



I. What is Sociology?

A. Definition:

- Sociology is the systematic study of society, human behavior, and the patterns that shape our interactions. It explores how individuals are influenced by the larger social structures and institutions around them.

Key Concepts:

1. **Society:**

- A group of individuals living together, connected by social relationships.

2. **Social Institutions:**

- Formal structures (e.g., family, education) shaping and guiding human behavior.

3. **Culture:**

- Shared beliefs, values, norms, and practices defining a particular group.

4. **Socialization:**

- The process through which individuals internalize societal values and norms.

5. **Social Stratification:**

- Division of society into different strata based on factors like wealth and social status.

III. Importance of Sociology:

- **Understanding Social Dynamics:**

- Gain insights into social relationships and the impact of social structures.

- **Addressing Social Issues:**

- Equip individuals to analyze and address social problems like inequality.

- **Enhancing Critical Thinking:**

- Encourage critical thinking by examining the causes and consequences of societal phenomena.

IV. Research Methods:

- **Quantitative Methods:**

- Involves numerical data, surveys, and statistical analysis.

- **Qualitative Methods:**

- Focuses on the depth and context of social phenomena through methods like interviews.

V. Sociological Applications:

- **Applied Sociology:**

- Uses sociological principles to solve real-world issues in various fields.

- **Sociological Imagination:**

- Encourages individuals to connect personal experiences to larger social forces.