

## The relationship between sociology and economics

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**Abstract:** It is evident for every researcher in social sciences that there is a close interrelationship between them and the economic aspect. For example, political relations in any country are governed by the economic aspect through working conditions, consumer debt, community welfare, tax rates, and many other economic factors.

Social life in general consists of a number of religious, political, economic, family and educational aspects, each of which affects others in the field of work. For example, workers belonging to a particular religious or social group may reduce their productivity rates if the administration abuses them in dealing with them in achieving their just goals.

Sociology is considered one of the sciences that have a great impact on society through its many branches, such as religious sociology and educational sociology... in addition to the rest of the other branches that intertwine among themselves and influence each other and this is what is known as economic sociology, whose scholars belong to a number of knowledge branches are experts in labor relations, sociologists, industrial psychologists, demographics, and economic anthropologists, in addition to other branches of sociology, such as the professions, development, work, formal organizations, and others, and all of this is closely related to the economy.

The study aimed to clarify the relationship between economic sociology and both economics and sociology. The study concluded that economic sociology came as a result of sociology's failure to explain economic phenomena related to man in an accurate interpretation and to prepare ways to solve the dilemmas facing society, and also the failure of economics in analyzing economic phenomena and studying their reflections on society. This shortcoming led to the emergence of economic sociology, which combined the two sciences and set rules for studying social and economic phenomena at the same time.

**Keywords:** Economic sociology - economics - sociology - economic phenomena - behaviour of individuals.

### 1. Research Problem

The study deals with many problems that are fixed to the limits of the relationship between sociology and economics, as many economic phenomena are related to the behavior of members of societies who carry out economic activity as individuals or groups through exchange and solidarity. That is why economic phenomena have taken on a social character as long as they are linked to the desires, activities and incentives of members of society, in addition to the fact that the economy is one of the important factors in the cohesion, balance and harmony of society in general.

This can be illustrated by a number of questions, perhaps the most important of which are;

Q1: What is sociology and what are its goals?

Q2: How did societies develop from the social and economic aspect?

Q3: What is the relationship between economic sociology and both sociology and economics?

### 2. Research Goal

The research aims to identify the role of economic sociology in the study and analysis of economic phenomena related to society, such as studying economic systems, analyzing market conditions, describing economic cycles, discussing supply and demand policy, and setting appropriate mechanisms for it.

### 3. Research Hypotheses

This study is built on the premise that (Sociology is particularly important in economic interactions and the structure of society, which suffers from many problems that cannot be treated or diagnosed except in an economic framework. and vice versa.

### 4. Research Importance

Economic sociology is concerned with the study of economic relations with social mechanisms and the study of phenomena and social relations from an economic perspective.

## 5. Research Methodology

For the purpose of clarifying the idea of the research, the descriptive approach was used in analysing the relationship between economic sociology and economics and then analysing the relationship between it and sociology as two branches of human knowledge and clarifying the concepts associated with them and the interpretation that clarifies their concepts.

### TOPIC ONE

#### Economic Sociology. Concept and Objectives

The first signs of economic sociology appeared since the nineteenth century AD, but it expanded and its features and role became clear in the first half of the last century, after some scholars such as Joseph Schumpeter, Gunnar Myrdal, Neil Smelser and others became increasingly interested in consolidating its feet, laying its foundations and methodology, and developing its sociological approaches on both the theoretical and applied levels. And the interest of economic sociology in the economic problems of developing countries and the extent of their connection to the new world order has increased, as the interrelationship between sociology and economics has been confirmed, considering that economic activities are social phenomena that cannot be fully explained except in the light of their interaction and mutual influence with each other.

#### Concept of Economic Sociology

To know the concept of sociology, it is necessary first to get to know the science of economics. The science of economics knows that it is the study of the variables of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services to achieve the well-being of individuals (Ibn Saeed, 2014). Through the study of economics, the attention of scholars shifted to researching efforts that lead to the growth of wealth, and because the growth of wealth depends on the efforts of individuals, and these efforts represent economic activities, and of course, individuals do not make their efforts individually as they need each other in various economic activities, and then , it became clear to scholars the necessity of studying how these activities are organized and developing economic systems to ensure the proper use of resources to satisfy the desires and needs of people, confront problems and find appropriate solutions to them . Economic sociology is not sociology in itself, nor is it economics in itself. Rather, it is a science based on the analysis of social and economic ideas, concepts and theories at the same time. It explains social phenomena in an economic way on the one hand, and on the other hand, it explains economic behavior and its motives in a social interpretation (Badawi, 1996). Economic sociology can be defined as the application of the general framework of sociology, including variables and explanatory models, in the study of a group of complex activities related to the production, distribution, exchange and consumption of goods and services (Hassan, 2005).

