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Changing Faces of Indian Sociology**V Basil Hans**

Abstract: *This article explores the evolving landscape of Indian sociology, tracing its journey from colonial influences to contemporary relevance. It examines key phases in the discipline's development, including the dominance of Indology, the rise of Marxist and subaltern approaches, and the influence of globalization and digital technologies. The article highlights the growing emphasis on intersectionality, regional diversities, and grassroots movements, reflecting India's complex social fabric. It also discusses the discipline's engagement with public sociology and the challenges posed by neoliberal policies. The changing methodologies and emerging areas of research underscore a dynamic, reflexive discipline attuned to societal shifts in modern India.*

Keywords: Indian sociology, A R Desai, social change, social reform movements, social issues

Introduction

The broad field of social sciences in India consists of sociology, anthropology, and social work. All three have a common purpose, which is to study social phenomena, but are unique in regard to their practicability or level of abstraction. Anthropology, a field characterized by its extended periods of fieldwork and an investigation of indigenous and rural societies, informs much of sociology in the era of structuralism, phenomenology, symbolic anthropology, post-colonialism, and post-structuralism. Awareness of the history of

sociology's formation could also allow scholars the historical background from which to assess different studies. Sociology did and still does draw on anthropological and psychological concepts and methodologies. Just as in anthropology, it needs to study culturally diverse social phenomena within the socio-economic, historical, and spatially localized context of that same society and culture.

Indian Sociology Overview

Colonialism and Indology shaped Indian sociology. After Independence, Indian sociology focused on indigenization and critical analysis of Western theories, concepts, and methodologies. Indigenization and localized literature, sources, and observations reduced Western influence on Indian sociology. Indian sociology was plural and complex thanks to its founders. After Louis Dumont argued that Indology fits modern Indian society, debates on Indian sociology intensified. In response to Dumont, Yogendra Singh classifies five approaches and defines Indian sociology through empiricism and analysis. Ramkrishna Mukherjee and Yogendra Singh contributed most to Indian sociology. Mukherjee addresses 'modernisers of Indian sociology' and Singh addresses 'social conditioning' (Sharma, 2019).

Over the past century, Indian sociology has grown as an academic field. It examines Indian society, its cultures, social systems, and evolution. The discipline now includes several theoretical and methodological approaches, reflecting the diversity and vitality of Indian social life.

Historical Setting

Indian sociology began with colonial attempts to comprehend Indian society using Western sociological lenses. However, post-independence sociology was deliberately tailored to India's cultural and socioeconomic circumstances. Indianizing sociology aimed to construct frameworks and theories that fit the Indian setting.

Key Figures

Several pioneering sociologists shaped Indian sociology. G.S. Ghurye, the pioneer of Indian sociology, helped explain caste and kinship. M.N. Srinivas introduced "Sanskritization" and did anthropological

research. D. P. Mukerji explored tradition-modernity, while A. R. Desai studied Indian nationalism and peasant movements sociologically.

Theory Contributions

Indian sociology has made distinctive theoretical contributions, integrating indigenous and Western ideas. The discipline has focused on caste, kinship, and village groups. Sanskritization, dominant caste, and the jajmani system are Indian sociological theories.

Methodologies

Indian sociology uses ethnography, participant observation, and fieldwork extensively. These methodologies have given sociologists deep insights into the lives of different Indian social groups. This emphasis on qualitative research has helped capture Indian social life's intricacies.

Current Focus

This article examines gaps in the practice, methodologies, pedagogies, and texts related to the 'Sociology of India', identifies theoretical and methodological issues, analyses tensions within and between sociological knowledge-producing institutions, and notes the lack of links between the discipline and society and nation.

Indian sociology has addressed globalization, urbanization, gender, environment, and digital society in recent decades. As India's society changes, underprivileged communities and social justice are prioritized. The field participates in and draws from worldwide sociology discussions.

Challenges

Indian sociology confronts challenges notwithstanding its tremendous contributions. Institutional backing, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international awareness are needed. In a continuously changing culture, Indian sociologists must balance established research fields with new challenges.

Future Paths

Indian sociology's future depends on its ability to adapt to new social circumstances and maintain methodological rigor and theoretical originality. Sociologists should participate in policy-making and public debates and use digital tools more.

With its indigenous and global viewpoints, Indian sociology illuminates India's multifaceted society. It evolves with the country's socio-political developments, and its future rests on its ability to adapt.

Importance And Relevance Of Sociology In India

Sociology is important in India because it can examine and understand a diverse and dynamic society. Sociology in India sheds light on social structures, interactions, and changes, helping to solve social problems and build the nation.

Knowledge of Social Diversity

India has great cultural, religious, linguistic, and ethnic variety. Sociology helps explain social diversity and relationships. It examines how caste, class, religion, and gender impact social identities and experiences. A multicultural society needs this knowledge to promote social peace.

Addressing Social Inequality

Sociology is crucial to tackling social inequality and injustice. Sociologists can identify inequality's causes and promote social justice by studying caste, class, gender, and other social stratifications. Research on caste discrimination has informed programmes to improve marginalised communities' socioeconomic position.

Informing Policy and Development

Sociological research informs public policy and growth with evidence. Policymakers can create more successful and inclusive programs by knowing community social dynamics and needs. Sociological studies on rural and urban poverty, education, health, and family dynamics have influenced government policies and social programs.

