

**SEMESTER-I**



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**Odisha State Open University**  
Sambalpur

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) IN**  
**SOCIOLOGY**  
**(BASO)**

**BSO-1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY-1**

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**Credit: 6**

**Block-1,2,3 & 4**

# BSO -01: Introduction to Sociology-1

## Brief Contents

Block No	Block	Unit No	Unit
<b>1</b>	<b>Discipline and Perspective</b>	1	Meaning, Definition and Subject Matter
		2	Emergence of Sociology
		3	Nature and Scope of Sociology
		4	Importance of Sociology

Block No	Block	Unit No	Unit
<b>2</b>	<b>Sociology and other Social Sciences</b>	5	Sociology, Anthropology and History
		6	Sociology and Psychology
		7	Sociology and Political Science
		8	Sociology and Economics

Block No	Block	Unit No	Unit
<b>3</b>	<b>Basic Concepts</b>	9	Society and Community, Associations and Institutions
		10	Social Groups and Culture
		11	Role and Status.
		12	Power and Social Norms

Block No	Block	Unit No	Unit
<b>4</b>	<b>Social Stratification</b>	13	Meaning, Definition, Characteristics
		14	Forms of Stratification-Caste, class & gender
		15	Functionalist Theories of stratification (Parsons, Davis & Moore) Marxian & Weberian Theories of stratification
		16	Elite Theory: Pareto, C Wright Mills.

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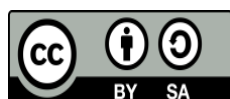
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# BSO -01: Introduction to Sociology-1

## Contents

Blocks/Units	Pg. No.
<b><u>BLOCK-1: DISCIPLINE AND PERSPECTIVE</u></b>	<b>1-29</b>
<b>Unit-1: Meaning and Emergence of Sociology:</b> Introduction, Meaning of Sociology, Emergence of Sociology, <b>and Intellectual Antecedent of Sociology</b>	
<b>Unit-2: Definition and Subject Matter:</b> Introduction, Definition of Sociology, Subject matter of Sociology, Significance of Sociology	
<b>Unit-3: Nature and Scope of Sociology:</b> Introduction, Nature of Sociology, Scope of Sociology, Methods in Sociology	
<b>Unit-4: Relationship of Sociology with Anthropology, Political Sciences, History and Economics:</b> Introduction, Sociology and other academic disciplines, Sociology and Anthropology, Sociology and Economics, Sociology and Political Science, Sociology and History	
<b><u>BLOCK-02: SOCIOLOGY AND OTHER SCIENCES</u></b>	<b>30-47</b>
<b>Unit-5: Sociology, Anthropology, and History:</b> Introduction, Relation between Sociology and Anthropology, Mutual help and Differences between Sociology and Anthropology, Relationship between Sociology and History, Difference between History and Anthropology.	
<b>Unit-6: Sociology and Psychology:</b> Introduction, Relation between Sociology and Psychology, Difference between History and Psychology.	
<b>Unit-7: Sociology and Political Science:</b> Introduction, Relation between Sociology and Political Science, Difference between History and Political Science.	
<b>Unit-8: Sociology and Economics:</b> Introduction, Relation between Sociology and Economics, Difference between History and Economics.	

**BLOCK-03 BASIC CONCEPT****48-94**

**Unit-9: Society, Community, Association, and Institution:** Introduction, Origin, Meaning, definition, Characteristics, and Types Society, Man and society-interrelationships, Origin, Meaning, definition, Characteristics, and Types Community, Distinctions between society and community, Meaning, definition and Characteristics Association, Origin, Meaning of Institution.

**Unit-10: Social Group and Culture:** Introduction, Meaning, definition, Characteristics, and Classification of Group, Meaning, Definitions, Characteristics and Related concepts of Culture.

**Unit-11: Role and Status:** Introduction, Meaning Definitions, Characteristic and. Types of Status, Meaning Definitions, Characteristic and Related concepts of Roles.

**Unit- 12: Power and Social Norms:** Introduction, Meaning and Definition, Types, Need and Importance of Social Norms, The Concept and Importance of Power.

**BLOCK -4 SOCIAL STRATIFICATION****95-119**

**Unit-13: Meaning, Definition, Characteristics:** Introduction, Meaning of Social Stratification and Characteristics of Social Stratification.

**Unit-14: Forms of Stratification-Caste, Class & Gender:** Introduction, Caste, Class, Race, Ethnicity and Gender Form of Social Stratification.

