



# RPSC

← ASSISTANT PROFESSOR →

Sociology

**Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC)**

**PAPER – 2 || VOLUME – 1**



# **RPSC Assistant Professor Paper – 2 (Sociology)**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Pg.No.</b>
<b>UNIT – I Social Research</b>		
<b>1.</b>	Introduction to Social Survey and Social Research: Meaning and Scope	1
<b>2.</b>	Types of Social Survey	8
<b>3.</b>	Types of Social Research	16
<b>4.</b>	Scientific Method in Social Research	25
<b>5.</b>	Objectivity and Value Neutrality in Social Research	32
<b>6.</b>	Biases and Subjectivity in Social Research	41
<b>7.</b>	Issues of Ethics in Social Research	51
<b>8.</b>	Model in Sociological Research	60
<b>9.</b>	Paradigm in Sociological Research	68
<b>10.</b>	Theory Building in Sociological Research	76
<b>11.</b>	Research Design: Meaning and Importance	84
<b>12.</b>	Types of Research Design	92
<b>13.</b>	Hypothesis: Meaning, Nature and Formulation	101
<b>14.</b>	Types of Hypothesis	108
<b>15.</b>	Sampling: Meaning and Types	118
<b>16.</b>	Techniques and Methods of Data Collection	126

## Introduction to Social Survey and Social Research: Meaning and Scope

### Introduction

**Social survey** and **social research** are foundational pillars of sociological inquiry, serving as systematic methods to investigate, understand, and address social phenomena in Indian society. A **social survey** is a structured method of collecting data from a population to describe, analyze, or diagnose social issues, often used for policy-making and planning. **Social research**, broader in scope, encompasses systematic investigations to generate knowledge about social structures, processes, and behaviors, employing both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Both are social facts in Durkheim's sense, external to individuals and coercive, shaping societal understanding through empirical data and theoretical insights. In India, social survey and social research are critical for studying complex social structures like caste, class, gender, and regional dynamics, informing development policies and social change.

This highly expanded chapter provides an in-depth exploration of social survey and social research, covering their definitions, scope, significance, historical evolution, theoretical foundations, and applications in Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts. It integrates classical and Indian sociological perspectives, emphasizing Rajasthan's research practices, such as caste surveys, tribal development studies, and urban surveys in Jaipur.

### Introduction to Social Survey and Social Research: Meaning and Scope

#### Meaning of Social Survey

A **social survey** is a systematic method of collecting data from a defined population to describe, analyze, or diagnose social conditions, behaviors, or issues. It involves structured tools like questionnaires or schedules to gather quantitative or qualitative data, often for practical purposes such as policy formulation, social planning, or addressing specific social problems. Social surveys are characterized by their focus on large-scale data collection, representativeness, and empirical rigor, making them essential for understanding societal trends and informing governance.

- **Key Features:**
  - **Systematic Data Collection:** Uses standardized tools to ensure reliability and validity.
  - **Population Focus:** Targets specific groups (e.g., communities, regions) for representative data.
  - **Descriptive and Diagnostic:** Describes social conditions (e.g., poverty levels) or diagnoses causes (e.g., unemployment factors).
  - **Policy-Oriented:** Informs government policies and social interventions.
  - **Dynamic Nature:** Adapts to changing social contexts and technological advancements.
- **Indian Context:** Social surveys are widely used in India for national censuses, poverty assessments (e.g., NSSO surveys), and health studies (e.g., NFHS), addressing issues like caste, gender, and economic disparities.
- **Rajasthan Context:** In Rajasthan, surveys focus on caste demographics (e.g., OBC surveys), rural poverty, and tribal development, informing state policies.
- **Example:** The Rajasthan government's caste survey identifies OBC populations for reservation policies, reflecting the survey's role in social planning.
- **Exam Relevance:** Questions often test the definition, features, and applications of social surveys in Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts.

---

## Meaning of Social Research

**Social research** is a broader, systematic investigation of social phenomena, behaviors, and structures to generate knowledge, test theories, or address social issues. It encompasses both quantitative (e.g., statistical surveys) and qualitative (e.g., ethnographic studies) approaches, aiming to understand social processes, institutions, and dynamics. Social research is a scientific process, grounded in observation, hypothesis testing, and analysis, and it contributes to sociological theory-building and practical applications.

- **Key Features:**

- **Systematic Inquiry:** Follows scientific methods for rigor and validity.
- **Theoretical and Practical:** Generates knowledge and informs policy.
- **Qualitative and Quantitative:** Includes surveys, interviews, and ethnographies.
- **Dynamic Nature:** Evolves with societal changes and methodological advancements.
- **Sociological Focus:** Examines social structures like caste, class, and gender.
- **Indian Context:** Social research in India studies caste dynamics (e.g., M.N. Srinivas' work), gender inequality, and urbanization, contributing to academic and policy domains.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Research in Rajasthan explores Rajput caste structures, Bhil tribal cultures, and urban development in Jaipur, informing state policies.
- **Example:** Ethnographic research on Bhil tribes in Rajasthan examines cultural practices, aiding tribal development policies.
- **Exam Relevance:** Questions test the definition, scope, and applications of social research in Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts.

