



**SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**M.A SOCIOLOGY**  
**Semester III - (Discipline Core)**  
**Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Assignment Questions**  
**Course Code: M21SO09DC**

**Course Title: RECENT DISCOURSES IN SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY**

**Section A-Descriptive Assignment Questions**

1. Which theoretical perspective—Integrated Sociological Paradigm, Multi-dimensional Sociology, or the Micro Foundations of Macro Sociology—do you believe is most effective for adopting a micro-macro integrated approach to understanding society, and why?

*Hint: Describe the theories of micro-macro integration and explain which one is most effective within the micro-macro integration paradigm.*

2. What are the key promises and advancements in sociological theory brought about by modernism and late modernism?

*Hint: Describe the major features of Anthony Giddens' and Alex Callinicos' theories, and explain how they contribute to new advancements in sociological theory.*

3. How do Alex Callinicos and Zygmunt Bauman explain the complexities of modernity, and do you agree with their defense of it against postmodernism? Support your answer with observations on the changes occurring in modern life

*Hint: Describe the major features of Zygmunt Bauman and Alex Callinicos' theories, and explain how they attempt to defend modernity against postmodernism.*

4. In what ways does Althusser's theory expand upon classical Marxist theory? Reflect on the contemporary relevance of Althusser's ideas in analyzing societal structures and their reproduction.

*Hint: Explain Althusser's theory and discuss how it expands upon Karl Marx's classical theory. Use examples from contemporary form of capitalism and reproduction to illustrate your points.*

5. How does Derrida's theory of deconstruction inform your approach to analyzing and interpreting books, novels, or films?

*Hint: Describe Derrida's theory of deconstruction and explain how it aids in the interpretation of texts.*

### **Section B- Analytical Questions**

1. Using Foucault's discourse analysis, conduct a study on the discourses on health by experts in Kerala's public sphere.

*Hint: Examine how the concept of 'true' health practices is shaped through these discourses by analyzing debates on the credibility of homeopathy and Ayurveda in newspapers, magazines, and YouTube videos. Pay particular attention to how certain voices are included or excluded, and how the notions of legitimate and illegitimate medicine are constructed in Kerala's public sphere.*

2. Is gender a biological reality or a social construction? Explain in the light of Judith Butler's gender theory.

*Hint: Select five Malayalam movies of your choice or Malayalam novels and short stories and analyze how gender identity, femininity, and masculinity are portrayed. In light of these observations, examine how Judith Butler's Gender Performativity theory represents a major theoretical shift in gender studies.*

3. Are we living in the modern era or the postmodern one? Explain this in light of Giddens' and Zygmunt Bauman's theories of modernity.

*Hint: Conduct a study of the products you purchase from the market or online platforms like Flipkart or Amazon, as well as the changes in your food choices and the movies you regularly watch. Based on these observations, reflect on Giddens' and Bauman's theory modernity and analyze the new ways globalization has transformed our daily life.*

4. Prepare a commentary on Bourdieu's theory of forms of capital

*Hint: Apply Bourdieu's theory based on your observations of how the rich and poor live their lives in you locality, including the goods they purchase, such as premium cars. Also, observe educational institutions and public places like clubs to examine how different forms of capital operate in these settings.*

5. What major trends have post-modern theories in sociology established, and how do these trends offer insights into society that classical thinkers, such as Marx and Durkheim, did not provide?

*Hint: Carefully examine the theories of Foucault, Derrida, Bourdieu, and Judith Butler, and analyze how their perspectives help our understanding of social realities compared to classical thinkers. Illustrate your answer with examples, such as gender relations, interpretations of literature or cinema, new social movements, class relations, state power, or the caste system.*



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## **MA SOCIOLOGY**

### **THIRD SEMESTER – Discipline Core**

### **M21SO10DC – RURAL AND URBAN SOCIOLOGY**

### **ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

#### **SET I– Descriptive**

1. Caste determines social identity and it may translate to political power – Discuss how caste holds precedence in present day society in terms of social and political role.

*(Hints: Caste assigned roles and division, caste reservation, vote banks, caste politics)*

2. The agricultural sector saw an overhaul after the independence? Identify major changes and how did it affect the agricultural sector.