This term appeared in the nineteenth century AD, exactly in 1179 AD, and was used by the Englishman William Stanley Goffins and after that, he used this term in the writings of Emile This science was established in the universities of the United States of America, and then moved to the rest of the universities of the West and the East after that. Economic sociology has become a new scientific discipline, branching off from general sociology, and employing its tools, mechanisms and methods in understanding, and interpretation, In this, Mohammad Yasir Al-Khawaja says in his book (Economic Sociology) ,the first efforts for the emergence of economic sociology in the United States of America crystallized with the concerns of American sociological schools, including the Chicago School, Harvard and others, to the development of the fields of economic sociology, and the use of many sociological approaches and economic models in the study of socioeconomic phenomena from the premise that economic activity, like any other activity, represents one of the social phenomena that cannot be fully understood and explained except in the light of the interaction and mutual influence between the economy and society (Husseini, 1985).

After that, the approaches to economic sociology expanded and became dependent on economic theories and doctrines to deepen the tie between economic phenomena and societal phenomena, This science became an academic specialization in the economics or sociology division, and this specialization did not enter Arab universities until the last decades of the twentieth century, and there are still very few studies in it even in its western environment.

Thus, economic sociology has become an independent scientific discipline that cannot be dispensed with in the study of social phenomena of an economic nature. Moreover, there is a set of issues and social phenomena that cannot be understood, explained or interpreted except by stopping at the economic factors that are the real reason for sorting of these phenomena in a way of shapes (Al-Hourani, 2012).

Some believe that the interest of sociologists in the economic phenomenon has been delayed compared to the study of other issues (and this belief is incorrect) because the science of economics began early.

The early interests of the first sociologists, starting with the founders of sociology in its initial and modern form (Ibn Khaldun and Auguste Comte) were poured into the field of economic sociology, as Ibn Khaldun's introduction contained many economic issues such as: division of labor, professions, and value theories, The role

of the state in the market.

As for August Comte, called for sociology to study economy instead of economics. The interests of Karl Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber (the most prominent names in classical sociology) focused on discussing many issues of an economic nature. The subject of capitalism, social classes and production relations occupied an important place in Studies by Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim presented his famous work on the division of labor, a concept that occupies a prominent importance in the economic organization of human societies in different stages of their growth and development.

Sociology has been given several definitions, the most important of which is Professor Max Weber's definition, which states that it is "the science that studies the social roots and backgrounds of economic phenomena and studies the results and repercussions of economic phenomena on society and social construction (Al-Khashab, 1957).

Max has studied the economic and social effects of the institutions of the capitalist system, which was reflected on European society, a social and scientific study, and he showed the importance of societal jobs with economic contents and purposes performed by society that serve the unity of the fateful interdependence between institutions and achieve the fateful interdependence of workers in economic activities

### **The goals of economic sociology (Al-Khawaja, 1998)**

Each science has a set of goals that it seeks to achieve, and economic sociology has a number of goals in the theoretical and applied fields, the purpose of which is to increase its efficiency in analyzing the phenomena and circumstances in the broad field of economic sociology in order to serve society and the individual;

1-Raising levels of knowledge through scientific research and studies that he undertakes to develop specializations in this important science in a way that enables him to explain phenomena and interactions in a clear and accurate manner.

2-Using applied principles and theories in solving problems and circumstances that society suffers from, such as apparent consumption, high prices, low level of productivity, labor strikes, depression, unemployment, and others. Economic sociology helps to create a positive social climate and a civilized base for industrialization and economic development.

3-Determining the relationship between economic sociology and its specializations and between it and other sciences such as psychology, history, logic, geography, anthropology..etc., in order to deepen the independence of economic sociology and raise its scientific reputation and its specialized theoretical and applied capabilities and what can add to human knowledge and develop its fields in various circumstances (Al-Dahri, 2003) .

4-Develop this specialty by increasing the number of professors, researchers and specialists in economic sociology, creating scientific departments and courses, developing research and scientific studies, publishing studies and lectures, as well as creating fellowships and scientific missions for this specialty.