Promoting Social Change

Sociology promotes critical thinking and social awareness. It teaches people to examine and challenge social norms. Sociologists work for social justice through action and advocacy. Their efforts can motivate constructive social change movements.

Enhancing Global Understanding

An increasingly globalized society requires comprehending other countries' social fabric. Indian sociology improves understanding of Indian society and enriches global sociology. Indian sociologists do cross-cultural study and conversation, contributing distinct perspectives to global social discourse.

Discussion on Current Issues

Contemporary Indian civilization faces rising urbanization, environmental degradation, digitalization, and changing family dynamics. Sociology examines these issues from many perspectives, including their pros and drawbacks. Sociological studies on how digital technology affects social connections and communal life can help navigate the digital age.

Building Critical Thinking and Research Skills

Sociology teaches critical thinking, analysis, and social research methods. Sociologists, educators, lawyers, public administrators, and social workers benefit from these talents. Sociology graduates use their knowledge to solve real-world issues.

Sociology is important in India because it can explain social life, solve social inequities, inform policy and development, promote social change, improve global understanding, and address current challenges. Sociology is vital to understanding and addressing India's complex society as it evolves.

2. Historical Change

Indian Sociology Origins

Sociology in India began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, during major social, political, and economic changes. Colonial and indigenous intellectual traditions shaped Indian sociology.

Early Influences

The British colonial administration helped establish sociology in India. Colonial rulers undertook large sociological surveys and censuses to understand and control their various populations. Although biased and administrative, these surveys produced vital data and laid the framework for sociological study.

British administrators like Henry Maine researched Indian social systems, and the British Indian administration performed comprehensive ethnographic surveys.

Indian Social Reform Movements

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw social reform movements in India led by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotirao Phule. Reformers addressed caste discrimination, gender inequality, and education. They showed the need to study Indian society and its issues systematically.

Establishing Academic Sociology

University of Bombay (now Mumbai):

India officially recognized sociology as an academic study in the early 20th century. The first sociology department was founded in 1919 at the University of Bombay. It was Scottish sociologist and urban planner Patrick Geddes who founded this department and promoted sociological studies in India.

Calcutta University:

The University of Calcutta established a sociology department in 1917. Famous Indian scholars like B.K. Sarkar stressed the necessity for sociological study relevant to Indian society, helping to create the department.

Other Institutions:

Early 20th-century universities like Madras and Lucknow also had sociology departments. These institutions trained new Indian sociologists through research and education.

Sociology Indigenization

Indigenizing sociology was a goal as it developed in India. Indian sociologists developed notions and methods that were more applicable to India rather than Western ones. This indigenization involved:

Focus on Fieldwork:

Indian sociologists prioritized fieldwork and ethnography. They learned more about local social dynamics and culture using this method.

Indigenous Concept Development:

Indian sociologists explained social phenomena with indigenous terminology and theories. For instance, M.N. Srinivas's "Sanskritization" articulated caste social mobility in distinct Indian terms.

Focus on Social Issues

Indian sociologists tackled caste oppression, gender inequality, and rural development. Their studies often affected social policy and transformation.

India's colonial past and efforts to indigenize sociology shaped its development. Indian sociology was shaped by academic departments, pioneering sociologists, fieldwork, and indigenous conceptions. Indian sociology addresses modern societal issues and contributes to global sociology.

Early Influences and The Establishment Of Sociology Departments

Colonial administrative needs, social reform movements, and early researchers shaped sociology in India. Sociology departments in Indian universities were a major step toward institutionalization.

Early Influences

Census and Surveys: To comprehend and manage the heterogeneous Indian people, the British colonial authority conducted comprehensive censuses and social surveys. Administrative endeavours yielded rich data and insights into Indian society.

British administrators and intellectuals like Henry Maine and Herbert Risley studied Indian social systems, rituals, and traditions. It paved the way for systematic sociological research.

Indian Social Reform Movements

19th-century social reformers Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, and Jyotirao Phule addressed caste prejudice, gender inequality, and societal injustices. Their work emphasized the necessity to comprehend Indian society and morally motivated sociological research.

Nationalist Movement: The Indian nationalist movement encouraged academics to study and transform Indian society. Sociologists focused on tradition-modernity and social justice.

Colonial administrative demands, social reform movements, and pioneering scholars formed Indian sociology and sociology departments. The discipline was institutionalized by the University of Bombay and University of Calcutta, and G.S. Ghurye, M.N. Srinivas, D.P. Mukerji founded Indian sociology intellectually. These early accomplishments paved the way for India's vibrant sociological research and education.

Contributions of Key Early Sociologists

A few pioneering researchers in India helped establish sociology. Through their research, theoretical frameworks, and indigenization activities, these sociologists made significant contributions. These Indian sociology pioneers were influential:

1. G.S. Ghurye (1893-1983)

Govind Sadashiv Ghurye is regarded Indian sociology's father. His vast research on Indian society has shaped the field.

Key Contributions

Ghurye's seminal work, "Caste and Race in India" (1932), examines India's caste structure. He studied caste's history and impact on Indian society.

Tribal Studies: He pioneered studies on tribal tribes, stressing their assimilation into Indian mainstream.

City planning and urbanization were Ghurye's interests in urban sociology.

