

# **Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad**

## **(Department of Sociology)**

Course Title: Social Problems

Semester: Autumn 2025

Course Code: 9602

Level: Postgraduate/ PGD Population & Development/  
PGD Criminology

Dear students,

1. The course carries two assignments carrying 100 marks each.
2. Please write the assignments in your own words and do not copy from the books.
3. Only typed assignments (in MS Word or PDF format) will be accepted/ evaluated.
4. Try to give examples from your own social settings.
5. Discuss the complex issues of the course with your tutor in the tutorial meetings.

### **List of Contents**

This course comprises the following materials.

1. Study guide/s (One)
2. Assignments (two)
3. Assignment forms (two sets)
4. Assignments / Tutorials Schedule

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**ALLAMA IQBAL OPEN UNIVERSITY, ISLAMABAD**  
*(Department of Sociology)*

**WARNING**

- 1. PLAGIARISM OR HIRING OF GHOST WRITER(S) FOR SOLVING THE ASSIGNMENT(S) WILL DEBAR THE STUDENT FROM AWARD OF DEGREE/CERTIFICATE, IF FOUND AT ANY STAGE.**
- 2. SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENT(S) BORROWED OR STOLEN FROM OTHER(S) AS ONE'S OWN WILL BE PENALIZED AS DEFINED IN "AIOU PLAGIARISM POLICY".**

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**Total Marks: 100**

**Pass Marks: 50**

**ASSIGNMENT No. 1**  
**(Unit No.01-04)**

**Q.No.1:** Critically analyze the concept of social problems by discussing various sociological perspectives such as functionalism, conflict theory, and symbolic interactionism. How do these perspectives help in understanding what constitutes a "social problem"? Support your answer with relevant examples from Pakistani society. (20)

**Q.No.2:** Discuss the major causes of illiteracy in Pakistan by examining socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors. How does illiteracy perpetuate the cycle of poverty and social inequality? Suggest practical strategies for addressing illiteracy within the context of sustainable social development. (20)

**Q.No.3:** Examine the current state of public health in Pakistan by identifying key challenges such as lack of infrastructure, unequal access to healthcare, malnutrition, and maternal mortality. How do these health issues reflect broader social inequalities? Analyze the role of government and civil society in improving the health system. (20)

**Q.No.4:** Explore the causes of rapid population growth in Pakistan by addressing cultural, economic, and policy-related factors. What are the major social and economic consequences of overpopulation for Pakistani society? Propose viable policy measures to manage population growth effectively. (20)

**Q.No.5:** Provide notes on the following topics: (10+10)

I. Doing Research on Social Problems

ii. Sociological Perspectives on Education

**ASSIGNMENT No. 2**  
**(Unit No.05-09)**

**Total Marks: 100**

**Pass Marks: 50**

**Q.No.1:** Describe the major types of crime, such as violent crime, property crime, white-collar crime, and cybercrime, with suitable examples from Pakistani society. Discuss how factors like class, gender, age, and urbanization influence who commits crimes and why. Support your answer using sociological theories of deviance and crime. (20)

**Q.No.2:** Analyze the role of mass media (including television, newspapers, and social media) in shaping public opinion in Pakistan. How does media coverage influence people's perception of social problems such as crime, gender roles, politics, and religious issues? Critically evaluate the impact of media bias, sensationalism, and misinformation. (20)

**Q.No.3:** Discuss the major challenges facing the labor market and economy of Pakistan, such as unemployment, informal work, gender disparity, and low productivity. How can sociological insights be used to suggest reforms in labor policy, workplace conditions, and vocational education to improve the work environment and economic growth? (20)

**Q.No.4:** Examine the major changes taking place in the family institution in Pakistan, including shifts from joint to nuclear families, changing gender roles, rising divorce rates, and increasing intergenerational conflicts. What social, economic, and cultural factors are driving these changes? Evaluate the consequences of these changes on individual well-being and social cohesion. (20)

**Q.No.5:** Write notes on the following topics: (10+10)

i. Criminal Justice System of Pakistan

ii. Types of Social Inequality

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