5-Clarify and comprehend the social and psychological bases and rules of economic behavior and the social effects resulting from the economic phenomena witnessed by society such as urbanization, industrialization, development, inflation, deflation, unemployment, price hikes, economic depression and financial speculation, as well as knowledge and analysis of the role of economic and material factors in behavior, relationships and social values.

-66-Searching for facts and data of this science, categorizing, organizing and theorizing in a way that helps to understand and explain the phenomena and circumstances of science, both objective and subjective, It is a mixture of several approaches and methods such as the historical, experimental and comparative method used by sociologists with methods of observation and participation, and this is determined by the method of research and study carried out by the scientist or researcher (Sasin, 2014) .

7-The absence of educational institutions or associations that can support economic sociology professionally to raise the scientific level of specialists and researchers in it and grant them privileges and gains to encourage them to spread this science by deepening people's awareness of its importance and its role in serving national economic and social development plans.

## **TOPIC TWO**

### **Stages of social and economic development**

For the purpose of studying the social impact of economic phenomena, the study was divided into two periods, the first being the classical period and the second the contemporary period, as follows;

#### **First: Economic Sociology in the Classical Stage**

Human societies during its development, passed through several stages, which they moved from simple pastoral societies to complex industrial societies, we can distinguish through human history several types of societies that differ from each other in their geographical conditions, economic activity, cultures, social and political systems, and we can say that the economic system, is the main distinguishing factor between these societies.

#### **1- Hunting Societies (Walat, 2010) .**

These societies depended on hunting animals and harvesting fruits and vegetables through the simple methods of division of labor followed by them, old males were assigned to hunt animals, assisted by boys, in addition to some

small household works, as for old women, they were tasked with collecting and preparing food, and young girls helped them in some work. The simple household, and these societies live in interconnected control units that rely on self-protection and joint work, and also enjoy free time and peace of mind, as the economy of these societies is a living economy that does not have an abundance of food, and they do not have stable homes for stability. Anthropological studies indicate that hunting societies are the oldest and most common economic patterns of the past.

## 2- Horticultural Societies

These societies are characterized by the cultivation of vast and large lands to provide the daily needs of food, and this type of societies was known when the ax was invented and the process of turning the land and preparing it for agriculture. Many societies in different parts of the world still depend on this primitive method of agriculture, and this type of societies have to live in fixed houses to take care of their agricultural lands, but they are forced to move when the soil is depleted of resources and they grow one type of crops and these societies live in units kinship and interconnected housing where all several families live in one housing unit similar to a clan enjoying independence and characterized by the presence of surplus production, and this surplus is led to the formation of wealth(Alout, 2017)

## 3- Grazing Societies

The harsh environmental conditions, water scarcity, and lack of grass and pasture led to the emergence of a lifestyle based on movement and nomadism behind water and pasture, which is the Bedouin style, and grazing was the main occupation of the population, as the Bedouins worked on grazing camels and livestock, and as a result of this economic activity a pattern of ownership known as collective ownership of land and animals appeared, as members of one tribe enjoy the right to benefit from the land, but they do not have the right to sell it or dispose of it, as prevails in these societies a kinship system based on clan solidarity. The clan was the main unit in the Bedouin societies in its placing and migration, and the number of Bedouins in the world is decreasing, although there are still some societies that live on grazing in the Arabian Peninsula and East Africa.

## Second: Contemporary Economic Sociology

### 1-Agricultural Societies

Man began farming since he knew the plow and started using it in preparing the soil and using animals in agriculture and in raising water for irrigation and in collecting crops, which saved him effort and time. A large number of people in the places of accumulation of agricultural production, and from here many cities appeared around the banks of the rivers, attracting people, which led to the revitalization of the economic movement, the increase in production and the encouragement of individuals to work in areas other than agriculture, such as working in government jobs or crafts such as carpentry, blacksmithing and trade, which created a kind of from of integration between members of the same society, then the area of societies expanded, which led to the complexity of social relations and the emergence of class hierarchies in society. Power and strength were concentrated in the hands of the rich feudal class of nobles who owned large areas of land, then religious groups appeared in which religious authority was concentrated and built commercial relations with the feudal class of nobles who invented currencies and used it in trade, buying and selling instead of the barter system.

### 2- Industrial Societies

The Industrial Revolution appeared in Britain in 1780, and man was able to take quick steps towards technological progress, as this stage characterized by the use of modern technological means in all aspects of human life at home, work, rest and communication with others. Part of the national income of countries was allocated for the development of scientific research and inventions. Technology has facilitated communication between peoples in various social, economic and cultural fields. Technological progress has developed into several stages. Three important stages can be distinguished, including:

**A -The first stage:** The Steam Revolution 1780-1860 began when man discovered the energy of steam and used it as a driving force, he discovered coal and extracted the various minerals that he used in making machines, cars and planes.

