



Sociology

Sociology and Psychology

Psychology is the science of individual behavior. Sociology attempts to understand behavior as it is organized in society and shaped by different aspects of society. Durkheim who sought to establish a clear scope and method for sociology in his study of suicide left out individual intentions of those who commit or try to commit suicide. Weber and Dilthey, on the other hand, believe that sociological explanations can be further enriched if an attempt is made to understand social behavior in terms of underlying meanings. Cooley ed from psychology. Ginsberg and Nadel also favour psychological interpretations. Gerth and Mills define 'role' as a meeting point between social structure and individual character and thus meeting point of social psychology and sociology. In contrast, Radcliffe Brown argues that sociology and psychology are entirely different systems where one studies the social system and other the mental system. Sigmund Freud gave more importance to inheritance over the environment and implied that sociology is merely an extension of social psychology. With increasing complexities in modern societies, sociology is also concerned with decoding symbolism which people manifest through social actions (symbolic interactionism of Mead). There are topics of common interest to both, like crime, juvenile delinquency, propaganda, socialization, imitation, domestic violence, alcoholism, etc. Gun violence in USA has been a subject of both psychological and social discourses in recent times. Indoctrination of vulnerable youths is another area of convergence. Though problem of relation between sociology and psychology is still disputed, both cross each other to understand processes which were originally thought to be compartmentalized.