*(Hints: Land reforms, Constitutional reforms, CDP, Green Revolution, Land policy)*

3. Migration can be categorized according to its length and direction. Based on this, identify the types of migration taking place in the state of Kerala and assess its impact on the rural – urban dynamics of the state.

*(Hints: Rural – Urban migration, Urban – Urban migration, Push forces, Pull elements)*

4. Distinguish between Rural and Urban Sociology.

*(Hints: Define rural and urban sociology, discuss the nature/scope of both, evaluate the academic spectrum of both in Indian society)*

5. Discuss in detail the sociological implications of urbanization in India.

*(Hints: Impact on Occupational and Class Structure, Religion, Kinship Network and Polity)*

## SET II – Analytical

6. Identify one safeguard each for SC, ST & OBC, assess how effective it is and suggest how you would modify it for the better.

*(Hints: Constitutional safeguards, Acts and Laws for specialized protection, identify one each for each community, assess how effective it is and suggest changes if needed)*

7. Kerala has seen a transition from a joint family to a nuclear family, what are the social implications of this transition?

*(Hints: Joint family, Nuclear family, change in family dynamics, social assessment of this change)*

8. Identify the three laws that led to the Farmers' protest and assess the implication they will have if implemented and based on your assessment state whether it should be repelled or not.

*(Hints: The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act)*

9. “A city can be characterized sociologically as a permanent settlement of individuals from diverse social backgrounds that is reasonably large, dense, and dynamic”, Based on this statement identify a city of your choice and state your reasoning for your selection and elaborate on its city-like characteristics.

*(Hints: Define a city, characteristics, classify, and state your selections unique qualities that qualify it as a city)*

10. Identify any one major slum in Kerala, analyze the problems faced by the inhabitants and provide suggestions for improving their living conditions.

*(Hints: Briefly discuss what is a slum, the types and features of slums, and major problems in slums and correlate these to the slum you have identified)*



**SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN UNIVERSITY**

**M.A SOCIOLOGY**  
**Semester III - Discipline Specific Elective**  
**Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Assignment Questions**  
**Course Code: M21SO01DE**

**Course Title: MEDIA AND SOCIETY**  
**Section A-Descriptive Assignment Questions**

1. Define communication, explain its types and discuss the importance of communication in personal and professional contexts.

*Hint: Discuss communication, its types, functions, process and importance of communication*

2. Analyze the impact of globalization on the spread of news and information around the world.

*Hint: Examine the relationship between globalization and mass media, emergence of global media, media convergence and media imperialism.*

3. Compare and contrast the views of McLuhan and Baudrillard regarding the impact of media on society. Discuss how each theorist perceived the relationship between media, reality, and human experience, providing specific examples to illustrate your points.

*Hint: Briefly outline the key ideas of Marshall McLuhan regarding media, focusing on concepts like "the medium is the message" and Jean Baudrillard's views on media, particularly his ideas on simulation, hyper-reality, and the role of signs in contemporary culture.*

4. Critically analyze the role of media in social transformation, focusing on its impact on societal norms and values concerning women, youth, and children

*Hint: Discuss the impact of media on youth, women, and children, highlighting both the positive and negative effects it has on societal norms and values.*

5. Analyze the relevance of Harold Innis's communication theory in today's digital landscape. Provide examples of how modern media can be categorized as time-biased or space-biased and discuss the implications for societal values and interactions.

*Hint: Summarize Harold Innis's communication theory, focusing on his concepts of "time-biased" and "space-biased" media and explain how these concepts relate to the way societies organize themselves and communicate.*

### **Section B- Analytical Assignment Questions**

1. Choose any social media platform that you may use and discuss how it has helped you in your day-to-day social interactions. Consider specific examples of how it has influenced your communication, relationships, and overall social experience.

*Hint: Discuss how social media platforms like whatsapp, facebook etc helped you in connecting with people and its positive and negative impact on your life.*

2. Have you ever received fake Whatsapp messages, fake calls, or misinformation such as celebrity death hoaxes, fake job offers, or banking scams etc? How do these situations connect to Baudrillard's idea of hyper-reality, where it's hard to identify between real and fake.

*Hint: Discuss briefly Baudrillard's theory of hyper-reality. Using your own experiences or those of others, explain how reality is blurred in the era of social media. Consider how social media creates simulations that can make it difficult to distinguish between what is real and what is not.*

3. Do you think women are objectified in serials and cinema? Discuss how social transformation has occurred in Indian entertainment industry regarding the representation of women. While you attempt, consider both traditional portrayals and recent changes in films and television shows with examples.

