BLOCK IV:
SOCIAL CONTROL AND SOCIAL ORDER

Unit 1 : Social Control

Unit 2 : Types of Social Control

Unit 3 : Social Order

Unit 4 : Theories of 'Unity of Society'

UNIT- 1
SOCIAL CONTROL

Unit Structure:

1.1 Introduction:

The term, 'social control, is widely used in sociology to refer to the social processes by which the behaviour of individuals or groups is regulated. Social control is necessary for an orderly social life. The society must regulate and pattern individual behaviour to maintain normative social order. Without social control the organisation of the society is about to get disturbed. If the individual is effectively socialised, he confirms to the accepted ways from force of habit as well as from his desire of being accepted and approved by other persons.

1.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, the learner will be able to–

- *define* and understand the concepts of social control,

- *understand* the nature of social control,

- *explain* the purpose of social control.

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1.3 Concept of Social Control:

Social system is a condition of balance between dynamics and statics. Extremely rapid change gives a sudden break to the established social system. By the time people adopt themselves to the changed circumstances a new change is already knocking at their doors. This process gives rise to instability, disharmony, lack of adoption and disintegration. The method that society adopts to run the system smoothly is called social control. It is a process through which the society remains stable and organized. Psychologically social control is a process of strengthening approved habit system, extinguishing those disapproved and thereby reducing those anxieties and angers to the dominant portion of the society which serve no useful social purpose.

According to E.A. Ross, *"Social control refers to the system of devices whereby society brings its members into conformity with the accepted standards of behavior.*

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: Define the concept of social control.

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Que. 2: Discuss the characteristics of social control.

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1.4 Nature of Social Control:

➢ Social control is a universal process, where there is society there is social control.

➢ Social control helps to bring stability and maintain social order in the society.

➢ Social control regards social values and patterns so that the balance of the society continues.

➢ Social control helps in strengthening approved habit system within the individuals.

➢ Social control helps society to be organized and well managed.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Social control is a process through which the society remains stable and organized. Psychologically social control is a process of strengthening approved habit system, extinguishing those disapproved and thereby reducing those societies and angers to the dominant portion of the society which serve no useful social purpose. Social control helps society to be organized and well managed.

1.5 Purpose of Social Control:

Social control aims at bringing about conformity, solidarity and continuity of a particular group or society. Social control attempts to achieve the following purposes:

➢ To bring the behaviour of individuals and groups in tune with the established norms of society.

➢ To bring solidarity and uniformity in the social organizations.

➢ To establish stability in the social relations.

➢ To exercise control over social tensions and conflicts.

➢ To provide fair and equal chances for cooperation and competition to all individuals, groups, and institutions to realise their goals.

➢ To facilitate appreciation and rewarding of champions of social cause and take punitive actions against anti-social elements.

➢ Bringing desired modifications in the social milieu, especially effecting required changes in the means and agencies of social control.

➢ Providing for the protection and promotion of the interests of the weak and vulnerable sections of society.

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Que. 3: Discuss the nature of social control.

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Que. 4: Discuss the purpose of social control.

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1.6 Summing Up:

➤ The term, 'social control, is widely used in sociology to refer to the social processes by which the behaviour of individuals or groups is regulated.

➤ Social control is a process through which the society remains stable and organized.

➤ Social control regards social values and patterns so that the balance of the society continues.

➤ Social control helps in strengthening approved habit system within the individuals.

1.7 Questions and Exercises:

• **Short answer question:**

    1. What do you mean by social control?

• **Long answer questions:**

    1. Define social control. Mention the nature of social control.

    2. Discuss the purpose of social control.

1.8 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Brown F. J. (1961) *"Educational Sociology"* Second Edition, Prentice- Hall, INC, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Tokyo

2. Bookover, W.B., (1955): *A sociology of Education,* New York, American Book Co.,

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UNIT- 2
TYPES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

Unit Structure:

2.1 Introduction:

The term, 'social control, is widely used in sociology to refer to the social processes by which the behaviour of individuals or groups is regulated. Social control is necessary for an orderly social life. The society must regulate and pattern individual behaviour to maintain normative social order. Without social control the organisation of the society is about to get disturbed. However, in the previous unit you have understood the concept and nature of social control also you are able to explain the purpose of social control.

