# SOCIOLOGY

Sociology is the systematic study of society, individuals' relationship to their societies, the consequences of differences and other aspects of human social action.

The meaning of the word comes from the suffix "*-logy*", which means "study of", derived from Ancient Greek, and the stem "*soci*", which is from the Latin word *socius,* meaning "companion", or society in general.

Auguste Comte (1778 – 1857) coined the term, sociology, as a way to apply natural science principles and techniques to the social world in 1838. Comte endeavoured to unify history, psychology, and economics through the descriptive understanding of the social realm. He proposed that social ills could be remedied through *sociological positivism*.

Sociology evolved as an academic response to the challenges of modernity such as industrialization, urbanization, secularization, and a perceived process of enveloping rationalization. The field generally concerns the social rules and processes that bind and separate people not only as individuals, but as members of associations, groups, communities, and institutions, and includes the examination of

the organisation and development of human social life. The sociological field of interest ranges from the analysis of short contacts between anonymous individuals on the street to the study of global social processes.