Approach

Ghurye's historical and comparative study combined anthropological and sociological perspectives. He stressed understanding Indian social systems in their cultural and historical backgrounds.

2. M.N. Srinivas (1916-1999)

Mysore Narasimhachar Srinivas advanced Indian sociology and social anthropology. His ethnographic works revolutionized fieldwork-based research.

Key Contributions

Sanskritization: Srinivas defined Sanskritization as lower castes adopting higher caste rituals and behaviours to rise.

He also coined the phrase "dominant caste" to characterize a caste that dominates a region's economy and politics, affecting local social dynamics.

The Remembered Village ("The Remembered Village," 1976) by Srinivas illuminated rural India's social structure and transition.

Approach

Srinivas emphasized immersive fieldwork and participant observation. He used ethnography to understand social practices and changes.

3. D.P. 1894-1961 Mukerji

The famous sociologist Dhurjati Prasad Mukerji studied how tradition and modernization interact in Indian society.

Key Contributions

Tradition and Modernity: Mukerji showed how traditional social systems and modern influences interact. Culture is crucial to understanding societal change, he said.

Cultural Sociology: He examined culture's significance in social life and advocated for a sociological methodology that considers India's history and culture.

Approach

Mukerji stressed the necessity of understanding social processes within their cultural context by combining sociological study with cultural and historical viewpoints.

4. A.R. Desai (1915-1994)

A.R. Desai's Marxist sociology focused on economic and political issues.

Key Contributions

Sociology of India: Desai's 1948 "Social Background of Indian Nationalism" studied India's socio-economic factors that fueled nationalism.

Rural Sociology: He studied rural India's agrarian structure, peasant movements, and development.

Marxist Perspective: Desai critiqued class and social inequality in India using Marxism.

Approach

Marxist theory guided Desai's analysis of Indian society's structure and history.

5. B. K. Sarkar (1876-1949)

Sociologist and cultural historian Benoy Kumar Sarkar pioneered Indian society research.

Key Contributions

Sociology of Civilization: Sarkar stressed the necessity for a sociological knowledge anchored in India's cultural legacy by studying its history and culture.

Comparative Sociology: He challenged Eurocentric sociology by studying Eastern and Western nations.

Approach

Sarkar used sociology, history, and cultural studies to advocate for a global and comparative view of societal concerns.

Indian sociology pioneers established a rich and diverse sociological study heritage. They changed sociology by providing insights into

Indian society and influencing future sociologists. These early scientists continue to influence sociological research and worldwide social dynamics.

3. Modern Indian Sociologists' Contributions

Modern Indian sociologists have moved beyond the pioneers' work to address current challenges and use a variety of theoretical and methodological techniques. The following modern Indian sociologists have made notable contributions:

1. Andre Beteille

The famous sociologist Andre Beteille has written extensively on caste, class, and social inequality in India.

Key Contributions

The seminal book of Beteille, "Caste, Class, and Power" (1965), is a comprehensive study of a Tamil Nadu village that examines how caste and class hierarchies affect power dynamics.

Comparative Sociology: He has studied social stratification in India and the West to better understand social inequity.

Sociology of Institutions: Beteille's research on family, university, and democracy has helped explain how institutions shape social life.

Approach

Beteille uses ethnographic fieldwork and comparative analysis to be thoroughly empirical. His work avoids ideological prejudices and is balanced.

2. T. K. Oommen

Famous sociologist T.K. Oommen studied social movements, ethnicity, and nation-building.

Key Contributions

Peasant, labour, and social justice movements in India have been thoroughly examined by Oommen. His 2001 book "Social Movements: Issues of Identity" analyses social movement dynamics.

He has studied ethnicity, nationalism, and nation-building in India, highlighting the difficulties of managing variety in a heterogeneous society.

Development Sociology: Oommen has studied how development policies affect underprivileged groups.

Approach

Interdisciplinary, Oommen draws from sociology, political science, and anthropology. His work emphasizes empirical research and societal issues.

3. Dipankar Gupta

Famous sociologist Dipankar Gupta studies rural sociology, urbanization, and modernization.

Key Contributions

Rural and Urban Studies: Gupta's research on rural and urban India has shown how urbanization and economic development have changed Indian society. His book "Mistaken Modernity: India Between Worlds" (2000) critiques modernity's inconsistencies in India.

Caste, class, and occupational mobility have been his research topics.

Public Sociology: Gupta has written in popular media about current social challenges and public debates.

Approach

Gupta uses qualitative and quantitative methodologies to blend theoretical and empirical research. His work connects academic sociology and public debate by addressing critical societal challenges.

4. Veena Das

Leading sociologist and anthropologist Veena Das studies violence, misery, and marginalized populations.

Key Contributions

Anthropology of Violence: Das's research on violence and suffering, notably in the context of the Partition of India and communal riots, has

illuminated trauma and resilience. Her 2006 book "Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary" addresses these issues.

Medical Anthropology: She studied health, illness, and society in medical anthropology. Her research on India's public health system has emphasized access and disparity.

Das uses advanced ethnographic methods to emphasize the need of understanding ordinary life and the banal as social places.

Approach

Das investigates social issues in detail and context using an ethnographic method. Her work combines sociology and anthropology to solve theoretical and practical issues.

5. Shiv Visvanathan

Shiv Visvanathan is noted for his sociology of science and technology and critical views on progress and modernity.

