

4) Instrumental Rational Actions.

- Action that is carried out to achieve a certain goal, you do something because it leads to a result.
- It means that for the achievement of an individual objective, the logic of cause and effect is applied.
- Without cause an aim cannot be attained.
- The logic that every event has its cause is the main idea.
- Such actions have ends and objective for the Individual.

Example To illustrate these different types of action consider someone “going to school” in terms of these four ideal types: Traditionally, one may attend college because his/her grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles have as well. They wish to continue the family tradition and continue with college as well. When relating to affective, one may go to school just because they enjoy learning. They love going to college whether or not it will make them broke. With value rational, one may attend college because it’s a part of his/her religion that everyone must receive the proper education. Therefore, this person attends college for that reason only. Finally, to relating instrumental social action, one may go to college because he/she may want an amazing job in the future and in order to get that job, he/she needs a college degree.

Evaluations of Max Weber’s Social Action Theory

- Positive – He recognized that we need to understand individual meanings to understand how societies change.
- Negative – Still too much focus on society shaping the individual – symbolic interactions argues that individuals have more freedom to shape their identities.