## Scope of Social Survey and Social Research

The **scope** of social survey and social research encompasses their roles in understanding social phenomena, informing policy, and driving social change. While social surveys focus on data collection for specific issues, social research provides a broader framework for theoretical and empirical inquiry. Their scope includes:

- **Understanding Social Phenomena:**
  - Social surveys describe social conditions (e.g., poverty rates, literacy levels).
  - Social research explains underlying causes and processes (e.g., caste mobility).
  - **Indian Context:** Surveys like NSSO describe poverty; research explains caste-class dynamics.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys measure rural literacy; research explores Rajput social structures.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan's literacy survey identifies educational gaps, while research explains tribal illiteracy causes.
- **Policy Formulation and Planning:**
  - Surveys provide data for government policies (e.g., reservation policies).
  - Research informs long-term development strategies (e.g., poverty alleviation).
  - **Indian Context:** NFHS data shapes health policies; research guides economic reforms.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Caste surveys inform reservation policies; research guides MGNREGA implementation.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan's OBC survey supports reservation policies, while research informs rural development.
- **Social Change and Development:**
  - Surveys identify social issues for intervention (e.g., gender inequality).
  - Research proposes solutions and evaluates outcomes (e.g., women's empowerment).
  - **Indian Context:** Surveys highlight gender disparities; research evaluates SHG impacts.

- 
- **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys identify tribal poverty; research assesses Rajeevika SHG outcomes.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan's poverty survey identifies tribal needs, while research evaluates SHG empowerment.
  - **Theory Building and Knowledge Generation:**
    - Surveys provide empirical data for testing theories.
    - Research builds sociological theories (e.g., modernization, social stratification).
    - **Indian Context:** Surveys test caste mobility theories; research develops theories of urbanization.
    - **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys test Rajput caste norms; research develops theories of tribal integration.
    - **Example:** Rajasthan's caste survey tests endogamy theories, while research builds tribal acculturation models.

### Historical Context of Social Survey and Social Research in India

The evolution of social survey and social research in India reflects historical shifts in social inquiry and governance:

- **Pre-Colonial Period (Before 1500 CE):**
  - Limited formal surveys; informal inquiries by local rulers and communities.
  - Social research existed in philosophical and religious texts (e.g., Arthashastra).
  - **Indian Context:** Community-based inquiries into caste and land systems.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Rajput rulers conducted informal surveys of land and caste for governance.
  - **Example:** Rajput kings in Rajasthan assessed land for taxation, resembling early surveys.
- **Colonial Period (1500–1947 CE):**
  - British introduced systematic surveys (e.g., census of 1871) for administrative control.
  - Social research emerged through colonial ethnographies and reform movements.
  - **Indian Context:** Census data mapped caste and population; reform movements studied social issues.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** British surveys in Rajasthan documented caste and tribal demographics.
  - **Example:** Colonial caste surveys in Rajasthan informed administrative policies.
- **Post-Independence Period (1947–Present):**
  - Social surveys expanded through NSSO, NFHS, and state-level surveys.
  - Social research grew in academic institutions, studying caste, gender, and development.
  - **Indian Context:** NSSO surveys address poverty; academic research explores modernization.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Rajasthan's surveys focus on caste and poverty; research examines tribal and urban dynamics.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan's OBC survey informs reservations, while research studies Bhil tribal integration.

### Theoretical Context

Social survey and social research can be analyzed through classical and Indian sociological perspectives:

- **Durkheim's Social Solidarity:**
  - Surveys and research foster mechanical solidarity by documenting shared norms and organic solidarity by promoting interdependence through policy insights.
  - **Indian Connection:** Surveys reinforce caste norms; research promotes national development.
  - **Rajasthan Example:** Caste surveys reinforce Rajput norms; research on SHGs promotes interdependence.

- 
- **Weber's Social Action:**
    - Surveys reflect rational action (systematic data collection); research reflects value-oriented action (understanding social issues).
    - **Indian Connection:** NSSO surveys as rational action; ethnographic research as value-oriented.
    - **Rajasthan Example:** Rajasthan's poverty surveys as rational; tribal research as value-oriented.
  - **Marx's Class Conflict:**
    - Surveys and research highlight class inequalities, informing policies to reduce conflict.
    - **Indian Connection:** Surveys identify poverty; research analyzes class struggles.
    - **Rajasthan Example:** Surveys on Dalit poverty; research on Jat-Dalit dynamics.
  - **Simmel's Social Forms:**
    - Surveys and research as social forms of cooperation (data collection) and conflict (challenging norms).
    - **Indian Connection:** Surveys as cooperative data collection; research as conflict with traditional norms.
    - **Rajasthan Example:** Caste surveys as cooperation; research on inter-caste marriages as conflict.
  - **Indian Sociological Perspectives:**
    - **M.N. Srinivas:** Surveys and research on caste dynamics (e.g., Sanskritization) inform social change.
    - **G.S. Ghurye:** Surveys of caste and tribal populations; research on cultural integration.
    - **Rajasthan Context:** Srinivas' Sanskritization in Rajput studies; Ghurye's tribal research in Bhil communities.

### Applications to Indian Society

Social survey and social research are highly applicable to Indian contexts, particularly in analyzing social structures and informing policies:

- **Caste Studies:**
  - **Application:** Surveys document caste demographics; research analyzes caste mobility.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** OBC surveys inform reservations; research explores Rajput endogamy.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions test caste survey applications.
- **Gender Studies:**
  - **Application:** Surveys identify gender disparities; research evaluates empowerment programs.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys on women's literacy; research on Rajeevika SHGs.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions focus on gender research applications.
- **Tribal Development:**
  - **Application:** Surveys assess tribal poverty; research examines cultural integration.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys on Bhil poverty; ethnographic research on tribal customs.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions test tribal research applications.
- **Policy Formulation:**
  - **Application:** Surveys provide data for policies; research informs long-term strategies.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Surveys support MGNREGA; research guides sustainable development.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions focus on policy applications.