**Unit-15: Functionalist Theories of Social Stratification and Marxian and Weberian Theories of Stratification:** Introduction, Talcott Parson, Malvin & Tumin and Kingsley Davis and Moore Theories of Stratification, Marxist Theory and Weberian Theory of Stratification

**Unit-16: Elite Theory: Pareto, C Wright Mills:** Introduction, Pareto: Law of the Circulations of elite and C Wright Mills: The power of Elite.

# **Block-1**

## **DISCIPLINE AND PERSPECTIVE**

**Unit-1: Meaning, Definition and Subject Matter**

**Unit-2: Emergence of Sociology**

**Unit-3: Nature and Scope of Sociology**

**Unit-4: Importance of Sociology**

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## UNIT-1 MEANING, DEFINITION AND SUBJECT MATTER

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### Structure

- 1.1 Learning Objectives
- 1.2 Introduction
- 1.3 Meaning of Sociology
- 1.4 Definition of Sociology
- 1.5 Subject matter of Sociology
- 1.6 Significance of Sociology
- 1.7 Let Us Sum Up
- 1.8 Glossary
- 1.9 Check Your Progress
- 1.10 References

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### 1.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Learn the meaning of sociology
- Study the emergence of sociology
- Understand the Antecedent of Sociology

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### 1.2 INTRODUCTION

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Before attempting to define what sociology is, let us look at what the popular conceptions of the discipline seem. As may be the case with other sciences, sociology is often misconceived among the populace. Though many may rightly and grossly surmise that sociology is about people, some think that it is all about “helping the unfortunate and doing welfare work, while others think that sociology is the same as socialism and is a means of bringing revolution to our schools and colleges”.

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### 1.3 MEANING OF SOCIOLOGY

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The first social scientist to use the term sociology was a Frenchman by the name of Auguste Comte who lived from 1798-1857. As coined by Comte, the term sociology is a combination of two words. The first part of the term is a Latin, socius- that may variously mean society, association, togetherness or companionship. The other word, logos, is of Greek origin. It literally means to speak about or word. However, the term is generally understood as study or science (Indrani, 1998). Thus, the etymological,

literal definition of sociology is that it is the word or speaking about society. A simple definition here is that it is the study of society and culture.

Although the term “sociology” was first used by the French social philosopher August Comte, the discipline was more firmly established by such theorists as Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Max Weber (Nobbs, Hine and Flemming, 1978).

Before going any further, let us note that the concepts “society and “culture” are central in sociology. While each concept shall be dealt with later in some detail, it appears to be appropriate here to help students differentiate between these two important concepts. Society generally refers to the social world with all its structures, institutions, organizations, etc around us, and specifically to a group of people who live within some type of bounded territory and who share a common way of life. This common way of life shared by a group of people is termed as culture (Stockard, 1997).

Now, turning to the definitional issues, it is important that in addition to this etymological definition of the term, we need to have other substantive definitions. Thus, sociology may be generally defined as a social science that studies such kinds of phenomena as:

- The structure and function of society as a system;
- The nature, complexity and contents of human social behavior;
- The fundamentals of human social life;
- Interaction of human beings with their external environment;
- The indispensability of social interactions for human development;
- How the social world affects us, etc?

A more formal definition of sociology may be that it is a social science which studies the processes and patterns of human individual and group interaction, the forms of organization of social groups, the relationship among them, and group influences on individual behavior, and vice versa, and the interaction between one social group and the other (Team of Experts, 2000).

Sociology is the scientific study of society, which is interested in the study of social relationship between people in group context. Sociology is interested in how we as human beings interact with each other (the pattern of social interaction); the laws and principles that govern social relationship and interactions; the /influence of the social world on the individuals, and vice versa (Ibid.). It deals with a factually observable subject matter, depends upon empirical research, and involves attempts to formulate theories and generalizations that will make sense of facts (Giddens, 1982).



Regarding the detective and expository nature the science, Soroka (1992:34) states that “Sociology is a debunking science; that is, it looks for levels of reality other than those presented in official interpretations of society and people’s common sense explanations of the social world. Sociologists are interested in understanding what is and do not make value judgments.”

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## 1.4 DEFINITION OF SOCIOLOGY

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Sociology is the study of social relationships, groups and societies. Its subject matter is our own behaviour as social beings. Sociologists differ in their opinions about the definition of sociology. Sociology has been defined as the science of society. Some others have defined sociology as the scientific study of social relationships or activities. But what defines sociology is not what it studies i.e. group or family, but how it studies a chosen thing. In this context, it is necessary to discuss some of the definitions of sociology.

