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Q2(a)

From the viewpoint of growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences ?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2021 · Sociology GS 1 · 20 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Core demand of the question

- From the viewpoint of growing importance of multidisciplinary, how do you relate sociology to other social sciences?
- Keep the elaboration within a 20-mark length

Revision summary

Sociology maps patterned relations among institutions; neighbours cut one axis.

Comte, Durkheim, Weber, and Marx named the joint object in different ways.

COVID-19, supply chains, and capabilities force shared problems.

Census and NFHS are already cross-science files.

Multidisciplinary is complementary method, not a takeover.

Introduction

- **Multidisciplinary is forced by problems that no single faculty owns:** pandemic, climate, inequality, and digital labour. Sociology relates to other social sciences as the science of patterned relations among institutions. It borrows cuts of price, office, mind, and past, and returns a map of how those cuts hang together.

Body

Sociology's object beside specialists

- Auguste Comte placed sociology at the peak of the sciences of order and progress. The hierarchy is dated; the claim that society is a joint object is not.
- Emile Durkheim fixed social facts as external and constraining. That object is not a residual heap of what economics leaves out.
- Max Weber defined interpretative study of social action. Meaning is shared with history and anthropology, not owned by one department.
- Karl Marx made the mode of production a social relation, so economics is already sociological if it is honest.

Neighbours in a multidisciplinary problem

- Economics specialises in allocation. Sociology asks how caste, gender, and informality ration who may sell labour, as gig platforms and unpaid care show.

- Political science specialises in the state. Sociology studies the social bases of parties, pressure groups, and everyday domination.
- Psychology takes the person. Sociology takes roles, crowds, and institutions in which that person is trained, from Mead's self to **Census** literacy.
- History narrates unique sequences. Sociology seeks types, while using 2020 lockdown as a historical shock that reveals structure.
- Social anthropology shares kinship, ritual, and fieldwork. Large files such as the **Census** and NFHS are already joint demographic-sociological resources.

Why multidisciplinary has grown

- **COVID-19** mixed epidemiology, the state, household care, and migrant work. No one science could write the event.
- Global supply chains mix trade theory with Durkheimian interdependence and **Wallerstein's** world-system core and periphery.
- **Amartya Sen's capabilities sit across economics and sociology:** what people can do is socially organised.

The useful relation

- Multidisciplinary work is not a smoothie of jargon. Each science keeps a method; sociology's part is structure, inequality, and meaning.
- The limit is complementary explanation, not a takeover, and not common sense dressed as "holism".

Flow diagram

Pandemic climate inequality -> Multidisciplinary
 Sociology joint map -> Economics
 Sociology joint map -> Political science
 Sociology joint map -> Psychology
 Sociology joint map -> History
 Sociology joint map -> Anthropology
 Multidisciplinary -> Sociology joint map

Conclusion

Growing multidisciplinary does not dissolve sociology. It makes the joint map more necessary. Relate sociology to economics, political science, psychology, history, and anthropology as specialised cuts of one social life, in the line of **Comte**, **Durkheim**, **Weber**, and **Marx**, and on files such as **Census**, NFHS, and lockdown migration.

Facts & figures

Comte

Named sociology and treated it as the science that completes the study of order and change.

Sen

Capabilities approach: development as freedoms that are socially distributed, not only as income.

Wallerstein

World-systems analysis already joins history, economics, and sociology of the core-periphery.

COVID-19

A multidisciplinary event of biology, state, household, and migrant labour that sociology reads as structure.

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