**Question: Write a note on the development of the concept of social control. (2015, 2017)**

**Answer:**

**Growth and Development of the concept of Social Control:**

**Introduction:** It is social control through which each and every society tries to control the behavior of its members. Social control is powerful device to the proper functioning of society. Till his death the individual as the member of society consciously or unconsciously is controlled by society. Though the concept of social control has come recently to the focus as the subject matter of sociology yet it was explained and analyzed long before ago. The concept of social control is found in the writings of several social scientists. Plato said about social control in his book ‘Republic’, Comte in ‘Positive Philosophy’ and Lester F. Ward in ‘Dynamic Sociology’. The contributions of some social scientist greatly helped to development of the concept of social control. Among them Small, Vincent, E. R. Ross, Cooley and W. G. Sumner are notable. Their contributions to the development of the concept are explained as follows;

1. **Contribution of Small, Vincent:**

Small and Vincent were the two sociologists who first used the term ‘Social Control’ in 1894 in their book ‘Introduction to the Study of Society. In this book they said about the effect of authority upon the behavior of the people. They said, “The reaction of public opinion upon authority makes social control a most delicate and difficult task.” In their book they elaborately explained about social control imposed by society upon the people.

**b**. **E. R. Ross:**

E.R. Ross another famous sociologist who said about the social control in his book, ‘Social Control’, Published in 1901. In this book he explained fully the concept of social control. He quotes, “social instinct, sympathy, sociability and sense of justice and the means by which the group seeks to exert pressure upon the individual to make him adhere to the folkways and mores. In his book he set thirty five means of social control. In the 1930s he developed the concept of social control and named it as super-social control. By this concept he meant the domination over society by person or group of persons through propaganda, lobbying or by coercive methods.

**c. Contribution of Cooley:**

In 1902, Cooley, in his book, ‘Human nature and the Social order’ said about the social control and he strongly supported the views of E. R. Ross. I his book Cooley said the effect of group pressure upon the personality of individual and he also said to study the life history of individual to understand his or her behavior. If it is done, it will be easy to control the behavior of individual. The difference between Ross and Cooley is that Ross gave much emphasis the study of mechanism of social control and Cooley was much interested in the studying the effects of social control. But, both of them contributed a lot the growth and development of the concept of social control.

1. **Contribution W. G. Sumner:**

In his book, ‘Folkways’, which was also called for its popularity as “the Old Testament of Sociology” published in 1906 W. G. Sumner said the role of folkways and social institutions controlling the behavior of the individuals. He said, “The mores can make anything right and prevent condemnation of anything.” He viewed that it is not possible to understand the social behavior without study folkways and mores. Folkways and mores greatly control the social behavior of the people.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion it can be said that E. R. Ross, Cooley and W. G. Sumner are the three sociologists who contributed much to the growth and development of the concept. These three sociologists are followed by several others. Some are influenced by the means or agents of social control as said by Ross, some are the influenced by the effects as prescribed by Cooley and some are motivated by the writings of Sumner who said about the role of folkways and mores in controlling the behavior of the people. Each group has contributed much to the development of the concept of social control.