**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY – DEFINITION, NATURE AND SCOPE**

**Definition**

Political Sociology is the product of cross fertilization between Sociology and Political Science, studying the impact of Society and Politics on each other. It includes th elements of both Sociology and Political Science. It brings out the principal motivation underlying the growth of both these disciplines. Its purpose is to study the stability of the democratic political system, the hindrances as well as the useful factors. In the words of Lipset, “If the stability of society is a central issue for Sociology as a whole, the stability of a specific institutional structure or political regime – the social conditions of democracy – is the prime concern of Political Sociology.”

In fact political institutions themselves possess social structures. Hence, they are often independent of casual factors that affect non-political social structures. For examples, there is considerable literature that seeks to show that the way in which nations elects their executives and parliaments determines in large measure the number and often the kind of parties that nations have. This in turn may affect the sense of group indentification among diverse social strata. The social structures in turn determine the nature of the political institutions of a society. Foe example, Commmunism develops in a society which has a wider base of unsatisfied and revolting lower class. On the other hand, democracy develops in a society ehere power and resources are shared nearly equally between the different social classes. To sum up, political sociology is a new discipline of recent origin which studies the inter relations between state and other social structures.

**Nature**

Political Sociology is the extended form of sociology which studeis exclusively the relationship between the ruler or the state and the citizens in a state. However, it is not limited to this study alone. Its extended study includes the ralationship between various states and conflict between them.

Political Sociology is a science like any other science. It employs systematic methods of investigation, theoretical thinking and logical assessment of arguments. It collects evidence about the selected subject matter using planned and organised methods. Explanations and conclusions are drawn on the basis of carefully collected evidences. Finding and conclusions are open to inspections, criticism and testing by other researchers. It involves systematic methods of investigation, ananlysis of data and the assessment of theories in the light of evidences and logical argument.

Political Sociology concern with the way in which political arrangements depend on social organisations and cultural values. It studeis the ralaltionship between the state and society, party system and its relations to society. It includes the effect of social attitudes on political participations, social classes and their political attitudes, social implication of voting pattern. It studeis the impact of social groupings upon political activity, the nature of welfare state, the effectiveness of propanganda and public opinion as means of imformal political education. In short, political sociology includes all political and social aspects which arise time and again in contemporary societies. It studies modern institution like bureaucracy, political parties, voting propaganda etc, which are day to day issues in the life of modern masses.

**Scope**

The scope of political sociology is very vast. There is no aspect in contemporary society which is not touched by some form of political association or activity. The scope includes effect of social attitudes on political participation, social class and political attitudes, voting and its political and social implications. It studeis the impact of social groupings upon political activity, the nature of walfare state, the effectiveness of propanganda and public opinion as means of infromal political education. It analysis the implications of politics in different social contexts. The science of politicl sociology arose out of the need for a single discipline to study all the factors which contribute to the recently increasing interdependence and close correspondence between polity and society in the industrial mass society.