2.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, you will be able to–

* *understand* the types of social control,

* *understand* the agencies of social control.

2.3 Types of Social Control:

A. Karl Mannheim classified social control into following two types:

1. **Direct Social Control:** It is the control that exercises upon the individual by the reactions of the people who are living within the proximity. E.g., Family, neighbourhood and play group.

2. **Indirect Social Control:** This is the type of control which is exercised upon individual by the factors like customs, laws, opinions, which affects the entire social system. E.g., Secondary groups, traditions, customs etc.

B. Types of social control as given by Gurvitch:

According to Gurvitch social control is of the following four types:—

1. **Organised Social Control:**

In this type of social control, the behaviour of the individual is regulated either through voluntary means or through democratic ways. This is done through natural ways of social control.

2. **Unorganised Social Control:**

This social control is exercised by values of culture and usages, traditions, fashion, symbol etc. This is an elastic type of social control and is related to day-to-day life.

3. **Spontaneous Social Control:**

This type of social control is exercised by ideas, rules and regulations, values, norms etc.

4. **More spontaneous Social Control:**

Social control that is exercised by direct social and group experience, such as, aspirations, decisions, desires, etc., is called more spontaneous social control.

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Que. 1: Discuss the different types of social control.

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STOP TO CONSIDER

Social control is a process through which the society remains stable and organized. Psychologically social control is a process of strengthening approved habit system, extinguishing those disapproved and thereby reducing those societies and angers to the dominant portion of the society which serve no useful social purpose. Social control helps society to be organized and well managed.

2.4 Agencies of Social Control:

Agencies are the instruments by which social control is exercised. Agency refers to those groups, organisations and authorities that are responsible for implementing social control in an effective manner. They have the ultimate say as to what is to be implemented and what is not to be implemented. Agencies use both the means- formal as well as informal. Family, educational institutions and the state are the agencies of social control. A brief discussion of these is attempted below:—

1) Family: Family is the most fundamental agency of the social control. Family refers to the smallest social grouping whose members are united by bonds of kinship. Family consists of two mature adults of opposite sex who live together in a union (marriage) accepted by the society, along with their unmarried children. It may also' be defined as a social group characterised by common dwelling, economic cooperation, and reproduction. Family is universal in the sense that there has never been a society in which Family in one form or the other has not existed. It is the primary institution of socialization. The person is born in a family and dies in a family. Family does not only play an important role during an individual's lifetime but also plays its role before the person is born and after the death of the person. Parents in the family control the behaviour of their children by making them learn what is right and wrong. They tell them which behaviour is desirable and which is undesirable. Family also inculcates the social values in the

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child. At various stages of life, family comes to the rescue of a person. Family as a primary group moulds the behaviour of the children as the parents are the first to influence the child's behaviour and development.

2) Education: Educational institutions are another important agency of social control. Transmission of knowledge by either formal or informal methods is the function of education. Although education is usually thought of in terms of formal schooling, effective training for the individual's role as both of a group member and independent person is a continuous process. The primary function of the process of education is to pass on the knowledge from generation to generation for the development of culture. In all periods of human society, a stimulus to creative thinking and action, which accounts in part for culture change, has been inherent. Education develops individual's personality and makes him/her learn behaviour patterns. Further, it equips an individual to distinguish between just and unjust, right, and wrong. Man is what he is only because of his socialization and education. Educational institutions play an important role in children's development. How to interact with their fellow beings, how to present oneself before one's seniors, how to regard family members, teachers and other persons in society, how to develop health, traditional practices and habits, how to make adjustment with others in life, are all learnt through education by the persons. Education also develops, power of self-control. It transforms human beings into ideal citizens by acquainting them with the social facts. It rationalizes the human behaviour and increases the analytical capacity of humans. It empowers people to face the hardships of life. In nutshell, the human qualities and traits are developed by education. Thus, education plays an important role in controlling human behaviour throughout the life of the individuals.

