

# **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY**

**II Semester**

**Core Course  
for**

**BA SOCIOLOGY**

*(2014 Admission)*



**UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT**

**SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT**  
SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

**STUDY MATERIAL**

**Core COURSE**

**B A SOCIOLOGY**

**II Semester**

***Introduction to Sociology***

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## **Syllabus**

### **CORE COURSE II**

### **SOC2 B.02: Introduction to Sociology**

#### **No. of credits: 4**

#### Objectives

1. To understand the basic concepts and the major concerns of sociology.
2. To understand the relationship between culture, personality and society.
3. To identify the nature and characteristics of social processes.

#### **MODULE I BASICS OF SOCIOLOGY**

I.1. Nature, Scope, Significance

I.2. Basic Concepts: Society, Community, Institution, Social Structure, Social System, Social Groups, Social Organisation

#### **MODULE II SOCIALISATION**

II.1. Definition, Features

II.2. Stages of Socialisation, Agencies of Socialisation

II.3. Social Norms: Conformity, Deviance, Needs of Social Control

#### **MODULE III CULTURE, PERSONALITY AND SOCIETY**

III.1. Definition of Culture

III.2. Material Culture and Non Material Culture, Cultural lag

III.3. Relationship between Culture, Personality and Society

#### **MODULE IV SOCIAL PROCESS**

IV.1. Social Process: Associative- Cooperation, Accommodation, Assimilation, Interaction

IV.2. Social Process: Dissociative- Competition, Conflict, Contravention, Isolation

#### **Reference**

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## MODULE I BASICS OF SOCIOLOGY

I.1. Nature, Scope, Significance

I.2. Basic Concepts: Society, Community, Institution, Social Structure, Social System,  
Social Groups, Social Organisation

### 1.1. Nature, Scope, Significance

#### WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

We live today in a world that is intensely worrying. It is a world awash with change, marked by deep conflicts, tensions and social divisions, as well as by the destructive onslaught of modern technology on the natural environment. Yet we have possibilities of controlling our destiny and shaping our lives for the better that would have been unimaginable to earlier generations. How does the world come out? Why are our conditions of life so different from those of our parents and grandparents? What directions will change take in the future? These questions are the prime concern of Sociology, a field of study that consequently has a fundamental role to play in modern intellectual life. Sociology is the scientific study of human social life, groups and societies. It is a dazzling and compelling enterprise, as its subject matter is our own behaviour as social beings. The scope of sociological study is extremely wide, ranging from the analysis of passing encounters between individuals on the street to the investigation of global social processes. Sociology demonstrates the need to take a much broader view of why we are as we are, and why we act as we do. Sociology is the youngest of social sciences. Its major concern is society, and hence it is popularly known as the “science of society”. No other science endeavours to study it in entirety. In Sociology we do not study everything that happens “in society” or under social conditions. But we study culture, for example, only for the light it throws on social relationships. Similarly, we do not study religion as religion, art as art or

inventions as inventions. We study social relationships, their specific forms, varieties and patterning. We study how the relations combine, how they build up smaller or greater systems, and how they respond to changes and changing demands or needs.

#### Definition of Sociology

Comte introduced the term “Sociology” for the first time in his famous work “Positive Philosophy” at about 1839. This new science originally and preferably called “Social Physics” by Comte but owing to an unfortunate coincidence of the term appearing in the study of Belgian scientist by the name of Quetelet, Comte was forced, to change the name of the study into Sociology. The term Sociology is derived from the Latin word Socius, meaning companion or associate and Greek word Logos, meaning study or science. Thus the etymological meaning of Sociology is the science of society. Sociology has been defined in a number of ways by different sociologists. No single definition has yet been accepted as completely satisfactory. For our purpose of study a few definitions may be cited here.

1. Emile Durkheim defines sociology as the “science of social institutions”.
2. Small defines sociology as the “science of social relations”.
3. Kingsley Davis says that “sociology is a general science of society”.
4. Park regards sociology as the “science of collective behaviour”.
5. Jones defines sociology as the “study of man in relationship to men”.

The common idea underlying all the definitions mentioned above is that sociology is concerned with man, his social relations and his society.

### **Nature of Sociology**

Sociology, as a branch of knowledge, has its own characteristics. It is different from other sciences in certain respects. The main characteristics of sociology as enlisted by **Robert Bierstedt** in his book “**the social order**”.

1. Sociology is an **independent** science:- As an independent science it has its own field, boundary and method. It is not treated and studied as a branch of any other sciences. The subject matter of sociology is social relationship. As a science, it has scientific method.
2. Sociology is a **social** science not a physical science:- As a social science it concentrates its attention on man, his social behavior, social activities and social life.
3. Sociology is a **pure** science not an applied science:- The main aim of pure sciences is the acquisition of knowledge and it is not bothered whether the acquired knowledge is useful in a particular field or can be put to use in an area.
4. Sociology is relatively an **abstract** science not a concrete science:- Sociology is not concerned with particular wars and revolutions but with war and revolution in general, as social phenomena, as types of social conflict. (Amma)
5. Sociology is a **generalizing** not a particularizing science:- It does not study each and every event that takes place in society. It tries to make generalizations on the basis of the study of some selected events.
6. Sociology is a **general** science not a special science:- It is concerned with human interaction and human life in general. History and Economics etc also study man and human interaction, but not all about human interaction. They concentrate their attention on certain aspects of human interaction and activities and specialize themselves in those fields.
7. Sociology is a **categorical** science not a normative discipline:- Sociology confines itself to statements about “what is not what should be”. It does not make any kind of value judgments. Sociology as a discipline cannot deal with problems of good and evil, right and wrong and moral and immoral.
8. Sociology is both a **rational** and an **empirical** science:- There are two broad ways of approach to scientific knowledge. One known as empiricism, is the approach that emphasizes on experience and those facts that result from observation and experimentation. The other, known as rationalism, stresses reasons and theories that result from logical inference.

It is clear from the above that Sociology is an independent, social, pure, abstract, generalizing, general, categorical, an empirical and rational science.

### **Emergence of Sociology**

It is the one of the youngest as well as one of the oldest social sciences. Only recently sociology came to be established as a distinct branch of knowledge with its own distinct set of concepts and its own method of inquiry.

Since the dawn of civilization, society has been a subject for speculation and inquiry along with other phenomena which have agitated the restless and inquisitive mind of man. Even centuries ago men were thinking about society and how it should be organized, and held views on man and his destiny, the rise and fall of peoples and civilizations. Though they were thinking in sociological terms they were called philosophers, historians, thinkers, law-givers and seers. Thus, “Broadly it may be said that sociology has had a fourfold origin: political philosophy, philosophy of history, biological theories of evolution and the movements for social and political reforms”. Plato’s Republic, Aristotle’s Politics, Kautilya’s Arthashastra, Manu’s Smriti are some of the ancient sources of social thought.

During the middle ages and early modern times the teachings of the church dominated the human mind and hence most part of the human thinking remained as metaphysical speculation far away from the scientific inquiry. Intellectuals became more active since the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Their quest for understanding human society, its nature, socio-political system and its problems now received new impetus. The literary works of some prominent intellectuals of this period clearly reveal this urge to understand and interpret man’s socio-political system.

Adam Smith’s “Wealth of Nations”, Rousseau’s “Social Contract” and Sir Thomas Moore’s “Utopia” are some of the examples of such literary works.

