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URBAN SOCIOLOGY

B.S.O.E.- 141

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Based on

C.B.C.S. (Choice Based Credit System) Syllabus of

I.G.N.O.U.

& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities

By: Naveeta Shokeen



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Content

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Question Paper–June-2024 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–December-2023 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–June-2023 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–December-2022 (Solved)	1
Question Paper–Exam Held in July-2022 (Solved)	1
Sample Question Paper–1 (Solved)	1
Sample Question Paper–2 (Solved)	1

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
--------------	-----------------------------------	-------------

BLOCK-1 : INTRODUCING URBAN SOCIOLOGY

1. Urban Sociology: Nature and Scope.....	1
2. Urbanization and Urbanism.....	11
3. City.....	23

BLOCK-2 : PERSPECTIVES IN URBAN SOCIOLOGY

4. Ecological Spatial.....	34
5. Political Economy.....	40

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Chapterwise Reference Book</i>	<i>Page</i>
6.	Perspectives in Urban Sociology-Network.....	53
7.	Cultural.....	61
BLOCK-3 : MIGRATION, OCCUPATION AND SETTLEMENTS		
8.	Migration.....	71
9.	Occupation.....	86
10.	Slum.....	97
11.	Neighbourhood and Gated Communities.....	113
BLOCK-4 : CULTURAL POLITICS OF URBAN SPACE		
12.	Consumer, Culture and Leisure.....	123
13.	Caste, Class, Ethnicity and Gender.....	134



**Sample Preview
of the
Solved
Sample Question
Papers**

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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

B.S.O.E.-141

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions.

Q. 1. Discuss the relevance of the Chicago school of thought in the emergence of Urban Sociology.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 1, 'Emergence of Urban Sociology' and Chapter-2, Page No. 12, 'Urban Studies and Chicago School'.

Q. 2. What is the meaning of urbanization? Discuss its challenges in India.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-2, Page No. 11, 'Urbanization' and Page No. 12, 'Challenges Of Urbanization'.

Q. 3. How are Ecology and Urban Sociology interlinked? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-4, Page No. 34, 'Concept of Ecology in Urban Sociology'.

Q. 4. In the Urban context, how does Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) impact the society? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-6, Page No. 54, 'The Network Society' and Page No. 55, 'Globalisation and Network'.

Q. 5. What is a slum? Discuss its various types in different cities.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-10, Page No. 97, 'Understanding Slum' and Page No. 98, 'Identifying/ Categorizing Slums'.

Q. 6. Does the neighbourhood matter in city life? Discuss its sociological relevance.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-11, Page No. 113, 'Neighbourhood and its Social Relevance'.

Q. 7. Does the politics affect the social stratification in urban areas of India? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 134, 'Urban Cultural Politics: Understanding Caste, Class, Ethnicity and Gender' and Page No. 139, Q. No. 3.

Q. 8. Define the concept of leisure. What role does it play in the structure of the city?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-12, Page No. 125, 'Concept of Leisure' and Page No. 128, Q. No. 3.

■ ■

QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

URBAN SOCIOLOGY

B.S.O.E.-141

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt any five questions.

Q. 1. What do you understand by Urban Sociology? How did it emerge in India?

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-1, Page No. 9, 'Other Important Question' and Page No. 6, Q. No. 2.

Q. 2. Define city. Elaborate its significant features.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 23, 'City' 'Spatial Configuration of Cities'.

Q. 3. Discuss E.W. Burgess' core ideas on city.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-3, Page No. 24, 'Concentric Zone Model', Page No. 29, Q. No. 2.

Q. 4. Discuss the significance of urban political economy.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-5, Page No. 42, 'Urban Political Economy'.

Q. 5. Discuss the relationship between urbanism and culture.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-7, Page No. 62, 'Theorising Urbanism'.

Q. 6. Explain the impact of migration on the urban social structure.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-8, Page No. 72, 'Migration and Social Structure'.

Q. 7. Describe the classification of urban occupational structure.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-9, Page No. 87, 'Classification of Urban Occupations'.

Q. 8. In what ways does power and politics shape the urban society? Discuss.

Ans. Ref.: See Chapter-13, Page No. 134, 'Power and Politics in Urban Context'.