3) State: State is one of the secondary agencies of social control. It is a political form of human association by which society is organized under the agency of government that has legitimate sovereignty over a territorial area, authority over all the members of the society and absolute right to use force whenever necessary in order to control the behaviour of its members. State is an organised and formal system of social control. State controls the human behaviour by an arrangement of law, police, jail, judiciary, government, military intelligence department. It crushes the power of those who do not conform. It gives the welfare of its members as a top priority and arranges for their livelyhood employment. In the complex societies of today, the role of state in maintaining social control is paramount. People obey the state orders because they either know that these are. in their interest or that if they do not obey, they will be penalised and punished as per law of the state. Thus, they act in conformity with the orders of the state which helps in maintaining social control.

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Que. 2: Discuss the different agencies of social control.

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2.5 Summing Up:

➢ Social control is necessary for an orderly social life. The society must regulate and pattern individual behaviour to maintain normative social order.

➢ Karl Mannheim classified two types of social control as direct and indirect social control.

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➢ Gurvitch classified four types of social control, i.e., Organised social control, Unorganised social control, Spontaneous social control, and more spontaneous social control.

➢ Family, educational institutions and the state are the agencies of social control.

➢ Family is the most fundamental agency of the social control. Family refers to the smallest social grouping whose members are united by bonds of kinship.

➢ Parents in the family control the behaviour of their children by making them learn what is right and wrong. They tell them which behaviour is desirable and which is undesirable.

➢ Family also inculcates the social values in the child. At various stages of life, family comes to the rescue of a person. Family as a primary group moulds the behaviour of the children as the parents are the first to influence the child's behaviour and development.

➢ Educational institutions are another important agency of social control. Transmission of knowledge by either formal or informal methods is the function of education.

➢ Educational institutions play an important role in children's development. How to interact with their fellow beings, how to present oneself before one's seniors, how to regard family members, teachers and other persons in society, how to develop health, traditional practices and habits, how to make adjustment with others in life, are all learnt through education by the persons.

➢ State is an organised and formal system of social control. State controls the human behaviour by an arrangement of law, police, jail, judiciary, government, military intelligence department.

2.6 Questions and Exercises:

1. Discuss the different types of social control.

2. Discuss the different agencies of social control.

2.7 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Brown F. J. (1961) *"Educational Sociology"* Second Edition, Prentice- Hall, INC, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Tokyo

2. Bookover, W.B., (1955): *A sociology of Education,* New York, American Book Co.,

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UNIT- 3
SOCIAL ORDER

Unit Structure:

3.1 Introduction:

Social order refers to the ways in which people and groups in a society interact and maintain stability and cohesion. Social order is a fundamental concept in sociology that refers to the way in which the various components of society social structure and institutions, social relations, social interactions and behavior, and cultural features such as, beliefs, norms and values work together to maintain the status quo.

3.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, you will be able to–

- *understand* about the concept and nature of social order,

- *understand* about the approaches of social order,

- *analyse* the problems of social order.

3.3 Concept and Definition of Social Order:

The term '**Order**' refers to normal functioning. Social order implies the orderliness in the behavior and activities of people of the society. Social order depends on social stability. No order is possible without stability or continuity of the society. For the smooth functioning of our family life in all our daily activities we follow a routine order or a regular pattern. Like individuals, for the smooth functioning of the society all the parts of the society, that is social organizations and associations must maintain a regular order in their daily activities. So, social implies social stability and equilibrium of social forces.

