



Ques. Explain G.H. Mead's ideas and their shortcomings.
 How can Mead's ideas be applied to Indian society?

G.H. Mead was a symbolic interactionist and his theory was based on use of "significant symbols used by people to survive in society"

Socialization through 'play stage' and 'game stage'

- (1) Play stage - children imitate 'significant others' usually parents and teachers.
- (2) Game stage - children become 'generalised others' and learn to take the role of other members of the society.

Self = 'I' + 'Me'

G.H. Mead also theorizes that while 'Me' is the conformist part that ensures it conforms to society, 'I' is the creative part which brings dynamism in an individual's personality.

Shortcomings

- (1) Economic materialism overlooked
 (2) Feminist stand is ignored

Mead's ideas to Indian society

- (1) Understanding socialization patterns - "Girl children love kitchen set, while boy children like guns etc" \Rightarrow this happens due to imitation of parents (not biological)
- (2) Language, symbols important tool of communication
Ex - In railways, only uniformed Ticket checker can ask for tickets of passengers, otherwise s/he may be maulled to death [Here Uniform of TT = significant symbol.]
- (3) caste system - When kids see ceremonies like "Janeu ceremony" (sacred thread) their caste consciousness rises.

Thus, G.H. Mead's theory helps in understanding the Indian Society through a better sociological lens.



Q2. How is understanding of social action of Parson and Heber different.

Social Action is a tool to understand sociology using discrete concepts and ensure objectivity in research.

Max Heber described social action as that occurring in a social situation between two actors and both attach meaning to it and respond based on the meaning understood.

It is supposed to be reflexive of the fact of what meaning it understood.

Talcott Parson gave social action as part of systems viz - Personal, social, cultural, and introduced the flow of energy and ideas in it.

Parsons introduced the concept of
AGIL - Adaptation, Goal attainment,
Integration and Latency

Parsons propounded how actions
were based on role differentiation as
controlled by the systems present in
the society.

Thus, both Weber and Parsons enriched
the body of knowledge of sociology in
bringing about diversity of viewpoints.



Ans 3: R.K. Merton in his theory of Deviance expresses, non-conformity due to various sets of reaction to socially acceptable goals and culturally acceptable means.

Merton has described bureaucrats as situationalistic => they use culturally acceptable means, which might not lead to the required means.

A classic case of this would be red tapism, arising out of the Ivory tower where, all rules and regulations would be used (means), even if finally work doesn't actually get done (the end of social welfare)

A solution to this can be to change to 'rebel' => to produce the end, without taking the routine means.

Turning into rebel would ensure that social solidarity would be ensured as meeting goals would ensure justice delivery to the poorest.

Ex - For a poor person, even if her biometric aren't matching she should be given ration. This will surely create a wave of latent functions and will lead to efficient public service delivery.

To quote Weber here, Iron cage of rationality should be prevented from getting diseuhanted from the world, by enforcing a moral code of ethic which inspires them to be a rebel.



Ans 4 For Karl Marx, social conflict is the motor of social change and ensures that internal contradictions of society leading to changing Mode of Production.

SOCIAL CONFLICT - essential element of social change

Karl Marx sees internal contradictions between the 'haves' and 'have nots' of society in most 'Modes of Production' (MOP). Post Primitive Communism, with the advent of private property, two classes arise → haves - master ↑ internal contradictions
→ have nots - slave ↓

With changing Material conditions and help of new haves - feudal lord, New relations of production emerge → feudal lord (have)
→ serf (have not)

The dialectics again lead to change of relations of Production and gives

rise to
 → bourgeoisie (haves)
 → Proletariat (have nots)
 ↑ maximum contradiction, alienation

The conflict here become so severe, that leads to Dictatorship of Proletariat, as they revert their labour power's misuse by the haves [utilize surplus value for their own profit]

From this stage Marx declares the coming up of Socialism and here all are made equally liable for profit, but state's presence is still here.