■ ■

Sample Preview of The Chapter

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URBAN SOCIOLOGY

BLOCK-1 : INTRODUCING URBAN SOCIOLOGY



Urban Sociology: Nature and Scope

INTRODUCTION

According to the Urban Dictionary, the term "urban" is derived from Latin word "urbanus" which means "belonging to a city." The term "urban" refers to a city or town that is located exactly opposite to the term's – "village" and "country." Modern urban sociology is concerned with the impact of city-life on people's social actions, connections, institutions, and the living conditions that have emerged from or have been established in response to metropolitan ways of life. Attempts are made to understand the structures and processes of urban environments, as-well-as the changes and issues that they face, in order to provide inputs for planning and policy-making.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

MEANING OF URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Urban sociology is vast and varied. Every aspect of city life is covered in it.

"The city is a complex heterogeneity in almost every human attribute. Surprisingly, the metropolis stands out among the rural towns. Thus, knowing urban populations differs greatly from understanding simpler, more homogeneous civilizations. So, we have to use rigorous statistical research to understand the city. They, like all communities, vary widely in sex, age, and gender distribution. Their jobs are radically different due to increased labour division enabled by market expansion. They range in wealth and status from splendour to poverty and insecurity. A new breed of hybrids has emerged, mixing and separating, collaborating and fighting, but forging a culture complex unequalled in human history" (Louis Wirth 1940).

Box 1.0

The very first cities of the world formed in Mesopotamia, Asia, and in America. After the Neolithic Revolution, approximately 7500 BCE, Mesopotamia's first towns emerged. Uruk and Eridu were Mesopotamian cities. The Indus Valley and ancient China had cities. Mohenjo-Daro, in the Indus Valley (modern-day Pakistan), was one of the largest Old-World towns, with a population of 50,000 or more. The first towns in America were founded in the Andes and in Mesoamerica between 30 and 18 BCE.

Emergence of Urban Sociology

After the Industrial Revolution, urban sociology arose as a distinct area of sociology in the early twentieth century. Urban sociology became popular in America, especially in Chicago. The Industrial Revolution and the growth of cities prompted social scientists to investigate the city. Urban sociology originated as a response to significant urbanisation that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The rapidly expanding American city was at the centre of this field.

Box 1.1

Urbanization Analysis: A society's demographic, social, economic, technological, and environmental components of existence can change over time. Urbanization is the gradual concentration of people in cities (Kingsley Davis-1965). People are getting more involved in secondary and tertiary production roles, adopting some social qualities that were typical of traditional rural civilizations.

Anonymity and social alienation were first studied by sociologists like Max Weber and Georg Simmel after

the Industrial Revolution. For his contributions to 1903's "The Metropolis and Mental Life", Georg Simmel is considered a pioneer in urban sociology. Simmel, G., *The Cities and the Soul*, 1903; Weber, M., *The City*, 1921; Maurier, R., *Le Village et la Ville*, 1929 Robert E. Park led the way. In 1915, he published "The City" in the *American Journal of Sociology*, but it received little attention. Sociology was still vast. But it was still trying to get noticed for sociology. 1925 is a key year. Park reproduced his storey in *The City*. An editor with Burgess, he co-authored *The Urban Community* (1829), urban sociology textbook. The field has grown since. It is linked to a country's level of development and urbanisation. The Chicago School of Thought arose from the concentration of urban sociologists such as Robert E. Park, Robert D. Mckenzie, E.W Burgess, and Louis Wirth in Chicago.

Urban Sociology in India

Professor Patrick Geddes launched urban studies at Mumbai University in 1915. In 1920, geographers and sociologists began studying urban issues. Post-independence, urban studies made great advances. The ICSSR has financed research on urban issues in geography, sociology, economics, and public administration, among other subjects. In India, the distinction between rural and urban sociology was meaningless. In addition, caste, kinship, and family were shared by both traditional city and village in India. Social scientists only became interested in urban studies when the 1951 Census revealed a fast increase in India's urban population. Throughout 1970s, interests remained high. For example, the influence of urbanisation on rural communities has garnered the attention of sociologists and social anthropologists (Rao 1982). There was a lot of research on urban patterns and trends in the 1980s and 1990s. Regional research on slums and squatter communities were also given substantial consideration. The NCU study, published in five volumes, emphasised the issues of urbanisation at grassroots, sub-state, and state levels. According to NCU, urbanisation is a massive phenomenon that has the capacity to fundamentally affect human existence. (Kaldate 1989, Dhadave 1989, Sandhu 1989, Rao R.N. 1990, Das 1993, Desai 1995, Dewit 1996, Purewal 2000, Lobo and Das 2001). Various conference and seminar collections on urbanisation, including human settlements, urban poverty, and human settlement

sustainability, also appeared. (In addition, Didde and Rangaswamy (1993), Roy and Das (1995), Kundu (2000), Sandhu *et al*). We must acknowledge that India's urban population tripled to 618 million between 2001 and 2021 (Government of India).