Key Contributions

Sociology of Science and Technology: Visvanathan has examined how scientific knowledge and technological developments affect society. He often challenges scientific rationale and technological development.

Critique of Development: He has vocally opposed conventional development theories and promoted social justice and sustainability.

Public Intellectual: Visvanathan writes extensively on social issues and contributes to democracy and civil society debates.

Approach

Visvanathan's critical, interdisciplinary work challenges norms and promotes inclusive and ethical science, technology, and development.

Modern Indian sociologists have addressed many social concerns and made significant contributions. They have broadened social investigation with varied theoretical and methodological approaches. These scholars shape the field by illuminating Indian society and contributing to global sociology.

4. Sociology and Social Change

Understanding And Tackling Social Challenges Through Sociology

Sociology is essential to understanding and addressing social concerns. It provides the tools and frameworks to evaluate complex social phenomena, comprehend social problem causes, and find solutions. Sociology helps comprehend and address social challenges in these ways:

1. Knowing Social Structures and Inequality

Sociology analyses social stratification, including class, caste, race, gender, and other inequality. Sociologists can understand how these structures cause poverty, discrimination, and resource scarcity by analysing them.

Identifying Inequality Patterns: Sociological study helps identify social inequality patterns and trends to better understand how systemic inequities influence different social groups.

2. Assessing Social Institutions

Family, Education, and Religion: Sociology examines how social institutions like families, schools, and churches affect people's lives and society.

Sociologists can understand how these institutions affect gender roles, educational disparity, and religious conflict by analysing their role.

3. Social Change and Development Understanding

Sociology studies how societies develop via modernity, globalization, and urbanization. Understanding these processes helps with economic progress, cultural change, and social integration.

Development Policies and Programs: Sociologists assess how development policies and programs affect different social groups to ensure inclusivity and equity.

4. Social Problem Study

Sociology helps discover and analyse societal issues like crime, domestic violence, substance misuse, and mental health. This requires understanding the societal context and causes of these issues.

Sociologists can develop evidence-based remedies and interventions by examining social problems. Their study can help policymakers, social professionals, and community organizations address these concerns.

5. Promoting Human Rights and Social Justice

Sociologists advocate social justice and human rights through advocacy and activism. They advocate for social justice, combat discrimination, and support marginalized populations.

Sociological study informs public policy. Sociologists shape inequality-reduction and social welfare programs by giving sociological facts and analysis.

6. Promoting Critical Thinking and Awareness

Education and Awareness: Sociology teaches critical thinking and social complexity. This promotes informed and involved citizens.

Public Discourse: Sociologists write articles, books, and participate in media conversations. Their insights encourage societal awareness and informed public discourse.

7. Supporting Multidisciplinary Approaches

Sociology regularly interacts with anthropology, psychology, economics, and politics. Interdisciplinary research enhances social awareness and yields more complete answers.

Sociologists work with public health, education, and urban planning specialists to solve social challenges holistically.

Sociology helps us understand and address social challenges by revealing social structures, organizations, and processes. It identifies social issues, presents evidence-based remedies, and supports social justice and human rights. Sociology improves society by encouraging critical thinking and civic engagement. Sociologists promote justice and equity via multidisciplinary research and collaboration.

Social Reform and Policymaking Contributions

Policy-making and social reforms benefit from sociology's insights, data, and theoretical frameworks to comprehend social issues and devise effective remedies. Sociologists influence policies and changes

to solve social issues, promote equity, and improve community quality of life. Sociology has made these policy and social reform contributions:

1. Informing Evidence-Based Policy

Data Collection and Analysis: Sociologists gather and analyse social data to inform policy. This data helps policymakers grasp social issues' extent, scale, and nature.

Trends and Patterns: Sociological research examines social behaviour, inequality, and other topics. These insights help policymakers predict and prepare for future issues.

2. Knowing Social Issues

Root Cause Analysis: Sociologists study poverty, crime, health disparities, and educational inequality's causes. Understanding these underlying elements allows policies to address the root causes rather than merely the symptoms.

Comprehensive Perspective: Sociology addresses economic, cultural, and political variables in social concerns. This holistic approach ensures policies handle social complexity.

3. Designing Social Interventions

Program Development: Sociologists construct social programs to address unemployment, housing, and healthcare. They design programs to diverse communities using their knowledge.

Evaluation and Assessment: Sociologists rigorously evaluate social initiatives and policies. Their findings improve interventions and ensure resource efficiency.

4. Promoting Equity and Social Justice

Sociologists often seek the rights and needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Their study on discrimination, exclusion, and inequality advocates for social justice and equity legislation.

Policy recommendations: Sociologists advocate policies to alleviate social inequality and enhance the lives of disadvantaged groups based on their findings.

5. Increasing Public Participation and Understanding

Sociologists help citizens understand social policies and reforms through public education. This knowledgeable public can participate more effectively in democracy.

Community Engagement: Sociologists engage with communities to learn their needs and viewpoints. This participatory method makes policies and changes more inclusive and responsive to the public.

6. Setting Social and Cultural Standards

Cultural Analysis: Sociologists study how cultural norms and values affect behaviour and social interactions. Cultural awareness helps policies that change harmful practices like gender-based violence and child labour.

Sociologists help create interventions that promote healthy social norms and positive behaviour by studying how social norms are generated and maintained.