1. **Auguste Comte**, “sociology is the science of social phenomena subject to natural and invariable laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation”.
2. **Alex inkles**, “Sociology is the study of systems of social action and their interrelations”. 1. Emile Durkheim “Sociology is the science of social institutions”.
3. **Max-Weber**, “sociology is the science which attempts an interpretative understanding of social action”.
4. **Morris Ginsberg**, “sociology is the study of human interactions and inter-relations their conditions and consequences”.
5. **Morris Ginsberg**, “sociology is the science that deals with social groups, their internal forms or modes of organization, the processes that tend to maintain or change these forms of organization and relations between groups”.
6. **H.P. Fairchild**, “sociology is the study of the relationships between man and his human environment”.
7. **J.F. Culler**, “sociology may be defined as the body of scientific knowledge about human relationships”.
8. **G.A. Lundberg**, “sociology is a body of related generalizations about human social behaviour arrived at by scientific method”.
9. **R.E. Park and F.W. Burgess**, “sociology is the science of collective behaviour”.
10. **P.A. Sorokin**, “sociology is a generalizing science of socio-cultural phenomena viewed in their generic form, types and manifold interconnections”.
11. **Arnold Green**, “sociology is the synthesizing and generalising science of men in all his social relationships”.
12. **Kimball Young**, “sociology deals with the behaviour of men in groups”.
13. **Gillin and Gillin**, “sociology in its broadest sense may be said to be the study of interactions arising from the association of living beings”.
14. **G. Duncan Mitchell**, “sociology is a science for scientific social development”

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## 1.5 SUBJECT MATTER OF SOCIOLOGY

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There is no special field of sociology since its subject matter has been parcelled out to a number of social science like political science, economics, psychology, anthropology, and history etc. Another criticism against sociology is that it borrows from other social sciences. It is argued that sociology is a hotch-potch of different social sciences.

It may be stated here that these arguments are totally incorrect and need no consideration. Today sociology is not only a distinct science with subject matter of its won but it has also acquired that high status which entitles it to be called the “mother of all social sciences”. Sociology has a distinct position among other social sciences.

Sociology is a special kind of abstraction, lit has its own perspective and its own system of explanation of human behaviour. While discussing the position of sociology among other social sciences, Maclver has rightly remarked that the social sciences have the spheres within sociology just as associations have the spheres within community.

Sociology has produced a great deal of valuable information’s about social institutions such as family, property, church and State; about social traditions, about social processes, about social classes, about changes in social habits, customs and fashions; about social control, about crime and suicide. None of these topics is adequately treated elsewhere.

Sociology, no doubt, borrows” its subject matter from other social sciences, but it gives this subject matter completely a new form. Sociology adopts completely different system of explanation of subject matter. Sociology borrows raw materials, applies a technique and creates what is called society and a distinct discipline to study its structure and processes. In the words of Motwani, “Sociology like an edifice is both the principle of coordination of facts of social life into an organic whole and also an independent science, the end result of such integration”.

Sociology is a science with its own subject matter, ‘social life as a whole’ and deals with more general principles underlying all social phenomena. Social phenomena is the subject matter of sociology. The basic social phenomena, the unit for sociological analysis is commonly identified as interaction between two or more human beings. Where there is interaction, the participants are said to be in social relationship. Human interaction and interrelation become the subject matter of sociology.

When relationships endure, they form social groups. The social group is commonly recognized to be one of the major subjects of sociological study. The social group is a system that is a structure consisting of parts which, without losing their identity and individuality, constitute a whole transcending the parts.

The individuals who form the social group stand in patterned relationship, so that to each person is ascribed a definite social position called 'status'. Social groups often form hierarchies within society. This phenomenon is called stratification. Today social stratification is a field of intensive research in sociology.

Another basic area of study in sociology consists of the social 'Processes'. Among the social processes, cooperation is basic in social life. Other social processes in sociological study are conflict, competition, assimilation, accommodation, communication, socialization etc.

Sociology also gives emphasis on study of culture, which is usually taken to be the sum total of relatively stable and standardized ways of thinking and acting operative in a given society.

Change in culture and in social structure constitutes major area of study developed in sociology. The principal mechanism of social and cultural change has been well known since long back. A number of detailed propositions concerning the conditions of invention and of the acceptance and diffusion of inventions belong to the domain of contemporary sociology.

Sociology has been concerned with the development and functions of basic social institutions such as family and kinship, religion, property, political, educational and economic institutions.

Sociology has its own methodology for research. Contemporary sociology is more rational and empirical. Very few sociologists today deny that enumeration, measurement and refined statistical procedures are desirable techniques to be used in any investigation. Sociology has well developed theories. Theoretical sociology emerged historically as illustrated in the broad theoretical schemes of August Comte, Herbert Spencer, Lester F. Ward and other pioneers.