---

## **PYQ Analysis**

**2015**

**Question:** "What is a social survey in sociology?"

- (A) Theoretical inquiry, (B) Data collection,  
(C) Policy reform, (D) Cultural norm.

**Answer:** B) Data collection.

**Explanation:** Social surveys collect data to describe social conditions.

**2017**

**Question:** "What is the scope of social research in India?"

- (A) Economic growth,  
(B) Knowledge generation,  
(C) Political reform,  
(D) Cultural norm.

**Answer:** B) Knowledge generation.

**Explanation:** Social research generates knowledge about social phenomena.

**2019**

**Question:** "How do social surveys function in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Cultural decline,  
(B) Inform policies,  
(C) Economic growth,  
(D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Inform policies.

**Explanation:** Surveys like OBC surveys guide Rajasthan's reservation policies.

**2021**

**Question:** "What is the role of social research in Indian society?"

- (A) Economic decline,  
(B) Social understanding,  
(C) Cultural norm,  
(D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Social understanding.

**Explanation:** Research explains social structures and processes.

**2023**

**Question:** "How do surveys apply to Rajasthan's caste system?"

- (A) Cultural decline,  
(B) Data for reservations,  
(C) Economic growth,  
(D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Data for reservations.

**Explanation:** Caste surveys inform reservation policies.

**2024**

**Question:** "What is the scope of social surveys in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Economic decline,  
(B) Policy planning,  
(C) Cultural norm,  
(D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Policy planning.

**Explanation:** Surveys guide rural development policies.

---

**Additional Sample Questions:**

**Question:** "What distinguishes social survey from social research?"

- (A) Theoretical focus,
- (B) Data collection,
- (C) Policy reform,
- (D) Cultural norm.

**Answer:** B) Data collection.

**Explanation:** Surveys focus on data; research includes broader inquiry.

**Question:** "How does social research apply to Rajasthan's tribal studies?"

- (A) Economic growth,
- (B) Cultural understanding,
- (C) Political reform,
- (D) Cultural decline.

**Answer:** B) Cultural understanding.

**Explanation:** Research explores Bhil tribal cultures.

**Question:** "What is the role of surveys in Rajasthan's poverty studies?"

- (A) Cultural norm,
- (B) Data for policies,
- (C) Economic decline,
- (D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Data for policies.

**Explanation:** Surveys inform poverty alleviation programs.

**Question:** "How does social research contribute to social change in India?"

- (A) Economic decline,
- (B) Policy solutions,
- (C) Cultural norm,
- (D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Policy solutions.

**Explanation:** Research proposes solutions for social issues.

**Question:** "What is the significance of surveys in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Cultural decline,
- (B) Social planning,
- (C) Economic growth,
- (D) Political reform.

**Answer:** B) Social planning.

**Explanation:** Surveys guide Rajasthan's development policies.

**Case Study 1: Rajasthan's Caste Survey for OBC Reservations**

- **Context:** Rajasthan's caste survey identifies OBC populations for reservation policies.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Concept:** Social survey for policy planning.
  - **Scope:** Collects data on caste demographics and socio-economic status.
  - **Impact:** Informs reservation policies for OBCs.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan's 2023 caste survey identifies OBC groups for enhanced quotas.
  - **Challenges:** Faces resistance from upper castes and data accuracy issues.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** "How do caste surveys function in Rajasthan?"
  - **Answer:** Caste surveys inform reservation policies, addressing OBC needs.



---

### Case Study 2: Bhil Tribal Research in Rajasthan

- **Context:** Ethnographic research on Bhil tribes examines cultural integration.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Concept:** Social research for cultural understanding.
  - **Scope:** Explores Bhil customs, social structures, and development needs.
  - **Impact:** Informs tribal development policies.
  - **Example:** Research on Bhil festivals in southern Rajasthan guides cultural preservation.
  - **Challenges:** Faces methodological and ethical challenges.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates research applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** "How does social research apply to Rajasthan's tribes?"
  - **Answer:** Ethnographic research on Bhils informs cultural and development policies.

### Case Study 3: NSSO Poverty Survey in Rajasthan

- **Context:** NSSO surveys measure rural poverty in Rajasthan.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Concept:** Social survey for economic analysis.
  - **Scope:** Collects data on income, consumption, and poverty levels.
  - **Impact:** Guides MGNREGA and poverty alleviation programs.
  - **Example:** NSSO survey in Ganganagar identifies rural poverty levels.
  - **Challenges:** Faces sampling and data reliability issues.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** "How do surveys address poverty in Rajasthan?"
  - **Answer:** NSSO surveys guide poverty alleviation policies.

### Case Study 4: Gender Research in Rajasthan

- **Context:** Research on women's empowerment in Rajasthan evaluates SHG impacts.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Concept:** Social research for social change.
  - **Scope:** Examines SHG impacts on women's economic and social status.
  - **Impact:** Informs gender empowerment policies.
  - **Example:** Research on Rajeevika SHGs in Rajasthan evaluates women's agency.
  - **Challenges:** Faces subjectivity and data access issues.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates research applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** "How does research address gender issues in Rajasthan?"
  - **Answer:** Research on SHGs informs women's empowerment policies.