7. Cooperation Across Disciplines

Sociology often collaborates with public health, education, urban planning, and economics. Collaboration yields more comprehensive and effective policy solutions.

Sociologists collaborate with other professionals to develop integrated approaches to social challenges for more holistic and sustainable solutions.

8. Comparisons And Global Perspectives

Cross-National Studies: Sociologists compare social policies and effects across nations. Comparative studies offer lessons and best practices that can be applied locally.

Sociologists influence global policy discussions and activities sponsored by international organizations like the UN and WHO. Their expertise shapes global poverty, inequality, and climate change policies.

Sociology guides social improvements and policymaking. Sociologists construct effective treatments and policies by giving empirical facts, analysing root causes, and providing complete

viewpoints. Their work improves social justice, equity, and quality of life for all. Sociology promotes inclusive, responsive, and sustainable policy through public education, community involvement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. Sociologists are crucial to solving complicated social issues and promoting justice and equality.

5. Contemporary Trends and Challenges

Impact Of Globalization On Indian Society

Indian sociology has been greatly impacted by globalization, the growing interconnection and interdependence of nations and cultures. Globalization affects social structures, cultural dynamics, economic practices, and sociological research in India. Globalization has shaped Indian sociology as follows:

1. Social Structure Transformation

Migration And Urbanization

Rural to Urban Shift: Globalization has increased urbanization in India, causing rural-to-urban migration. Social systems have changed, establishing new urban settlements and changing rural-urban relations.

Sociological studies on urban poverty, informal labour markets, and migration's effects on social integration have arisen from urbanization's housing shortages, informal sector employment, and slum growth.

Family Structure Changes

Nuclear Families: As joint families decline, globalization has boosted nuclear families. Family, gender, and intergenerational connections are affected by this transformation.

Global economic competition and dual-income households have affected work-life balance, family life, and gender roles.

2. Dynamic Culture and Identity

Culture Hybridization

Fusion of Traditions: Globalization has hybridized local and global civilizations. Indian cuisine and apparel have been influenced by global culture and traditional rituals.

Cultural Identity: Sociologists explore how globalization affects culture and tradition. Research focuses on global influences and local traditions.

Media and Pop Culture

The rise of global media has brought new cultural items and lifestyles to India. This affects consumption, entertainment, and culture.

Local Responses: Indian sociologists study how local populations adapt global media impacts and localize cultural trends.

3. Economics and Social Change

Economic Liberalization

Employment: Economic globalization has created new industries and jobs, such as IT and services. Sociologists research how economic liberalization affects employment, income inequality, and social mobility.

Global Labour Markets: India's inclusion into global labour markets has affected wages, working conditions, and labour rights. Research examines how these changes affect workers and communities.

Consumer Culture

India's consumer culture has grown due to globalization's increasing access to global brands and products. Sociologists study how consumerism affects societal ideals, lifestyle, and economics.

4. Social Movements and Advocacy

Global Social Movements

Globalization has spread social movements and advocacy efforts for environmental sustainability, human rights, and gender equality. Indian sociologists explore how global movements affect local activity and policy.

Local Adaptations: Research examines how global social movements generate new grassroots organizations and affect local social policy.

Transnational Networks

Diaspora and Transnationalism: Indian diaspora networks affect social and political issues in India and beyond. Sociologists study how diaspora communities influence global and local social policy.

5. Social Research Methods

Global Framework Adoption

New insights and techniques have been added to sociology by Indian sociologists' use of global theoretical frameworks and methods.

Cross-National Studies: Globalization has made cross-national studies and comparative research possible for Indian sociologists.

International Cooperation

Global Networks: Indian sociologists collaborate with international researchers, sharing ideas and methods. This collaboration improves sociological research quality and scope.

6. Challenges and Criticism

Cultural Imperialism

Some sociologists argue that globalization can lead to cultural imperialism and the destruction of local customs in India.

Resistance and Adaptation: Research examines how Indian society balances local identity and global opportunity in response to perceived global dangers.

Unequal And Excluded

Benefit Disparities: Globalization has increased economic growth but also social inequality. Sociologists study globalization's unequal benefits and social justice.

Globalization has changed Indian sociology by changing social structures, cultural dynamics, and economic activities. It has up new research and collaboration avenues but also raised cultural identity, inequality, and adaptability issues. Indian sociologists continue to explore these effects, revealing how globalization shapes and is shaped by Indian society. Globalization continues to transform and complicate the profession.

New Fields Of Study (Gender, Environment, Digital Sociology)

Sociology in India now addresses new social phenomena and complicated concerns driven by global and local trends. This has led to new study on gender, environment, digital technologies, and more. Here are some major emerging Indian sociology research areas:

1. Gendered Studies

gender equality/empowerment

Workplace Dynamics: Research examines gender equality in compensation, job growth, and sexual harassment. Gender equality policies are included.

Representation and Agency: Studies examine women's political, media, and other representations and their agency in opposing gender norms.

Intersectionality

Multiple Identities: Intersectional research studies how gender, caste, class, and sexuality affect people's experiences and possibilities.

Impact of Globalization

International feminist movements and global economic shifts affect gender dynamics in India, according to studies on transnational gender issues.

2. Sociology of Environment

Social Impact of Climate Change

Vulnerability and Adaptation: Climate change research focuses on vulnerable groups including farmers and urban poor. Adaptation and resilience are examined.