**B - The second stage:** The discovery of oil 1860-1910, at this stage, man was able to discover and extract oil and use it as energy as an alternative to steam. Many countries have contributed to technological progress, as electricity was discovered as an auxiliary source for oil mainly, as it was used to move factories, operate cars and planes, and various machines.

**C - The advanced industrial stage** 1910 until now and was characterized by the most important inventions such as atomic energy and missiles, and in the civil aspect, such as the invention of television, computers, modern medical devices and the Internet, which is a huge technological leap in human life, as this technology was able to replace humans in many jobs, which led to an increase in the unemployment rate in most countries of the world.

**This stage was characterized by the following;**

**A-Specialization and division of labor:**

Modern societies have tended towards industrialization and business expansion, and precise specialization in work has emerged, the world is no longer in the factory doing all the work, but the world has become trained to master only one job, quality and kind have become the goal of production in modern industrial societies, and from here, we find that the most important characteristic of work in modern societies is specialization and division of labor.

**B - The speed of transportation of goods and information:**

Due to the revolution of modern technology, the distances between countries have vanished, and man in his place is able to connect with all parts of the world, and this led to the emergence of economic globalization, which seeks to transport goods around the world quickly, and with the tremendous technological progress witnessed by the major industrialized countries, empowered Western industries and products to occupy the leading place in the world, and this is what encouraged their products to sweep other countries and there is no longer room for competition between these countries and the developing countries that are moving slowly towards progress.

**C- The change in the quality of work from the industrial sector to the service sector:**

Thanks to technological progress and the entry of modern machines into the field of manufacturing, industrial work is no longer the first work that people turn to, but rather work in the field of services attracts the largest possible number of people to work in the fields of education, health and banks, insurance companies, transportation and communications, it also notes a decrease in the number of workers

in some traditional fields such as iron and steel, and defense means, while the number of workers in the fields of computers, medical engineering, medical devices, and communications has increased, and most of these fields require high technical skill.

**3-Post-industrial societies:**

These are societies in which people depend on their knowledge as a main source of income, such as teachers, lawyers, university professors and doctors and their wages in return for selling their knowledge to those in need, it is their knowledge, not their physical strength, that provides them with income, and sociologists have not yet known what factors led to the transition of societies from the industrial stage to the post-industrial stage, although they believe that education played an important role in the emergence of this type of societies. The teacher sells his knowledge to the students, the lawyer sells his legal advice to his clients, , doctor sells his medical advice to his patients. Thus, we find that wealth at the present time is no longer in the possession of the means of production, but in the possession of knowledge.

**TOPIC THREE**

**The relationship of economic sociology to sociology and economics**

Economic sociology is considered a mating between sociology and economics after the two sciences failed to explain the economic phenomena studied by economics in a social way, and the inability to explain the social phenomena studied by sociology in an economic way, this is due to the preoccupation of economic scientists with the study of the many and manifold topics of their specialization, as well as social scientists.

From here economic sociology emerged and adopted the study of the social roots of the economic phenomenon and study its consequences of the economic phenomenon on society and its social structure. It can be said that economic sociology is a mediator between economics and sociology because it is derived from them.<sup>1</sup>

The relationship between economic sociology and economic and social sciences has become a close relationship because economic sociology depends in the study of social phenomena and economic phenomena on data, facts and social and economic information, and this strong relationship made each of these sciences depend on the data of the other science, taking and giving from the other science, and it is not possible to isolate any specialization from the other science, whatever the circumstances. So, economic sociology, if it wants to explain the phenomenon of high prices, the phenomena of supply and demand, or the preparation of economic studies aimed to increase the economic growth, and achieve social justice in the distribution of income and wealth through tax policies and government subsidies, requires identifying the demographic structure and the customs and prevailing traditions in society, as well as monitoring cases of poverty, unemployment and rural conditions, this is a purely economic interpretation, as for the social interpretation of the phenomenon of high prices, for example, it must be studied the social roots of this economic phenomenon, the lack of supply of goods may be due to the deliberate reduction of productivity by workers because of their poor social relationship with the administration, their religious affiliation, or the adoption of a specific political position.