MAJOR FORMATIVE INFLUENCES

Urban sociology had two main streams:

The Chicago School

CPS, as a disciplinary sub-field, urban sociology was established by the Chicago School of Sociology. They influenced scholars to adopt qualitative methodologies like ethnography and land-use mapping to conceptualise urban issues. The Chicago School examined urban structures and micro-interactions. Structure, culture, and society were given subjective meanings by the Chicago School.

BOX 1.2

Numerous early studies in urban sociology centred on the implications of expanding cultural roles and norms. Around this time, many urban areas adopted census methods, allowing institutions like the University of Chicago to save and access data easily. These theories helped explain how local institutions assist building ties, according to University of Chicago Sociologists Park, Burgess, and McKenzie. According to subcultures, gangs and homeless people have internal value and order systems. Contrary to popular belief, urbanisation fosters social discord.

A unified culture, regardless of class, gender, or colour, was at the heart of the Chicago School's ideology. The Chicago sociologists were dealing with American society at the time, as how to build a society out of conflicting towns and people. For former peasants and transients in an urban-industrial setting, re-establishing social contact patterns proved tough. Urban sociology also focuses on spatial patterning, established by another Chicago School sociological stream connected to social Darwinism in human ecological development (Hawley, 1956; Schnore, 1965). Human settlement forms and processes were studied under the concept of competitiveness and social selection, as-well-as social pre-requisites for cultural integration. Industrialization and urbanisation in the early twentieth century led it to respond.

Community Studies

“Community studies” is the second stream. It includes detailed ethnographic studies of societies, social structures and lifestyles. In the 1960s and 1970s, social issues, particularly urban issues, were very different from those that inspired the Chicago School. Social/cultural integration was no longer an issue. The struggle for power and orientation in a post-industrial society was suddenly front and centre. New social movements arose that argued for the priority of human experience over economic advancement and for new forms of society-nature relationships. Gender issues were deemed essential. It was time for social science to acknowledge the complexities of urban life in a diverse city. Involvement of the state in people’s lives through social services and public utilities had become vital to daily life and urban activities. As a result of this new urban reality, a new urban sociology had emerged. It has taken on diverse forms in America and Europe. For example, in America, pluralist political science focused on political struggle and compromise (Banfield and Wilson, 1963; Monenkopf, 1983). These two viewpoints are known as “culturalist” and “structuralist” in urban sociology. Urban life experiences, how people react to living in cities, and how cities are organised are important to culturalists. They aim to understand the cultural, organisational, and social psychological aspects of living in a city. Louis Wirth’s work exemplifies this style.

Box 1.3

Impressionable Chicago School member Louis Wirth worked on Russian Jewish ghettos in Chicago. Competition and survival moulded Wirth and his colleagues’ perceptions of the city’s dynamics. They saw the city as a box containing action. This was the peak of classic urban sociology. Wirth studied urban culture and its inhabitants. So, the dependent variable urbanisation makes sense. In his city theory, he distinguished universal social features. He favoured urban/industrial and rural/folk societies. He emphasised the city’s quirks as human associations.

The structuralist perspective examines interactions of political and economic forces, the expansion and decrease of urban space, and the changing spatial arrangement of urban space. They regard cities as physical manifestations of political and economic relationships. They say that cities are a result of more

fundamental factors and that they are influenced by social forces that touch each area of human existence. This method is used by sociologists such as Park, Burgess, and McKenzie of the Chicago School. As a result, any study of urban sociology should incorporate both perspectives. Thus, urban sociology is not a different field of study but a synthesis of the two methodologies outlined above.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Urban sociology is a broad and interdisciplinary field of sociology. It combines history, economics, sociology, public administration, and social work. It frequently mixes elements of geography, political science, economics, and anthropology, with an emphasis on group culture.

Box 1.4

Urban geographers have made a big difference. In this context, Sinha (1970) conducted a unique study of Sirsi town in North Kanara district of Karnataka. Sinha frequently uses statistical techniques to analyse and interpret local data. He aimed to better comprehend the town’s growth tendencies. The Indian Geographical Journal published several articles on India’s changing urban trends.