Environmental Justice: Studies address pollution, clean water, and environmental degradation by distributing environmental benefits and burdens.

Develop Sustainably

Green Practices: Sociologists study sustainable agriculture, industry, and daily life. Research examines how societal norms and policies promote environmental sustainability.

Environmental Impact of Urbanization

Smart Cities: Urbanization and smart city development have environmental impacts on waste management, energy use, and green spaces.

3. Digital Sociology

Communication and Social Media:

Digital Identity: Social media's effects on self-perception and relationships are studied.

Online communities: Research explores their origin, evolution, and involvement in social movements, activism, and information distribution.

Technology's Effect on Social Behaviour:

Digital Divide: Studies examine how technology availability affects socioeconomic inequality.

Digital privacy, monitoring, and data security, as well as how technology affects personal liberties and social norms, are studied by sociologists.

E-Governance and Social Change:

E-governance and digital platforms affect public administration, citizen involvement, and social services, according to research.

4. Health and Medicine

Public Health

Health Inequality: Policies and interventions affect socio-economic and demographic differences in health access and outcomes.

Pandemic responses: Research on pandemics, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, examines health behaviour, public health compliance, and socioeconomic implications.

Sociology of Medicine

Healthcare Systems: Research examines healthcare systems, including quality, patient experiences, and traditional medicine's role in modern medicine.

5. Studies on Migration and Diaspora

Internal Migration

Rural-Urban Migration: Studies examine how internal migration affects social structures, jobs, and urban development.

Social Integration: Migrants' housing, employment, and social integration issues are studied in metropolitan contexts.

Diaspora, Transnationalism

Transnational Ties: The Indian diaspora influences local and global social policies and practices through transnational links.

The impact of cultural, economic, and political contacts between India and its diaspora communities on identity and social networks is studied.

6. Political Sociology

Electoral politics

Voting Behaviour: Studies examine voting patterns, electoral participation, and political campaign and social media effects.

Political mobilization: Research investigates grassroots movements and political parties' roles in political activism.

State and Society

Governance and Policy: Studies examine how governance systems, policy decisions, and state-society interactions affect the state and society.

7. Education, Socialization

Inequality In Education

Access and Quality: Research examines caste, gender, and location-related educational inequities.

Studies examine how global educational trends affect local practices and policies, including the adoption of international curricula and teaching methods.

Methods Of Socialization

Research on education and socialization explores the development of social ideals, skills, and identities.

Indian sociology's new research fields reflect society's global and local changes. Sociologists shed light on current social challenges and help create successful policies and solutions by studying gender, environment, digital technologies, migration, and more. These burgeoning study topics help us understand complicated social phenomena and solve critical problems in new ways.

Challenges Faced By Indian Sociologists Today

Indian sociologists have many obstacles in understanding and addressing modern Indian society. These problems are methodological, institutional, political, and social. Key challenges are listed here:

1. Challenges in Methodology

Data collection, quality:

Lack of Reliable Data: Sociologists struggle with data availability and reliability. Missing, outdated, or erroneous data might impair research and policy recommendations.

Fieldwork Constraints: Logistics, security, and local community resistance make fieldwork in diverse and frequently hard-to-reach places problematic.

The Complexity of Social Events

Multifaceted concerns: Caste, class, religion, and gender influence Indian social concerns. Research methods must be sophisticated to capture this complexity.

Concerns about ethics

Sensitive Topics: Researching violence, prejudice, and personal trauma requires ethical thought to safeguard participants and ethically handle research findings.

2. Institutional Issues

Funding and Resources

Limited Funding: Sociological research that does not coincide with policy agendas or commercial interests can be hard to support.

Resource Allocation: Institutions may lack resources and infrastructure for high-quality research and academic advancement.

Academic Independence

When their study challenges conventions or regulations, sociologists may suffer institutional pressure or suppression. Politically charged situations can impair academic freedom.

3. Challenges Politically and Socially

Political interference

Political Implications: Research criticizing government policies or societal injustices may be blocked. This may affect research diffusion and impact.

Freedom of Expression: Sociologists who study controversial or sensitive topics may face restrictions.

Social Resistance

Public Perception: When sociological research contradicts societal norms or reveals uncomfortable realities, the public or vested interests may resist it.

Mistrust and fear of exploitation make community engagement difficult, especially with marginalized or vulnerable groups.

4. Integration Across Disciplines

Research Silos

Fragmented Knowledge: Sociologists may struggle to integrate their study with other fields. Limited cross-disciplinary collaboration can hinder comprehending complicated social issues.

The interdisciplinary approach to social problems might be hampered by communication and collaboration issues among economists, political scientists, and anthropologists.

5. Globalization/Localization

Considering Global and Local

Relevance: Applying global ideas and models to India is difficult. Sociologists must modify global frameworks to address Indian challenges.

In an increasingly globalizing world, culturally appropriate research and treatments for varied Indian populations are essential but difficult.

6. Professional and Educational Development

Curriculum and Training

Outdated Curricula: Sociological training programs may be outdated. Educational content and methods must evolve with social dynamics.

Training sociologists in new research methods, technologies, and multidisciplinary approaches can be difficult.

Career Options

Sociologists may have little career and professional growth options, especially in academia. Motivating and retaining talented workers may be affected.