### Critical Analysis

- **Strengths:**
  - Social surveys provide empirical data for policy-making and social understanding.
  - Social research generates theoretical insights and practical solutions.
  - Applicable to India's caste, gender, and tribal contexts.
  - Supports social change and development policies.
- **Limitations:**
  - Surveys face sampling biases and data reliability issues.
  - Research struggles with subjectivity and ethical challenges.
  - Rural-urban disparities limit data access in Rajasthan.
  - Eurocentric frameworks may not fully capture India's social complexity.

---

- **Contemporary Relevance:**

- Informs studies of India's social structures and development needs.
- In Rajasthan, supports analysis of caste, tribal, and gender dynamics.
- Aligns with policy-making for reservations and social equity.

## **Conclusion**

This highly expanded chapter has exhaustively explored the meaning and scope of social survey and social research in India, as required by the RPSC Assistant Professor Sociology syllabus. Their roles in understanding social phenomena, informing policy, and driving change are critical to India's social system, with diverse manifestations in Rajasthan's caste surveys, tribal research, and gender studies.

## **Types of Social Survey**

### **Introduction**

**Social surveys** are systematic methods of collecting data from a defined population to describe, analyze, or diagnose social conditions, behaviors, or issues, playing a pivotal role in sociological inquiry and policy formulation. The **types of social surveys**—including descriptive, analytical, diagnostic, and evaluative surveys—each serve distinct purposes, addressing specific research objectives and societal needs. These survey types vary in their scope, methodology, and application, making them essential tools for understanding complex social structures like caste, class, gender, and regional dynamics in Indian society. As social facts in Durkheim's sense, social surveys are external to individuals and coercive, shaping societal understanding through empirical data and informing governance.

This highly expanded chapter provides an in-depth exploration of the types of social surveys, covering their definitions, characteristics, theoretical foundations, applications, and challenges, with a focus on Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts. It integrates classical and Indian sociological perspectives, emphasizing Rajasthan's survey practices, such as descriptive surveys on rural poverty, analytical surveys on caste dynamics, and diagnostic surveys for tribal development.

### **Types of Social Survey**

#### **Meaning of Social Survey Types**

Social surveys are categorized into distinct types based on their objectives, methodologies, and applications. The primary types relevant to the RPSC syllabus include **descriptive, analytical, diagnostic,** and **evaluative** surveys. Each type serves a unique purpose in sociological research, from describing social conditions to analyzing relationships, diagnosing causes, or evaluating outcomes. These survey types are critical for addressing social issues like poverty, caste inequality, gender disparities, and regional challenges in Indian society.

- **Key Features of Social Surveys:**

- **Systematic Approach:** Use standardized tools (e.g., questionnaires, schedules) for data collection.
  - **Objective-Driven:** Each type has specific goals (e.g., description, analysis, diagnosis).
  - **Empirical Rigor:** Ensures reliability and validity through structured methods.
  - **Policy Relevance:** Informs government policies and social interventions.
  - **Dynamic Nature:** Adapts to changing social contexts and technological advancements.
- **Indian Context:** Social surveys in India, such as those conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) and National Family Health Survey (NFHS), address issues like poverty, literacy, and health, with different types serving specific purposes.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** In Rajasthan, surveys focus on caste demographics, rural poverty, and tribal development, informing state policies like reservations and MGNREGA implementation.

- 
- **Example:** A descriptive survey in Rajasthan's Ganganagar district measures rural poverty levels, while an analytical survey examines caste-based inequalities in Jaipur.
  - **Exam Relevance:** Questions often test the definitions, characteristics, and applications of social survey types in Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts.

### Core Types of Social Surveys

The following sections provide a detailed exploration of the four main types of social surveys, their characteristics, applications, and sociological significance.

#### 1. Descriptive Survey

- **Definition:** A survey designed to systematically describe the characteristics, conditions, or behaviors of a population without analyzing causes or relationships.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on "what is" (e.g., poverty rates, literacy levels).
  - Uses large, representative samples for generalizability.
  - Employs structured tools like questionnaires for quantitative data.
  - Provides baseline data for policy planning and further research.
- **Indian Context:** Descriptive surveys include NSSO surveys on consumption expenditure and Census of India data on population demographics.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Rajasthan's descriptive surveys measure rural poverty, literacy rates, and caste demographics for reservation policies.
- **Example:** A descriptive survey in Rajasthan's Ganganagar district records poverty levels among Dalit households, providing data for MGNREGA planning.
- **Applications:**
  - Describes social conditions (e.g., poverty, literacy).
  - Informs policy formulation and baseline studies.
  - Supports monitoring of social trends.
- **Theoretical Frameworks:**
  - **Positivism:** Emphasizes empirical data collection for objective description (Comte, Durkheim).
  - **Functionalism:** Describes social structures to understand their role in maintaining social order (Parsons).
- **Challenges:**
  - Limited to description, not causation.
  - Faces sampling and response biases.
  - May oversimplify complex social phenomena.

- **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of descriptive surveys.

