

Indian Sociological Society (ISS), New Delhi
The Research Committee – 05 (Sociology of Education)
Background Note

The sociological interpretation of society offers us an understanding outlining an organizational behaviour of humans in social groupings while the same in the context of education provide a basic knowledge to be acquired by the specialists in education covering social function of education and the curriculum aspects as well required to train and educate the future generations. Emile Durkheim, the eminent French sociologist and pedagogist, who in his later career occupied the chair of “science of education” at the Sorbonne, insisted that the goals of education are wholly social and ensures the perpetuation of a collective life. Hence education according to him, is only the means by which the essential conditions about the society and its very existence are inculcated among the children”. (1956). Thus, Durkheim reasoned that, educators must turn to sociology to gain the knowledge and ideas which they have a responsibility to transmit.

This indicates that there are competencies requiring to perform the multifaceted functions of education lying beyond those unique to educators. Given this the awareness encompassing relationship between educational process and the institutions and cultures focussing on how education interacts with societal institutions and cultural contexts, is what is the crux to the broader framework containing the subject matter of **Sociology of Education**, offers. The formal study of sociology of education as a field began with the work of Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Along with other sociologists such as Talcott Parsons, Pierre Bourdieu, James Coleman and John Meyer, Durkheim and Weber developed the theoretical framework for the discipline as a whole, and also focused directly on it writing about the role of education in society.

In the backdrop of this, the Research Committee Five, Sociology of Education, one of the important Research Committees constituting the body of the Indian Sociological Society (ISS), New Delhi, a forum established to promote the study of sociology and sociological problems and to disseminate knowledge containing sociological importance, provides perspectives on education enabling to understand, plan for, and design effective educational environments.

The objectives of the Research Committee – 05 (Sociology of Education) are as under;

- The Research Committee – 05 (Sociology of Education), ISS, provides a platform for critical analysis of deliberations containing different dimensions of sociology of education, examining how social institutions and individual’s experience within those institutions affect educational processes and social development.
- It brings together scholars across generations and regions providing intellectual debates to build up a network facilitating professional exchange focussing to analyse and denounce the inequities embedded in education systems seeking scientific research.
- In its activities, it sponsors debates developing a critical awareness of social structures, inequalities, and cultural contexts that shape educational experiences, as well as fostering the ability to conduct independent research and apply theoretical frameworks to real-world educational issues.

- The RC- 05 facilitates to Highlight new and emerging debates on educational issues of sociological interest, as well as moving longstanding debates forward leading to a critical, innovative and reflexive thinking, acting as a catalyst for future research, policy and practice in the field. In this the RC 05 encourages the participation and critical engagement from scholars from around the world and at all stages of career development.
- Also it aims to debate covering marginalised social and political issues, non-dominant theoretical resources, and cross-cultural debate in the national and international field of sociology of education.
- To publish papers/books presented in Annual Conferences of ISS or otherwise of international significance which present creative, rigorous and critical perspectives in the sociology of education.
- To support the policies and programmes covering education in India as well at global level through deliberations of seminars, collaborations, special lectures, etc.
- Undertaking research into overcoming barriers to education by undertaking studies and seminars,/lectures focussing into poverty, gender, ethnicity, language and disability, and promoting education as an engine for inclusive growth and sustainable development.