The concept of **"Social Order"** has been discussed by- *Talcott Parsons (1939), Ogburn & Nimkoff (1940) and Kingsley Davis (1949).* These writers hold that "Social Order" is a blanket concept which includes the concepts of social system, social structure, social organizations and their functions.

According to Ogburn & Nimkoff, *"Order in society consists of the groupings of persons and the arrangements of their behavior."*

3.3.1 Nature of Social Order:

➢ Social order depends on social stability. No order is possible without stability or continuity of the society.

➢ Social order or orderliness in social behaviour is a universal characteristic.

➢ Social order depends on changes also. If the change is too slow or inefficient, the social system will decay. If the change is too rapid the system may lose the thread of order that made it a system.

➢ Socialization and social control maintain social order in society.

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Que. 1: Define the concept of social order.

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Que. 2: Discuss the nature of social order.

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3.3.2 Approaches of Social Order:

The concept of 'social order' has been explained and interpreted by different scholars in differ-ent ways. Three main approaches or explanations may be identified: (a) the utilitarian approach, (b) the cultural approach, and (c) the compulsion approach.

(a)   The Utilitarian Approach suggests that it is in self-interest of all individuals to maintain social order. This is especially true in complex societies where division of labour is high and people are interdependent. Utilitarianism has more influence on economic theories rather than on sociological ones.

(b)   The Cultural Approach stresses the role of shared norms and values. This approach is also known as "value-consensus approach". Durkheim and Talcott Parsons have been the influential sociological exponents of value-consensus approach. This approach states that the 'unity of society' or its 'order' arises naturally from the relations among men. These relations of the people are gov-erned by sets of shared rules and values. A network of rules and values stabilizes peoples' relation-ships and contributes to the unity and solidarity of the group or society. The exercise of social control helps to sustain this solidarity.

(c)   The Compulsion Approach or Conflict View emphasises power and domination of vari-ous types — military, judicial, spiritual, and economic. It also stresses the capacity of those who domi-nate to enforce order. According to this approach, different people are placed in different positions in society. By virtue of these positions they develop different interests, different experiences, and divergent outlooks on the world.

These differences become so extreme that any action or policy intended for the benefit of one group or category may threaten the well-

being of others. Hence the unity of any society is, therefore, to be seen as an outcome of the struggle by those who want to maintain status quo against the interests of those who want change.

The exercise of social control here means the wish of one group to keep society in status quo, despite the desire of others for change. Among the sociological theorists, Karl Marx and Max Weber have been the chief expo-nents of this approach. But these theorists have not denied the contributory role of values.

3.3.3 Problems of Social Order:

In sociology, social order refers to the ways in which people and groups in a society interact and maintain stability and cohesion. However, social order is not always perfect, and there are several problems that can arise within it. Here are some common problems of social order in sociology:

> **Social Inequality:** One of the most significant problems of social order is social inequality. In many societies, there are disparities in wealth, power, and resources among different social groups. These inequalities can lead to tensions, conflicts, and social unrest. They can also affect individuals' access to opportunities and social mobility.

> **Deviance and Crime:** Deviance refers to behavior that violates social norms and expectations. When deviance escalates to the level of violating laws, it becomes crime. Deviance and crime can disrupt social order by challenging established norms, values, and rules. They can lead to feelings of insecurity and fear within a society.

> **Social Conflicts:** Social conflicts arise when different groups or individuals have incompatible interests, goals, or values. These conflicts can be based on various factors such as social class, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or political ideologies. Social conflicts can disrupt social order by causing tension, hostility, and even violence between groups.

> **Social Change:** While social change is essential for societal progress, it can also create disruptions in social order. When established norms, values, and institutions undergo significant

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transformations, it can lead to resistance, conflicts, and uncertainty. Social change can challenge existing power structures and create a sense of instability and disorientation.