Enlightenment of social and political thought paved the way for Revolutionary ruptures in traditional social relations. From the Renaissance on, Western European societies acquired modern characteristics, but enlightenment ideas and the American, French and Industrial revolutions ushered in some of the definite characteristics of modern Capitalist society. The profound upheaval of the French Revolution, in particular, highlighted some of the problems and issues of concern to pre-Revolutionary Enlightenment thinkers. These became the problems and issues of the “new science”, Sociology, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **How can sociology help us in our lives? Or Uses of sociology**

**Sociology has several practical implications for our lives.**

The study of sociology has a great value especially in modern complex societies. In modern times, there is a growing realization of the importance of the scientific study of social phenomena. Some of the significant aspects of sociology are as follows:-

1. **Sociology studies society in a scientific way.** Before the emergence of sociology, there was no systematic and scientific way to study human society. The scientific knowledge about human society is needed in order to achieve progress in various fields. Sociology isn't just an abstract intellectual field but has major practical implications for people's lives. The best way to make use of it is by relating sociological ideas and findings to situations in our life.
2. **Sociological research provides practical help in assessing the results of policy initiatives.** Sociological knowledge is necessary for understanding and planning of society. A program of practical reform may simply fail to achieve what its designers sought or may produce unintended consequences of an unfortunate kind. (ex) In the years following World War II, large public housing blocks were built in city centers in many countries. These were planned to provide high standards of accommodation for low income groups from slum areas and offered shopping amenities and other civil services nearby. However research showed that many people who have moved from their previous dwellings to large apartment blocks felt isolated and unhappy. High apartment blocks and shopping centres in poorer areas often became dilapidated and provided breeding grounds for muggings and other violent crimes.
3. **Sociology has drawn our attention to the intrinsic worth and dignity of man.** Sociology has been greatly responsible in changing our attitudes towards fellow human beings. It has made people to become tolerant and patient towards others. It has minimized the mental distance and reduced the gap between different peoples and communities. Sociology is a discipline in which we often set aside our personal view of the world to look more carefully at the influences that shape our lives and those of others. Sociology helps us to know not only our society but also others, their motives, aspirations, traditions, customs, etc. Sociology emerged as a distinct intellectual endeavour with the development of modern societies, and the study of such societies remains its principal concern.
4. **Sociology gives us an awareness of cultural difference that allows us to see the social world from many perspectives.** The contribution of sociology is not less significant in enriching culture. Quite often, if we properly understand how others live, we also acquire better understanding of what their problems are. Practical policies that are not based on an informed awareness of the ways of life of people, they have little chance of success. (ex) A white social worker operating in a predominantly Latin American community in South London won't gain the confidence of its members without developing sensitivity to the differences in social experiences between members of different groups in UK.
5. **Sociology can provide us with self enlightenment – increased self understanding.** The more we know about why we act as we do and the overall workings of our society, the more likely we are to be able to influence our own future. Sociology improves our understanding of society and increases the power of social action. The science of society assists an

individual to understand himself, his capacities, talents and limitations. We should not see sociology as assisting only policy makers but help them to be powerful groups in making informed decisions. Those in power cannot be assumed always to consider the interests of the less powerful or underprivileged in the policies they pursue. Self enlightened groups can often benefit from sociological research by using the scientific information to respond in an effective way to govt. policies or form policy initiatives of their own. Self help groups like alcoholic anonymous and social movements like the environmental movement are example of social groups that have directly sought to bring about practical reforms, with some degree of success.

6. **Sociologists concern themselves directly with practical matters as professionals.** People trained in sociology are to found as industrial consultants, urban planners, social workers and personnel managers as well as in many other jobs. An understanding of society can also help for careers in civil service, law, journalism, business and medicine. The various area of applied sociology are coming more and more into prominence in local, state, national and international levels.
7. **The study of society is of paramount importance in solving social problems.**

The present world is beset with several social problems of great magnitude like poverty, crime, family disorganization, communal unrest etc. A careful analysis of these problems brings forth the root causes. The root cause is mainly the social relationships. Sociology provides the careful analysis of these problems.

Finally, as prof. Giddings has pointed out “Sociology tells us how to become what we want to be”. Sociology, in short, has both individual and social advantages.

Ref: ‘Sociology’ by Anthony Giddens p. no. 26-27 ‘Sociology’ by Sankar Rao p. no. 24-25

### **Scope of Sociology**

Every science has its own areas of study or fields of enquiry. It becomes difficult for anyone to study a science systematically unless its boundaries are demarcated and scope determined precisely. Unfortunately, there is no consensus on the part of sociologist with regard to the scope of sociology. It is difficult to determine just where its boundaries begin and end, where sociology becomes social psychology and where social psychology becomes sociology, or where economic theory becomes sociological doctrine or biological theory becomes sociological theory something, which is impossible to decide”.

However, there are two main schools of thought regarding the scope of sociology: (1) The specialistic or formalistic school and (2) The synthetic school.

#### **(1) The specialistic or Formalistic school**

This school of thought is led by the German sociologist George simmel. The other main advocates of this school are Vierkandt, Max Weber, Small, Von Wiese and Tonnies.

Simmel and others are of opinion that Sociology is a pure and an Independent science. As a pure science, it has a limited scope. Sociology should confine itself to the study of the certain aspects of human relationship only. Further, it should study only the 'forms' of social relationships but not their contents. Social relationship such as competition, division of labour, etc. are expressed in different fields of social life such as economic, religious, political etc. Sociology should disentangle the forms of social relationships and study them in abstraction. Sociology as a specific social science describes, classifies and analyses the forms of social relationships.

**Criticism:** The views of Formalistic school are widely criticized. Some critical remarks may be cited here.

- 1.They have unreasonably narrowed the field of sociology. Sociology should study not only the general forms of social relationships but also their concrete contents.
- 2.The distinction between forms of social relations and their contents is not workable. social forms can not be abstracted from the content at all , since social forms keep on changing when the contents change. Sorokin writes, "we may fill a glass with wine, water or sugar without changing its form , but I cannot conceive of a social institution whose form would not change when its members change"
- 3.Sociology is not the only science that studies the forms of social relationship. Other sciences also do that. The study international law, for example, includes social relations like conflict, war, opposition, agreement, contract etc. Political science, economics also study social relationship.
- 4.The establishment of pure sociology is impractical no sociologist has been also to develop a pure sociology so far .no science can be studied in complete isolation from the other science .in fact , today more emphasis is laid on inter –disciplinary approach.

(2) **The Synthetic school:**

The synthetic school of thought conceives of sociology as a synthesis of the social sciences, not a pure or special social science. Durkheim, Hob House, Ginsberg and Sorokin have been the chief exponents of this school.

**The views of Emial Durkheim:** Durkheim, one of the stalwarts of this school of thought, says that sociology has three main divisions or fields of inquiry. They are as follows: social morphology, social physiology and general sociology. **1. Social morphology:** social morphology studies the territorial basis of the people and also the problems of population such as volume and density, local distribution etc. **2. Social physiology:** social physiology has different branches such as sociology of religion, of morals, of law, of economic life and language etc. **3. General sociology:** general sociology can be regarded as the philosophical part of sociology. It deals with the general character of the social facts. Its function is the formation of general social laws.

The main argument of this school is that all parts of social life are intimately inter-related. Hence the study of one aspect is not sufficient to understand the entire phenomenon. Hence sociology

should study social life as a whole. From these two schools of thought we can conclude that any how sociology has special subject matter: social relationship. But sociology is related with all social sciences. Sociology is related with Economics, but considers social relationship in economic aspects. Sociology is related with History, but considers social relationship in historic aspects.

### **Basic Concepts: 1. Society**

The term 'Society' is the most fundamental one in sociology. It is derived from the Latin word 'socius', which means 'companionship'. Companionship means sociability. It is this element of sociability which defines the true essence of society. It indicates that man always lives in the company of other people. 'Man is a social animal', said Aristotle centuries ago. Man needs society for his living, working and enjoying life.

1. Society "is a web of social relationship" **MacIver**
2. "The term society refers not to group of people, but to the complex pattern of the norms of interaction, that arise among and between them". **Lapiere**
3. "A society is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or modes of behavior which marks them off from others who do not enter into the relations or who differ from them in behavior" **Ginsberg**

### **Characteristics of Society**

1. ***Society depends on Likeness.*** The principal of likeness is essential for society. Likeness refers to the similarities. Society exists among those who have the similarities with regards to their needs, goals, outlook and values etc.
2. ***Society rests on Difference too.*** If men are exactly alike, their social relationships would be very much limited. There would be little give and take, or little reciprocity, if there would no differences.
3. ***Co operation:*** Society is based on co operation. It is the essential part of our social life. Co operation arises when men realize that they have common interests. It refers to the mutual working together for the attainment of a common goal.
4. ***Interdependence.*** Social relationships are characterised by interdependence. One depends upon the other for the satisfaction of one's needs.
5. ***Society is Dynamic:*** Change is ever present in society. No society can ever remain constant for any length of time. Changes may take place slowly and gradually or suddenly.
6. ***Culture:*** Each society is unique because it has its own way of life, called culture. Culture is not society, but an element of society. Human society constitutes interacting people; while culture is patterning of their behavior. According to Tylor, "culture includes knowledge, law, morals, custom any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society".

7. **Mutual interaction and mutual awareness:** Society is composed of people. Without people there can be no society, social relationships and no social life at all. Individuals are in continuous interaction with other individuals of society. Society is understood as a network of social relationships. But all relations are social relations. Social relationships exist only when the members are aware of each other. Social interaction is made possible because of mutual awareness.
8. **Social control:** Society has its own ways and means of controlling the behavior of its members. Along with co operation, competition and conflict are also exists in society. Hence, the behavior and activities of people are to be regulated by informal and formal means of social control.