*Hint: Compare how women characters from older generation serials and movies differ from those in contemporary films and television shows. Consider aspects such as their roles, empowerment, agency, and how these portrayals reflect societal attitudes towards women in both eras.*

4. Reflect on your own experiences with media in your education. How have you used media as a learning tool, and what impact did it have on your understanding of a particular subject?

*Hint: Discuss the role of different types of media (e.g., youtube, social media, online platforms, podcasts) in education and how they provide engaging content that supplements traditional classroom learning.*

5. Analyze a specific piece of media (e.g., a book, a film, a social media platform) through the lens of McLuhan's theory. Consider how the medium itself shapes the content and its impact on the audience.

*Hint: Briefly explain McLuhan's concept of "the medium is the message" and discuss whether or not the medium impacts the audience. Substantiate your points with examples.*



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**M.A SOCIOLOGY**  
**Semester III - DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE**  
**Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Assignment Questions**  
**Course Code: M21SO02DE**

**Course Title: SOCIETY AND EDUCATION**

**Section A-Descriptive Assignment Questions**

- 1. Explain the unique components in the thoughts of Savitribai Phule and Tarabai Shinde and compare them with Western feminist thought.**  
*Hints: Discuss the major contributions of Savitribai Phule and Tarabai Shinde, outline the central themes of Western feminism, and explain the unique challenges faced by Indian women in education. Analyze how Phule and Shinde's ideas differ from those of Western feminist thinkers.*
- 2. In light of modernization theory, analyze the important lags that have developed in the Indian educational system.**  
*Hints: Discuss modernization theory and its key themes. Identify the major lags and obstacles within the Indian education system that hinder India's progress and modernization.*
- 3. Explain the meaning and functions of education and highlight emerging trends in its goals and functions in contemporary society.**  
*Hints: Discuss the meaning and functions of education as described in your study material. Explore new trends such as next-generation courses and artificial intelligence (AI), and explain how the goals and functions of education are changing in modern times based on your observations.*



4. **Explain the relationship between social stratification and educational access in the Indian context.**

*Hints: Discuss various forms of social stratification in India, such as class, caste, and gender, and explain how these factors affect educational access for marginalized and socially deprived sections.*

5. **Describe the role of the literacy movement in the social progress of Kerala.**

*Hints: Provide an overview of the literacy movement in Kerala, including its history and key activities. Discuss how it contributed to the spread of education and facilitated social progress in the state.*

## **Section B- Analytical Questions**

1. **Critically examine the Marxist theory of education based on the contemporary education sector in Kerala.**

*Hints: Analyze the public education sector in Kerala, from primary to higher education. Evaluate if the sector aligns with the capitalist needs as discussed by Marxists.*

2. **Reflect on the concept of ‘Cultural Hegemony’ based on your observations.**

*Hints: Review the syllabus and pedagogy of schools in Kerala, and explore cultural forms in Kerala. Analyze instances of cultural hegemony in these aspects.*

3. **Assess the role of education in bringing about social change in India.**

*Hints: Present a case study where education has significantly driven social change in India. Discuss the factors contributing to this change.*

4. **Critically evaluate the relevance of Ivan Illich’s thoughts on education.**

*Hints: Identify alternative methods for skill development and child training outside conventional formal education. Discuss the contemporary relevance of Illich’s views.*

5. **Reflect on the future of education in India based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2023.**

*Hints: Review the National Education Policy 2023 and assess whether it achieves its objectives of providing inclusive, holistic, and flexible education. Identify the key prospects and challenges that may shape the future of education in India.*



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**Assignment Questions**  
**M.A SOCIOLOGY**  
**Semester III - (Discipline Specific Elective)**  
**Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Course Code:** M21SO03DE

**Course Title:** SOCIOLOGY OF KERALA SOCIETY

**SET I-Descriptive**

1.Explain the political and economic structure of Kerala and discuss Naduvazhi system, Janmi-kudiyan systems.

*Hint: Briefly explain the economic and political structure by focusing on how these systems were interlinked, with political power (Naduvazhi) and economic control (Janmi) shaping Kerala's feudal society.*

2.Discuss the caste based inequalities existed in the Kerala society. Do you think that caste system is prevailing in Kerala society? Substantiate.