Theoretical sociology has also been developed by Peter Blau, George Homans, Charles Loomis, P. Sorokin, R.K. Merton, Talcott Parsons and others. Over the years sociologists have developed and refined several inroad theories to account for the nature of society.

Some sociologists take a ‘Macroscopic’ (broad view) and large scale phenomena such as the working of entire societies or worldwide trends (modernization), historical phenomena etc. Other Sociologists study small-scale social phenomena such as the behaviour of the individuals and small groups, for example family relationships. Such studies are called ‘micro-sociology’.

The application of sociological perspective to different fields of human relationships has given birth to many branches of sociology of these the most important branches are rural sociology, urban sociology, sociology of crime, sociology of education, political sociology, sociology of religion, industrial sociology, historical sociology, sociology of art etc. From time to time new fields of enquiry in sociology is emerging out and there is no doubt that this trend in sociology will continue.

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## 1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF SOCIOLOGY

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Generally, learning sociology provides us with what sociologists call the sociological imagination. Sociological imagination is a particular way of looking at the world around us through sociological lenses. It is a way of looking at our experiences in light of what is going on in the social world around us. This helps us to appreciate the social and non-biological forces that affect, influence and shape our lives as individuals, groups, and communities (Giddens, 1982). Sociological imagination helps us look beyond individual psychology to the many and varied facets of social and cultural forces, and "the recurring patterns in peoples' attitudes and actions, and how these patterns vary across time, cultures and social groups." (Henslin and Nelson, 1995).

Learning sociology helps us understand how social forces influence our goals, attitudes, behavior, and personality. We become more sensitive towards the social issues. Furthermore, learning sociology helps to cast aside our own biased assumptions, stereotypes and ethno-centric thinking and practices to become more critical, broad- minded and respectful in our interpersonal and inter- group relationships. By learning sociology, we can be more humane and people – centered; we give high value to human dignity.

In general, sociology increases our self-knowledge. Learning sociology can provide us with selfenlightenment. When we learn sociology, we gain more knowledge about the conditions of our own lives, and about the way our society and social system function. As such knowledge increases, we can be more empowered to influence the direction of forces and circumstances that affect our lives. We can also be more responsive to the various policies set by governments; and can suggest our own policy initiatives and alternatives (Giddens, op cit).

In addition to the aforementioned theoretical benefits, sociology has certain practical benefits. There is what we call applied sociology, the application of sociological

knowledge, principles, methods, concepts and theories to provide the solutions to the contemporary social pathologies. Sociology plays practical roles to tackle social pathologies.

Sociological knowledge is highly applicable in dealing with today's most crucial social problems, and in facilitating developmental activities in socioeconomic sectors.

Before closing this section, it is important to note why health/ medical sciences students need to take a course in introductory sociology. The following are some of the arguments for the necessity of such a course:

1. Health, disease and illness are as much sociocultural in their nature as they are physical.
2. So far, despite certain steps being taken, the dominant trend in the medical/ health sciences training is to highly focus on the biomedical and ecological dimensions of health and disease. However, given the bio-psycho-social nature of human being and health, this is very partial. This restricted approach to health disease does not provide the students with appropriate and whole picture about the issue. Such highly narrow focus in the training of health professionals and design of health policies and strategies is not appropriate.
3. In the objective realities of developing societies such as Ethiopia human health and well-being are deeply linked to sociocultural factors such as the entrenched poverty, the roles of traditional values and institutions in shaping people's worldviews about health and disease

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## 1.7 LET US SUM UP

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Sociology is the systematic study of society and social interaction. In order to carry out their studies, sociologists identify cultural patterns and social forces and determine how they affect individuals and groups. They also develop ways to apply their findings to the real world. Studying sociology is beneficial both for the individual and for society. By studying sociology people learn how to think critically about social issues and problems that confront our society. The study of sociology enriches students' lives and prepares them for careers in an increasingly diverse world. Society benefits because people with sociological training are better prepared to make informed decisions about social issues and take effective action to deal with them.

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## 1.8 GLOSSARY

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- **Culture**-It refers to the sum of human beings' life ways, their behaviour, beliefs, feelings, thought.

- **Society-** a group of people who live in a definable territory and share the same culture.

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## 1.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- How would you define Sociology?
- Define Sociology and discuss its importance as a course of study.
- ‘Sociology is the science of society’. Discuss.
- Is Sociology a Science with its own subject- matter? Discuss fully?

