

Relevance ^{to} of the Question

Structure of answer

content

Presentation

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- 2) G.H. Mead's idea is compiled in 'Mind, Self and Society'. He was associated with Chicago School and his works are heavily influenced by Philosophy of Pragmatism & Psychological Behaviourism.

Mead gives an evolutionary, non-dualistic view of Mind & Body, subjective and objective, positivistic & non positivistic ideas.

He starts by listing how society is shaped by interactions among 2 or more individuals mediated by symbol. This becomes the crux of his Symbolic Interactionism.

SELF & SOCIETY

He says self is shaped by the process of reflective consciousness. Self develops when an individual evaluates himself in the way society looks at him.

This was inspired by CH Cooley's 'Looking Glass Self'. Self develops in 3 stages
Preparatory stage → Play stage → game stage

In his idea of self, there are two elements 'I' & 'Me'.

I	Me
- storehouse of <u>change & novelty</u>	- storehouse of <u>novelty & conformity</u>
- <u>unaware</u> of this part	- inspired from <u>generalised other.</u>
- creative	- status quoist

SHORTCOMINGS:-

* ~~did~~ paid little focus on influence of genetics in one's act.

* focus on cooperation between I & Me & ignores conflict one faces deeply.

* seen as ahistorical because he describes social acts as discreet episodes.

Applicability to Indian Society

→ The Indian society is 'deeply patriarchal' and this can be seen in development of self where ~~it~~ is in 'play stage' & 'game stage' children internalise these values. Similarly it can be observed in 'values of family bond' among children which they learn from generalised other.

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2. Both ~~Be~~ Parsons & Weber studied Social Action but they provided ~~are~~ entirely different perspectives

Parson's Social Action	Weber's Social Action
1. From a <u>structural functional perspective</u>	1. From an <u>Interpretative view</u> .
2. Idea contained in book <u>Social Structure of Social Action</u>	2. Ideas in the book <u>Methodology of Social Sciences</u> .
3. <u>Social Action</u> is important but <u>society</u> should be studied in terms of <u>structures</u> .	3. Social action as the <u>subject matter</u> of <u>sociology</u> .

Despite the differences, Parson's was heavily influenced by Weberian Theory of Social Action as evident :-

- 1) He took 'Motivational orientation' idea from Weber's Zweckrational.
- 2) He took 'Expressive Social Action' idea from Weber's Affective Social Action.

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Parsons is believed to have added the element of value orientation in ~~xxxx~~ Social Action. He took inspiration from Emile Durkheim for this.

Thus, Parsons expanded the Weberian idea of Social Action by adding elements of aspirations, constraints and values.

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3. Merton has examined the idea of deviance in his book Social Structure & Anomie.

In this book, he examines deviance being a response to 'anomie'

Anomie arises because of discrepancy in culturally prescribed goals and structurally available means.

As a result, people take to various adaptive responses.

The 'Adapt.' → Structurally available means

	Yes	NO	
Yes goals	Conformist (Student)	Innovator (Thief)	
No goals	Ritualist (Bureaucrat)	Retreatist (Drug addict)	New
			New Rebel (Social reformer)

Thus, he lists Bureaucrats as ritualist because they fail to understand goals while focus only on means. This can be seen in Red Tapism, corruption etc.

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But to deal with complexities due to globalisation, Neo liberal economic order and to fulfil the mandate of a welfare state we need 'rebel' in form of bureaucrats.

A rebel bureaucrat should :-

- 1) Set new rules in form of good work culture for his subordinates.
- 2) He should set new ^{goals} ~~rules~~ while policy making to reach the last mile.
- 3) He should set new & innovative methods like ICT, e governance for people friendly administration.

Thus the time is right for bureaucrats to be a rebel.

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4. Marx's idea of society is closely related to his idea of the Dialectic Materialism.

Thesis + Antithesis → Synthesis

So, the 'conflict', i.e., dialectics is of paramount importance in his idea of social change.

In the book Historical & Political Manuscripts, as well as Das Kapital Marx conceive change as:-

1) change from one mode of Production to other

i.e., from Primitive Communism to Capitalism, this was a result of class struggle between the haves of the ~~new~~ old system and have nots who were supported by haves of the emerging system.

For Marx,

History of Mankind is History of Class Struggle

2) He sees change of class from in itself and class for itself will lead to real class struggle, which

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is necessary for the social change, i.e. socialism and communism.

He however, mentions there are certain pre-requisites, i.e. mature conditions necessary for this social change.

- 1) class conscious working class.
- 2) capacity to organise
- 3) Ideology
- 4) leadership
- 5) a common enemy.

His theory of social change is criticised on the following grounds:-

- 1) Karl Popper - economic reductionist theory.
- 2) Simmel - conflicts have its own importance
- 3) a utopian idea of communism arrived.
- 4) Too much emphasis on conflict, while ignored consensus.

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5. Durkheim defines suicide as any cause of death, caused by active or passive, direct or indirect action of the victim which he knows will produce this result.

In the seminal work Le Suicide he studies suicide as a social fact whose causes must be social

- i) Marital Status
- ii) Sex
- iii) locality
- iv) Religion etc

He used Multivariate Analysis to find the correlation.

Suicide ~~does~~ occurs due to interplay of forces of integration & forces of regulation.

1) INTEGRATION

- i) High - Altruistic suicide (eg. Kamikaze bomber)
- ii) Low - Fatalistic suicide (eg. Farmers after crop loss)
Egoist

2) REGULATION

- i) High → Fatalistic
Anomic Farmers unable to pay back loan
- ii) Low - Anomic (eg. Business men during Boom or Bust)

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Reasons for farmer's suicide are:-

1) unable to pay back loan from bank or moneylender. - high regulation.

2) crop loss

3) lack of financial literacy.

✶

Remedies of the same can be seen as:

i) crop insurance schemes like PM Fasal Bima Yojana.

ii) PM KISAN - ₹6000 annually.

iii) support for extension services etc.

Thus Durkheim's framework can also have contemporary relevance.