*Hint: Explain both historical and modern aspects of caste, highlighting the progress made by Kerala as a state and the prevalence of caste system in contemporary Kerala.*

3.Examine the role of religion in the socio-cultural formations of Kerala. Comment on the emergence of Bhakthi movement and advent of Christian and Islamic religions.

*Hint: Emphasize how religion influenced Kerala's social structures, cultural identity, and reform movements and discuss the contributions of the Bhakti movement in challenging caste and the role of Islam and Christianity in shaping Kerala's plural society.*

4.Assess the contributions of Thunjath Ramanujan Ezhuthachan and Hermann Gundert in the development of Malayalam language.

*Hint: Highlight Ezhuthachan's contributions to popularising Malayalam literature and Gundert's role in standardising and modernising malayalam language.*

5.Evaluate the land struggles in Kerala such as Muthanga and Chengara struggles. Do you think that these struggles have enrooted for rethinking existing inclusive policies.

*Hint: Briefly discuss how both Chengara and Muthanga struggles revealed the failure of Kerala's land reforms especially dalits and adivasis.*

## **SET II- Analytical**

Explain the concept of Marumakkathayam, its origin and the reasons for the disintegration of the system with suitable examples

*Hint: Discuss how Marumakkathayam worked, why it was suited for the earlier social structure, and the various legal, economic, and social factors that led to its decline.*

1. Examine the historical evolution of religious pluralism in Kerala. Provide examples of how Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity have coexisted and influenced each other.

*Hint: Highlight specific examples of festivals, cultural exchanges, shared spaces, and social practices that illustrate the harmonious coexistence of various religions in Kerala and discuss how these elements contribute to a unique social fabric that values diversity and mutual respect.*

2. Compare and contrast Kerala Model of development with that of other states. Prepare a note on what do you see as advantages and comment on the challenges.

*Hint: Highlight the strengths and challenges of the Kerala Model, such as its focus on human development and compare Kerala's growth with other states.*

3. Discuss de-centralization and assess the impact of decentralization policy on development in society and infrastructure in Kerala.

*Hint: take the case of any gramapanchayat, block Panchayat, district Panchayat, corporation or municipality in your locality and assess the projects and developmental activities, make an assessment of the impact of decentralization policy at micro level.*

4. Socio-religious reform movements have a significant impact upon the social transformation of Kerala society. Identify the major forces and personalities who led the movement and prepare note on their contributions.

*Hint: Briefly discuss five socio-religious reform movements and their key personalities, along with their contributions to social transformation in Kerala, emphasizing how their efforts challenged social injustices and promoted equality, education, and political awareness among marginalized communities.*



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**M.A SOCIOLOGY**  
**Semester III - (Discipline Core)**  
**Continuous Internal Evaluation**

**Assignment Questions**

**Course Code: M21SO04DE**

**Course Title: DIASPORA STUDIES**

**Section A-Descriptive Assignment Questions**

1. Discuss Everett Lee's push-pull theory. What are the four groups related to the migration process? And analyse six points Lee has associated with the volume of migration.  
*Hint: Explain Lee's push-pull theory with all classifications and characteristics of migration*
2. Looking at various causes of the migrant community, Robin Cohen has proposed four typologies of diaspora—Elaborate Cohen's classifications along with identifying the specificities of each community.  
*Hint: Discuss Cohen's classifications of diaspora and look into the specificities of each community.*
3. What is the indentured labor system? Analyse the Indian migration during pre-colonial and colonial periods and identify their major destinations.  
*Hint: Define the indentured labor system and examine its origin and evolution during the pre-colonial and colonial periods.*
4. India is one of the world's largest remittent economies. Discuss the factors driving remittance into India and assess its socio-economic impact upon Indian villages.  
*Hint: Discuss remittance as an impact of migration and analyse the implications of remittance on Indian villages.*
5. Examine the Indian profile in Sri Lanka and diagnose ethnic and racial challenges encountered by Indian diaspora.

*Hint: Investigate ethnic and racial problems of Indian diaspora in Sri Lanka.*

### **Section B- Analytical Questions**

1. Compare and contrast transnational theory and neoclassical theory in terms of influencing migration and the formation of diaspora. In your words, which theory can interpret better the migration process takes place from India?

