**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY APPROACH**

Political Sociology approach to politics seeks to study politics as a dimension of social process. Politics involves interactions between the human individual, society and state. It is the order maintaining system of society. The main overall objective of politics is conflict-resolution and conciliation of interest of the people in society through the making and implementation of authoritative values with a view to maintain and promote common good. Politics can be studied only in relation to society.

Under the influence of Max Weber, Talcott Parsons and Robert Merton several modern political scientists particularly Davis Easton, Almond, Powell, Robert Dahl and several others have developed and used political sociology approach for the study of politics.

Political Sociology holds that the study of politics should essentially begin with the study of man and society. Politics can be really analysed as a process through which conflicts among men get resolved and reconcile for securing a tolerable harmony among various interest.

Man is a social animal and he finds physical, psychological and spiritual fulfilment in the company of other men. However, each man has his own interests, needs and values. Because of these, he cannot live in society without conflict. Conflict is an inescapable aspect of social relations. It naturally emerges in every society when two or more persons try to possess the same object, or to occupy the same space or the same exclusive position or to play incompatible roles or maintain incompatible goals, or adopt incompatible means for achieving their goals.

Conflict is natural and at the same time it has to be resolved for securing a tolerable harmony in society, because unresolved conflict can lead to anarchy and chaos. Politics therefore, emerges naturally as a process of conflict-resolution through the making and implementation of binding laws, decisions, rewards, rules, decrees and the like.

**Salient Features**

1. **State as a Social Organization**: Political Sociology approach considers the state primarily as a social organisation and seeks to analyse it in terms of the qualities and attributes of the people who compose it. All social groups, institutions and organisations, in fact, the entire social system greatly influence the structure and operation of the political system. Politics flows from the diverse interests and values of people and their subsequent actions in pursuit of these. The operations of Indian political system bears the big and deep influence of such social factors as family, kinship, caste, religion, culture, socialization process, race, language, class and others. Study of politics in relation to the social system is essential for a real and comprehensive understanding of the actual functioning of a political system.
2. **Use of Sociological Concepts in the study of Politics**: Several political scientists have been now using concepts and approaches drawn from Sociology for studying various aspects of politics. Concepts of system, Culture, Socialisation, Structure and Functions and several others have come from Sociology Political Science. Easton’s Input-Output model and Almonds Structural Functional analysis of political system fully reflect the usefulness of sociological concepts in Politics. In fact, Political Sociology has emerged as an important part of the study of both Political Science and Sociology. It involved the study of power and domination in society.

To sum up, it can be observed that Political Sociology Approach places emphasis upon the study of political activities, political relations and political interactions in their social context. Politics can be studied comprehensively and realistically only with reference to its social roots. All political relations and interactions can be analysed only with reference to the socio-economic cultural environment. Social factors always influence, even determine human political behaviour. “Politics can be studied only in relation with the social system in which it is at work.” Political Sociology Approach fully reflects the deep link between Political Science and Sociology.