7. Public Participation and Impact

Sharing Results

Accessibility: Sociologists struggle to communicate their research to politicians and the public. Research's practical impact requires closing this gap.

Policy Influence: Turning research into policy recommendations and influencing policy decisions is difficult.

Indian sociologists encounter many obstacles that affect their research and societal relevance. Improving data quality, finance, academic freedom, and interdisciplinary collaboration are needed to address these issues. Sociologists can improve policy-making and social advancement by overcoming these limitations and understanding India's complicated social dynamics.

6. Future Paths

Emerging Trends and Future Research Areas

Indian sociology adapts to global issues and societal changes. Trends represent societal changes, technology advances, and cultural dynamics. Key trends and prospective research areas in Indian sociology:

1. Virtual and Digital Sociology

Social Media and Identity

Digital Identity Formation: How social media affects self-perception, identity, and social interactions. This covers online personalities, self-presentation, and virtual communities.

Studies how algorithms and digital platforms affect social behaviour, information diffusion, and political attitudes.

Digitalization Impact

E-government and Social Services: How digital technologies affect government, public services, and civic involvement, especially e-governance accessibility and efficacy.

Cybercrime and Security: Examining the social effects of cybercrime, online harassment, and privacy issues, and how digital security protects people and communities.

2. Ecological and Sustainability Studies

Climate Change Adaptation

Researching the social and economic effects of extreme weather events, migration, and adaption methods on community resilience to climate change.

Exploring how local and traditional knowledge promotes sustainable behaviours and environmental conservation.

Urban Ecology

Green Urban Spaces: Examining how urban green spaces improve quality of life, public health, and community well-being.

Smart Cities: Smart city technology' social impacts on urban planning, infrastructure, and social fairness.

3. Gendered and Sexual Studies

LGBTQ+ And Non-Binary

Acknowledgment And Rights: Examining legal acknowledgment, societal acceptability, and discrimination for non-binary and LGBTQ+ Indians.

Intersectional gender research: How gender intersects with caste, class, and ethnicity and its effects on social justice and policy.

Gender and Tech

Researching how technology affects gender roles and interactions, especially how digital tools empower women and promote gender equality.

4. Health and Wellness

Mental Health

Socioeconomic position, urbanization, and cultural influences affect mental health.

Mental Health Policy: Examining mental health policies and interventions and how community-based methods improve care.

Public Health Innovations

Health technology: Studying how digital health technology and telemedicine improve healthcare access, especially in rural and underserved areas.

Pandemic Preparedness: Learning from recent pandemics and building measures for future health disasters.

5. Migration, Mobility

Patterns of Internal Migration

Rural-Urban Dynamics: Examining how internal migration affects labour markets, housing, and urban infrastructure.

Researching internal migrants' incorporation into metropolitan contexts, including social inclusion, employment, and service access.

Global Diaspora

Transnational Networks: Examining how the Indian diaspora shapes global and local social, economic, and political landscapes and bilateral ties and development.

6. Political Sociology

Political Behaviour and Populism

Populism: Examining populist movements and their effects on democracy, political polarization, and social cohesion.

Political Engagement: Examining youth and marginalized political engagement and activism.

Governance and Policy Effect

Policy Effectiveness: Studying how transparency, accountability, and citizen participation affect public policies and governance structures to address social concerns.

7. Education, Socialization

Inequality in education

Socioeconomic considerations, geographical variances, and policy initiatives affect educational access and quality.

Studies the impact of digital technology on education, particularly remote learning, educational platforms, and digital literacy.

Changing World Socialization

The impact of globalization on family structures, cultural norms, and societal values is being studied.

Recent sociological trends in India reflect societal changes and global issues. Digital sociology, environmental sustainability, gender studies, health, migration, political sociology, and education research addresses current concerns and sheds light on society. Sociologists can better understand social phenomena and inform policies and practices to meet current and future difficulties by focusing on these new and emerging topics.

Global Prospects For Indian Sociology

The failure of sociology to address bigger societal challenges is not limited to India. Current issues include the discipline's reluctance to ask 'big questions' Apart from the challenge of 'Eurochauism' which imposes limited perspectives as the universal view, sociologists in India must address the topic of social transformation in India and the world as a theoretical issue that requires sufficient conceptualization. This activity requires critical thinking. Critical of one's culture while rooted in it is possible. The first stage is to study the typical person's problems and critically examine one's society, not as an outsider who finds his own nation difficult to accept but as an insider who chooses to live in his country and experiences what everyone else does. This includes the power to leave one's community, not to leave but to return (Munshi, 2006).

With its rich history and shifting viewpoints, Indian sociology can contribute globally. As India grows as a global power, its sociological study helps explain complex societal dynamics and difficulties. Key global prospects for Indian sociology:

1. Global Knowledge Exchange

Contributing to Global Theories

Innovation: Indian sociologists offer fresh ideas that can improve global sociological theories and frameworks. Caste, pluralism, and fast urbanization inform worldwide discussions on social stratification, multiculturalism, and development.

Multinational Research

Collaborative Studies: Indian sociologists can collaborate with foreign researchers to share information and methods. Collaborations can lead to comparative research that improve global societal understanding.

2. Addressing Global Social Issues

Climate Change and Sustainability:

Local Solutions: India's water scarcity and climate resilience lessons can help global sustainability initiatives. Indian sociologists can

participate in global climate adaptation and environmental justice discussions.