To summarise, sociology studies cities and their evolution, including concerns such as urban planning, development, traffic management, public waterworks, social hygiene, and sewerage systems. It tries to grasp not only the urban set-up and facts, but also give solutions to fix problems that develop due to society’s dynamic nature. Professionals in education, race relations, housing, urban development, and rehabilitation have interests in common with urbanologists and ecologists (Gist, 1957). This necessitates clarification and redefinition of key terms such as “community,” “ecology,” “city,” “urbanism,” “urban society,” “urbanisation,” “industrialization,” and “modernization.” The word “community” has many meanings. It can refer to a shared environment or a collective of all residents of a certain area. Frequently, the phrase refers to more than one place or one person. For example, Davis emphasises “social completeness.”

Is it possible to be a complete society without being a community? The primary requirement of a community, according to McIver and Page, is that it

comprises all of an individual's social interactions. Positive attitudes toward one another are nurtured, and a community can execute all of its functions. Robert E. Park applied principles of natural science (ecology) to urban environments (urban ecology) (Flanagan, W. 1993). Ecology is study of the relationship between living creatures and their environment. The city, like any other environment, is a condition rather than a defining force. It is a Chicago School notion that relates urban structure to biological things. Urban ecology has long been a popular theory in urban sociology and anthropology. The hypothesis is a metaphor for how competing groups coexist in shared urban surroundings and processes. Urban groupings, like biological systems, are interrelated and dynamic, rising and falling with political, economic, and social tides. We can examine trends in immigration and emigration to tie this to the functionalist theory. People leaving a country rely on one another and a new culture to assimilate and integrate. Immigrants become emigrants, and so forth. Complete history of urban sociology must distinguish between urbanisation and urbanism. Urbanization refers to both the origins of cities and processes of building them. Urbanisation occurs when people move from rural areas to urban areas, either temporarily or permanently.

As a result of urbanisation, more people are living in cities, cities are becoming larger, and more people are living in urban regions. Spatial-temporal arrangements of social activities in connection to interrelated societal developments and change processes. Urbanism, on the other hand, is the study of living patterns within urban communities. Cultural issues, social strife, and political structure are all addressed at a local level, including street, neighbourhood, and city levels. According to Louis Wirth, it's a way of life. Some of the most influential sociologists of the twentieth century were Karl Marx, Ferdinand Tönnies, Émile Durkheim, Max Weber, and Georg Simmel. A group of sociologists and academics at the University of Chicago built on these theoretical foundations in the early twentieth century. Robert Park, Louis Wirth, and Ernest Burgess' work on Chicago's inner city changed not only the goals of urban research in sociology but also the formation of human geography. The Chicago School's views have been defended and criticised, but they remained one of the most important historical advancements in understanding of

urbanisation and the city, in the social sciences. Cultural, economic, and political sociology are all sub-disciplines of sociology.

Box 1.5

By 2050, 68 percent of the world's population will live in cities. Urbanisation might add 2.5 billion extra people to cities by 2050, with nearly 90% of this increase occurring in Asia and Africa. The UN Population Division's 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects reflects this. India, China, and Nigeria will triple their urban populations by 2050. Up to 416 million new urban dwellers will arise in India, China, and Nigeria by 2050. 1970 to 2018: 751 million to 4.2 billion Following Asia (54%) is Europe (13 percent). (13%). It is followed by Latin America (81%) and Europe (81%) in terms of urbanisation (80 percent). (74%). (68%) Asia is 50% urban. But only 43% of Africans live in cities.

The following units will elaborate on these ideas. Unlike Max Weber and Friedrich Engels, Georg Simmel was more concerned with a city's patterns of activities and thoughts. To Simmel, modernity was a transition from traditional society characterised by personal, intimate social relations (referred to as "primary" relations) and a feudal economy based on barter to an industrial society characterised by impersonal, specialised social relations (referred to as "secondary" relations) and a money economy based on rational profit and loss calculations. Displaying the delicate qualities of modernity, Simmel argued, was best done in a huge city or metropolis, with purposeful action. Simmel gives us ideas of "urban sociology" or social psychology of modernity. Urban sociologists study migration and demographics, economy, poverty, race relations, and economic development.

ACTIVITIES

Q. Observe the society in which you live, in terms of its physical nature, i.e., whether it is a hamlet, town, city, or metropolis in terms of its physical infrastructure, and make observations about it. Create a note on "My City/Town/Village" that includes information about its people, culture, values, and so on.

Ans. New Delhi is my home city. New Delhi is home to a diverse collection of museums, temples,