First unit: Introduction to Sociology

1. Definition of sociology:

Sociology is one of the social sciences (economics, politics, psychology, anthropology …etc) that separated from "philosophy" the mother science. The separation wasin an effort to find a subject matter and a working methodology all based on the understanding of the individuals' behavior within society's frameand social phenomena analysis. Notably though, a unified definition had not yet been advanced by scholars and thinkers regardless of their orientations and intellectual affiliations. On that fact, a set of the most important definitions is presented, out of which is:

The term (SOCIOLOGIE) was first coined by **Auguste Comte** in 1839 in his course of "**Positive Philosophy**" text 47, which he originally called "**Social Physics**". The course was devised in such a way to present a new science whose subject matter is the study of social facts, as they constitute a distinct reality with its own distinct laws, as is the case for physical or biological facts (Dortier& Cabin, 2000, p.17).He originally called it "Social Physics" in an attempt to situate it and give it status among the natural and the material sciences.

As for **Max Weber**, who defined it as "**the science whose object is to interpret the meaning of social action and thereby give a causal explanation of the way in which the action proceeds and the effects which it produces**". The "action" here whether external or internal, abandonment or acceptance is a human behavior … the social action must be that which meaning follows the intentions of the agent or agents with relations to others' behavior, and its succession is directed accordingly (Weber, 2011, pp. 28-29).

Alternatively,**Émile Durkheim**defined it as a science that studies "**social phenomena**" as he was singular in defining the characteristics of social phenomena as social research basisby relying on the functional aspect that preserves the social order and its stability (Al-Tufaili, 2007, p.12).

A number of contemporary scholars and thinkers made attempts to define sociology that are summarized in the following:

James Vander Zanden states that sociology is distinguished in being a science that studies "**human interaction**", which is reflected in the reciprocal influence that individuals exercise in their reciprocal relations., and the influence involve the feelings, the trends, and actions. Additionally, sociologists are also interested in the recurring ways through which individuals form their relationships. The later allows the creation and development of the various forms of social ties.

Sociologists also concern themselves with the maintenance methods of these relationships and ties that in turn ensure either their continuity or their change or dissolution.

Regarding **McGee and his colleagues**, they adopted such a definition of sociology meaning the science that "**studies the social system**". The social system concept refers to that organized pattern according to which human affairs are carried out,startingfrom the simplest cooperative relationships, for instance a stranger helping and offering assistance, to organized groups sharing both the speaking language as well as the political position for generations and perhaps centuries. Meaning of the social system extendsmore to includethe behavioral rules and the laws acquired and learned by individuals through social participation.

Lucile Dubermanand **Clayton Hartjen** provided another definition to sociology meaning"**a science that studies human behavior**". Contrary to the other social sciences, it concerns itself with all aspects of human behavior in a specific social situation. Accordingly, sociologists study the ways in which societies are formed and individuals behave within the frame of the diverse social structures. In a striving effort to understand how human groups assemble and integrate, how they separate and diverge, and why and under what conditions the integration or the separation occurs, sociologists also focus on the changes that take place in human societies and the degree of acceptance, assimilation, rejection, and resistance of those changes (Ouda, p.18).

2. Circumstances surrounding the emergence of sociology

The Arab thinker, AbdArrahman Ibn Khaldoun, proceeded the scholar AugusteCompte in establishing and developing sociology in the Arab world by four (04) centuries. When he was producing a number of historical books, he realized the necessity for a certain method that helps distinguish truthfulness from untruthful of historical accounts. Then, he was devoted to the discussion of the humanistic urban natures and the laws of human grouping in his famous introduction, in which he addressed most of the social issues and problems that sociology addresses today and called it "**the science of human urbanism**". Coinciding with the fall of the Arabic-Islamic civilization and the rise of western, the works of Ibn Khaldoun were not destined for neither connectivity nor continuity. Adding to that, the linguistic and cultural barriers that delayed the Western thinker's access to Ibn Khaldoun's works. Therefore, the emergence of sociology in the west wasindependent from that of the east; hence, the inception of western sociology was attributed to Auguste Comte. As it was also closely linked to the transformation of the economic, social, cultural, and political conditions that the European society was undergoing in all its directions and branches (Ouda, p.71)

Sociology emerged as a branch of science and knowledge at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The nineteenth century was characterized by profound transformations,especially in Europe, more especially the political transformations illustrated in the "French Revolution" in 1789. The revolution led to the collapse of the old system where the church was in control of minds, politics, and social affairs. The French revolutionadvocated for legal equality among citizens and demanded the revision of the political system's foundations, which was no longer subject to the sole will of the king. As for the economic and social changes, they were linked to the industrial revolution, which was in the end of the eighteenth century and beginning of the nineteenth. Originating first in Great Britain and gradually spread to the other European countries and then the United States and Japan.

