

B.A. PART – III (SOCIOLOGY)
Paper – VI (Urban Sociology)

Topic – Scope of Urban Sociology
Collage – Magadh Mahila Colleage, P.U,
(Department of Sociology)

By: Dr. Archan Kumari
Email ID :
archankumari706@gmail.com

SCOPE OF URBAN SOCIOLOGY

➤ **Leaving objective: -**

- To understand the scope of Urban Sociology.

➤ **Introduction:-**

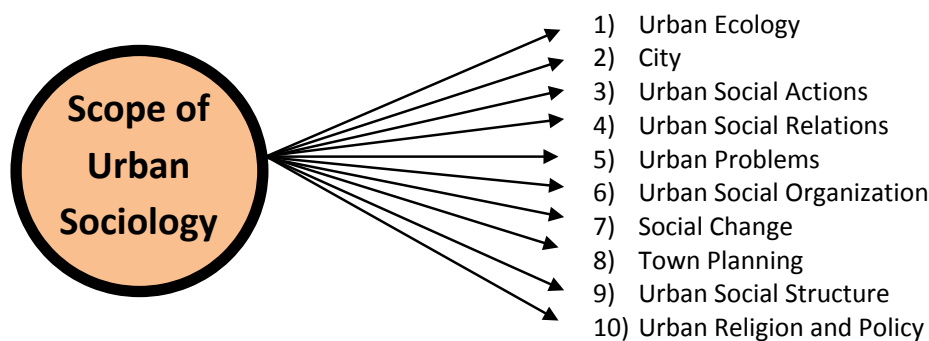
Urban sociology is branch of sociology that seeks to study life in cities and their impact on society's development. Urban sociology is a study of the impact of city life on man's social action, social relations, social institutions and types of civilization derived from and based on urban modes of living. It is a special study of the relationship between man and his environment wherein man becomes the conditioning factor over environment.

- **According to Erickson** – “As a social scientist he is interested in the whole complex situation all the inter-relationship that make-up urban social life. He deals not with one but with all aspects of the urban social universe.”
- **According to H.T. Hobhouse:-** “Urban sociology is the specialized study of city life and problems.”

So, urban sociology is the study of cities and towns. The scientific study of the problems which crop up in the city life as a result of the development of the industrialization is the main subject – matter of urban sociology Apart from it, the study of city-communities and organization etc.

➤ **Scope of Urban sociology:-**

The scope of urban sociology is very vast and multidimensional urban sociology relies on the related sciences and borrows from history, economics, social psychology, public administration and social work. As stated already, the subject matter of sociology is cities and their growth and it deals with such problems like planning and development of cities, traffic regulations, public water works, social hygiene, sewerage works, housing, beggary, juvenile delinquency, and crime so on. Thus as urbanism is many-sided so is urban sociology. The scope of urban sociology becomes wider as it not only tries to study the urban setup and facts but also tries to give suggestions to solve problems arising out of dynamic nature of the society. The scope of the urban sociology can be studied under the following heads:-



- 1) **Urban Ecology:-** The term ecology is derived from botany and zoology. Just as the life of trees, plants and different living organisms is affected by the conditions around them, similarly the various conditions related to the cities also affect the lives of the residents there. In Urban ecology, we include characteristics of the city, population base, expansion of industries, hygiene, facilities, nature of interpersonal relationships, environmental clutter and community life.
- 2) **City:** - City forms the central joint of urban sociology. Like many other sociological categories, the city is an abstraction composed of concrete entities like residences and shops and an assortment of many functions. The city has been defined according to several points of view. A place is legally made a city by a declaration by a competent authority. Attempts to define a city, statistically, have failed due to the absence of a representative measure. Others have defined a city as a place which has become so large that

people no longer know each other. Sorokin and Zimmerman enumerate eight characteristics in which the urban world differs from the rural world.

These are:-

- a. Occupation
- b. Environment
- c. Size of community
- d. Density of population
- e. Heterogeneity
- f. Social differentiation and stratification
- g. Mobility and
- h. System of interactions

- 3) Urban Social Actions:-** Urban social actions guided by urban social relationships are secondary and specific in nature. They are segmentary in character and mainly aim at the fulfillment of a single function of an urbanite's life. Thus, while in rural areas imitation of one's father's work is work and education combined in one, in urban centers specialized and formal education paves the way for one's career in a technical job.
- 4) Urban Social Relations:-** Urban social relations are many and diverse and formal in character. Urban social institutions based on these are again specialized agencies which serve particular functions, say education through schools, law enforcement by the city government etc. elaborate procedures are laid down to fluidify the activities of these institutions and membership is through necessity and availability of the service. Thus, size, density and heterogeneity and specialization are the typically urban characteristics. Urban sociology studies human social life in relation to these factors.
- 5) Urban Problems:-** On the other side of the coin we have novel and peculiar urban problems which are necessary concomitants of urbanization, such as housing, sanitation, slums, provisions and recreation, pollution of all types, fluidity of the law and order situation, increase in crime, vice and deviance, various physical and mental disorders, increasing suicides and divorces, traffic problems, zoning anomalies, etc. The study of all these forms is an important corollary of the study of urban sociology.
- 6) Urban Social Organization:-** According to Park and Burgess, the social organization of the city has a special place in the study area of urban sociology. Social organization is formed by a particular type of family system, the nature of different groups, the basis for determining the status and role of the people, kinship system, nature of class system, etc. Under this, impersonal relationship takes precedence over personal relationships.
- 7) Social Change:-** The study area of urban sociology includes all those subjects which are related to the changes taking place in urban society. Where many

reforms, encourage social reforms, the same changes also cause various problems in the cities. Urban Sociology includes the study of the causes and effects of all such changes.

8) Town Planning:- In the field of urban sociology to organizations which understand and manage the urban needs.

9) Urban Social Structure:- The study of urban social structure is also considered essential in the field of urban sociology.

10) Urban Religion and Polity:- In urban sociology, the religious structure of the city the nature of religious behaviors, the working of political parties and their impact on the masses are studies.

➤ **CONCLUSION:**

Thus, we see that the scope of urban sociology studies the nature and characteristics of a city. Its size, density and characters of its people, its special pattern and changes thereon, the peculiar type of relations, thereon, the peculiar type of relations, and social integrations found in the urban miles, the nature of primary school institutions such as family in an urban setting, the novel institutions of commercial reactions, educations, etc.