that sociology is an analysis of human interaction. Educational process goes on in a formal as well as in informal situations. Sociological study of the human interaction in education may comprise both situations and might guide to the development of scientific generalizations of human relations in the educational system. The sociology of education is the study of how public institutions and individual experiences influence education and its outcomes. It is most concerned with the public schooling systems of modern industrial societies, including the growth of higher, further, adult, and continuing education. It is a philosophical as well as a sociological concept, indicating ideologies, curricula, and pedagogical techniques of the inculcation and management of knowledge and the social reproduction of personalities and cultures. It is concerned with the relationships, activities and reactions of the teachers and students in the classroom and highlights the sociological problems in the realm of education.

Scope of Educational Sociology:

The scope of sociology of education is –

- It is concerned with such general concepts such as society itself, culture, community, class, environment, socialization, internalization, accommodation, assimilation, cultural lag, subculture, status, role and so forth.
- It is further involved in cases of education and social class, state, social force, cultural change, various problems of role structure, role analysis in relation to the total social system and the micro society of the school such as authority, selection, and the organization of learning, streaming, curriculum and so forth.
- It deals with analysis of educational situations in various geographical and ethnological contexts. For e.g. educational situations in rural, urban and tribal areas, in different parts of the country/world, with the background of different races, cultures etc.
- It helps us to understand the effectiveness of different educational methods in teaching students with different kinds of intelligences.
- It studies the effect of economy upon the type of education provided to the students, for e.g. education provided in IB, ICSE, SSC, Municipal schools
- It helps us to understand the effect of various social agencies like family, school on the students. • It studies the relationship between social class, culture, language, parental education, occupation and the achievement of the students

- It studies the role and structure of school, peer group on the personality of the students
- It provides an understanding of the problems such as racism, communalism, gender discrimination etc.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION & SOCIOLOGY:

- Sociology is the science of society and education in an implicit aspect of any social system.
- Sociology studies the structure and functions of social systems, while education is one of the important functions of any social system.
- The prime concern of sociology is socialized individuals while education is the process of socializing individuals.
- Education is the means for achieving the goals of sociology.
- Education is the laboratory and workshop of sociology.
- Sociology develops methods and techniques to be utilized by educational system to attain its goals.
- Sociology contributes greatly to the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of educational process.
- Sociology attempts to ascertain the functions performed by the educational system while education adopts the principles of sociology to improve its functioning.
- In the modern society, sociology generates the data base which is consumed by educational system to realize the goal of social life.
- Sociology develops laws and principles which are adopted by the educational system for its improvement.
- The ever cherishing social values are those attained through education.
- Sociology provides the principles and education practices them.
- Sociology put forth the ideals and values which education is to achieve.

- Education preserves the social and cultural heritage which is owned by sociology.
- Education brings about reforms and changes in the field of sociology.