The aforementioned period was characterized by the transitioning from the rural to the urban society. A fact that led to profound change in the existing social structures, such as village solidarity and the set of customs, traditions, and social practices where Ferdinand Tönnies pointed the confliction of two social organization patterns. The first predominantly characterized by traditional ties, affection, and community spirit that mainly focus on family and local solidarity. Meanwhile, the secondleans more towards individual interest, calculations, and impersonal relationships and seeks imposition within the industrial society (Retor, 2015, p.18).

The significant transformation in the social phenomena interpretation and analysis began after the birth of nineteenth century that employed scientific methods to extrapolate both behavior and social phenomena. Only the scientific method is capable of answering the raised questions based on facts collected by the organized research. Consequently to this new research method, there was the emergence of an important science dubbed "Sociology" (Al-Azzawi et al., 2006, p.16).

3. Key developments in the emergence of sociology

The emergence of sociology can be classified into three key developments that are interchangeably and closely linked.The developments interchanged effect and affect throughout the European history; extending from the old feudal society collapse to the modern bourgeois society. The developments are detailed as follows:

3.1 Social and economic developments

Social and economic developments that paved the way for the sociology emergence is displayed in the rise of the capitalist industrial society on the ruins of the old feudal society. The shift resulted in a number of social phenomena and issues summarized in the following:

- Emergence of the industrial city that replaced the village, which was the heart of the feudal society. After the industrial revolution's explosion, came the industrial shift, appearance of

the modern factories, and the countless employment opportunities, and the cities became attraction centers to the countryside workforce.

- Subsequently, followed the increase of countryside to cityemigration, which led to class emergence in the cities. The class emergence was the result of a certain group owning factories, establishments, and capital while the other group selling manpower in order to improve their living conditions. Hence, tension, anxiety, and conflict feuded between the two groups or classes.
- The emergence of industrial city related issues reflected in poverty, crowding, underdeveloped areas …etc.Hereby thesocial thinking was at the obligation to study and resolve such issues through diagnosis and analysis.

3.2 Intellectual and philosophical developments

The abovementioned social and economic developments were accompanied by intellectual and philosophical developments as the new bourgeois industrial society began to practice intellectual and philosophical methods to vindicate for his position and continuity. The development began with the emergence of the Protestant doctrine in defiance of the Catholic Church at the end of the seventeenth century and the beginning of the eighteenth century. A change known as the Age of Enlightenment that liberatedmindsfrom thecontrolling grasp of the Catholic Church. The following points highlight the role of the Enlightenment philosophy in the elimination of the old society and paving the way for the new:

- One's rationality and awareness of his best interest as well as his guidance of history and society to his advantage.
- One's victory over the social systems that restricted him from reaching the golden age.
- Basing the legitimacy of criticism on the standard of reason, and holding nothing else as sacred that could prevent that.
- Standing the legitimacy of the revolution and change. As long as the mind is liberated through criticism and scrutiny, it has the right to rebel against any social conditions deemed illogical or irrational.

3.3 Political developments

Political developments that began in France were represented by the "French Revolution" that is considered to be the first ideological revolution in history. The revolution was based on such concepts as the Enlightenment philosophy and the revolution against the social systems that were left behind by the old feudal system. Naturally, many problems would arise in this frenzy of social deconstruction and construction, which would require interpretation and treatment. A fact that made

some believe that Auguste Comte, the founder of Western sociology in France, had a certain mission with this new science that is to reform the social conditions that were corrupted by the revolution, or the social reconstruction on the basis of scientific research and positive thinking far from impulsive, revolutionary enthusiasm.

4. Aims of sociology

Sociology using the scientific method in studying society came in order to study social phenomena in an objective manner, just as the natural phenomena. Therefore, this science, in its various studies, aims to achieve a number of goals that the founders as well as the contemporaries worked best and are still striving to achieve (Abdul Jawad, pp. 26-27), and the goals are:

A - Study facts and phenomena, to determine their elements and constituents as well as to know the general principles of social life and the pillars on which they are based.