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## 1.10 REFERENCES

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## UNIT-2 EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

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### Structure

- 2.1 Learning Objectives
- 2.2 Introduction
- 2.3 Emergence of Sociology
- 2.4 Intellectual Antecedent of Sociology
- 2.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 2.6 Glossary
- 2.7 Check Your Progress
- 2.8 References

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### 2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Study the emergence of sociology
- Understand the Antecedent of Sociology

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### 2.2 INTRODUCTION

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Sociology is scientific in nature. In other words, sociology tries to make a scientific study regarding the social actions or the social events. This statement might have raised a question that what is a scientific study. When one tries to understand a phenomenon systematically and logically then it can be called a scientific study. In other words, scientific study must be based on facts and the subjective feelings of a researcher must not influence the study. Secondly, the study must employ appropriate methods to unravel facts and analyze them for logical conclusions. Such conclusions or generalizations must be empirically verifiable, reliable and valid with respect to the phenomena under investigation.

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### 2.3 EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

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It is widely known that significant developments that had occurred in the nineteenth century are responsible for the formation of sociology as a discipline. The survey analysis of social conditions was extremely necessary for divisions such as political philosophy, political reform, social and economic reform, and theories of evolution. This propelled the emergence of sociology as a separate social science. The unfolding of a period of intellectual progress known as the historical tradition was a crucial

feature for sociology as it popularized the idea that society is more than just a political state. During this period, Enlightenment thinkers were able to move away from theological influences and move towards a more progressive and causal thought process. Moreover, social surveys became extremely important around the Industrial Revolution as industrial societies had accelerated problems such as poverty. The use of social surveys became a common tool for the analysis of the science of a society and it aided the sociological investigation. Survey analysis revealed that people's ideologies were changing along with the societal conditions. They wanted more social and political reforms with the rising inequality between the bourgeoisie and the proletarians and they also moved away from theological beliefs to scientific application to study the problems of humanity.

The Political Revolutions in France were also triggered by the development of concepts such as historical philosophy as it pointed out the problems of society. It showed people that social and economical conditions are as important as political reforms. That is why societies in Western Europe especially had changed drastically as they were becoming more aware of their social structure and norms and how institutions were affecting the quality of life. The French Revolution set off a sequence of revolutions throughout the nineteenth century that was a major factor for the progress of sociology as it brought along major implications such as inequality, slums due to population concentration in urban areas, labor-capital disputes, and so on. While it did affect societies in a positive way as they were becoming socially aware and a lot of positive improvements were being implemented in societies, the revolutions also made way for chaos and anarchy in societies due to the new ills that were taking over the states. Auguste Comte's work was inspired by these changes in society and he is often known as the founder of sociology. He was able to establish sociology as a separate social science as he noticed that all social sciences tackle specific parts of the society but he wanted to establish a social science where society as a whole is studied and analyzed.

Comte is credited with the establishment of the first scientific study of society. This was extremely crucial as opposed to other social sciences, sociology was able to prominently study human social behavior. His *Positive Philosophy* (1830) designed a new structure for society including a new set of rules that regulated society to solve the issues that were affecting the society. His collaboration with Saint Simon between 1817-23 brought about the necessity for scientific methods for the study of society. The study of sociology was at first called social physics by Comte but over time he changed it to sociology. His major work that was used to implement his purpose of social development was *System of Positive Politics* (1851-54). It applied sociological theories to social problems and social conditions in that period of time. The three major factors which influence the emergence of sociology as a sphere of study began in the



late eighteenth century with the French Revolution, the period known as ‘the Enlightenment’ and the industrial revolution.

Each one of these influences has contributed to what Karl Polanyi, the Austro-Hungarian philosopher termed ‘the Great Transformation’ in his book of the same name, one of the results of this ‘great transformation’ resulted in the emergence of the science of sociology. History began to change in 1789 when the French Revolution broke out followed by the Enlightenment – the creation of a new framework of ideas about man, society and nature. In addition, further economic and social changes were brought forward with the industrial revolution firstly in England and then in the whole of Europe.

The French revolution had lasted for ten whole years and was the first modern and ideological revolution of its kind. It had a great impact on society because it changed its structure. It managed to eliminate the social distinctions between people and the feudal society. The power shifted away from the Church and came to hands of the people. This was the first time people were seen as citizens. In addition to this, the clerical hierarchy which had existed until then gave up its rights and property. These changes had a historical, political and social impact in the entire of Europe and not just France. Plato and Aristotle had become externally manifest in the social and historical world as a consequence of the revolution in France.