*Hint: Analyse migration patterns from India using the postulates of transnational and neoclassical theory.*

2. What do you mean by diasporic writings? List out major diasporic writings and prominent writers in Malayalam and prepare a commentary about any two.

*Hint: Find out authors and literature related to diaspora and migration and discuss any two of them.*

3. What is return migration? Assess sociocultural and economic problems faced by the return migrants from Kerala and evaluate policy initiatives introduced by the Government of Kerala for their welfare.

*Hint: Examine the problems of return migrants to Kerala and analyse the government initiatives to address them.*

4. Indian diaspora is well presented in the cyber world. Prepare a commentary on the statement.

*Hint: Justify the statement in the light of evidence/examples*

5. Observe major Pravasi organizations in our state. Discuss any two Pravasi Organizations in terms of their organizational structure, goals and initiatives for the welfare of the Indian diaspora overseas.

*Hint: identify any two major Malayali pravasi organizations and analyse their structure and contributions to the Malayali diaspora overseas.*

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**CONTINUOUS INTERNAL EVALUATION**

**ASSIGNMENT QUESTIONS**

**MA SOCIOLOGY**

**SKILL ENHANCEMENT COMPULSORY COURSE**

**PERSONALITY AND COUNSELLING I**

**M21SO01SC**

**SEMESTER III**

**January 2023 Admission**

*General Instructions*

- Learners are required to submit two assignments, one from each set, with each assignment carrying 15 marks.
- The descriptive assignment requires the learners to comprehensively explain the theories or concepts supported by relevant facts and examples. In contrast, the analytical assignment demands critical evaluation based on well-supported arguments, leading to informed conclusions.

*Assignment Format*

- The assignment should contain a title page, introduction, content (explaining theories or concepts for the descriptive set or analysing the theories and concepts for the analytical set), conclusion and bibliography.
- The assignment must be handwritten.

## **SET 1: DESCRIPTIVE**

1. Compare and contrast the classical psychoanalytic approach with the neo-psychoanalytic approach to understanding personality. In your discussion, highlight the key principles, concepts and theories associated with each approach. Examine how these theories conceptualise the driving forces behind human behaviour and personality development.
2. Describe and compare various methods and techniques used in counselling. Discuss the underlying principles of each, how they are applied in practice and the effectiveness in addressing different types of client issues.
3. Discuss the various factors that influence the development of personality. In your response, analyse how genetic and hereditary, environmental, psychological and developmental factors interact to shape an individual's personality over time. Provide examples to illustrate the above.
4. Discuss the importance of assessment in counselling and its significance in the therapeutic process. Explore the distinction between assessment techniques and tools, providing specific examples.
5. Critically examine the ethical principles that guide the practice of counselling. Analyse how these principles are applied in real-world counselling scenarios, including the challenges and dilemmas counsellors may face in upholding these standards. Reflect on the role of ethical codes and professional guidelines in ensuring responsible and effective practice.

## **SET II: ANALYTIC**

1. One of the most common misconceptions about counselling is that it simply involves giving advice or telling clients what to do. Reflect on this misconception and discuss how it contrasts with the actual role of a counsellor. In your response, explain the key principles of the counselling process and describe how a counsellor's approach goes

beyond merely providing advice to support clients in their personal growth and self-discovery.

2. Can you recollect your earliest experience of recognising yourself as a distinct individual? Is your 'self' the same as your personality? How would you relate the emergence of your 'self' with the development of your personality? Discuss the above and critically analyse how the various domains of development such as cognitive development, language development and emotional development influence the development of personality.
3. Engage in a conversation with a practising counsellor to gain practical insights into the counselling process. Based on this interaction, write a report outlining the key aspects of the counselling process, including the techniques, stages and goals. Examine how the stages of counselling discussed in the course compare with those applied in a real-world setting.
4. Someone might describe themselves as shy. Are they describing their personality, or not? Substantiate. Given the above, discuss in detail the conceptual layout (the concept, definitions, nature and elements) of personality.
5. Familiarise yourself with various assessment tools used in counselling. Identify and list two assessment tools each for depression, anxiety and personality. Describe the purpose of the tool, explain how it is administered and discuss the strength and limitations of each tool in capturing the relevant psychological constructs.