

B.A.PART-I(SOCIOLOGY)	
Paper-I(Principles of Sociology)	
Topic- Sociology and Anthropology College- MMC,P.U(Department of Sociology)	By: Dr. Archna kumari Email ID: archnakumari706@gmail.com

□ **Introduction:**

Sociology is the mother of all social sciences. Hence it has close and intimate relationship with Anthropology. The relationship is so close that Anthropologists like A.L. Kroeber consider Sociology and Anthropology as twin sisters. They often appear as two names for the same subject. R. Redfield recognizes the closeness between these two social sciences.

Sociology is a science of society. It studies behaviour of man in groups. The term Sociology has been derived from the Latin word ‘Socius’ means society, companion or association and the Greek word ‘logos’ means study or science. Hence Sociology is concerned with the association of human beings. It is a science that deals with social groups.

Similarly the term Anthropology is derived from tow Greek words ‘anthropos’ meaning man and ‘logos’ meaning study or science. Accordingly anthropology means study of man. As a science of man it deals with man, his works and behaviour. Anthropology studies the biological and cultural development of man. Anthropology has a wide field of study which can be broadly divided into four main divisions such as physical anthropology, archeology, cultural anthropology and social anthropology. Physical anthropology studies bodily characteristics of early man and thereby tries to understand both primitive and modern cultures. Archeology studies cultures of pre-historic period. This study facilitates sociologists to make a comparative study of present social structure. It is concerned with the early periods of human existence. It reconstructs the origin, spread and evolution of culture by examining the remains of the past societies. Social anthropology deals with the behaviour of man in social institutions. Social anthropology and sociology are one and the same. Evan Pritchard considers social anthropology as a branch of Sociology.

However there exists a very close and intimate relationship between Sociology and Anthropology. Both contribute to the growth of each other. Both have a symbiotic relationship. Anthropology studies primitive man in a pre-literate society whereas sociology studies man in modern complex societies. Anthropology is holistic in nature because it studies all aspects of man in a social setting; whereas this is not possible in sociology because of its vastness and complexity of modern life. However their close relationship can be known from the following.

Anthropology contributes to the growth of Sociology. Without the help of anthropology the study of Sociology can't be complete. It is a part of Sociology. Anthropology provides knowledge about ancient societies. To have a comprehensive understanding of present society Sociology takes the help of anthropology. Contributions of many Anthropologists like R.Brown, Linton, Mead and Pritchard enriches sociological knowledge. The origin of family, marriage, religion etc. can be better understood through anthropological knowledge. Sociology accepts the concepts like cultural area, cultural traits, and cultural lag etc. from anthropology. Sociology accepts the anthropological conclusion that racial superiority is not responsible for mental development. 'Thus Sociology is greatly benefited by anthropological studies.

Similarly, Sociology contributes richly towards the growth of anthropology. Anthropology accepts many concepts of Sociology. Research and contributions of many Sociologists like Emile Durkheim, Herbert Spencer is of great help to anthropology. Anthropologists greatly benefited by the Sociological researches. Ideas and conclusions of Sociology contribute to the research in anthropology.

Thus, there exists a close and intimate relationship between Sociology and Anthropology. Both study human society and both are concerned with all kinds of social groups like families, friends, tribes etc. Many of the ideas and concepts are used in both the discipline. Hence both are interrelated and interdependent. However, in spite of the inter-relationship, both differ from each other.

□ **Differences:**

- (1) Sociology is a science of society whereas anthropology is a science of man and his behaviour.
- (2) The scope of Sociology is very wide whereas the scope of Anthropology is very limited.
- (3) Sociology studies society as a whole whereas anthropology studies man as a part of society.
- (4) Sociology studies civilizations which are vast and dynamic on the other hand Anthropology studies cultures which are simple and primitive.

- (5) Sociology studies modern, civilized and complex societies whereas Anthropology studies ancient and pre-literate societies.
- (6) Sociology is concerned with social planning whereas anthropology is not concerned with social planning. On the basis of social planning sociology make suggestion for future but anthropology do not make any suggestion for future.
- (7) In the words of Kluckhohn, “The Sociological attitude has tended towards the Practical and Present, the anthropological towards pure understanding of the past.”
- Sociology and anthropology involve the systematic study of social life and culture in order to understand the causes and consequences of human action. Sociologists and anthropologists study the structure and processes of traditional cultures and modern, industrial societies in both Western and non-Western cultures.