### 1. Community

1. Community is “social group with some degree of ‘we feeling’ and living in a given area”.  
**Bogardus**
2. Community is “the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life”.  
**Kingsley Davies**
3. Community is “an area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence”.  
**MacIver**

The main elements of Community: 1) Locality and 2) We feeling or Community sentiment.

A community is a territorial group. It always occupies some geographic area. Locality alone can not make a group, a community. Sometimes people residing in the same area may not have any contacts and communications. A community is essentially an area of common living with a feeling of belonging. Community sentiment means a feeling of belonging together.

### Difference between society & Community:

<b>Society</b>	<b>Community</b>
1. Society is a web of social relationships	1. Community consists of a group of people living in a particular area with some degree of we feeling
2. A definite geographic area is not essential aspect of society	2. A definite geographic area is essential aspect of community
3. Community sentiment may or may not be present in society	4. Community sentiment is the essential element of community
5. Society is abstract	4. Community is concrete
5. Society is wider. There can be more than one community in a society	5. Community is smaller than society
6. Society involves both likeness and difference. Common interest and diverse interests are in society	6. Likeness is more important than difference in community. There is more common interests among the members of community

### 3. Social Institution

The concept of institution is one of the most important in the entire field of sociology.

**Durkheim** has gone to the extent of defining **sociology as the science of social institution**

## **Definition**

1. **Ginsberg:** Institution “may be described as recognized and established usages governing the relations between individual and groups.”
2. **MacIver and page:** Institutions may be defined as the “established forms or condition of procedure characteristic of group activity.”

## **Characteristics of institution**

The main Characteristics of social institution may be described here:

1. **Social in nature.** Institutions come in to being due to the collective activities of the people.
2. **Universality.** They exist in all the societies and existed at all the stages of social development
3. **Institutions are standardized norms .**An institutions must be understood as standardized procedures and norms. Marriage, as an institution, for example, governs the relations between husband and wife.
4. **Institutions as means of satisfying needs.** They cater to the satisfaction of some basic and vital needs of man.
5. **Institutions are the controlling Mechanisms.** Institutions like religion, morality, state, government, law, legislations, etc..., control the behavior of men.
6. **Relatively permanent.** Institutions normally do not undergo sudden or rapid changes. Changes take place slowly and gradually in them.
7. **Abstract in Nature.** Institutions are not external, visible or tangible things. They are abstract. Thus marriage cannot be kept in a museum, religion cannot be rated or qualified; war cannot be weighed and law cannot be brought to the laboratory experiments and so on.
8. **Oral and Written Traditions.** Institutions may persist in the form of oral and /or written traditions. For the primitive societies they may be largely oral. But in modern complex societies they may be observed in written as well as unwritten forms.
9. **Synthesising symbols.** Institutions may have their own symbols, material or non material Ex. the state has flag emblem, and religion may have its own symbols like crucifix, crescent, star.
10. **Institutions are interrelated.** Institutions, though diverse, are interrelated. The religious, moral, Educational, political, economic and other type of institutions are essentially interlinked.

## **Primary and secondary institutions**

Institutions are often classified into (i) **primary institutions** and (ii) **secondary institutions**. The most basic institutions which are found even in primitive societies like religion, family, marriage, property, some kind of political system, are primary in character. As societies grew in size and complexity, institutions become progressive and more differentiated. Accordingly, a large number

of institutions are evolved to cater to the secondary needs of people. They may be called secondary institutions. (eg) Educations, examinations, law, legislation, constitutions, parliamentary procedure, business, etc.

### **Functions of social institutions**

1. Institutions cater to the satisfactions of needs.
2. Institutions control Human behavior.
3. Institutions Simplify Actions For the Individual.
4. Institution Assign Roles and Statuses to the Individual.
5. Institutions contribute to unity and uniformity.
6. Manifest functions of Institutions:

Every Institution has two Types of manifest function

- (i) The pursuit of its objectives or Interests, and (ii) the Preservation of its own internal cohesion so that it may survive.

7. *The negative function of institution* .When they become too conservative they retard progress.

## **4. Social system**

### **Meaning of system**

(i) According to oxford Dictionary, **the term ‘system’** represents “a group of things or parts working together in a regular relation.”

(ii) “A system is any collection of interrelated parts, objects, things or organisms”

### **Five points about any system**

- (a) A system indicates an orderly arrangement of parts. It has parts which are interrelated. These parts may have their specific functions.
- (b) A system may have its own boundaries.
- (c) One system can be an element or a subsystem in another.
- (d) A system is merely an aspect of things abstracted from reality for purpose of analysis.
- (e) The concept of system is applicable to the study of organic as well as inorganic realities.

The term ‘system’ is used to refer to the organic realities such as the human digestive system, circulatory systems, nervous system, etc. it is also used in the study of inorganic realities such as political system, economical system, industrial system, etc.

### **Origin of the concept of ‘social system’**

Herbert Spencer, who was highly influenced by the views of Charles Darwin has given an organic analogy in which society compared with the human organism. As A. R. Radcliffe - Brown

has pointed out it was Montesquieu who formulated and used the concept of “social system” for the first time towards the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The theory of Montesquieu states that “*all the features of social life are united into a coherent whole.*”

### **Meaning of social system**

Human society is a network of human interactions and interrelations. The interaction of individuals take place under such conditions that such a process of interactions may be called a system. System refers to the orderly arrangement of parts. Social system refers to the orderly arrangement of parts or components of society namely; human interactions. Individual in their process interaction influence each other. Their interrelationship and interaction assume a definite pattern which is called ‘*social system*’

As **David Popenoe** has pointed out “social system can refer to any kind of social grouping, from a group of two friends to a large complex society”. The chief exponent of the most modern theory of ‘social system’ has been **Talcott Parsons**.

### **Definitions of Social System**

**W. F. Ogburn** “A social system may be defined as a plurality of individuals interacting with each other according to shared cultural norms and meanings”.

### **Characteristics of Social system**

1. Social system consists of two or more individuals among whom we find an established pattern of interaction.
2. Individuals in their actions take account of how the others are likely to act or behave.
3. Individuals in the system behave in accordance with shared cultural norms and values.
4. Individuals in the system act together in pursuit of common goals or rewards.
5. “Social system” as a concept may represent the entire society or a number of sub-systems.
6. A social system has its own boundary with the help of which it can be distinguished from other social systems.
7. The term “social system” denotes a sociological concept that has been evolved to study society.

### **ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL SYSTEM**

The social system is constituted by the actions of individuals. It involves participation of an actor in a process of interactive relationships. There are three elements of social system: (i) the social system act or action (ii) the actor, and (iii) the status-role.

(i). **The act.** Social act or action is a process in the social system that motivates the individual individuals.

(ii) **The actor.** The actor is also a significant unit of social system. It is he who hold a status and performs a role.

(iii). **The role and Status.** The social system involves the participation of actor in a process of interactive relationship. This participation has two aspects : (i) the role aspect, and ( ii) the status

aspects. Role denotes the functional significance of the actor for the social system. States denotes the place of the actor in the social system.

## **6. SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

‘Social structure’ is one of the basic concepts of sociology. The terms become relatively popular in sociological studies with the works of Herbert Spencer.

### **Definitions of social structure**

1. Radcliffe-Brown defines social structure as “an arrangement of persons in institutionally controlled or defined relationships.
2. Morris Ginsberg regards social structure as “the complex of principal groups and institution which constitute societies.”

The elements of social structures are ‘social institutions.’ They consider these elements a necessary because they are “functional pre-requisites”. Without these institutions no society can survive.

### **Toward An Understanding of the terms ‘structure’ and ‘social structure’**

The term ‘structure’ refers to “some sort of ordered arrangements of parts or components”. A musical composition has a structure, a sentence has a structure, a building has a structure. In the some way, society too has its own structure called ‘social structure’. The components or unit of social structure are “persons”.

### **Elements of Social Structure**

1. **Sub-groups of various types.** Society can be understood as a big group which consists of people. This big group of or larger system consists of various sub-groups.
2. **Social structure consists of roles of various types.** Social structure consists of not only sub-groups but also roles. Roles are found within the larger system and also within the sub-groups.
3. **Regulative norms governing sub-group and roles.** Sub-groups and roles are governed by social norms.
4. **Cultural values.** Every society has its own cultural values. They help to integrate a personality or a system of interaction. Any one of these element-a sub-groups, a role, a social norms, or a values –may be called a “partial structure.”