Additionally, the French Revolution brought significant changes to the family since it was followed by the Declaration of Human Rights which stated that all humans are born free and equal. Changes to family-related issues were also brought into force. At the same time the Church lost much of its tremendous influence and power, which devolved to the people. The clerical hierarchy that had existed until then gave up its rights and property. ‘Civil marriage’ and ‘divorce’ were established. Civil marriage was another way for people to project their doubts upon the Church. A couple blessed by God could now follow different paths in their lives with the ‘divorce’ being established and accepted. Education and religion were also subject to changes.

The second major event, that took place during the late 18th and early 19th century, was Industrialisation. The Industrial Revolution began in England in 18th century (1870) and brought several changes in societies, shaping them in the form they are today. It was “the major shift of technological, socioeconomic and cultural conditions in the late 18th and early 19th century that began in Britain and spread throughout the world” (Wikipedia, Internet encyclopaedia).

At the end of the 18th century the world was experiencing a rapid population growth which led to an economic boom. As the demand was increasing, more workers were

needed to cover the increasing demand. Production of goods increased. This was a different type of work before Industrialisation people were working in a traditional form.

Technology brought significant changes in the work place which led to great improvement and efficiency. Machines were now helping people in production and thereby improving time efficiency and production volume as well as the conditions under which people worked. Technological changes included the use of iron and steel, new energy sources. These changes in technology improved both the quality of the products being produced as well as the work-conditions of the workers in production. Fewer efforts were now required by the workers in terms of producing a good. Technology also improved transportation and hence trade and commerce between countries. Markets expanded even more since goods and raw materials that were scarce in one country could be supplied from another. Machines became the symbols of the new society and humanity could be seen to be all working into this machine.

In addition, the area of communication also saw great improvement during this time period and people could now travel easier and reach their destination quicker. In the past, the only method people could communicate between them was through letters. This way of communication however, was both time consuming and uncertain since the letters were often lost somewhere in between. Fortunately, during the late 18th and early 19th century letters could be delivered faster and new ways of communication were developed such as the telegraph. These improvements also brought people and societies closer to one another. People moved to the cities where the markets began to emerge.

The Enlightenment was a significant contributing factor to the emergence of sociology in the late 18th and early 19th century. The Enlightenment is considered to be the source of critical ideas, such as the centrality freedom, democracy, and reason as primary values of society. It is the “creation of a new framework of ideas about man, society and nature, which challenged existing conceptions rooted in a traditional world-view, dominated by Christianity” (Hamilton,23). The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement consisting of many philosophers. The most popular figures of this new framework were Charles Montesquieu (1689-1755), Jacques Tugot (1729-1781) and Jean Condorcet (1743-1794). They managed to challenge the traditional and existing conceptions of the world.

The thinkers of Enlightenment aimed to teach people stop listening and following blindly the church’s opinion and decisions, and start thinking on their own. Challenge what they hear and develop their critical judgment. People were now advised to try and solve their problems on their own rather than wait for God to provide a solution for them. This new way of thinking was a big factor in economic growth. The

increased education, through the emergence of upper class philosophers, the publishing of newspapers and the emergence of new types of media resulted in the arts, such as writing and painting to only develop, improve and flourish during that time period.

Reaching to a conclusion, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and the Enlightenment were the three major factors that contributed towards the emergence of sociology in the late 18th and early 19th century. During this historical period, people's lives became much easier and better. All these changes helped people become more open minded and created for them a life with more choices. , This important turning point in history led to a technological and economic boom. It also resulted in people learning to live in societies. "A person who cannot live in society, or does not need to because he is self-sufficient, is either a beast or a God". (Aristotle, Politics)

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## 2.4 INTELLECTUAL ANTECEDENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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The chief intellectual antecedents of sociology are summed up by Ginsberg in the following words: Broadly it may be said that sociology has had a fourfold origin in political philosophy, the philosophy of history, biological theories of evolution and the movements for social and political reform which found it necessary to undertake survey of social conditions.

Over the time, there had grown the intellectual tradition described as the historical tradition or the philosophy of history, which believed the general idea of progress. To combat the influence of theology on history, the thinkers of the Enlightenments introduced the idea of causality into history of philosophy, elaborated the theory of progress. But philosophy of history as a distinct branch of speculation is a creation eighteenth century.

The philosophical historians introduced the new conception of society as something more than the political society' or the State. They were concerned with the whole range of social institution and made a distinction between the State and what they called 'civil society'.

They were concerned with discussions of the nature of society, classification of societies into types, population, family, Government, morality and law etc. In the early part of the nineteenth century the philosophy of history became an important intellectual influence through the writings of Hegel and Saint-Simon. The features of writings of philosophical historian reappeared in the nineteenth century, in the works of Comte and Spencer.

