



By Dr Huma Hassan

Subject: Sociology Paper 1

Today's Topic

Sociology as Science and Research methods and Analysis

Objectives to Understand

- How Sociology is science.
- To understand different Scientific methods and methodologies
- To have understand facts, value and objectivity
- To understand various approaches like Positivism, Interactionism, Phenomenology and Ethnomethodology etc
- How to apply scientific methods on conducting Sociological research

Study Materials

- Refer to ppt and pdf

Thinkers of the Topic

- Emile Durkheim
- Max Weber
- Thomas Kuhn
- Alfred Shutz
- Harnold Garfinkle

PYQ

- What is a subjective method in social research? Examine Focus Group Discussion (FGD) as a technique for data collection, with suitable examples **upsc 2011**
- Fact, Value and Objectivity **Upsc 2012**
- Fact and Value **Upsc 2011**
- Critically examine positivistic approach in sociological studies **UPSC 2013**

- In what way is the interpretative method different from the positivist approach in the study of social phenomena **20 marks,Upsc 2014**
- How is objectivity different from value neutrality? Discuss with reference to Weber's views on methodology? **10 marks, upsc 2014**
- How is sociological approach to human actions different from that of Psychological approach? **10 marks, upsc 2014**
- In what way biographies could be used to study social life. **10 marks, upsc 2014**
- Which research technique would be most suitable for the study of consumer behavior and its social correlates? Explain **20 marks, upsc 2014**

- Examine the problems of maintaining objectivity and value neutrality in Social Science research. **20 marks, Upsc 2015**
- Is Sociology a science? Give a reason for your answer? **10 marks, upsc 2015**

- Non-positivist methodology is essential for understanding human behavior. Discuss. **10 marks Upsc 2015**
- Discuss the relevance of historical methods in the study of society. **10 marks, upsc 2015**
- What are variables? Discuss their role in experimental research. **10 marks, upsc 2015**
- Why is random sampling said to have more reliability and validity in sociological research? **20 marks, upsc 2015**

- What is "Value-free sociology"? Clarify **10, marks, upsc 2016**
- Analyze the importance of qualitative methods in Social research. **10 marks, upsc 2016**
- Describe the postulates of scientific method. How far are these followed in Sociological research? **20, marks, upsc 2016**
- "Hypothesis is a statement of the relationship between two or more variables. Elucidate by giving examples of poverty and illiteracy. **20 marks, upsc 2016**
- Examine Ethnomethodological and Phenomenological perspectives as critique of Positivism

10 marks, Upsc

2017

- Illustrate with examples the significance of variables in Sociological research .

10 marks,upsc

2017

- Examine the basic postulates of positivism and post-positivism. **20, marks, upsc**

2017

- Elaborate the main tenets of interpretive perspective in Sociology. **10, marks, upsc2017**

- Discuss distinct Sociological method used by Emile Durkheim in his study of “suicide”.

20 marks,

Upsc, 2017

- Examine epistemological foundations of qualitative methods of social science research.

10 marks, 2017

- How can one resolve the issue of reliability and validity in the context of sociological research in inequality. **10 marks, Upsc 2017**

- Is non-positivist methodology scientific? Illustrate **20 marks,2018 upsc**

- Distinguish between quantitative and qualitative techniques of data collection with suitable examples from Indian Society. **20 marks,upsc 2018**

- Explain with examples, explanatory and exploratory designs of social science research.

10 marks, upsc 2018

- Explain the probability sampling strategies with examples. **10 marks, upsc 2018**

- Discuss the importance of interpretative understanding of social phenomena and explain its interpretation. **20 marks, upsc 2019**

- Bring out the significance of ethnography social science research. **20 marks, upsc 2019**

- Is sociology a value free science? Discuss **10 marks, upsc 2020**

- Methodology is a system of rules, principles and procedures,which form scientific investigation. Comment **10 marks, upsc 2020**

- Discuss the importance and sources of hypothesis in social research. **10 marks, upsc 2020**

- Analyze the trend and weakness of social survey methods in social research. **10 marks, 2020**

- Phenomenological perspectives in sociology reject many of the assumptions of positivism. Comment. **20 marks, upsc 2020**

- Do you think ethnomethodology helps us in getting reliable and valid data? Justify your answer. **10 marks, upsc 2021**

- Discuss the challenges involved in collecting data through census methods.

10 marks, upsc 2021