**Similarities and differences between economic sociology and sociology**

After we got acquainted with the understanding of economic sociology and the concept of economics and

sociology, there are points of convergence and points of difference in the relationship between economic sociology and each of the other two sciences, the differences between economic sociology and sociology are as follows;

- 1-Economic sociology studies economic institutions such as the factory, farm, company, bank and others as a social study related to the structures and functions of this institution and the social relations in it and the status adopted by these institutions, while sociology studies all the institutions of society such as religious,
- 2-The field of sociology is broader than the field of economic sociology, where sociology studies society as a whole, the relationship of the individual to the group and the relationship of the group to society. It studies aspects of static and dynamism. It also studies customs, traditions, and values and their relationship to the nature of the social system in which they exist.<sup>2</sup> As for economic sociology, it studies only the social roots of the economic phenomenon, and its role in the social construction.
- 3-Sociology is considered historically older in terms of foundation and formation than economic sociology that appeared in the fifteenth century in the introduction to Ibn Khaldun, which is considered one of the basic works in sociology.

#### **The similarities between sociology and economic sociology are;**

- 1-Both sciences use the same scientific terms and concepts such as authority, power, role, institution, job, and others. Scientists also adopt similar social and economic theories and laws regarding the study of the balance between the duties and economic rights of the worker and its impact on the level of productivity.
  - 2-Economic sociology and sociology use the same academic and scientific curricula in collecting facts, information and related data to their specializations.
  - 3-The social scientist may study some topics that socioeconomics is interested in, such as the role of specialization and the division of family work in the family's standard of living, and the socioeconomic scientist may study some topics that sociology is interested in, such as the role of industrialization in family stability, women's work outside the home, and others.
- The importance of economic sociology to sociology lies in what economic sociology brings to important facts and information in the world of sociology that help him in interpreting and understanding the topics he researches and specializes in such as the real motives for social behavior of individuals and groups, the employee's negative behavior during his shift and his dealings with his colleagues and subordinates may be caused by the low salary he receives and the lack of material remuneration.

#### **The relationship of economic sociology to economics;**

Despite the participation of the two sciences in studying the same activities that are studied by the other sciences, there are differences between them represented in the following;

- 1-Economic sociology studies the social background of the economic phenomenon such as production and its consequences on society, while economics studies economic phenomena such as production, distribution and consumption as a purely economic study abstracted from its background and social effects on the individual and society.
- 2-Economics is older than economic sociology in terms of its development.
- 3-Economics is divided into two parts: theoretical economics, which is interested in discovering economic theories and laws that help in the accumulation of pure knowledge, as for applied economics, it seeks to apply these theories and laws in solving existing economic problems that society suffers from.

#### **The similarities between economic sociology and economics are;<sup>3</sup>**

- 1-Using the same economic terms and concepts in most of the theories and laws in which both are concerned.
- 2-They use the same methodological ways in collecting, classifying and theorizing data, the method of observation and comparison, and the field survey method, which requires the following paragraphs;
  - A- Defining the research problem.
  - B- Designing the statistical sample.
  - C - Preparing and designing the questionnaire.
  - D- Conducting field interviews.
  - E – Putting the field data
  - F- Statistical analysis
  - G- Write the required research

3-The similarity of the topics studied by the two sciences, such as the apparent consumption, the standard of living, savings, investment, production, distribution, internal and external trade, and other from different angles. When economic sociology studies investment, it does not study only the expansion of production capacity, but also studies the element of capital and labor as does economics, but studies social assistant factors in investment, such as providing political stability and a favourable climate that attracts investments, and the relationship of population growth to the level of consumption. It also studies the positive results of investment, such as accelerating social transformation, the welfare of the citizen, the provision of necessary goods for him, and its impact on the level of education and the provision of various social services.

These assumptions help economic sociology to understand the economic reality and realize its basic components, and through this, the economist can turn to economic sociology in order to benefit from them in studying the contents and social dimensions for full use, which relate to the following;

- 1-Saving the family and society from the problem of unemployment.
- 2-Achieving equality between businesses and those wishing for them in society, which leads to an improvement in the standard of living and socialization.
- 3-Decrease in crime rates when unemployment levels are reduced.
- 4-Reducing the expenditures of social service and social welfare projects.
- 5-The prevalence of material well-being as a result of full use

From what has become clear to us that there is a coherent relationship between economic sociology and economics on the one hand and between economic sociology and sociology on the other hand, every science gives the other science and takes from it, so we find that these sciences are coherent and cannot separate and complete independence away from each other as long as there is overlap and integration between them.

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