



Sociology

Sociology and Philosophy

Modern philosophy and sociology came into existence during the same time period to explain the social crisis of Europe in the 19th century. Philosophy attempts to study reality in totality and sociology also began its journey with philosophical ambitions of developing grand theories and seeking ultimate ends. The study of sociology leads to philosophical quest. Durkheim thought that sociology has to necessarily contribute to a renewal of philosophical questions which made him indulge in some epistemological discussions, a branch of philosophy. Mannheim argued that sociology of knowledge had implications for philosophy. In , Comte speaks of three stages of society theological, metaphysical and scientific. Sociology develops theories. Some of these theories become instrumental for collective mobilization and social transformation, and thus become an ideology, a philosophy. Example: Marxism, Feminism and Critical Social Theory. Moral and social philosophy studies values and the sociologists study values and human valuation as facts. Language, symbols, relations are products of cultural ideology and shared cultural philosophy, and are studied by sociologists. Social philosophy is the meeting point of social logic and philosophy and is concerned with study of fundamental principles and concepts of social life in their epistemological and axiological aspects. Example - concepts of dharma, individualism, liberalism, alienation since they are both values and facts. As Vierkandt says, sociology is productive only when it has a philosophical basis