

Indian Society: Sociological Perspectives

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Week-12

Lecture-60

Conclusion

Welcome back to the last class of this NPTEL course titled Indian Society, Sociological Perspective. This is a very brief concluding session with a couple of concluding remarks. I hope we covered a long distance. We started by trying to understand the history of studying Indian society through a sociological perspective. We started with the history of Sociology and anthropology in India and its connection with the colonial, with colonialism and colonial legacy.

Then, we covered significant themes and important theoretical perspectives that came to dominate the practice of Indian Sociology over the years. It is almost a 100 year story. If you remember, the first Sociology department was established at Bombay University almost 100 years ago. So, it is a very momentous task to summarize this transformation.

The important people dominate theoretical perspectives. The multiple methodological orientations used to capture these complexities in a single course are quite difficult. Yet, I believe that we have covered important people, important theoretical frameworks, and important debates in Indian Sociology. Of course, I might have missed quite a few. I might have not been able to incorporate a lot of important people, scholars and their works. But that was unavoidable given the kind of time restraint we had. I hope you would have appreciated the complex ways sociological knowledge was produced in India. There are multiple factors that shaped its trajectory- scholarly factors, non-scholarly and political factors, a host of ideological factors, and a host of factors very closely connected with power relations. So, Indian Sociology is also the story of a

complex relationship between power and knowledge. How Indian society was studied by certain sections of people by using certain perspectives is an important indication of how power worked in in specific forms in different contexts.

So, starting from the colonial period, through the Indological approach, structural functionalism, structuralism, Marxism , Dalit perspective, Subaltern perspective and gender perspectives. Multiple perspectives offered very different explanation to Indian society. Quite often competing and complementary to each other, these explanations provide a vivid and rich understanding and explanation of Indian society. And that is the beauty of a discipline like Sociology. I deliberately put the title as sociological perspectives, basically to convey the argument that Sociology does not provide you a singular perspective.

The discipline is so rich that there are multiple perspectives within a sociological perspective that offer quite a kind of competing explanations and explanatory frameworks for a given subject. So, that provides you with the complexity of sociological knowledge, and as I mentioned several times, Sociology is often seen as one of the most reflective societies, a reflective discipline which often undertakes a kind of very serious, very genuine reflection on its practice and then institutional practices and individuals and then biases and other things and then tries to correct that. That is why we have we have had very interesting debates about Dalit Sociology, standpoint theories, feminist theories and all these things.

I hope that you would have found this course useful, the sociological knowledge that is produced quite fascinating because it presents you with quite a lot of non-commonsensical or more sociologically rigorous understanding about the society in which we live and that enables us to be more sensitive to our own life and also to the lives of people around us. I hope the course was not very challenging or very difficult to follow., I have not used PowerPoint in every class. In some classes, I used the actual original essays. I would urge you to read these original essays because most of these materials are available online, and I would urge you to read the original material because reading original materials would really enhance your scholarly abilities and aptitudes.

Hope you would have understood and then followed this whole course and found it useful.

I am concluding and winding up the course. I wish you all the best. I hope all of you will take an examination of this course very seriously and will clear and appear for the examination and then clear the course. This will become an added qualification for you and, this course will be quite useful for you in various ways. So, all the best and see you later. Thank you.