B - Study the origin of facts and social phenomena, and the developments they have undergone over the ages. In addition to the factors that led to and helped this development because social phenomena advance and change with both time and place change.

C - Study the functions of social phenomena and the development of these functions over time, their variations from one place to another, as each phenomenon has its own function. The phenomenon of marriage, for instance, regulates the relationship between men and women, reproduction, etc… The function of politics regulates the relationship between the individual, state and among states.

D - Research into social relationships and the various links;identify the extent of interaction that occurs between individuals, groups, and others, along with the relationships in-between phenomena ...etc.

E- Study the relationships and interchangeable influences between individuals, human groups, and the conditions of the natural and geographical environment.

F - Finally, sociology aims to reveal the social laws and theories that social phenomena are subject to, either in their origin, emergence, change, development, or their interchangeable effects. A reality that gives sociology objectivity and scientificity.

5. Subjects of sociology:

Identifying thespecific subjects of sociology is a challenging task if not impossible because of the intertwined nature of society's components, relationships, interactions, systems' development, and other aspects that constitute society in its structure and characterize its development. The obvious dissensus among the founding as well as the contemporary sociologists to specify a finite number of subjects confirm this reality. On this reality, an attempt to enumerate the kind of subjects involved within sociology's research and study scope is as follows:

5.1 Society as a subject of sociology

Sociology views society as a unit of analysis that represents a complete entity in the aim of revealing the existing connections that connect social systems in the light of the different social patterns. Such studies can include society at least in twomain sections; the first deals with **the existing internal variations between the different societies**, and **the second deals with all societies as human groups characterized by certain specific external characteristics.** In this case, we find sociology positing such questions as: Is there evidence of certain types of societies, such as major empires that can last for a certain time period? Do societies go through certain developmental stages? The previous is a type of social thinking and analysis from an evolutionary perspective that characterized a certain time period in the history of social thought. "**Ibn Khaldoun"** tackled the social development from (**nomadic to urban societies**)while "**Auguste Comte"** studied it from (primitive societies to theological toPositivist)as for Emile Durkheim the discussion was from (traditional to contemporary societies)

Nowadays, social studies' focus shifts more towards **the internal structure of society**by asking such new questions as: What are the internal inevitable issues that every society faces? What are the most common components of society? How do communities assign workresponsibilities? What are the associative consequences of certain social systems? For example, to what extent does the industrial pattern of the economic life is in agreement with that of the extended family? (Inkeles, p. 54).

5.2 Social systems as a subject in sociology

Social systems are considered one of the most important subjects of sociology. According to **Abdul Razzaq Chalabi**, they are one of society's social organization patterns. Social systems are regarded asmajor modes organizing the human interaction, which is the basis of social relations. In addition to that, organizing the types of interaction oriented towards a specific purpose among the

numerous purposes that direct human basic needs and branching out with specific names that uncover the nature and limits of the social activity(Chalabi, 2000, p. 79).

In this instance, providing a definition to social systems is worthwhile. In fact, they are a set of social rules, laws, and customs that may be codified or customary that clearly work to define individuals' behaviors and ethics and shape the patterns of their relationships and social interactions. Additionally, they contribute to the establishment of society's ideology, consolidate its system's foundations at the macro or micro level, and determine the patterns of relationships between members of the same community. (Al-Ghazawi et al., 2006, p. 209)

Some believe that social systems such as the family, school, and the political party constitute a more distinct subject for sociology as the ensemble forms society as whole. **Herbert Spencer** viewed social systems as the basics that perform the functions of society that were grown out ofcustoms and traditions. Each system consists of standards, customs, and expectations that are transmitted to the following generations. The systems are transmitted in the form of accumulating experiences that lead to the establishment of codified models of social systems that perform various functions in society(Abdul Hadi, 2009, p. 129).

"Alex Inkeles" delimited the basic social systemsin:family and kinship system, the economic system, the political and legal system, the religious system, the educational and scientific system, the recreational and welfare system, and the collective and expressive system. (Inkeles, p. 50). The following is a precis to some basic social systems:

A. Family system

For many researchers, the family system is one of the most important social systems since family is the beginning of individual's social life.The family represents the core unit that caters for the individual's essential biological and human needs. For this reason, it truly is the starting nucleus of human society.

The family is known to be the group of individuals that are linked by blood and marriage all living in one dwelling. Under this label, positions and roles of each individual are precisedas well as its essential functions that arefor the preservation of the human specie are highlighting (Afifi, 2011, p. 60).