## **7. Social Groups**

Society consists of groups. A social group existed when two or more people are in direct or indirect contact and communication. The members of the group stimulate and respond to one another in some meaningful way. This mutual stimulation & response of individuals and groups is social interaction. The nature and character of social relationship underlie different forms of social groups such as primary and secondary groups, In Groups and Out Groups, Organised and Unorganised groups, Formal and Informal groups and so on.

## **Definition of Social Group**

1. **H M Johnson** : A social group is a system of social interaction
2. **R M Mac Iver & C H Page**: Social group is any collection of human beings who are brought into human relationship with one another.
3. **Ogburn & Nimkoff**: Whenever two or more individuals come together & influence one another they may be said to constitute a social group.

## **Nature of Social Group**

The main characteristics of social groups are as follows:

1. Collection of individuals
2. Interaction among members
3. Mutual awareness
4. We Feeling
5. Group unity & Solidarity
6. Common interest
7. Similar behavior
8. Group norms
9. Size of the group
10. Groups are dynamic
11. Stability
12. Influence of personality

## **Classification**

Different sociologists have classified social groups on the basis of different criteria.

1. In Groups and Out Groups: W. G. Sumner in his 'Folkways' differentiates between In Groups and Out Groups. In Group is simply the 'we group' and Out Group is the 'they group'. For a Hindu, all the other Hindus are constituted the 'in group' & all the other religious persons are constituted the 'Out group'.
2. Involuntary & Voluntary Groups
3. Organised and Unorganised groups
4. Formal and Informal groups
5. Primary & Secondary Groups
6. Small & Large Groups

## **PRIMARY GROUPS AND SECONDARY GROUPS**

Charles Horton Cooley has introduced the term 'primary group' in his book '*Social Organisation*'. This classification of groups into primary and secondary is made on the basis of the nature and character of social interaction. it means it depends on the nature of social contact and the degree of intimacy among the members concerned. Primary groups are also called 'face to face' groups.

## THE PRIMARY GROUPS

**The Meaning of Primary Group.** Cooley used the term 'primary groups' to mean a social group characterized by 'face to face' *relationship, mutual aid, and companionship*. By primary groups, Cooley meant the intimate, personal 'face to face' groups. **Example for primary groups:** family, neighborhood, friends' club, peer group etc.

### CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIMARY GROUPS

1. **Dominance of face to face relations.** Primary groups are characterized by close and intimate relationships. There exists a fact to face relationship among the members. In primary groups everyone knows everyone else; one's name and fame, one's status, wealth, occupation, level of education etc.. close contact between them increases intimacy among the members. Face to face relations are commonly observed in small groups like family, children's playgroup, neighborhood and so on.

#### The characteristic of primary relation

(a) **Identity of ends.** Members of the primary groups have more or less identical desires and attitudes. They work together for the attainment of their common ends without disagreement. They look at the world through the same eyes. Every member of the group pursues, as one of his ends, the welfare of the other. The identification of ends is connected with the fusion of personalities within the group.

(b) **The relationship is an end in itself.** The primary relationship is regarded as an end in itself, but not a means to an end. It is neither utilitarian nor motivated by any economic gain. It is

intrinsically enjoyable. True love between husband and wife or genuine friendship between two individuals is for example, beyond the consideration of any selfish motive.

© **The relationship personal:** In the primary group the interest of each is centered in others as persons. The relationship disappears if the particular person disappears from it. As Kingsley Davis says the primary relationship is a matter of persons, it exists because of the person, not despite him'. The relationship is non-transferable and irreplaceable. (eg) the relationship between the husband and wife is such that no third person can replace any one of the two.

(d) **The relationship is inclusive.** The individual in a personal relationship is not an abstraction. Individuals are treated as complete human beings. All persons of the group are fused together completely. Individuals know each other very well. Different aspects of member's personality are known to all the other members.

## THE SECONDARY GROUPS

The secondary groups are almost the opposite of primary groups. The social groups other than those of primary groups may be termed as 'secondary group'

## Meaning of Secondary Group

Ogburn and Nimkoff say that the ‘groups which provide experience lacking in intimacy’ can be called **secondary groups**.

### Characteristics

1. Dominance of Secondary Relations. Secondary groups are characterized by indirect, impersonal, contractual and non-inclusive relations.
2. Largeness of the size. Secondary groups are relatively larger in size
3. Membership. Membership in the case of secondary groups is mainly *voluntary*.
4. No physical basis. Secondary groups are not characterized by physical proximity. Many secondary groups are not limited to any definite area.
5. Specific ends or interests. Secondary groups are formed for the realization of some specific interest or ends.
6. Indirect communication. Contact and communication in the case of secondary groups are mostly indirect
7. Nature of group control. Informal means of social control are less effective in regulating the relation of members. Formal means of social control such as law, legislation, police, court, etc. are made use of to control
8. Group structure. The secondary group has a formal structure
9. Limited influence on personality. Secondary groups are specialized in character

Primary group	<i>Secondary group</i>
<p><b>1. meaning:</b> groups which are characterized by “face to face” relations, mutual aid and companionship are primary groups’ .ex. family, neighborhood, community, children’s play group, local brotherhood.</p>	<p>1. Group which provides experience lacking in intimacy are secondary groups. Ex: political parties, trade union, religious association, the state, city, corporation, factory, rotary club etc</p>
<p><b>2. nature of social relations:</b> social relations are ‘face to face’, direct intimate, personal, contractual, non-specialized, non- partisan and non-economic in character</p>	<p>2. Social relations are indirect, impersonal, non-intimate, contractual, specialized, partisan, and more economic in nature.</p>

<p>3. <b>Size:</b> primary groups are smaller in size. They are localized or limited to a definite area.</p>	<p>3. Secondary groups are relatively bigger in size. They are not necessarily restricted to a small area.</p>
<p>4. <b>Physical proximity:</b> groups are confined to a small geographic area</p>	<p>4. Groups are not characterized by a physical area.</p>
<p>5. <b>Communications:</b> since members stay together communication is not only direct but also quick and effective.</p>	<p>5. Since members are spread over a vast area direct communication is difficult. It is mostly indirect in nature.</p>
<p>6 <b>group interest:</b> interests of the members are not specific but general. Everyone is interested in the welfare of everyone else.</p>	<p>6. Interest of the members are more specific. hence groups are often called 'special interest groups '</p>
<p>7 <b>nature of corporation:</b> cooperation is direct. Members work together, play together, enjoy together and in times of crisis struggle together. Cooperation is natural and spontaneous.</p>	<p>7. Cooperation is mostly indirect. Cooperation is an intended act to serve a particular need. It is limited to that purpose only.</p>
<p>8. <b>Group structure:</b> group structure is very <b>informal</b>. Members are not particular about their rights and powers or statuses and prestige. no formal or detailed rules are drafted as guide lines.</p>	<p>8. Groups structure is <b>formal</b>. The group is regulated by a set of formal rules. Statuses and rules, rights and powers of the members are well as defined. The organization of the group is carefully planned and worked</p>
<p>9. <b>Durability:</b> groups are relatively durable.</p>	<p>9. Group may be temporary or permanent.</p>
<p>10. <b>Effects on personality:</b> the group has a long lasting influence upon the personality development of the members.</p>	<p>10. The impact of the personality of the members is rater limited.</p>

<p>11. Nature of group control: primary group control the behavior of the members to a great extends. Informal means a social control are enough to regulate the relations.</p>	<p>11. Secondary groups have limited control over the behavior of the members. Informal means are not enough</p>
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## 7. Social Organisation

### Definition of Organization

**Ogburn and Nimkoff** have defined organization is an articulation of different parts which perform various functions; it is an active group device for getting something done.

**Elliott and Merrill** says, organization is a state of being, a condition in which the various institutions in a society are functioning in accordance with their recognized or implied purposes.

According to **H.M Johnson**, organization refers to an aspect of interaction systems.

At present the term social organization is used to refer to the interdependence of parts in groups. These groups may vary in size and nature. Many sociologists prefer to use the term social system to refer to the society as such rather than social organization. The term is used in sociological studies and researches today to stress the importance of arrangement of parts in which the parts of society are related to each other and how each is related to the whole society.

