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## Social Problems and Sociological Tradition: An Analysis of Theoretical Perspectives Towards the Understanding of Social Problems

Jayapal H. R.\*

### ABSTRACT -

Approaches are theoretical perspectives or models which show the patterns and regularities about particular phenomenon, which otherwise remain latent. They can connect seemingly isolated phenomenon with wider reality. Perspectives attempt to provide causes and consequences of phenomena in abstract way, that is, explanation of things going beyond time and space. In this paper, we will try to understand the approaches to social problems. Essence of this paper is to understand how perspectives on social problems contributed to the essence and development of sociological tradition. Five perspectives on social problems are analyzed here. Each perspective conceptualizes the social problem and traces the causes for the occurrence of deviance and social problems; of them social disorganization approach made significant contributions in the development of subject matter of the discipline. Besides, value conflict approach further expanded the horizon of conflict perspective. Though deterministic in its outlook cultural lag approach gives a view about the way institutions, practices and people respond and adapt to the changes in innovation and technology. Anomile approach illuminates our views about the social structural context of deviant behaviour and social problems.

Keywords: Social Disorganization, Cultural Lag, Maladaptation, Deviance and Anomie

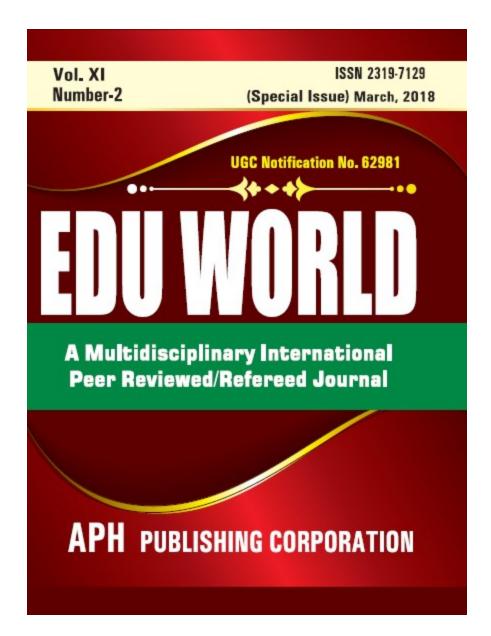
## INTRODUCTION

Approaches are theoretical perspectives or models which show the patterns and regularities about particular phenomenon, which otherwise remain latent. They can connect seemingly isolated phenomenon with wider reality. Perspectives attempt to provide causes and consequences of phenomena in abstract way, that is, explanation of things going beyond time and space. Essence of this paper is to understand how perspectives on social problems contributed to essence and development of sociological tradition. Approaches to social problems are classified into five types: Social disorganization approach; cultural Lag approach; value conflict approach; personal deviational approach and anomie approach.

## SOCIAL DISORGANIZATION APPROACH

Social disorganization approach came to prominence after the First World War (Rubington, and Martin op.cit 57). This approach is applicable in the context of transition of society. The concept of social disorganization can be understood more meaningfully by comparing it to its opposite state, that is, social organization. The concept Social organization has an implicit organic analogy and

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# Community and Sociological Tradition: An analysis of Community Disorganization as a Process

Jayapal H. R.

ABSTRACT

The concept of community has informed the writings of classical sociologists such as Karl Marx, Ferdinand Tönnies, Georg Simmel, Emilie Durkhelm, and Max Weber. Communities, which were transquil, simple, homogeneous in Europe were transformed into crowded, complex and heterogeneous by the process of industrialization and urbanization. Societies undergo the process of disorganization relatively more during the period of transition. To be more specific, when there are changes in the morphology of society, that is, changes in structure and functions of society, it experiences social disorganization. Social disorganization is relatively a temporary period that society in transition experiences. 'How short is this period' depends upon several factors. Community disorganization may be a result of disorganization in wider society. Disorganization in particular community may also bring dysfunctions in society pushing it to wider social disorganization. Society comprises of several communities in its ambit. If a phenomenon of community disorganization is relatively micro in nature, social disorganization is macro in nature. This paper discusses the community aspects of disorganization and tries to understand them as process

Keywords: Community Disorganization, Sociological Tradition, Ecological Dimensions, Natural Process, Purposive Process

## INTRODUCTION

There is an intimate relationship between the concepts of social disorganization and community disorganization. Social disorganization indicates the breakdown of rules. Such rules bind the different elements of society by creating interrelationship and interdependence between different parts of society. This leads to an ordered relationship between the different parts of society, which is the essence of social organization. In a similar way, community disorganization obviously refers to breakdown of rules in community.

Societies undergo the process of disorganization relatively more during the period of transition. To be more specific, when there are changes in the morphology of society, that is, changes in structure and functions of society, it experiences social disorganization. Social disorganization is relatively a temporary period that society in transition experiences. 'How short is this period' depends upon several factors: they are degree of conflict and conflict resolution, adaptation and policy measures. Community disorganization may be a result of disorganization in wider society. Disorganization in particular community may also bring dysfunctions in society pushing it to disorganization is narrower in scope compared to social disorganization as the latter covers the society or social system in large.