Throughout the human developmental history, the family has taken two basic forms. The first is **the extended family model** and the second is **the nuclear family model**. With regard to the first, it consists of the husband, the wife, their children, the grandparents, and other family members

such as the uncle and aunt and sometimes even their wives who live and interact together within one place. As for the second form, it consists only of the husband, the wife and their children living under one roof.

The family has a number of fundamental functions: sexual function, reproductive function, socialization function and economic function.

B. Political system

Rooted in the human nature, conflict is an inevitable reality that has existed and continues to exist since the beginning of the creation. Because of that, controversies and disputes are always present. Accordingly, human society is in need of a certain force or authority that imposesobedience on individuals. Such an opinion is advocated by the scholar Ibn Khaldoun, as he states: “Human beings, by human nature, need in every gathering a controller and a ruler to protect one from the other”.

The political system as concept signifies the distribution of power, authority and influence within society and the ways in which the distribution is organized and controlled. The emergence of political authority represented by the state is considered a relatively recent social phenomenon as it appeared with the appearance of city and urbanism. In addition to that, it was also the result of society’s increase in size and complexity and the kind of constituting structures and relationships.

Perhaps the state's primary function as a social organization is to provide security and protection from external and internal threats. The state is characterized by the possession of an armed force in order to practice the necessary deterrence and ensure society’s security and stability that is exercises through the enactment of legislations and constitutions.

C. Economic system

The economic system as a concept refers to the organized procedures and measures according to which the processes of production, distribution and consumption of products and services take placeby society’s members within a specific social frame. The economic system is also known as the set of rules and controlling patterns that is followed by society in the use of resources to achieve its goals in priority setting and decision making with regard to economic products.

The economic ideas of Ibn Khaldoun, in his introduction, are considered a valuable contribution to the understanding of economic matters and events from a social perspective, which

are dealt with in economic sociology. The economic system, in his view, is based on a set of structural elements: (Chalabi, 2000, p. 82).

- **Human work**: Products' value essentially stems from the work that goes into their production, and the gain is the value of human works.
- **Work and wealth values**: The collection of gold and silver is the purpose of the work. In this scope, Ibn Khaldounis found recognizing the relationship between the value of work and the wealth of nations. In other words, the wealth in the shape of precious metals such as gold and silver is the end goal of the work.
- **Work, supply, and demand values**: Work follows the law of supply and demand especially in the cities where the work is highly valued due to the considerable need for luxurious products and services. Numerous people and their pride in their luxurious needed services made expensive the work of artisans, workers, and craftsmen.

D. Religious system

The religious system is one of the fundamental systems in society's social life either primitive or civilized. Among the social systems, religion is considered the most important as it focuses on the relationship between the creator and the created. The occurring difference between religion and the other aspects of social life is beliefs and applications related in the sense of being embodied in unobservable deities.

Man's religious thinking - regardless of the thinking type – seeks to search of rcertainty in nature, to understand the reasons behind man's existence, and to uncover the mysteries surrounding his life and environment. Man has been influenced by the conditions of social and natural life and became subject to a number of holly symbols. Symbols that he considers the source of his livelihood and which blessings he seeks through offerings in return for protection from natural dangers and the evils of his kind.

The system defines religion as "representing a group of doctrinal phenomena and worships that give meaning to human life and organize human behavior toward the supernatural world. The belief is shared by a group of individuals who form a cohesive unit".

Since the beginning of the creation, the religious system has undergone evolutionary stages that are summarized as follows:

- The pagan stage (idol worshiping).
- The stage of sanctifying the natural aspects (metaphysics).
- The stage of divine religions influence (non-Islamic).
- The stage of monotheism (Islamic religion).

Accordingly, religion performs multiple functions at the individual and social levels, the most important of which are:

- The individual has a sense of security, reassurance, and stability.
- The individual determines his identity and group affiliation through values and beliefs acceptance and rituals'practice.
- Religion provides a factor of self-control and organization of the social relations constituting the social structure.

E. Educational system

The educational system is defined as a set of rules, regulations, and procedures that are interconnected and adopted by a country to direct the educational matters and conduct its affairs. The educational system is set in an effort to advance the general values and principles of the nation in line with the educational policies that reflect philosophy in its various intellectual, social and political forms.

