

## **SOCIOLOGY ASSIGNMENT No. 2**

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**Q.1: Describe the Talcott Parsons contribution to sociology.**

**Ans: BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF TALCOTT PARSONS:**

Talcott Parsons was born in 1902 in Colorado, United States. He studied at Amherst College and at the London School of Economics. He got his PhD from University of Heidelberg.

He introduced European sociology to the US by translating important texts of European scholars. Initially he translated the works of Max Weber (including The

Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism).

He became a professor in 1944 and, two years later, the chairman of the new social studies department. Parsons served as the president of the American Sociological Society in 1949.

He remained a professor at Harvard until he retired in 1973. He died in 1979.

### **HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIOLOGY:**

The contributions of Talcott Parsons in sociology are. Talcott Parsons is known as the leader of functionalism of sociology. The introduction of grand functional theories was made by Talcott Parsons only.

According to the theory of social action and social system, Talcott Parsons indicated the micro and macro view.

Talcott Parsons created a theory of functionalism in sociology. He united clinical psychology and social anthropology to create a role-based theory of how individuals contribute to society by being of service and playing a useful function.

**Q.2: Elaborate the Talcott Parsons sick role theory.**

**Ans: INTRODUCTION:**

In 1951 Talcott Parsons devised the Sick Role concept in his book The Social System. He described the Sick Role as a way of explaining the particular rights and responsibilities of those who are ill. He simply put it as a temporary or continuous social role that an individual should take when he/she becomes ill. Sick role is considered as the major and the first

theoretical concept within Medical Sociology that analyzed the role of health and illness in social life.

## **THEORY:**

Being ill isn't what it used to be; blame it on long term conditions. In the 1950s, a founding father of medical sociology, Talcott Parsons, described illness as deviance -as health is generally necessary for a functional society – which thrust the ill person into the sick role (Parsons, T. The person is not responsible for assuming the sick role.

The sick person is exempted from carrying out some or all of normal social duties (e.g. work, family).

The sick person must try and get well – the sick role is only a temporary phase.

In order to get well, the sick person needs to seek and submit to appropriate medical care.