BSOE 141: URBAN SOCIOLOGY

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: BSOE 141
Assignment Code: BSOE-141/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all the questions.

Section I

Answer the following Descriptive Category questions in about 500 words each.

1. Define Urban Sociology. Discuss its nature, scope and the contribution of the Chicago School to the emergence and development of Urban Sociology. 20

2. Critically examine the major perspectives on urban space. Discuss the ecological-spatial and political economy approaches to the study of cities. 20

Section II

Answer the following Middle Category questions in about 250 words each.

3. Discuss the major types, causes and consequences of migration in urban societies. 10

4. Explain the concept of neighbourhood. Discuss the characteristics of neighbourhood and gated communities in contemporary cities. 10

5. Examine the major discourses on cultural politics involved in the understanding of cities. 10

Section III

Answer the following Short Category questions in about 100 words each.

6. Urbanism 06

7. Burgess' Concentric Zone Theory 06

8. Networks in Urban Sociology 06

9. Slums in India 06

10. Consumer Culture and Leisure 06

1. Define Urban Sociology. Discuss its nature, scope and the contribution of the Chicago School to the emergence and development of Urban Sociology. 20

Answer

Urban sociology is the systematic study of social life, relationships, institutions and inequalities in towns and cities. It examines how the urban environment shapes human behaviour and how economic, political and cultural forces, in turn, produce urban space. A city is more than a dense concentration of buildings and people: it is a setting in which individuals negotiate work, housing, identity, community, mobility and access to resources. Urban sociology studies these connected processes rather than treating population size alone as an adequate explanation of city life.

Nature of urban sociology.

The subject is sociological because it explains urban experiences through social structures and interactions. It is also interdisciplinary, drawing on geography, economics, demography, anthropology, political science and planning. Its approach is empirical and analytical: sociologists use surveys, interviews, observation, census materials, neighbourhood studies and historical comparisons. The field is dynamic because cities change through industrialisation, migration, technological development, state policy and global investment. It is comparative as well, asking why urban life differs between metropolitan regions, small towns and cities in different societies.

Urban sociology pays attention to both opportunities and inequalities. Cities can widen educational choices, occupational mobility, personal freedom and contact among diverse groups. At the same time, urban growth may involve class segregation, insecure housing, unemployment, discrimination, pollution and pressure on public services. The discipline therefore examines lived experiences alongside larger structures such as the labour market, land ownership and urban governance. It also recognises that the boundary between urban and rural is increasingly connected by commuting, migration, markets and digital communication.