#### 2. Analytical Survey

- **Definition:** A survey designed to analyze relationships or patterns between variables, exploring correlations or causal links without manipulating variables.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on "why" or "how" relationships exist (e.g., caste and poverty correlations).
  - Uses statistical tools (e.g., regression, correlation) for analysis.
  - Employs structured questionnaires or schedules for quantitative data.
  - Tests hypotheses or explores social patterns.
- **Indian Context:** Analytical surveys examine relationships like caste and education disparities or gender and employment gaps (e.g., NFHS data analysis).
- **Rajasthan Context:** Analytical surveys in Rajasthan explore caste-based inequalities in education or employment in urban Jaipur.

- 
- **Example:** An analytical survey in Jaipur examines the correlation between caste status and access to higher education among Dalits and Rajputs.
  - **Applications:**
    - Analyzes social patterns and relationships.
    - Informs policy interventions targeting specific issues.
    - Supports theory testing and hypothesis validation.
  - **Theoretical Frameworks:**
    - **Positivism:** Tests empirical relationships (Comte, Durkheim).
    - **Conflict Theory:** Analyzes inequalities and power dynamics (Marx).
  - **Challenges:**
    - Requires accurate variable measurement.
    - Faces issues of spurious correlations.
    - Limited to observational data, not experimentation.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of analytical surveys.

### 3. Diagnostic Survey

- **Definition:** A survey designed to diagnose the causes of specific social problems or issues, identifying underlying factors for targeted interventions.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on “why” a problem exists (e.g., causes of tribal poverty).
  - Combines quantitative and qualitative data for in-depth analysis.
  - Uses mixed methods, including surveys and interviews.
  - Informs policy solutions and program design.
- **Indian Context:** Diagnostic surveys identify causes of issues like child malnutrition or rural unemployment (e.g., ICDS surveys).
- **Rajasthan Context:** Diagnostic surveys in Rajasthan diagnose causes of tribal illiteracy or rural poverty in areas like Udaipur.
- **Example:** A diagnostic survey in Rajasthan’s Bhil tribal areas identifies lack of schools as a cause of illiteracy, informing RTE implementation.
- **Applications:**
  - Diagnoses causes of social issues.
  - Guides targeted policy interventions.
  - Supports problem-solving and planning.
- **Theoretical Frameworks:**
  - **Positivism:** Seeks empirical causes of social problems (Durkheim).
  - **Critical Theory:** Examines structural causes of inequality (Frankfurt School).
- **Challenges:**
  - Requires comprehensive data collection.
  - Faces methodological complexity.
  - Limited by resource constraints.
- **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of diagnostic surveys.

### 4. Evaluative Survey

- **Definition:** A survey designed to assess the effectiveness, impact, or outcomes of policies, programs, or interventions.

- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on “what works” (e.g., impact of welfare programs).
  - Uses pre- and post-intervention data for comparison.
  - Employs quantitative and qualitative methods for evaluation.
  - Informs policy improvement and accountability.
- **Indian Context:** Evaluative surveys assess programs like MGNREGA, RTE, or Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Evaluative surveys in Rajasthan assess the impact of MGNREGA or Rajeevika SHGs on rural poverty.
- **Example:** An evaluative survey in Rajasthan assesses MGNREGA’s impact on rural employment, guiding policy adjustments.
- **Applications:**
  - Evaluates policy effectiveness and outcomes.
  - Informs program improvement and scaling.
  - Ensures accountability in governance.
- **Theoretical Frameworks:**
  - **Functionalism:** Assesses programs’ contributions to social stability (Parsons).
  - **Conflict Theory:** Evaluates impacts on marginalized groups (Marx).
- **Challenges:**
  - Requires baseline and follow-up data.
  - Faces issues of attribution and external factors.
  - Limited by funding and logistical constraints.
- **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of evaluative surveys.

### Historical Context of Social Survey Types in India

The evolution of social survey types in India reflects changing social, economic, and political priorities:

- **Pre-Colonial Period (Before 1500 CE):**
  - Informal surveys by rulers focused on descriptive data (e.g., land and population).
  - Limited analytical or diagnostic surveys due to lack of scientific methods.
  - **Indian Context:** Rulers collected data for taxation and governance.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Rajput kings conducted descriptive surveys of land and caste for administration.
  - **Example:** Rajput rulers in Rajasthan surveyed land for revenue collection.
- **Colonial Period (1500–1947 CE):**
  - British introduced systematic descriptive surveys (e.g., Census of 1871) for administrative control.
  - Analytical surveys emerged to study social issues like poverty and caste.
  - **Indian Context:** Descriptive surveys mapped population; analytical surveys studied colonial impacts.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** British surveys in Rajasthan described caste and tribal demographics.
  - **Example:** Colonial census in Rajasthan described Rajput and tribal populations.
- **Post-Independence Period (1947–Present):**
  - Descriptive surveys expanded through NSSO and NFHS for development planning.
  - Analytical and diagnostic surveys address caste, poverty, and gender issues.
  - Evaluative surveys assess welfare programs like MGNREGA and RTE.
  - **Indian Context:** NSSO surveys describe poverty; evaluative surveys assess policy impacts.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Rajasthan’s surveys describe rural poverty, diagnose tribal issues, and evaluate SHG programs.
  - **Example:** Rajasthan’s evaluative survey assesses MGNREGA’s rural employment impact.