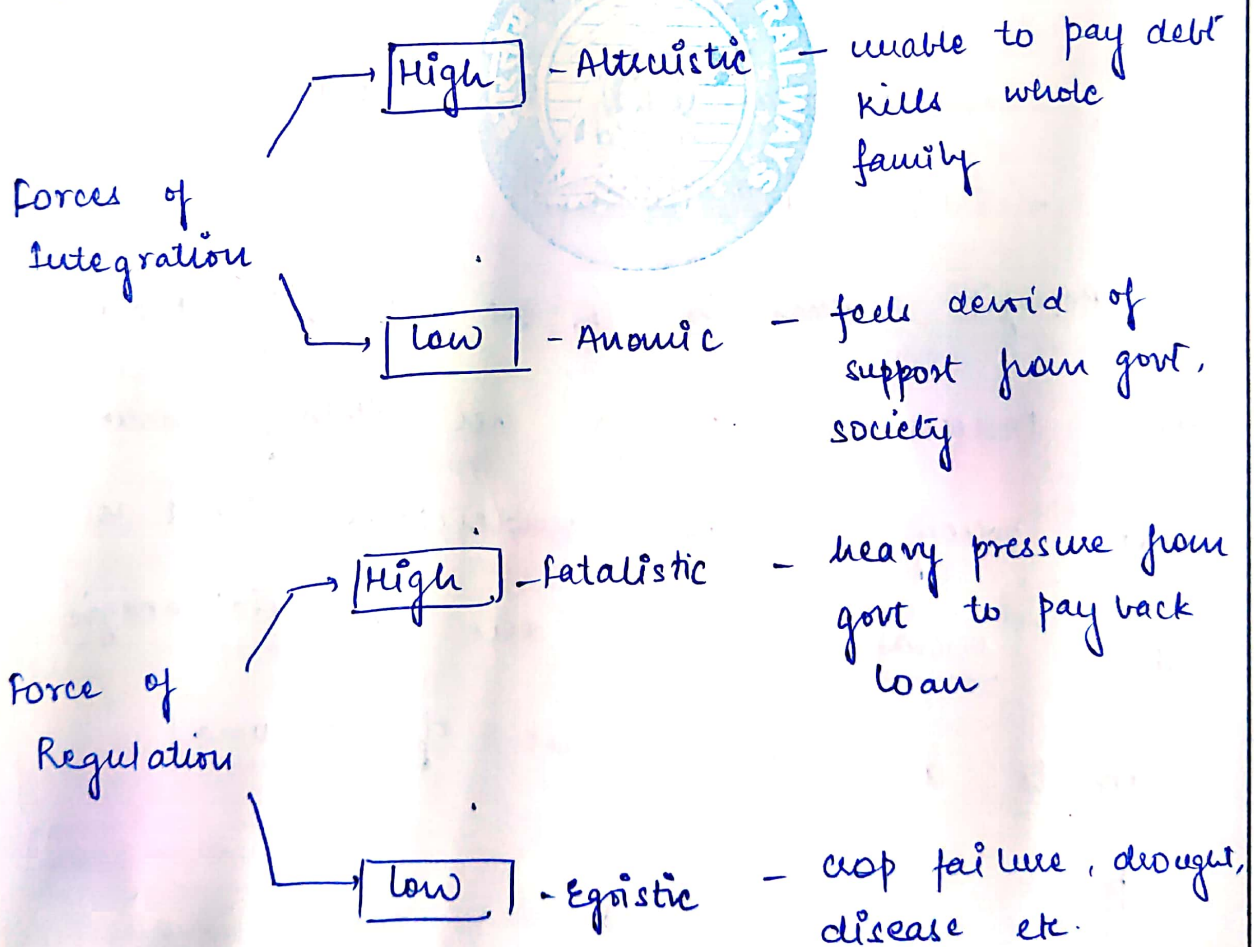
Post this communism will arise, class conflict will cease to happen and so will history.

Thus, Marx views social conflict as an essential element in social change which acts as its main driving force.



Ans 5 Durkheim's theory of suicide in 'Le Suicide' was a major breakthrough from past theories which were psychological. Durkheim ensured suicide was studied as a social fact using concomitant analysis and multivariate analysis.

Farmer suicide - 2568 suicides in 2019-21 (NCRB): Analysis



Ways out of Arhat suicide -

- (1) Cooperative movement should be made stronger.
- (2) Benefits of green revolution should manifestly reach the poor farmers.
- (3) MSP regime needs an uplift. Farm loan waiver not a panacea.
- (4) Important to have self-sufficient farmers
 - enhance bargaining power
 - credit availability through PSL
 - SHG-bank linkage

(5) Benefit reaches to all, not just highest class

Thus, Durkheim through his theory ensured

that policy makers understand that is

it is social construct due to suicidogenic

currents and not because of personal

impulses.