The educational system aims atboth individual and group identityrefinement to achieve successful,direct, or indirect socialization. Thus, it provides the individual with the ability to adapt to the surrounding social environment. In addition, it aims at providing the individual with basic skills based on the methods and mechanisms used in the school field. The target basic skills come as an effort to provide students with the full ability to perform wellwhen practicing the various life activities. The educational system is always keen on raising the educational levels and improving its quality by relying on a series of procedures followed and linked to the placed curricula. The educational system also works on the serious activation of the educational role through educational innovations and reforms introduced over time.Technology is also an important parameter because, when included, it adds a tangible improvement to the educational quality.

The following summarizes the functions of the educational system: (https://mawdoo3.com)

- The educational system contributes to the individual's growth and identity preservationas it continuously links the features of its local and foreign cultures without causing any disintegration, change, or dissolution of one into the other. As a result, the dimensions of his interaction and adaptation would increase while preserving the features of his identity.
- The educational system plays an effective role in the organization of social life as it provides the required stability and security for individuals by fighting social issues before escalation.
- The educational system meets all of society's economic needs, especially trained manpower, modern technology and digitization.

5.3 Social relations as a subject of sociology

Social systems are considered complex modes of social relationships. The family, for example, is a social system that consists of a network of multiple relationships, including the relationships between husband and wife, between parents and their children, between siblings, and even those between grandparents and their grandchildren. All these relationships can be studiedand their common characteristics can be traced, such as,those related to the group size or relationship type as control or submission...etc.

Accordingly, social relations can **be defined**as: the interchangeable ties and influences between individuals within a society that form as a result of their gathering,feelings exchange, contact with each other, and their interaction in the crucible of society. Examples of these relations include friendship, family ties, kinship, work collegiality …etc.

Max Weber was seriously committed to the idea that sociology is primarily based on the study of social relations and actions. Developing also a set of categories to describe and analyze them, which constituted also a significant part of the writings of Georg Simmel and Talcott Parsons. In addition to that, it recently took a wide space and spread in empirical research focusing mainly on the study of small groups and in industrial research (Inkeles, p. 56).

Social relationships can be classified into:

- Primary and secondary social relationships.
- Long-term and temporary (short-term) social relationships.
- Direct and indirect social relations.

- Internal and external social relations.
- Positive and negative social relationships
- Horizontal and vertical relationships.

5.4 Social processes as a subject of sociology

Wherever human groups are located, they do not live in isolation from one another. Multiple communication means ensure their communication and result in them influencing and affecting each other. From this, interactive relationships are born making them an integrated unit. Social relationships exist between individuals when they take into considerations the actors' actions to direct their own behavior. Consequently, the behavior direction becomes interchangeable ensuring continuous and lasting relationships. Among the most important social processes there are:

A. Compliance

Compliance means doing what one has to do, such as a student performing his homework, or a car driver stopping at an intersection until he is allowed to continue driving by either the traffic light or the police officer. In these examples among others, the situation is clear and precisely defined in the governing rules, and the force that ensures the support of compliance. In this regard, social scientists are foundstarting from an all known and accepted issue that is compliance with the social role and the performance of the associated tasks, which also depends on the concept of sanctions (Inkeles, p. 152).

B. Deviation

Deviation arises when one deviates from socially accepted standards resulting from an act that society feels strongly about to the extent that it adopts certain sanctions in order to prevent or control this deviant behavior. For instance, speeding on a public roadway in violation of the traffic lawis considered a deviation. In the United States of America, sociologists have studied various issues related to crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, and addiction, as they are social deviations that violate the norms.

C. Cooperation

Cooperation is when the individual is in need of another either to help complete a certain work or make the work more proficient. Cooperation is a relationship where two or more individuals work to achieve a specific goal. In most cases, the two parties are not equal and there are differences between the two. Cooperation is of a number of types: the spontaneous, traditional, and directed or contractual cooperation.

D. Competition

There exists a similarity between cooperation and competition in that both processes are common, goal-oriented. Yet, the process of competition requires that one party reachs the goal before the other, soa victor can be named by the end. Competition is not the opposite of cooperation, but it includes some degrees of it because the competitors must cooperate in playing according to the governing laws of the game, such is the case in football or students competing to rank first.

E. Conflict

In the competition process, competitors try to achieve the same goal according to the conventional laws. Competitors engage in winning without harming their counterpart, however, when they do not respect their engagement, the competition turns into conflict. In such manner, conflict becomes the opposing and destructiveprocess of the counterpart in order toreach the end goals. Conflict can be found in all existing social systemsbetween management and workers, between criminals and police officers, between colleagues...etc. Indeed, within the social structures, conflict can be regarded as a destructive process.