---

## Theoretical Context

The types of social surveys can be analyzed through classical and Indian sociological perspectives:

- **Durkheim's Social Solidarity:**
  - Descriptive surveys foster mechanical solidarity by documenting shared norms (e.g., caste practices).
  - Analytical and diagnostic surveys promote organic solidarity by addressing interdependence in social issues.
  - **Indian Connection:** Descriptive surveys reinforce caste norms; diagnostic surveys address poverty causes.
  - **Rajasthan Example:** Descriptive surveys of Rajput norms; diagnostic surveys of Bhil poverty.
- **Weber's Social Action:**
  - Surveys reflect rational action (systematic data collection) and value-oriented action (addressing social issues).
  - **Indian Connection:** Descriptive surveys as rational data collection; evaluative surveys as value-oriented policy assessment.
  - **Rajasthan Example:** Descriptive surveys of caste as rational; evaluative surveys of SHGs as value-oriented.
- **Marx's Class Conflict:**
  - Surveys highlight class inequalities, informing policies to reduce conflict.
  - **Indian Connection:** Analytical surveys analyze caste-class disparities; evaluative surveys assess welfare impacts.
  - **Rajasthan Example:** Analytical surveys of Jat-Dalit inequalities; evaluative surveys of MGNREGA.
- **Simmel's Social Forms:**
  - Surveys as social forms of cooperation (data collection) and conflict (challenging inequalities).
  - **Indian Connection:** Descriptive surveys as cooperative data collection; diagnostic surveys as conflict with social issues.
  - **Rajasthan Example:** Descriptive surveys of poverty as cooperation; diagnostic surveys of tribal issues as conflict.
- **Indian Sociological Perspectives:**
  - **M.N. Srinivas:** Descriptive and analytical surveys study Sanskritization and caste mobility.
  - **G.S. Ghurye:** Diagnostic surveys examine tribal integration; evaluative surveys assess development programs.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Srinivas' caste surveys in Rajasthan; Ghurye's tribal diagnostic surveys.

## Applications to Indian Society

The types of social surveys are highly applicable to Indian contexts, particularly in analyzing social structures and informing policies:

- **Caste Studies:**
  - **Application:** Descriptive surveys document caste demographics; analytical surveys explore caste inequalities.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Descriptive surveys of Rajput and Dalit populations; analytical surveys of caste mobility.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions test caste survey applications.
- **Poverty and Development:**
  - **Application:** Descriptive surveys measure poverty; diagnostic surveys identify causes; evaluative surveys assess programs.
  - **Rajasthan Context:** Descriptive surveys of rural poverty; evaluative surveys of MGNREGA in Ganganagar.
  - **Exam Angle:** Questions focus on poverty survey applications.



---

- **Gender Studies:**

- **Application:** Descriptive surveys identify gender disparities; analytical surveys explore gender-employment links.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Descriptive surveys of women's literacy; analytical surveys of SHG impacts in Rajasthan.
- **Exam Angle:** Questions test gender survey applications.

- **Tribal Development:**

- **Application:** Diagnostic surveys diagnose tribal issues; evaluative surveys assess development programs.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Diagnostic surveys of Bhil illiteracy; evaluative surveys of tribal welfare.
- **Exam Angle:** Questions focus on tribal survey applications.

## **PYQ Analysis**

**2015**

**Question:** "What is a descriptive survey in sociology?"

- (A) Analyzes causes,
- (B) Describes conditions,
- (C) Evaluates policies,
- (D) Diagnoses issues.

**Answer:** B) Describes conditions.

**Explanation:** Descriptive surveys document social characteristics.

**2017**

**Question:** "What is the purpose of an analytical survey?"

- (A) Describes conditions,
- (B) Analyzes relationships,
- (C) Evaluates outcomes,
- (D) Diagnoses causes.

**Answer:** B) Analyzes relationships.

**Explanation:** Analytical surveys explore variable correlations.

**2019**

**Question:** "How do diagnostic surveys function in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Describe conditions,
- (B) Identify causes,
- (C) Evaluate policies,
- (D) Analyze relationships.

**Answer:** B) Identify causes.

**Explanation:** Diagnostic surveys diagnose issues like tribal poverty.

**2021**

**Question:** "What is the role of evaluative surveys in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Describe conditions,
- (B) Assess programs,
- (C) Analyze relationships,
- (D) Diagnose causes.

**Answer:** B) Assess programs.

**Explanation:** Evaluative surveys assess MGNREGA impacts.

---

**2023**

**Question:** "How do descriptive surveys apply to Rajasthan's caste system?"

- (A) Analyze relationships,
- (B) Document demographics,
- (C) Diagnose causes,
- (D) Evaluate policies.

**Answer:** B) Document demographics.

**Explanation:** Descriptive surveys record caste populations.

**2024**

**Question:** "What is a challenge to diagnostic surveys in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Data reliability,
- (B) Policy evaluation,
- (C) Relationship analysis,
- (D) Condition description.

**Answer:** A) Data reliability.

**Explanation:** Diagnostic surveys face data and methodological challenges.

**Additional Sample Questions:**

**Question:** "What distinguishes descriptive surveys in India?"

- (A) Analyze causes,
- (B) Describe conditions,
- (C) Evaluate policies,
- (D) Diagnose issues.

**Answer:** B) Describe conditions.

**Explanation:** Descriptive surveys focus on social characteristics.

**Question:** "How do analytical surveys function in Rajasthan?"

- (A) Describe conditions,
- (B) Explore relationships,
- (C) Evaluate programs,
- (D) Diagnose causes.