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# EDUCATION PLUS

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## Peasant Movements in Colonial India: An Analysis

Jayapal H. R.\*



Peasant movements were the principal medium of expression against agrarian unrest In pre-Independent India. There is an intimate relationship between peasant movements and nationalism in India. This paper examines five major peasant movements in colonial India. It traces the dawn of peasants' consciousness about its plight, deprivation and articulation of discontent, dissent, deprivation through their collective actions. Movements analyzed here show that peasants are capable of autonomous actions and they are not doclie. Movements discussed here were representative and symptomatic of the mood of peasantry across the sub-continent. Several peasant movements other than those analyzed here existed and left deep impact on British regime in India. Peasant movements were natural expressions of peasants as collective actions and protest to put an end to oppressive structures of British state. Most of the peasant movements were in the form of rebellion. Violence and capturing the power are its common properties. But British with repressive state apparatus in the form of pan Indian bureaucracy particularly through army and police suppressed the movements. Though the movements were suppressed, their impact was so powerful that British government had to implement reforms in agrarian sector and peasant movements also contributed in achieving Independence.

Keywords: Peasants, Agrarian Unrest, Rebellion, Non-cooperation

## INTRODUCTION

Peasant movements were the principal medium of expression against agrarian unrest in preindependent India. There is an intimate relationship between peasant movements and nationalism in
india. Two ideologies had informed the peasant organizations of pre independent India: A. Gandhian
and B. Marxist. If former penetrated through Political liberalism of India National Congress and
particularly through Passive Ressistance of Mahatma Gandhi, whereas latter informed the peasant
organizations through Marxian principles of communism, particularly on the lines of Botshevik model
of Russia (Dhanagare, 1975, p. 1). National sentiments sprouted, according to A.R. Desai (2000),
due to the growth of unified national economy. This paper examines five major peasant movements
in colonial India. It traces the dawn of peasants' consciousness about its plight, deprivation and
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here show that peasants are capable of autonomous actions and they are not docile. Movements
discussed here were representative and symptomatic of the mood of peasantry across the subcontinent. Several peasant movements other than those analyzed here existed and left deep impact
on British regime in India. Peasants rose to action against oppressive colonial state even before the
dawn of Santhai insurrection such as in the state of Mysore and Bombay presidency; of them notable
is Amara Sullia Rebellion that took place in 1837. For the sake of brevity, this paper examines five

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## State and Civil Society: Analysis of Karl Marx's Views

Dr. Jayapal H. R.\*

## - ABSTRACT

Idea of humans' perfectibility and dialectical views of progress and development characterize the works of Karl Manx's He viewed conflict and power as the redemptive forces in building the social order, which is free from inequality and exploitation. Marx believed in creative capacity and freedom of humans in shaping their own life and carving out the social reality, which best represents the realization of their interests. But the existing reality departed from the ideal conditions; instead, humans' creative capacities are deformed under oppressive conditions of capitalism. Idea of perfectibility, which is legacy of enlightenment bequeathed to Marx, becomes conceptual yard stick in assessing social systems as how much they take leap towards progress or deviate towards the state of exploitation and alienation. Ideology, state and civil society will become the tools of capitalist class to distort and divert the people from developing true consciousness which indeed enables them to realize the truth. This article makes an attempt to understand the views of Karl Marx on state and civil society which portray that spheres of state and civil society are the extension of production relations of capitalist society

Keywords: 'Perfectibility', 'State', 'Civil Society', 'Economic base and productive relations'

## INTRODUCTION

idea of humans' perfectibility and dialectical views of progress and development characterize Karl Marx's works. He viewed conflict and power as the redemptive forces in building the social order which is free from inequality and exploitation. Marx believed in creative capacity and freedom of humans in shaping their own life and carving out the social reality which best represents the realization of their interests. But the existing reality departed from the ideal conditions; instead, humans' creative capacities are deformed under oppressive conditions of capitalism. Idea of perfectibility, which is legacy of enlightenment bequeathed to Marx, becomes conceptual yard stick in assessing social systems as how much they take leap towards progress or deviate towards the state of exploitation and alienation. Ideology, state and civil society will become the tools of capitalist class to distort and divert the people from developing true consciousness, which enables them to realize the truth. This article makes an attempt to understand the views of Karl Marx on state and civil society, which portray that spheres of state and civil society are the extension of production reliations.

## MARX'S THEORY OF STATE

Manx became interested in political aspects after moving to the city Dresden in 1842. He developed interest on historical conditions leading to two revolutions in France and England which led him towards the area of political philosophy. His political views became crystalized as he read the works of Rousseau, Montesquieu, Machiavelli, Hegel and others. Manx's systematic discussion

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