

TRIBHUN UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF MANAGENT
Office of the Dean
2011

Full Marks: 60
Time: 3hrs

BIM/Second Semester / SOC 201: Sociology

Candidates are required to answer the questions in their own words as practicable.

Group “A”

Brief Answer Questions:

[10×1=10]

1. Define sociology of organizations.
2. Mention any four argents of socialization.
3. Distinguish between work and leisure.
4. What is material culture?
5. Make a distinction between cooperation and conflict.
6. Enlist four features of family.
7. Give an example to show the relationship of role with status.
8. What is polity?
9. List four examples of deviance in organizations.
10. Define gender.

Group “B”

Short Answer Questions:

[6×5=30]

11. Elaborate upon the subject matter of Sociology.
12. Illustrate the features of kinship system with suitable examples.
13. Discuss the caste dimension of stratification in the context of Nepali society.
14. Trace out the basic assumption of postmodern perspective.
15. Compare and contrast social change with cultural change.
16. Discuss the dynamics of social capital.

Group “C”

Comprehensive Answer Questions:

[4×5=20]

17. Read the following case carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The socio-economic framework of most South-Asian countries is based on agriculture since a considerable number of people living in such areas still depend upon it for their survival. Out of these nations, India is one of those many which faces a crisis in the field of agriculture. Because of this, many measures have been taken to provide relief and many governmental, non-governmental and international organizations have also contributed for its betterment.

In 2005, a news story was published in a leading international daily which blamed economic reforms for the rise in suicide levels of farmers in Andhra Pradesh. The headline of the story was “Free trade behind India suicide epidemic” and it covered a report by Christian Aid, a London- based charity organization. The story said that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, supported by the United Kingdom government,

had suggested reform principles because of which a large number of farmers of the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh committed suicide.
<https://genuinenotes.com>

According to the report, the problems had started when India's central and state governments tried to cut the budget to deal with the 1991 economic crisis; a big budget-cut was made in the money assigned to fertilizers and agriculture. After the new budget/reform was assigned, farmers in Andhra Pradesh started growing cash crops instead of traditional food crops in the hopes of earning more. Unfortunately, as monsoon did not arrive on time, all of their crops withered and died. Instead of improving their condition, they had to spend large amounts to pay off the loans which they had borrowed while buying the expensive seeds. They had no crops to sell or eat, no money to pay their debts and thus, no other alternative except committing suicide. As a result, from only 200 deaths in 1999 the number jumped to 2115 in the year 2004.

However, after reading the news, many critics pointed out major errors in the report. The biggest mistake was found to be in the data used by Christian Aid, which had been randomly taken out from different official suicide statistics and were not properly analyzed. Scholars argued that the reporters had not considered various other important factors which could have caused the death rate to rise and that more detailed and in-depth researches should be carried out.

Three years later, with the help of similar studies, a 'loan waiver scheme' focusing on small and marginalized farmers was introduced by the government of India under Union Budget 2008 as an attempt to alleviate their financial problems.

Questions:

- a. Why is the socio-economic framework of South-Asian countries based on agriculture? Explain.
- b. What sort of data analysis problems were there in the Christian Aid report? How would the "various other important factors" affect rise in death rates?
- c. Why do you think the reform principles and the budget-cuts did not improve the situation of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh? Give your answer from the viewpoint of sociological perspective(s).
- d. In your opinion, will 'loan waiver scheme' of 2008 improve the situation of the farmers? Why or why not?