

Sociology

Brainstorm: What is Sociology?

- Study of humans being social
- how you act based on who is around you

Brainstorm: Topics included in Sociology

family suicide
where we live religion
friends/type of friends
poverty

An Introduction to Sociology

What is Sociology?

- The social science discipline that looks at the development and structure of human society and how it works
- Examines transitions in society, challenges, and changes
- Study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behaviour

Micro and Macro

- Microsociology: Study of small groups within a society

E.g. What role does religion play in the life of an individual?

- Macrosociology: Analyzes societal norms on a large scale

E.g. What role does religion play in society?



What subjects does sociology examine:

- The structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts

All human behaviour is social.

As a result, the subject of sociology ranges from:

- The intimate family
- The hostile mob
- Organized crime
- Schools
- Religious cults
- Divisions of race
- Gender relations
- Social class
- Sociology of work
- Sociology of sports



Roles

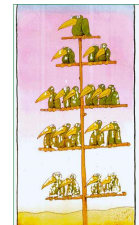
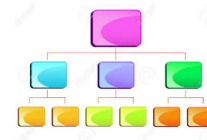
- We all play certain roles in our society
- Status is the term used to describe our position within an institution
- E.g. Superintendent, vice-principal, principal, teacher, student
- On any given day we can play many different roles in society
- E.g. a parent can drive their kids to school, then go to work and teach their students, and then be a student at night for an online course



Hierarchy

- The ranking system used in any particular environment based on authority or power
- Each position or role requires a certain type of expertise which is valued by society
- In order to distinguish between these roles, people are expected to dress and act in a certain way

Medieval Feudal Hierarchy



Hierarchy

- Principal - Professional/proper lengths
- Vice-principal - Fair, mature, nice, understanding
- Department Head - Professional
- Teacher - Knowledgeable.
- Student - be on time - meet dress code

Norms and Values

- Values: Society carries with it a system of values. A particular set of values are assigned to each role. The practitioners of these roles are expected to accept and internalize these values.
- Norms: These are rules set out for a particular role that are considered standard behaviour
- E.g. Catholic priests are expected to be celibate.



Beware: Canadian Values Practiced Here!

Our Beliefs
 We treat everyone equally - regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, culture, religion, age, sex, marital status, disability, ...

Norms and Values Include:

- Folkways: Minor customs of behaviour. Violation might turn heads, but little more.
E.g. Eating a chocolate bar with a knife and fork
- Morals: Established practices of a society rather than it's written laws.
E.g. Cheating is bad, but cheating on your husband with his brother is immoral.
- Rules: These are developed by cultures based on their system of values.
E.g. You must ask permission before leaving the classroom.
- Laws: Rules that have legal consequences.
E.g. You will be punished for running a red light.
- Taboos: The most serious violation of norms/laws
E.g. Incest



Deviance

- Any behaviour that is different from the societal norm. It is deviant because we, as a society, do not accept it.
- Deviance can range from simple eccentricities to behaviour that harms society.
- "We must not say that an action shocks the common conscience because it is criminal, but rather that it is criminal because it shocks the common conscience."



Justice & Rehabilitation

- Sociology has a strong link with the justice system
- A fundamental component of modern imprisonment is rehabilitation, or trying to re-educate and re-socialize inmates so that they can grow to accept society's values and norms