Organization makes possible the complex activities in which the members of a complex society participate. Sometimes the word organization is used to refer to the associational groups. It includes corporations, armies, schools, banks and prisons. The society consists of many such organizations. A state is frequently called a political organization. A school may represent an educational organization and so on. They are all social organizations. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff entire society represents a wider organization; a social organization. But society is also quite generally an organized group of interacting individuals.

## MODULE II SOCIALISATION

II.1. Definition, Features

II.2. Stages and agencies of socialisation

II.3. Social Norms: Conformity, Deviance, Needs of Social Control

### SOCIALISATION

Man is not only social but also cultural. It is a culture that provides opportunities for man to develop the personality. Development personality is not an automatic process. Every society prescribes its own ways and means of giving social training to its new born members so that they may develop their own personality. This social training is called 'socialization'. The process of socialization is conditioned by culture. Since every society has its own culture the ways of the process of socialization also differ from society to society. The human child comes in to the world as biological organism with animal needs. He is gradually molded in the society into a social being and learns social ways of acting and feeling. This process of moulding and shaping the personality of the human infant is called 'socialization'

#### Man is not born social

Socialization means the process whereby an individual becomes a functioning member of the society. The individual becomes socialized by learning the rules and practice of social groups. By the process the individual develops a personality of its own. Socialization is often referred to as the 'transmission of cultural', the process whereby men learn the rules and practice of social groups.

#### Definition

- (i) **W.F .Ogburn:** "socialization is the process by which the individual learns to conform to the norms of the group".
- (ii) **Peter Worsley** explains socialization as the process of "transmission of culture the process whereby men learn the rules and practices of social groups".

The heart of the process of socialization is the emergence and gradual development of the self.

#### Stages of socialization

Socialization is a gradual process of learning. The new born child is not taught all the things about social life at once. It proceeds from simplicity to complexity. Socialization consists of four stages from infancy to adulthood. They are – (1) the oral stage, (2) the anal stage, (3) the oedipal stage, and (4) adolescence.

- 1. The First Stage – The Oral Stage.** This stage begins with the birth of the child and continues up to the completion of one year. For everything the child cries a great deal. By means of crying the child establishes its oral dependency. The child here develops some definite expectations about the feeding time. The child also learns to give signals for his felt needs. In this stage the child is involved in himself and his mother.
- 2. The Second Stage – The Anal Stage.** The second stage normally begins soon after the first year and is completed during the third year "*toilet training*" is the main focus of new concern. The child is taught to do some tasks such as toileting, keeping clothes clean etc. The child in this stage internalizes two separate roles – his own role and that of his mother. The child receives 'care' and also 'love' from the mother and learns to give love in return. The child is

enabled to distinguish between correct and incorrect actions. The correct actions are rewarded and the incorrect action is not rewarded but punished. In this second stage the socializing agent, that is, the mother plays the dual role. She participates in the interaction system with the child in a limited context and she also participates in the larger system that is the family.

3. **The Third Stage – The Oedipal Stage.** This stage mostly starts from the fourth year of the child and extends up to puberty (the age of 12 or 13 years). It is in this stage the child become the member of the family as a whole. It is here the child has to identify himself with the social role ascribed to him on the basis of his sex. According to *Freud*, the boy develops the ‘*Oedipus complex*’ – the feeling of jealousy towards father and love towards mother. In the same way, the girl develops the ‘*Electra Complex*’ – the feeling of jealousy towards the mother and love towards the father. In this stage sufficient social pressures are brought on the child to identify with the right sex. Boys begin with rewarded, for behaving like boys and girls are rewarded for acting like girls.
4. **The Fourth Stage – The Stage of Adolescence.** The fourth stage starts with the period of adolescence. Due to the physiological and the psychological changes that take place within the individual this stage assumes importance. During this stage the boys and girls try to become free from parental control. At the same time they cannot completely escape from their dependence on their parents. Hence they may experience a kind of strain or conflict in themselves.

#### THE AGENCIES OF SOCIALISATION

Personalities do not come ready-made. They are moulded or shaped through the process of socialisation. The process of socialisation is operative not only in childhood but throughout life. It is a process which begins at birth and continues till the death of the individual. It is an endless process. From the societal point of view, the child is valued more for ‘what he will be’ than for ‘what he is’ .socialisation helps the child to become a useful member of the society. The following are the agencies that have been established by culture which socialize the new born child.

- i) **Family and parents.** The process of socialisation begins for every one of us in the family. Here, the parental and particularly the maternal influence on the child is very great. The intimate relationship between the mother and the child has great impact on shaping of child’s abilities and capacities. The parents are the first person to introduce to the child the culture of his group. The child receives additional communications from his older siblings, I.e. brothers and sisters, who have gone through the same process – with certain differences due to birth order and to the number and sex of the siblings.
- ii) **Peer or age mates.** ‘*Peer groups*’ means those group made up of the contemporaries of the child, his associates in school, in playground and in street. He learns from these children, facts and facet of culture that have they have previously learnt at different times from their parents. The members of peer group have other group sources of information about the culture – their peers in still other peer groups – and thus the acquisition of culture goes on. It is true that the ‘*peer culture*’ becomes more important and effective than be ‘parental culture’ in the adolescent years of the child.
- iii) **Teacher.** The teachers also play their role in socialisation when the child enters the school. It is in the school that the culture is formally transmitted and acquired. It is not only the formal knowledge of the culture that is transmitted there but most of its premises as well- its ethical sentiments, its political attitudes, its custom and taboos. Wherever they are, and at whatever age, the communications they receive from their teachers help to socialize them and to make them finally mature members of their societies.

iv) **Literature and Mass Media of Communication.** There is another source of socialisation. This is, of course, found only in literate societies and that is the *literature*. The civilization that we share is constructed of words or literature. The media of mass communication give us their messages. These messages too contain in capsule form, the premises of our culture, its attitudes and ideologies.

### **NORMS**

‘Social norms’ refer to the group shared standards of behavior. They are based on values. They determine, guide and predict our behaviour. **M Sherif** in ‘The Psychology of Social Norms’ used the term for the first time to describe the common standards or ideas which guide members responses in all established groups. According to **Young & Mack**, ‘norms’ refer to “the group shared expectations”. According to **Harry M Johnson**, “A ‘norm’ is an abstract pattern held in the mind that sets certain limits for behavior”.

#### **Nature of Social Norms**

- 1.They are Universal
- 2.They are related to social order.
- 3.Norms incorporate value judgment.
- 4.Norms are relative to groups and situations.
- 5.Norms are not always obeyed by all.
- 6.Norms are normally internalized by the people.

#### **Conformity**

Conformity implies behaving in accordance with norms. It also implies that the individual consciously approves of a particular behaviour and is prepared to follow the same.

Some of the **causes of conformity** (Harry M Johnson):-

- 1) Socialisation: - Proper social training always supported conformity.
- 2) Social control: - Various means of social control help the individual to follow the norms.
- 3) Vested interest: - Sometimes, people conform the norms due to some vested interest.
- 4) Hierarchy of norms: -Norms that apply to the same actor are found to be in the form of hierarchy.
- 5) Insulation: -The norms that might conflict are prevented from doing so by applying to different times and places.
- 6) Ideology: -People’s conformity to group norms depends to some extent upon the ideas and ideology that they hold.

Other causes of conformity ( **Bierstedt** )

- 1) Indoctrination: - We conform to the norms simply because we have been indoctrinated to do so. Indoctrination refers to the process of injecting into the personality of the child the group norms.

- 2) Habituation: - We conform to the norms because we become habituated to them.
- 3) Group identification: -By conformity to the norms we express our identification with the groups.
- 4) Utility: -We appreciate the utility of the norms and hence we conform to them.

### **Social Deviance**

Deviance is the act of going against the rules or norms.

**Horton and Hunt:** -The term Deviation is given to any failure to conform to customary norms

**G. Brim:** - Deviance can be defined as failure to conform to the expectations of other persons.

**Weston:** - Deviance can be defined as behaviour that is contrary to the standards of conduct or social expectations of a given group or society.

**In simple words,** Deviance may be defined as the act of going against the group shared expectations or norms.

### **Types of Deviance**

- 1) Innovation: -A person may innovate or create his own means for achieving the goals and in this sense, he becomes a deviant.
- 2) Ritualism: -Sometimes a person gives up important social values yet does lip service to them by carefully observing related norms of behaviour. They find themselves unable to break out of their commitment to the rules.
- 3) Retreatism: -The passive rejection of both norms and values is 'retreatism'. The best solution to their dilemma is to 'drop out' of society.
- 4) Rebellion: -Some people reject the prevailing order and engage in efforts to replace that order.