"A second important element in modern sociology" to quote Bottom ore is provided by social survey which itself has two sources. The first was the growing conviction of the applicability of the methods of natural sciences to the study of human affairs.

The second was the movement for social and political reforms which made it necessary to undertake surveys of social problems like poverty which arose in the industrial societies of Western Europe. The social survey came to occupy an important place in the new science of society and it was one of the principal methods of sociological enquiry. These intellectual movements, the philosophy of history, and the social survey were themselves the product of social settings of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century Western Europe. The Philosophy of history was not merely a child of thought. It was born of two revolutions, the Industrial Revolution and the Political Revolutions in France. Similarly, the social survey emerged from a new conception of evils of industrial society.

All intellectual fields are profoundly shaped by their social setting. This is particularly true of sociology, which is not only derived from that setting but takes the social setting as its basic subject matter. We will focus briefly on few of the most important social conditions of nineteenth and early twentieth century that were of type utmost significant in the development of sociology.

### **The Biological Theories of Evolution**

The influence of the philosophy of history was further reinforced by the biological theory of evolution. Sociology moved towards an evolutionary approach, seeking to identify and account for the principal stages in social evolution. It tended to be modeled on biology, as is evident from the widely diffused conception of society as an organism, and from the attempts to formulate general terms of social evolution. Herbert Spencer and Durkheim are good example of this kind of writing.

### **Surveys of Social Conditions**

Social survey forms an important element in modern sociology. It emerged due to two reasons, one was the growing conviction that the methods of the natural sciences should and could be extended to the study of human affairs; that human phenomenon could be classified and measured. The other was the concern with poverty ('the social problem'), following the recognition that poverty was not natural but social.

The social survey is one of the principal methods of sociological inquiry. The basic assumption, which underlines this method, is that through the knowledge of the social conditions one can arrive at solutions to solve the social problems prevalent in society.

### **Conservative Reaction to Enlightenment**

However, the Enlightenment's impact on sociological thought was indirect and harmful. Indeed, Conservative Reactionaries to the Enlightenment such as Louis de Bonald (1754-1840) and Joseph de Maistre (1753-1821) made as much contribution to

the development of sociology as Enlightenment-influenced scientists. De Bonald was extremely disturbed by the significant and revolutionary changes that resulted in the formation of a highly impersonal metropolitan city life devoid of any sense of community and argued for a return to the peace and stability of bygone eras. To that extent, sociology—with its emphasis on society as a unit of analysis rather than the individual; recognition of the various components of society as interconnected and interdependent; and emphasis on the ultimate harmony and stability of the society—can be said to have been influenced by the Conservative Reaction. Indeed, while the objectives of sociology have been influenced by Conservative thought (harmony, stability, and unity), the methods have been influenced by Enlightenment thinkers who recognised that, while one cannot return to the past, one can create a better society through the application of new knowledge about the society (Scientific Method) (Retzer 2016). Thus, Enlightenment and Conservative philosophy fused to become Sociology. Additionally, these intellectual stirrings were not separated from the social environment that prevailed in Western Europe during the 18th and 19th centuries.

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## 2.5 LET US SUM UP

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The Industrial Revolution, the French Revolution, and the Enlightenment were the main three reasons that influenced or contributed to the emergence of sociology. The emergence of sociology began in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The lives of common people were much better and easier during this historical period. Due to all the changes that occurred during this period, the people became more open-minded and started to live a good life with several options. All these changes were an important turning point for that period, leading to an economic and technological boom and helping people to learn to live in societies.

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## 2.6 GLOSSARY

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- **Revolution**-a radical and pervasive change in society and the social structure, especially one made suddenly and often accompanied by violence.
- **Enlightenment**- A concept in spirituality, philosophy and psychology related to achieving clarity of perception, reason and knowledge
- **Evolution**- the process of developing by gradual changes

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## 2.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- What is sociology? Explain it using your own words.

- Give an account of the origin and main aim of Sociology?
- What do you mean by sociology?
- Who is the father of Sociology?
- In which year the term Sociology has coined.

