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Q1. Discuss how counter enlightenment provided goal for sociology.

Ans: Sociology emerged in the intellectual, material and political conditions of the 19th century Europe.

Counter-Enlightenment

① Led by philosophers like Edmund Burke, Louis de Bonald and Maistre.

② They kept society above the individual.

③ As per Jürgen Zeitlin, counter enlightenment theorists thought that recent changes from French Revolution, Industrial revolution will destroy the society.

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④ Their concern was social order and harmony by preserving traditional social institutions of family, kinship, patriarchy etc.

Goal for sociology

① Comte, Durkheim also searched for social order. eg → organic solidarity in modern societies as per Durkheim.

② As per Robert Nisbet, Durkheim's sociology traced change from 'corporate egoism' to 'individual egoism'.

③ Universal laws propounded for bringing back order.

Illumines Enlightenment ideas of scientific temper progress orientation were a significant influence seen as Positivism.

Q2: Elaborate the main tenets of interpretative perspective in sociology.

Ans2: Interpretative perspective was propounded by Max Weber. It was a reaction to Positivism.

Tenets of interpretative perspective

① It focusses on inner meanings and motives of actors.

(Eg) → Weber saw 'this worldly asceticism' as a meaning of Protestantism attached by actors.

② It attempts at understanding rather than explaining. Wittgenstein focusses on ~~express~~ experience, expression & comprehension.

③ It is accomodative of subjectivity.
(Eg) → Phenomenology studies common sense.

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Major interpretative methodologies

- ① Verstehen (Weber) - Understanding of meanings by getting into the shoes of actor.
- ② Symbolic interactionism (Mead) - Thoughts with symbols give interaction.
- ③ Phenomenology (Schutz) - No objective reality beyond perception of actors.

Critique

- ① It ignores ~~out~~ external constraints as seen in social facts of Durkheim.
- ② Marxists believe in criticality of economy, which is not taken. Interpretative brought an idealist approach combined with realist.

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Q3: In the context of recent pandemic, how do you think the scope of sociology has evolved. Discuss.

Ans3: Sociology is the study of society, its institutions, actors and their inter-relationships.

Scope of Sociology

① As per synthetic school, it is wide study of all social phenomena.

↳ a) Durkheim → Social morphology
→ Social physiology
→ General sociology.

② As per formal school, it is restricted to form, not content. Only understand and not explain.

eg → Tonnies → Gemeinschaft & Gesellschaft

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Change of scope in pandemic

- ① Understanding of differential impact
on ~~so~~ different societies of pandemic
eg → African societies ~~was~~ received
vaccines later due to poverty
& dependency.
- ② Pandemic's impact on subaltern
sections. eg → violence against women
→ job loss of ~~the~~ migrants
- ③ Role of technology & social change
→ eg work from home & family
→ online learning & education
→ social media & children.
- ④ Role of institutions like State,
bureaucracy etc.
Sociology is a dynamic
discipline evolving with society.

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Q4: What are the limitations of quantitative methods of social research. Critically analyse.

Ans4: Quantitative methods aim at understanding and explaining the quantitative (numerical) properties of a phenomena. (Eg) → voting percentage.

Limitations of quantitative methods

① They do not in depth perspective, giving a superficial idea.

Eg → questionnaire on number of members can't tell patriarchy in household.

② Their validity is questionable as they happen in unnatural settings.

③ They suffer from biases like →

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- Interviewer bias - subjectivity
- Social desirability bias.
- Non response bias - only certain respond

(4) Cicouzel says that interviews are essentially short so partial perspective.
Pauline V Young says response depends on suggest.

However, they also have advantages:-

- ① Generalisation is easier if correct sampling is done.
- ② Cost, time investment is lesser.
- ③ Analysis is more objective, scientific, increasing reliability.

Quantitative methods must be used in conjunction with qualitative methods as suggested by Gunnar Myrdal.

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Qs:

What is Triangulation and how is it used in research methods?

Ans:

Triangulation is used to bridge the gap between quantitative and qualitative methods.

Triangulation as per Norman Denzin can be of :-

Triangulation is the mixing and matching of multiple methods, researchers etc.

Use in research

① As per Norman Denzin :-

i) multiple methods - ~~as~~ eg quantitative to gauge distribution of households and qualitative to see members interaction in a village.

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(Survey + Participant Observation)

ii) multiple data sets - eg one gained by interviews and other by focus group discussion.

iii) multiple researchers - eg ~~one~~ two researchers study the same village.

Tepastalan ← Robert Redfield study
Devar Lewis study.

iv) multiple theories - eg conflict analysis vs functionalist analysis of religion.

Triangulation along with facilitation (one method assisting other method) and complementarity (study studying different aspects of reality) must be used.