### **SOCIAL CONTROL**

#### **1. MEANING OF SOCIAL CONTROL**

The survival and smooth functioning of the society is possible only when there exist in it social harmony, social solidarity and social order. Members of the society are able to bring about social harmony or order only when they conform to certain accepted standards of behaviour or norms. *Thus social control refers to the control of society over the individual.* E.A. Ross was the first American sociologist to deal with this concept of social control in his famous book "social control" published in 1901. In fact, it was he who first used the concept of 'social control' in sociological discussion.

### **Definition of Social Control**

1. E.A. Ross. "social control refers to the "system of devices whereby society brings its members into conformity with the accepted standards of behaviour".
2. Manheim. "social control is the sum of those methods by which a society tries to influence human behaviour to maintain a given order."
3. Ogburn and Nimkoff have said that social control refers to "the patterns of pressure which a society exert to maintain order and established rules."

### Nature of Social Control

- (i) **Social Control denotes some kind of influence.** The influence may be exercised in various ways by means of public opinion, coercion, religion.
- (ii) **The influence is essentially exerted by the society or community.** It may indicate the entire society's influence over all.
- (iii) **The influence is exercised for promoting the welfare of all the individuals or of the group as a whole.**
- (iv) **The influence of the society has been there since times immemorial.** It is an essential condition of the human society.
- (v) **The influence is universal.** Where there is society there is a social control.

### PURPOSES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

The purpose of 'social control' as the very term indicates, is to exercise control over people in an effective manner .why the control is needed? According to *Kimball Young*, it is necessary "to bring about conformity, solidarity, and continuity of a particular group or society". The three purpose of social control mentioned by *Kimball-young* –conformity, solidarity and continuity of the group – may be described below.

1. Social Control brings about social conformity. People must be made to feel the need for security. For the sake of security they are obliged, to accept conformity. Social Control thus provides for conformity.
2. Social Control brings about solidarity. The second main purpose of social control is to creat in the minds of people the feeling of identity and of solidarity. It becomes necessary for the society to establish a reasonable balance or equilibrium between different groups and institutions. Society does this through various means of social control.
3. Social control assures the continuity of social group or society. Societies not only struggle for stability and solidarity but also for their own survival or continuity.

### TYPES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

Society makes use of various means of social control depending upon the time and social situation for the realisation of its purposes.

#### Formal and Informal Control

Social Control can be classified into two major types on the basis of the means of social control that are employed.

**They are: (i) formal control, and (ii) informal control.**

1. **Formal control.** Formal control is deliberately created. Various rules are laid down to make it specific. Formal control has become a necessity in the modern complex societies in which interaction is mostly impersonal in nature.
2. **Informal control.** Informal control includes public opinion, folkways, mores, customs, religion, morality and such other agents. These are not purposefully created. No specific punishment would be given to the violators of informal control. Still they are more effective than the formal control. Informal control is more effective in primary social groups such as family, neighbourhood, where interaction takes place on a personal basis. Whenever the group or the society become larger ( in terms of population) and more complex, the informal devices of control become less effective

## AGENCIES OF SOCIAL CONTROL

Society or group maintains social control by creating its own agencies which may enforce formal or informal control.

1. **Control by law.** Law is the most powerful moral means of social control in the modern society
2. **Control by Education.** Education may be defined as a process whereby the social heritage of a group is passed on from one generation to another. It is in this sense, Durkheim conceived of education as “ the socialisation of the younger generation”.
3. **Control by the Public Opinion.** Public Opinion is an important agency of social control. As K. Young has said, “public opinion consists of the opinion held by a public at a certain time”. There are various agencies for the formulation and expression of public opinion. The press, radio, movies, and legislatures are the main controlling agencies of public opinion.
4. **Control by propaganda.** It refers to the techniques of influencing human action by the manipulation of representations. It is a means of influencing others, often towards a desirable end. It can also be used to replace old beliefs and practices with the new ones.
5. **Control by Coercion.** Coercion, that is, the use of physical force is one of the forms of social control. Coercion refers to the use of physical force to stop or control a work or an action.
6. **Control by folkways and mores.** ‘Folkways’ refer to the ways of the people. They constitute an important part of the social structure. They contribute to the order and stability of social relations. Human infants learn them through their elders through socialisation.  
**The Mores.** ‘Mores’ or ‘morels’ represent another category of norms. When ‘folkways’ act as regulators of behaviour then they become ‘mores’. They are always considered as ‘right’ by the people who share them.
7. **Control by Religion.** Religion refers to man’s faith or belief in some supernatural power or force. As Maclver and Page have said, religion “implies a relationship not merely between man and man but also between man and some higher power”.

## MODULE III

### CULTURE, PERSONALITY AND SOCIETY

III.1. Definition of Culture

III.2. Material Culture and Non Material Culture, Cultural lag

III.3. Relationship between Culture, Personality and Society

#### 1. MEANING OF CULTURE

The study of human society immediately and necessarily leads us to the study of this culture. The study of society or any aspect of it's become incomplete without a proper understanding of the culture of that society. Culture is a unique possession of man. It is one of the distinguishing traits of human society. Every man is born into a society is the same as saying that every man is born into a culture. Culture is the unique quality of man which separates him from the lower animals. Culture includes all that man has acquired in his individual and social life. In the words of MacIver and page, culture is "the realm of styles, of values, of emotional attachments, of intellectual adventures". It is the entire 'social heritage' which the individual receives from the group.

#### Definition of Culture

1. **Robert Bierstedt** is of the opinion that culture is the complex whole that consists of all the ways we think and do and everything we have as members of society.

2. **Edward B Tyler**, a famous English anthropologist, has defined culture as 'that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society'.

Tyler's definition is widely quoted and used today.

#### CHARACTERSTICS OF CULTURE

1. **Culture is a Learnt** Culture is not inherited biologically, but learnt socially by man

2. **Culture is social** It is a product of society. It originates and develops through social interactions. It is shared by the members of society.

3. **Culture is shared** Culture is something adopted, used, believed, practiced, or possessed by more than one person.

4. **Culture is transmissive** Parents pass on culture traits to their children and they in turn to their Children and so on. Culture is transmitted not through genes but by Means of languages. Language is the main vehicle of culture.

5. **Culture is continuous and cumulative** Culture exists as a continuous process. In its historical growth it tends to become cumulative.

6. **Culture is consistent and integrated** Culture, in its development has revealed a tendency to be consistent. At the same time different parts of culture are interconnected. For example, the value system of society is closely connected with its other aspects such as morality, religion, customs, traditions, belief, and so on.

7. **Culture is Dynamic and Adaptive** Thought culture is relatively stable, but is not altogether static. It subjects to slow but constant changes. Change and growth are latent in culture.

8**Culture is Gratifying:** Culture provides proper opportunities and prescribes means for the satisfaction of our needs and desires.

**9. Culture Varies from society to society:** Every society has a culture of its own. It differs from society to society.

**10. Culture is super organic and ideational** Culture is sometimes called ‘super organic’.

### **Culture and society**

Culture and society are not one and the same. A culture is system of behavior shared by the members of a society. A society is a group of people who share a common culture. As Ralph Linton puts it, *‘a society is an organized group of individuals. A culture is an organized group of learned responses characteristic of a particular society’*.

### **CULTURE CONTENTS**

A number of sociologists have classified the content of culture into large components ‘material culture’ and ‘non-material culture. Ogburn has even used this distinction as the basis for a theory of cultural change.

### **Material and Non-material Culture**

#### **(i) Material Culture**

Material culture consists of man-made objects such as tools, implements, furniture, automobiles

#### **(ii) Non-Material culture**

Non-material culture consists of the words the people use or the language they speak, the beliefs they hold, values and virtues they cherish, habits they follow. It also includes our customs and tastes, attitudes and outlook.

### **CULTURAL LAG**

Ogburn, in his famous book, ‘Social Change’ has formulated the hypothesis of ‘Cultural Lag’. He classified the content of culture into ‘material culture’ and ‘non-material culture’. According to him, ‘Cultural Lag’ refers to the imbalance in the rate and speed of change between these two parts of culture. In his view, changes are quick to take place in the material culture. These in turn stimulate changes in the non material aspects, but in slow rate. He defines ‘Cultural Lag’ as that “the strain that exists between two correlated parts of culture that change at unequal rates of speed may be interpreted as a lag in the part that is changing at the slowest rate for the one lags behind the other”.