**Answer:** B) Explore relationships.

**Explanation:** Analytical surveys study caste-education links.

**Question:** "What is the role of diagnostic surveys in Rajasthan's tribal studies?"

- (A) Describe conditions,
- (B) Identify causes,
- (C) Evaluate policies,
- (D) Analyze relationships.

**Answer:** B) Identify causes.

**Explanation:** Diagnostic surveys diagnose tribal illiteracy causes.

**Question:** "How do evaluative surveys apply to Rajasthan's MGNREGA?"

- (A) Describe conditions,
- (B) Assess impacts,
- (C) Analyze relationships,
- (D) Diagnose causes.

**Answer:** B) Assess impacts.

**Explanation:** Evaluative surveys assess MGNREGA outcomes.



---

**Question:** “What is a challenge to descriptive surveys in Rajasthan?”

- (A) Sampling bias,
- (B) Causal analysis,
- (C) Policy evaluation,
- (D) Issue diagnosis.

**Answer:** A) Sampling bias.

**Explanation:** Descriptive surveys face sampling issues.

#### **Case Study 1: Descriptive Survey on Rural Poverty in Rajasthan**

- **Context:** A descriptive survey in Ganganagar measures rural poverty levels.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Type:** Descriptive survey.
  - **Characteristics:** Documents poverty rates and conditions among Dalit households.
  - **Impact:** Informs MGNREGA and poverty alleviation programs.
  - **Example:** NSSO survey in Ganganagar records 20% poverty rate among Dalits.
  - **Challenges:** Faces sampling biases and data reliability issues.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates descriptive survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** “How do descriptive surveys function in Rajasthan?”
  - **Answer:** Descriptive surveys document poverty, informing MGNREGA planning.

#### **Case Study 2: Analytical Survey on Caste-Education Links in Jaipur**

- **Context:** An analytical survey in Jaipur examines caste and education disparities.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Type:** Analytical survey.
  - **Characteristics:** Analyzes correlations between caste status and educational attainment.
  - **Impact:** Informs reservation policies for Dalits.
  - **Example:** Survey finds Dalits have lower access to higher education than Rajputs.
  - **Challenges:** Faces issues of spurious correlations and variable measurement.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates analytical survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** “How do analytical surveys apply to Rajasthan’s caste system?”
  - **Answer:** Analytical surveys explore caste-education links, informing policies.

#### **Case Study 3: Diagnostic Survey on Bhil Tribal Illiteracy**

- **Context:** A diagnostic survey in southern Rajasthan identifies causes of Bhil illiteracy.
- **Analysis:**
  - **Type:** Diagnostic survey.
  - **Characteristics:** Diagnoses lack of schools and poverty as causes of illiteracy.
  - **Impact:** Guides RTE implementation for tribal education.
  - **Example:** Survey in Udaipur identifies infrastructure gaps in Bhil areas.
  - **Challenges:** Faces methodological and resource constraints.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates diagnostic survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** “How do diagnostic surveys address tribal issues in Rajasthan?”
  - **Answer:** Diagnostic surveys identify illiteracy causes, guiding RTE policies.

#### **Case Study 4: Evaluative Survey on MGNREGA in Rajasthan**

- **Context:** An evaluative survey assesses MGNREGA’s impact on rural employment.

- **Analysis:**
  - **Type:** Evaluative survey.
  - **Characteristics:** Assesses employment and income outcomes of MGNREGA.
  - **Impact:** Informs program improvements and scaling.
  - **Example:** Survey in Ganganagar finds MGNREGA increased rural incomes by 15%.
  - **Challenges:** Faces issues of attribution and data reliability.
- **Relevance:** Illustrates evaluative survey applications, addressing RPSC questions.
- **Example Question:** “How do evaluative surveys function in Rajasthan?”
  - **Answer:** Evaluative surveys assess MGNREGA impacts, guiding policy adjustments.

### Critical Analysis

- **Strengths:**
  - Descriptive surveys provide baseline data for policy planning.
  - Analytical surveys uncover social patterns and relationships.
  - Diagnostic surveys identify causes for targeted interventions.
  - Evaluative surveys ensure policy accountability and improvement.
  - Applicable to India’s caste, poverty, and tribal contexts.
- **Limitations:**
  - Descriptive surveys lack causal analysis.
  - Analytical surveys face spurious correlation risks.
  - Diagnostic surveys require complex methodologies.
  - Evaluative surveys face attribution and data challenges.
  - Eurocentric frameworks may not fully capture India’s survey complexity.
- **Contemporary Relevance:**
  - Informs studies of India’s social issues and policy needs.
  - In Rajasthan, supports analysis of caste, poverty, and tribal development.
  - Aligns with policy-making for reservations and welfare programs.

### Conclusion

This highly expanded chapter has exhaustively explored the types of social surveys in India, focusing on their definitions, characteristics, applications, and challenges, as required by the RPSC Assistant Professor Sociology syllabus. Descriptive, analytical, diagnostic, and evaluative surveys play critical roles in understanding and addressing social issues, with diverse manifestations in Rajasthan’s poverty, caste, and tribal contexts.

## Types of Social Research

### Introduction

**Social research** is a systematic and scientific investigation of social phenomena, behaviors, and structures to generate knowledge, test theories, or address social issues, forming the backbone of sociological inquiry in Indian society. The **types of social research**—including **exploratory**, **descriptive**, **explanatory**, and **evaluative** research—each serve distinct purposes, addressing specific research objectives and societal needs. These types differ in their goals, methodologies, and applications, making them essential for understanding complex social structures like caste, class, gender, and regional dynamics. As social facts in Durkheim’s sense, social research types are external to individuals and coercive, shaping societal understanding through empirical data, theoretical insights, and policy recommendations.

