

Sociology Semester - IV

Sociology of India

This lesson plan provides a detailed, day-wise breakdown for the course 'Sociology of India'. It includes topic elaboration, suggested readings, activities, reflection questions, and test prompts. It is designed for self-study, group discussion, and classroom teaching.

Week 1: India as an Object of Knowledge

Goal: Understand the historical construction of knowledge about India through different intellectual discourses.

Day 1–2: The Colonial Discourse

- Topic Details:

Explore colonial administrative and ethnographic approaches to studying India. Focus on the works of Bernard Cohn and the role of Orientalism (Edward Said). Analyze how colonial knowledge was used to control and classify Indian society.

- Suggested Readings:

- Cohn, B. (1996). *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge*.

- Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism*.

- Activity:

Write a short note comparing Orientalist vs Utilitarian perspectives.

- Reflection Question:

How did colonial discourse shape the categories of caste, religion, and tribe in India?

- Test/Essay Prompt:

Discuss the role of colonial ethnography in shaping British policy in India.

Day 3–4: The Nationalist Discourse

- Topic Details:

Understand how nationalist thinkers reinterpreted Indian society in response to colonial domination.

Explore themes of cultural revival, reform, and critique in the writings of Partha Chatterjee and others.

- Suggested Readings:

- Chatterjee, P. (1986). *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World*.

- Activity:

Make a chart comparing colonial and nationalist portrayals of caste and family.

- Reflection Question:

In what ways did nationalist narratives accept or reject colonial categories?

- Test/Essay Prompt:

Explain how Indian society was imagined by nationalist sociologists.

Day 5–6: The Subaltern Critique

- Topic Details:

Introduce Subaltern Studies and the importance of writing history from below.

Focus on Ranajit Guha's critique of elite historiography and the voices of the marginalized.

- Suggested Readings:

- Guha, R. (1982). *Subaltern Studies I*.

- Activity:

List three examples of subaltern voices in Indian history.

- Reflection Question:

How does subaltern critique challenge both colonial and nationalist narratives?

- Test/ Group Discussion

Write a short essay on the contributions of Subaltern Studies to Indian sociology.

Day 7: Weekly Integration and Review

- Topic Details:

Summarize key concepts from all three discourses.

Identify differences in epistemology, focus, and representation of Indian society.

- Suggested Readings: previous mentioned books
- Activity: Comprehension Test From All units
- Teacher student interaction