### **CULTURE, SOCIALISATION AND PERSONALITY**

Culture and socialisation are very much interrelated. Culture refers to the social heritage of a group of people. It consists of the shared behavior, beliefs, and material object belonging to a society or a part of society. Every human infant is not only exposed to a culture, but assimilates it and in its turn transmits it. Culture not only conditions the process of socialisation but also has an impact on the formation of personality. In fact, it is mainly through the process of socialisation that a child develops a personality in a cultural context. It is interesting to note that different cultures provide for different ways of socialisation. These ways of socialisation have their own impact in the formation of personality

### **The meaning of personality**

Personality is the product of culture. It is through the process of socialization that the child develops a personality according to the cultural expectations of his society. According to the social psychologist G.M. Allport, personality is – a person’s pattern of habits, attitudes, and traits which

determine his adjustment to his environment. According to sociologist Kimball Young, personality “consists of habit, attitudes, and ideas which are built up around both people and things”. No man is born with a personality but everyone develops it through socialisation. Culture provides the limit within which personality will develop; through socialisation each culture places its distinctive work of human personality. The more homogeneous the culture the more likely it is to produce a characteristic type of person who refers the dominant ethos or culture themes.

### **Rules Benedict’s classification of cultures**

An American anthropologist Ruth Benedict in her “patterns of culture” published in 1935 has classified culture into two broad types on the basis of their ‘ethos’ or distinctive feeling tones. She has made a comparison of three tribal cultures- the Zuni, the Dobuan and the Kwakiuti Indian-and shown how each has its own unique impact on personality. The two types of cultures which she has mentioned are (i) The Apollonian Culture, and (ii) The Dionysian Culture.

- (i) **The Apollonian Culture** is characterized by Qualities such as self-control, even-temperedness, moderation, mutual understanding, mutual assistance and co-cooperativeness.
- (ii) On the other hand **the Dionysian Culture** is marked by high emotionalism, aggressiveness, individualism, superficiality, prestige and competitiveness. As Ruth Benedict has pointed out the Zuni tribe of the south Western U.S.A represents the Apollonian Culture whereas the Dobuans of Melanesia and the Kwakiutl Indians represent the Dionysian Culture.

In the Zuni tribe or society which represents the Apollonian Culture, the members reveal characteristics which are peculiar to their culture. The Zuni people dislike individualism, violence and power. They respect moderation and modesty, co-operation and mutual understanding. They are emotionally undisturbed. The spirit of competition is virtually absent in them. The mountain dwellers New Guinea, called Arapesh who are mild, gentle, claim and quiet also represent the Apollonian culture.

In the Dobuan and Kwakiuti societies, which are Dionysian in character, members exhibit traits common to their culture. The Dobuans make virtues of ill-will and treachery. They fight against one another for the possession of good things in life. Suspicion, cruelty, animosity, and malignancy are traits of almost all Dobuans. The Kwakiuti Indians of the Pacific Northwest Coast define everything that happens in terms of triumph or shame. For them, life is a constant struggle to put one’s rivals to shame. They destroy the material possessions of the defeated.

In her study Benedict has tried to show that it is possible to identify the influence of the total culture of personality. She has tried to establish that each culture will produce its special type or types of personality. It is true that her study reveals the mutual interplay of culture and socialisation in conditioning personality. Culture provides for the way in which personality is to be developed. But personality as such is developed through the process of socialisation. It may also be argued that different ways and means of socialisation may produce different personalities. Individuals try to develop their personalities in accordance with their culture ideals and expectations. If the people of three tribal communities develop different types of personality it is because their cultural ideals, values and expectations differ significantly.

### **CAN CULTURE DETERMINE PERSONALITY**

Some writers have popularized the idea that personality and culture are two sides of the same coin, and that culture determines personality. Ralph Linton has pointed out that personality traits differ within any culture. Hence within the same culture some are found to be more aggressive than others, some are more submissive, kind, benevolent, competitive and so forth. It is because culture is only one determinant of personality among others.

## MODULE IV

### SOCIAL PROCESS

IV.1. Social Process: Associative- Cooperation, Accommodation, Assimilation, Interaction

IV.2. Social Process: Dissociative- Competition, Conflict, Contravention, Isolation

### SOCIAL PROCESSES

**The concept of social process.** Society is a system of social relations. Social relationship may be studied by the kind or mode of interaction they exhibit. These kinds or modes of interaction are called social processes. Social processes are the fundamental ways in which men interact and establish relationships.

#### Definition

- (i) **MacIver:** “social process is the manner in which the relations of the members of a group, once brought together, acquire a distinctive character”.
- (ii) **Horton and Hunt:** the term social process refers to the “repetitive forms of behavior which are commonly found in social life.”

#### Forms of social processes

The kind of interaction or social process include-cooperation, competition, conflict, contravention, accommodation, assimilation, accumulation, isolation, differentiation, disintegration etc.

### SOCIAL INTERACTION

#### Definition

1. Eldredge and Merrill: ‘social interaction is the general process whereby two or more persons are in meaningful contact as a result of which their behavior is modified however slightly’.
2. Dawson and Gettys: ‘social interaction a process whereby men interpenetrate the minds of each other’.
3. Gish, N.P.: ‘social interaction is the reciprocal influence human being exert on each other through inter stimulation and response’.

#### Two Conditions of Interaction

Park and Burgess are of the opinion that contact and communication are the two main conditions of social interaction.

**Contact.** Contact is the first stage of interaction. Contact means simply a coming together of independent social units [individuals].it involves a mutual response, an inner adjustment of behavior to the actions of others. The two kinds of contact are: (i) contact in time and (ii) contact in space. The first one refers to contact of group with the earlier generations through customs, traditions, folkways, morals, etc. The second one refers to the relationship between contemporary individuals and groups within a particular area. The contacts may be primary and personal or secondary and impersonal in nature.

**Communication** Communication is the medium of interaction. In communication one person infers from the behavior of another the idea or feeling of the person. It may take place at three levels – through the senses, the emotions and the sentiments and ideas.

**Direct and Symbolic Interaction** Interaction may be direct or symbolic. Direct interaction refers to the activities of a person which may be seen in such contact as pushing, fighting, pulling, embracing, dashing, or in other forms of bodily contact with other individuals. Symbolic interaction consists of vocal or other gestures and language, spoken or written. A symbol is a summary of experience. It

may represent an object, act, quality, value, idea or any expected response. Language is the rich store – house of such symbols.

**Interstimulation and Response** The central nature of interaction is interstimulation and response.

One stimulates the actions, thought or emotions of another person and responds to the similar behavior of the others. Interaction increases mental activity, fosters comparison of ideas, sets new tasks, accelerates and discovers the potentialities of the individual.

**Importance of Interaction** . Social interaction is the basic condition of our social existence. It is the most inclusive group process. It is a context in which the personality grows. Man cannot be called man outside the range of human interaction. Group develops through interaction with other groups and disintegrate without some stimulation from outside. Society exists only when a large number of persons are interacting. Human interaction takes place in the context of social expectations, rules and norms. Social interaction is the basic process through which human nature and social structure develop and changed.

## **KINDS OF SOCIAL INTERACTION**

### **Associative processes of social interaction**

In social life, individuals continuously come in contact with one another. They co-operate and compete with one another for their respective interests. They also struggle with each other for their rights. These are the fundamental processes through which men interact and establish relationship with each other in society. Interaction refers to an action done in response to another action. When this interaction repeats itself then it is called as social process.

Society contains hundreds and perhaps thousands of socially defined relationships. It is impossible to make a detailed study of each and every social relationship. The various kinds of social relationships or interaction on processes can broadly be divided into two main-categories: One aspect of social interaction is associative.

The associative processes of social interaction are of positive type of interaction. The associative process is always worked for the integration and benefit of society. These processes bring progress and stability in society. Associative processes are also called as conjunctive processes. The associative processes include cooperation, accommodation, adaptation, adjustment, integration and assimilation. Here we shall discuss about two types of interaction. They are co-operation, accommodation and assimilation.

### **1. COOPERATION**

#### **Meaning of Cooperation**

Cooperation is one of most basic, pervasive and continuous social process. It is the very basis of social existence. Cooperation generally means working together for the pursuit of a common goal. The term “Cooperation” is derived from the two Latin words: “co” meaning together for common rewards.

#### **Definition**

1. Merrill and Eldredge: ‘cooperation is a form of social interaction wherein two or more person work together to gain a common end.’
2. A.W.Green: ‘cooperation is the continuous and common Endeavour of two or more persons to perform a task or to reach a goal that is commonly cherished.’
3. Fairchild: ‘cooperation is the process by which the individuals or groups combine their effort, in a more or less organized way for the attainment of common objective.’