➢ **Marginalization and Exclusion:** Marginalized groups, such as racial or ethnic minorities, individuals with disabilities, or those living in poverty, often face social exclusion and discrimination. When certain groups are systematically excluded from participating fully in social, economic, and political life, it can lead to social unrest and conflicts. Marginalization and exclusion hinder social order by creating divisions and inequalities within society.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Social order refers to the ways in which people and groups in a society interact and maintain stability and cohesion. Some common problems of social order in sociology are: social inequality, deviance and crime, social conflict, social change etc.

3.4 Summing Up:

➢ Social order implies the orderliness in the behavior and activities of people of the society. Social order depends on social stability.

➢ Social order or orderliness in social behaviour is a universal characteristic.

➢ The main approaches of social order may be identified as: (a) the utilitarian approach, (b) the cultural approach, and (c) the compulsion approach.

➢ Some common problems of social order in sociology are: social inequality, deviance and crime, social conflict, social change etc.

3.5 Questions and Exercises:

• **Short answer questions:**

1. What do you mean by social order?

2. Mention the nature of social order?

- **Long answer questions:**
    1. Discuss the approaches of social order.
    2. Discuss the problems of social order.

3.6 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Brown F. J. (1961) *"Educational Sociology"* Second Edition, Prentice- Hall, INC, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Tokyo

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UNIT- 4
THEORIES OF 'UNITY OF SOCIETY'

Unit Structure:

4.1 Introduction

4.2 Objectives

4.3 Value Consensus Theory

4.4 Conflict Theory

4.5 Summing Up

4.6 Questions and Exercises

4.7 References and Suggested Readings

4.1 Introduction:

Value consensus theory and conflict theory are two important perspectives in sociology that provide different insights into social dynamics and the functioning of societies. While they offer contrasting views, both theories contribute to our understanding of social order and change. Both value consensus theory and conflict theory offer valuable insights into different aspects of society. While value consensus theory emphasizes social integration and cohesion, conflict theory focuses on power dynamics and social inequalities. Understanding both perspectives helps sociologists gain a more comprehensive understanding of social structures, dynamics, and processes.

4.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, you will be able to—

- *understand* about the Value Consensus Theory,

- *understand* about the Conflict Theory.

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4.3 Value Consensus Theory:

The "Value Consensus" theory in sociology, also known as consensus theory, is a perspective that focuses on the idea that societies are held together by shared values, norms, and beliefs. This theory emphasizes the integration and stability of social systems rather than conflict and division. Here are some key points and concepts associated with the Value Consensus theory:

Social Integration: Value Consensus theorists argue that societies function smoothly when there is a high degree of social integration, which means that individuals within a society share common values and norms. This integration helps maintain social order and stability.

Durkheim's Functionalism: Émile Durkheim, a prominent sociologist, is often associated with the Value Consensus theory. He believed that social institutions and norms serve important functions in maintaining social cohesion and preventing deviant behavior. For example, he argued that religion helps bind people together by providing a shared moral framework.

The view point of the consensus theorists is that societies are in some ways like biological organisms. They are composed of many distinct but interdependent parts and each parts makes some contribution to the survival of the whole. The parts also keep equilibrium. If any part is disturbed others react to bring back the equilibrium. To keep the equilibrium the societies, adapt to the physical environment, maintain adequate levels of production, organize distribution, provide services, control aggression etc. But it must be remembered that the social institutions are not biological organs and the member of the society are not like biological cells. Hence the analogy of human organism cannot be overdrawn.

Shared Values: According to this theory, individuals in a society agree on a set of core values and beliefs. These values guide their behavior and interactions with others. When people deviate from these shared values, it can lead to social problems.

Social Solidarity: Value Consensus theorists stress the importance of social solidarity, which is the sense of unity and connection among members of a society. This solidarity is said to arise from shared values and norms.

