ANTHROPOLOGY, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIAL SCIENCES

Anthropology and Sociology:

The relation between anthropology and sociology is widely recognized today. In fact, anthropologist, Kroeber, pointed out that the two sciences are twin sisters. Robert Redfield writes that “viewing the whole united states, one sees that the relation between anthropology and sociology is closer than those between the anthropology and other social sciences”.

Sociology is greatly benefited by anthropological studies. Sociologists have to depend upon anthropologists to understand the present-day social phenomena from our knowledge of the past which is often provided by anthropology. The studies made by famous anthropologists, like Radcliffe-Brown, B. Malinowski, Ralph Linton, Lowie, Raymond Firth, Margaret Mead, Evans-Pritchard and others have been proved to be valuable in sociology.

Sociological topics, such as The Origin of Family, The Beginning of Marriage, Private property, The Genesis of Religion etc, can be better understood in the light of anthropological knowledge. The anthropological studies have shown that there is no correlation between anatomical characteristics and mental superiority. The notion of racial superiority has been disproved by anthropology.

Further, sociology has borrowed many concepts, like cultural areas, cultural traits, interdependent traits, cultural lag, cultural patterns, culture configuration etc from Socio-Cultural anthropology. The knowledge of anthropology, physical as well as socio-cultural is necessary for a sociologist. An understanding of society can be gained by comparing various cultures, particularly the modern with primitive.

Anthropology and History:

Anthropology and History are very much interrelated. Anthropology is becoming one of the most genuine fruits of history to which it is intimately connected. The two sciences are so close that some writers refuse to accept anthropology as a science different from history.

Some anthropologists regard anthropology as a branch of history. Human being is born in a natural way, but social life is not the product of nature. It is true that human nature is such that human beings have to live in united groups, but human nature does not decide the cultural level of society. In other words, culture of a particular society is not a product of human nature. The structure of society has no natural order like that of the structure of the solar system or an atom. Society is a web of social relations supplied by history and are united
among them by moral values. Anthropologists have been doing the work of social reformation. History and anthropology are both related to human actions. Social anthropology discusses human actions which cause social events. History presents a description of these events.

**Anthropology and Economics:**

Anthropology and Economics, as social sciences, have very close relation. The relationship between the two sciences is so close that one is often treated as the branch of the other.

Anthropologists have contributed to the study of different aspects of economic organization. An economist provides knowledge of property system, division of labour, occupations, industrial organization etc to the anthropologists. Some matters such as labour relations, standard of living, employer-employee relations, social classes, socio-economic planning, socio-economic reforms etc are common to both economists and anthropologists.

The area of co-operation between anthropology and economics is widening day by day. Economists are now analyzing the social factors influencing economic growth. Economists are working with the anthropologists in their study of the problems of economic development in underdeveloped countries. Economists are more and more making use of the anthropological concepts and generalizations in the study of economic problems. Problems like poverty, beggary, unemployment, over-population, and unregulated industrialization have both social and economic implications.

**Anthropology and Social Psychology:**

Anthropology and Psychology are contributory sciences. Psychology is defined as the study of human behavior. Anthropology studies man in all places and times. Psychology is the science of human experiences and behaviors. It also studies man’s behavior in relation to environment. Anthropology is also a comparative and analytic study of human behavior and experiences. These two subjects are complementary to each other. On one side a psychological knowledge helps an anthropologist in understanding the root causes of human behavior in different cultures and on the other side anthropological studies help the psychologists in calculating the influence of cultural environment of human behavior. In modern times, the various anthropological studies have rendered important help in the field of psychology. By studying different primitive cultures, anthropologists have shown how human behaviour...
differs in different cultural environments. Every culture has its special method of social control, which has an important influence on the personality of its members.

The closest relation between psychology and anthropology is seen in the relation between the main branches, Social psychology and Cultural anthropology. In Social psychology, individual behavior is studied under social environments. Social anthropology also studies human society, social institutions and groups. The famous anthropologist, Hoebel writes that, “the anthropologist concentrates chiefly on society of primitive people, and the sociologist concentrates on our contemporary civilization”.

**Anthropology and Political Science:**

Anthropology and Political science are very closely related. In fact, political activity is only a part of social activity. Thus, political science appears to be a branch of anthropology. Political activity is influenced by the social life of man. In fact, political activities will have no meaning outside the social context. Politics is after all the reflection of society. This is made clear by the common saying, “people have the government which they deserve”. Political science gives anthropological facts about the organization and functions of the state and government. Political science is concerned with the state but anthropology studies state as one of the human associations.

The laws of the state have a great influence upon society. These laws are largely based on customs, traditions, conventions and usages. But these customs, traditions etc, are the concerns of anthropology. The institution of family is an element in social life. It is a concern of anthropology. There are some common topics of interest for both anthropologists and political scientists. Such topics are war, mass movements, revolutions, government control, public opinion, propaganda, leadership, elections, voting, political minorities and social legislations like civil code. Communal riots, racial tensions between Whites and Negroes, Asians and Europeans, border disputes between different states, caste conflicts etc are problems that have political as well social implications.