### Types of cooperation

1. **Direct cooperation.** Here, the individuals involved do the identical function. Performance of a common task with joint efforts brings them social satisfaction.
2. **Indirect cooperation:** in this case, people work individually for the attainment of a common end people here do unlike tasks towards a similar end. This is based on the principle of division of labour and specialization.
3. **Primary cooperation:** primary cooperation is found in primary groups such as family, neighborhood, friends, and group.
4. **Secondary cooperation:** secondary cooperation is the characteristic feature of the modern civilized society and is found mainly in secondary groups. It is highly formalized and specialized.
5. **Tertiary cooperation:** cooperation may be found between bigger groups also. It may be found between two or more political parties, castes. The two groups may cooperate and work together for antagonistic goals.

### Role of cooperation in social life

Cooperation as a form of social process is universal and continuous. As MacIver and Page say, "Man cannot associate without cooperating, without working together in the pursuit of like or common interests".

As young and Mack have said, cooperation requires first of all a motivation to seek a goal. Secondly, people must have some knowledge of the benefit of cooperative activity. Thirdly, people must have a favorable attitude towards sharing both the work and the rewards involved. Finally, they need to equip themselves with the skills necessary to make the cooperation.

The principle of struggle for existence and survival is essentially the principle of cooperation. Cooperation helps society to progress. Progress can better be achieved through united action. Cooperation is an urgent need of the present-day world. It provides solution for many international problems and disputes. Society advances through cooperation and declines in its absence.

### ACCOMMODATION

#### Meaning of Accommodation

Accommodation is one of the principal types of social processes. It is through this process that social order arises. *Park and Burgess* have said that human social organization is fundamentally the result of an accommodation of conflicting elements. Throughout his life man has to face a number of conflicting situations.

#### Definition of Accommodation

1. The famous psychologist *.I.M. Baldwin* was the first to use the concept of accommodation. According to him, the term denotes acquired changes in the behaviour of individuals which help them to adjust to their environment.
2. *MacIver* says that "the term accommodation refers particularly to the process in which man attains a sense of harmony with his environment."
3. According to *Ogburn and Nimkoff*. "Accommodation is a term used by the sociologists to describe the adjustment of hostile individuals or groups."

#### Characteristics of Accommodation

1. Accommodation is the natural result of conflict.
2. Accommodation may be a conscious or an unconscious activity.

3. Accommodation is universal.
4. Accommodation is continuous.
5. The effects of accommodation may vary with the circumstances.

**ASSIMILATION**

**Meaning and Definition**

Assimilation is one of the types of interaction. Like accommodation it is also a form of social adjustment. But it is more permanent than accommodation. Assimilation is concerned with the absorption and incorporation of the culture by another. Hence assimilation requires more fundamental changes than accommodation.

**Definition**

1. According to *Young and Mack*. “Assimilation is the fusion or blending of two previously distinct groups into one”.
2. *Biesanz*: assimilation is the “social process whereby individuals or groups come to share the same sentiments and goals”.

**Characteristics**

1. Assimilation is not confined to single field only.
2. Assimilation is a slow and gradual process.
3. Assimilation is an unconscious process.
4. Assimilation is a two-way process

**Factors Favouring Assimilation**

1. Toleration.
2. Intimate Social Relationships.
3. Amalgamation or Intermarriage.
4. Cultural Similarity.
5. Education.
6. Equal Social and Economic Opportunity.

**Factors Retarding or Hindering Assimilation**

1. Isolation.
2. Physical or Racial Differences.
3. Cultural Differences.
4. Prejudice as a barrier to Assimilation.
5. Dominance and Subordination.

**Accommodation and Assimilation: Difference**

ACCOMODATION	ASSIMILATION
1. Accommodation may take place suddenly and in radical manner. <i>Example:</i> workers after having talks with the management may decide to stop their month-long strike all on a sudden.	1. Assimilation is a slow and a gradual process. It takes time. For <i>example</i> , immigrants take time to get assimilated with the majority group

<p>2. It may or may not provide permanent solution to group differences and disputes. it may only provide a temporary solution</p>	<p>2. Assimilation normally provides a permanent solution to inter-group dispute and differences.</p>
<p>3. It may be both conscious and unconscious a process .in most of the instances it takes place consciously. <i>Example:</i> Labour leaders who come for talks are sufficiently aware of the fact that they are purposefully seeking out a solution to their dispute.</p>	<p>3. It is mostly an unconscious process. Individuals and groups involved in it are often not aware of what actually happens within themselves or in their group.</p>

**Dissociative Processes:**

Social process which leads to negative results is called dissociative processes. These social processes result in disintegration of society. These are also known disjunctive social processes. Competition and conflict etc. are examples of dissociative social processes.

**COMPETITION**

**Meaning of Competition**

Competition is the most fundamental form of social struggle. It is a natural result of the universal struggle for existence. It is based on the fact that all people can never satisfy all their desires. Competition takes place whenever there is an insufficient supply of things that human beings commonly desire. Whenever and wherever commodities which people want are available in a limited supply, there is competition.

**Definition**

1. **Park and Burgess:** “Competition is an interaction without social contact”.
2. **Biesanz:** “Competition is the striving of two or more persons for the same goal which is limited so that all cannot share.”
3. **Horton and Hunt:** “Competition is the struggle for possession of rewards which are limited in supply, goods, power, love – anything.”
4. Competition may also be defined as “the process of seeking to monopolise a reward by surpassing all rivals.”

**Nature and Characteristics of Competition**

1. Scarcity as a Condition of Competition.
2. Competition and Affluence.
3. Competition is continuous.
4. Competition is Universal
5. Competition is Dynamic
6. Competition – A Cause of Social Change.
7. Competition may be personal or Impersonal.
8. Competition may be Constructive or Destructive.
9. Competition is Always Governed by Norms.
10. Competition may be Unconscious also.

**Forms or Types of Competition**

1. Social competition
2. Economic Competition
3. Political Competition
4. Cultural Competition

**Role of Competition in Social Life**

1. Assigns Statuses to the Individuals.
2. Source of Motivation.
3. Provides of Social Mobility.
4. Competition Contributes to Socio-Economic Progress
5. Provides for New Experiences

**Cooperation and Competition: Differences**

COOPERATION	COMPETITION
1.Cooperation refers to a form of social interaction wherein two or more persons work together to gain a common end.	1. Completion is a form of social interaction wherein the individuals try to monopolise rewards by surpassing all the rivals
2.Cooperation is always based on the combined or the joint efforts of the people.	2. Competition can take place at the level of the group and also at the level of the individual.
3.Cooperation normally brings about positive results. It rarely causes losses to the individuals	3.Though competition can bring about positive results, it can cause damages or losses to the parties and persons involved.
4.Cooperation is boundless. It has no limitations. One can go to any extent to help others.	4.Competition has its own limitations. It is bond by norms. Limitless or unregulated competition can cause much harm.
5.As C H Cooly has pointed out cooperation requires qualities such as kindness, sympathy, concern for others, mutual understanding and some amount of readiness to help others.	5.Competition requires qualities such as strong aspirations, self-confidence, the desire to earn name and fame in society, the spirit of adventure and the readiness to suffer and struggle.
6.Cooperation brings people satisfaction and contentment.	6.But competition may cause satisfaction as well as dissatisfaction, anxiety, indefiniteness and uncertainties.

**Contravention**

**Contravention** is, in French Law, an act which violates the Law, a treaty or an agreement which the party has made. It designates a minor infraction only, as opposed to a crime. Any infraction to a law or regulation (enforced by the executive agents of the State), that is not punishable by more than a €3000 fine for a person, is classed as a contravention. The fine may also be matched with an additional sentence. The act of contravening or the state of being contravened, a violation, contradiction or inconsistency.

**Isolation:** Isolation is the process or fact of isolating or being isolated.

- Sociology: Social lack of contact between persons, groups, or whole societies
- Psychology: The failure of an individual to maintain contact with others or genuine communication where interaction with others persists

It may refer to:

- Isolation of human beings from others due to some sickness (Human Isolation)
- Solitude, a state of seclusion or isolation, i.e., lack of contact with people
- Solitary confinement, a special form of imprisonment in which a prisoner is isolated most or all human contact
- Isolationism in politics, the policy or doctrine of isolating one's country from the affairs of other nations

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