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Conflict as Anomalous: While Value Consensus theory generally focuses on social integration and stability, it does acknowledge that conflicts and deviations from the norm can occur. However, such conflicts are often seen as anomalies or temporary disruptions in an otherwise harmonious social order.

Critics Critiques of the Value Consensus theory argue that it can be overly idealistic and simplistic. They contend that societies are often marked by conflicts, inequalities, and power struggles, which this theory tends to, downplay or overlook. Marxist and conflict theorists, for example, provide alternative perspectives that emphasize the role of class struggle and inequality in society.

In summary, the Value Consensus theory in sociology posits that societies are held together by shared values, norms, and beliefs, and it emphasizes the importance of social integration and stability. While this perspective provides valuable insights into how societies maintain order and cohesion, it has been criticized for not adequately addressing the conflicts and inequalities present in many societies.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: Discuss value consensus theory.

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STOP TO CONSIDER

The "Value Consensus" theory in sociology, also known as consensus theory, is a perspective that focuses on the idea that societies are held together by shared values, norms, and beliefs. This theory emphasizes the integration and stability of social systems rather than conflict and division.

4.4 Conflict Theory:

The conflict theory draws its original inspiration from the works of Karl Marx. In contrast to functionalists' emphasis on stability and consensus, conflict sociologists see the social world in continual struggle. As such the Marxist theory offers a radical alternative to functionalism. The conflict theory assumes that the societies are in a constant state of change, in which conflict is a permanent feature. A.W. Green defined that it is an ever-present process in human relationship. Conflict includes tension, severe competition, hostility, disagreement over goals and values etc. Conflict is regarded as a constant process and an inevitable part of social life.

Karl Marx viewed that society is full of conflict between the social classes. It is not merely a class phenomenon but a part of everyday life in all societies. The sociologists are concerned with conflicts between men and women, parents and children, cities and villages, rich and poor, upper castes, and the lower castes and so on. The conflict theory of sociology tries to study how social institutions like family, government, religion, education, and media may provide help in maintaining the privileges of some groups and keep others in a subservient position.

It became increasingly influential in sociology during the 1970's, partly because of the decline of functionalism, partly because it promised to provide answers that functionalism failed to provide, and partly because it was more in keeping with the times. Although highly critical of Capitalism, Marx did consider that it would help to develop technology that would free people from material need and as such it would be possible to establish successful communist societies in which the needs of all their members were met.

Conflict theories are primarily concerned with the kinds of changes in the society that conflict can bring about. Educational sociology helps us to adjust to such changes in content to education. Change is a never-ending phenomenon in society and conflict may arise only for this change which influences the society to a great extent. Therefore, conflict theory has a great importance on bringing stability, maintaining social order and maintains social control in the society.

STOP TO CONSIDER

The conflict theory assumes that the societies are in a constant state of change, in which conflict is a permanent feature. The conflict theory draws its original inspiration from the works of Karl Marx. Conflict theories are primarily concerned with the kinds of changes in the society that conflict can bring about. Educational sociology helps us to adjust to such changes in content to education. Therefore, conflict theory has a great importance on bringing stability, maintaining social order and maintains social control in the society.

4.5 Summing Up:

➢ The Value Consensus theory, also known as consensus theory, is a sociological perspective that emphasizes the existence of shared values, norms, and beliefs within a society.

➢ This theory posits that societies are held together and maintain stability because individuals within them largely agree on fundamental values and rules.

➢ The conflict theorists also stress the pervasiveness of social change.

➢ The conflict theorists consider that the social institutions and groups work at cross purposes to each other.

➢ Conflict theory has a great importance on bringing stability, maintaining social order and maintains social control in the society.

4.6 Questions and Exercises:

1. Discuss about value consensus theory.

2. Discuss about conflict theory.

4.7 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Brown F. J. (1961) *"Educational Sociology"* Second Edition, Prentice- Hall, INC, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Tokyo

2. Bookover, W.B., (1955): *A sociology of Education,* New York, American Book Co.,

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