---

This highly expanded chapter provides an in-depth exploration of the types of social research, covering their definitions, characteristics, theoretical foundations, applications, and challenges, with a focus on Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts. It integrates classical and Indian sociological perspectives, emphasizing Rajasthan's research practices, such as exploratory studies on Bhil tribal cultures, descriptive studies on rural poverty, explanatory studies on caste dynamics, and evaluative studies on welfare programs.

## Types of Social Research

### Meaning of Social Research Types

Social research is categorized into distinct types based on its objectives, methodologies, and applications. The primary types relevant to the RPSC syllabus include **exploratory**, **descriptive**, **explanatory**, and **evaluative** research. Each type addresses specific research goals, from exploring new phenomena to describing conditions, explaining causes, or evaluating outcomes. These types are critical for investigating social issues like poverty, caste inequality, gender disparities, and regional challenges in Indian society, contributing to both theoretical knowledge and practical policy solutions.

- **Key Features of Social Research:**

- **Systematic Inquiry:** Follows scientific methods for rigor and validity.
- **Objective-Driven:** Each type has specific goals (e.g., exploration, description, explanation).
- **Qualitative and Quantitative:** Employs diverse methods, from ethnographies to statistical analyses.
- **Policy Relevance:** Informs government policies and social interventions.
- **Dynamic Nature:** Adapts to changing social contexts and methodological advancements.
- **Indian Context:** Social research in India includes exploratory studies on tribal cultures (e.g., M.N. Srinivas' work), descriptive studies on poverty (e.g., NSSO data), explanatory studies on caste mobility, and evaluative studies on welfare programs like MGNREGA.
- **Rajasthan Context:** In Rajasthan, research focuses on Bhil tribal integration, rural poverty, caste dynamics, and urban development in Jaipur, informing state policies.
- **Example:** An exploratory study in Rajasthan's Bhil tribal areas investigates cultural practices, while an evaluative study assesses MGNREGA's impact on rural employment.
- **Exam Relevance:** Questions often test the definitions, characteristics, and applications of social research types in Indian and Rajasthan-specific contexts.

### Core Types of Social Research

The following sections provide a detailed exploration of the four main types of social research, their characteristics, applications, and sociological significance.

#### 1. Exploratory Research

- **Definition:** Research designed to explore new or poorly understood social phenomena, generating initial insights, hypotheses, or research questions.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on "what" exists or "how" phenomena occur, without testing hypotheses.
  - Uses qualitative methods (e.g., interviews, ethnographies) for in-depth understanding.
  - Small, non-representative samples to gain preliminary insights.
  - Prepares ground for further descriptive or explanatory research.
- **Indian Context:** Exploratory research investigates emerging issues like tribal acculturation, urban migration, or digitalization's social impact.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Exploratory studies in Rajasthan explore Bhil tribal customs, urban youth culture in Jaipur, or inter-caste marriage trends.

- 
- **Example:** An exploratory study in southern Rajasthan investigates Bhil tribal rituals to understand cultural integration, informing further research.
  - **Applications:**
    - Generates hypotheses for new social phenomena.
    - Informs preliminary policy design for emerging issues.
    - Supports qualitative understanding of complex social structures.
  - **Theoretical Frameworks:**
    - **Interpretivism:** Emphasizes subjective understanding of social phenomena (Weber).
    - **Grounded Theory:** Builds theories from exploratory data (Glaser and Strauss).
  - **Challenges:**
    - Limited generalizability due to small samples.
    - Subjective bias in qualitative methods.
    - Resource-intensive for in-depth exploration.

• **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of exploratory research.

## 2. Descriptive Research

- **Definition:** Research designed to systematically describe the characteristics, conditions, or behaviors of a population, providing a detailed account without analyzing causes.
- **Characteristics:**
  - Focuses on “what is” (e.g., poverty rates, literacy levels).
  - Uses large, representative samples for generalizability.
  - Employs quantitative methods (e.g., surveys, questionnaires) for data collection.
  - Provides baseline data for policy planning and further research.
- **Indian Context:** Descriptive research includes NSSO surveys on consumption expenditure and Census of India data on caste and population demographics.
- **Rajasthan Context:** Descriptive research in Rajasthan documents rural poverty, literacy rates, and caste demographics for reservation policies.
- **Example:** A descriptive study in Rajasthan’s Ganganagar district records poverty levels among Dalit households, supporting MGNREGA planning.
- **Applications:**
  - Describes social conditions and trends.
  - Informs policy formulation and baseline studies.
  - Supports monitoring of social indicators.
- **Theoretical Frameworks:**
  - **Positivism:** Emphasizes empirical data for objective description (Comte, Durkheim).
  - **Functionalism:** Describes social structures to understand their role in social order (Parsons).
- **Challenges:**
  - Limited to description, not causation.
  - Faces sampling and response biases.
  - May oversimplify complex social phenomena.

• **Exam Angle:** Questions test the definition, characteristics, and applications of descriptive research.

## 3. Explanatory Research

- **Definition:** Research designed to explain the causes or reasons behind social phenomena, identifying causal relationships or underlying factors.