Public Health Crisis

Pandemic Response: India's COVID-19 pandemic experience can help improve healthcare systems and manage large-scale health emergencies. Indian research can influence global health policies.

Studies on Migration and Diaspora

Global Migration Trends: India's large diaspora and role as a key source of international migration illuminate transnationalism, migration policies, and global labour markets.

3. Impacting Global Policy and Practice

Policies for development:

Policy Advice: Indian sociologists can inform global and regional policies on poverty, social inclusion, and sustainable development by doing evidence-based research.

Human Rights, Social Justice:

Advocate and Impact: Social justice research on caste discrimination and gender inequality can affect worldwide human rights agendas and advocacy.

4. Encouraging Sociological Diversity

Cultural Diversity:

Pluralistic Insights: India's heterogeneous society provides many cultural and sociological insights. Indian sociology can emphasize cultural diversity and pluralism in global sociology.

Alternative Methods:

Indian sociologists use innovative research methods to examine social problems. These methods offer new perspectives on global sociological research.

5. Enhancing Global Academic Networks

International Cooperation:

Collaborations, conferences, and collaborative research initiatives can help Indian sociologists strengthen worldwide academic networks.

Partnerships can promote knowledge exchange and worldwide academic communities.

World Conferences and Publications

Visibility and Influence: Global conferences and international publications can increase the visibility of Indian sociological research and include Indian perspectives in global academic discourses.

6. The Effects of Globalization

Globalization Studies:

Local Implications: Research on how globalization affects Indian society can illuminate its worldwide effects on social structures, cultural practices, and economic conditions.

International Issues:

Global Dynamics: Indian study on cross-border trade, digital connectivity, and international relations can help explain global economic and social dynamics.

7. Greater Educational and Research Opportunities

Exchanges in education:

Student and Faculty Exchanges: Educational exchanges and collaboration can help Indian sociologists and students engage globally, encouraging diversified learning and research.

Global Research Funding:

Money: Indian sociologists can apply for worldwide research grants and money for high-impact, global research initiatives.

Through its unique viewpoints, research, and international interactions, Indian sociology may contribute to the world stage. Indian sociologists can shape global sociological knowledge and practices by addressing global social concerns, influencing policy and practice, advocating different methods, and strengthening worldwide academic networks. India's sociological insights will become more important in understanding and solving complex societal issues as it becomes a global power.

7. Conclusion

Reflection On The Evolution And Future Of Indian Sociology

Since its founding, Indian sociology has evolved to reflect society's dynamic changes and globalization. This journey from its beginnings to its present and future demonstrates the discipline's successes and challenges. A look of Indian sociology's past and future:

Evolution of Indian Sociology

Beginnings and Developments:

Colonial roots: Western sociological theories and colonial observations shaped Indian sociology. Early sociologists like G.S. Ghurye and Radhakamal Mukerjee used Western frameworks to caste, family, and urbanization in India.

In the mid-20th century, sociology departments and research institutions like the Delhi School of Economics and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences formalized and grew the field in India.

Post-Independent Developments:

National Issues: Post-independence Indian sociology addressed development, social fairness, and modernization. A newly independent nation faced poverty, education, and social stratification, which the discipline addressed.

Theoretical Contributions: Indian sociologists studied caste dynamics, tribal societies, and social change in a fast-modernizing society to contribute to world sociology.

Current Trends

Contemporary Indian sociology covers gender studies, environmental challenges, digital sociology, and migration. The field now covers classic and emergent social issues.

Globalization and modernization have created new research topics like global influences on local cultures and digital technology's effects on social interactions.

Indian Sociology's Future

Accepting Global Views:

Global Integration: Integrating local observations with global theories can help Indian sociology contribute to global sociological discourse. Indian sociologists can gain global recognition by engaging in international research collaborations and conferences.

Cross-National Research: Comparing social phenomena across countries may become more common in future research, revealing global social processes and concerns.

Addressing New Social Issues:

Climate Change and Sustainability: Indian sociology can examine climate change adaptation, sustainable development, and environmental justice as environmental concerns grow.

Digital Transformation: Indian sociologists must examine how digital technology affects social behaviour, identity, communication, digital inequality, and privacy.

Improvements to Methodology:

unique Methodologies: Indian sociology may adopt and develop unique research methods to address complicated social concerns. This includes combining qualitative and quantitative methods and using new data collection and processing technology.

Maintaining sociological study integrity and credibility requires ethical research techniques, especially when dealing with sensitive themes.

Enhancing Policy Impact:

Policy Engagement: Indian sociologists can affect policy by conducting evidence-based research on social issues. Positive social transformation requires strengthening policymaker relationships and incorporating research findings into public policy.

Public Awareness: Promoting sociological research and its implications can boost its relevance and impact on social issues.

Promote Diversity and Inclusivity:

Expanding Research Scope: Research should continue to focus on marginalized and underserved communities. Indian sociology may improve society by tackling inclusivity and social justice.

In a diverse and multicultural nation like India, research must be culturally sensitive and relevant.

Indian sociology has adapted to the shifting socio-cultural and political landscape. The discipline has the capacity to address local and global social concerns, contribute to international sociological theory, and influence policy and practice. Indian sociology can continue to shape society by adopting new methods, tackling new issues, and building global and local links.

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