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**UNIT-3 NATURE AND SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY**

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**Structure**

- 3.1 Learning Objectives
- 3.2 Introduction
- 3.3 Nature of Sociology
- 3.4 Scope of Sociology
- 3.5 Methods in Sociology
- 3.6 Let Us Sum Up
- 3.7 Glossary
- 3.8 Check Your Progress
- 3.9 References

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**3.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Study the Nature of Sociology
- Understand the Scope of Sociology
- Learner the Methods in Sociology

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**3.2 INTRODUCTION**

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Now, since sociology deals with human beings and the values that people in societies hold, the methods used in sociology is slightly different from methods used by natural sciences. The subject matter of natural sciences, for example that of Physics or Chemistry, is non-living particles. These particles do not have any consciousness of their own. However as already mentioned, the subject matter of sociology is human being who has a consciousness of his/her own and tends to behave differently when he/she comes to know that his/her behavior is being observed. Moreover, human beings cannot be studied in a laboratory and to understand their real nature, sociologists have to study them in a natural setting. But one thing is common about all the sciences (including sociology) that observation must be done in a scientific way. This means an observer must be able to note down accurately whatever he or she is observing. Thus, a sociologist must be able to keep away his/her pre-conceived notions while researching. For example, a researcher might have some earlier notion about a particular society which he or she is trying to study, but while studying, he or she must note whatever he/she has observed and not what he/she 'feels' about that

society. Robert Bierstedt in his book “The Social Order” described some of the characteristics of sociology which are discussed below

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### 3.3 NATURE OF SOCIOLOGY

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Before discussing the nature of Sociology, it is better to know about the nature of a subject. The nature of a subject refers to its internal characteristics which help one to understand what kind of science it is.

Every branch of knowledge has its own nature. Thus, Sociology as a branch of knowledge had its own nature or characteristic which distinguishes it from other social sciences and helps to understand what kind of science it is.

The nature of Sociology is as follows:

**(1) Sociology is an independent science:**

Sociology is not treated and studied as a branch of any other science like philosophy, history. Now it has emerged into an independent science. As an independent science it has its own field of study.

**(2) Sociology is a social science and not a physical science:**

All the sciences are divided into two categories: natural sciences and social sciences. Natural sciences study physical phenomena where as social sciences study social phenomena. Social sciences include Economics, Political Science, and Anthropology etc. Sociology belongs to the family of social sciences. As a social science it concentrates its attention on man, his social behaviour, activities and social life. In other words, it studies man as a social being.

**(3) Sociology is a pure science and not an applied science:**

The aim of applied science is to apply the acquired knowledge into life and to put it to use. But the aim of pure sciences is the acquisition of knowledge and it is not bothered whether the acquired knowledge is useful or can be put to use. Sociology is a pure science, because it aims at the acquisition of knowledge about human society, not the utilisation of the knowledge.

**(4) Sociology is an abstract science and not a concrete science:**

This doesn't mean that Sociology, is an art and not a science. It only refers that Sociology is not interested in concrete manifestations of human events. It is more concerned with the form of human events and their patterns. Similarly, Sociology does



not confine itself to the study of this society or that particular society. It simply means that Sociology is an abstract science, not a concrete science.

**(5) Sociology is a categorical and not a normative discipline:**

Sociology "confines itself about what is, not what should be or ought to be." As a science it is silent about questions of value. It does not make any kind of value judgment. It only means Sociology as a discipline cannot deal with problems of good and evil, right and wrong.

**(6) Sociology is a generalising and not a particularising science:**

Sociology does not study each and every event that takes place in society. It makes generalization on the basis of some selected events. For example, not by studying or examining all the secondary groups but by observing a few secondary groups, a sociologist makes generalization of secondary groups.

**(7) Sociology is a general science and not a special socialscience:**

The area of inquiry of Sociology is general and not specialised. Social sciences like Political Science, History, Economics, etc. study human interaction but not all about human interactions. But Sociology does not investigate special kind of phenomena in relation to human life, and activities but it only studies human activities in a general way.

**(8) Sociology is both a rational and empirical science:**

Empiricism is the approach that emphasizes experiences and the facts that result from observation and experimentation. On the other hand, rationalism stresses reason and theories that result from logical inference. The empiricist collects facts, the rationalist co-ordinates and arranges them. In sociological theory both are significant. Thus, Sociology is both a rational and empirical science.

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### **3.4 SCOPE OF SOCIOLOGY**

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Ever since the beginning of Sociology, Sociologists have shown a great concern in man and in the dynamics of Society. Therefore, the subject matter of sociology, which it covers to study, became very wide. Here, a general outline of the subject matter of sociology is given:

The major concern of sociology is sociological analysis. It means that sociologists seek to provide an analysis of human society and culture with a sociological perspective.

Sociology has given sufficient attention to the study of primary units of social life. In this area, it is concerned with social acts and social relationships, groups of all varieties, communities (urban, rural and tribal), associations, organizations and populations.

- Sociology has been concerned with the development, structure and function of a wide variety of basic social institutions such as the family and kinship, religion economy, polity, legal and educational institutions.
- The social processes such as co-operation, competition, accommodation and assimilation, social conflict, social change, social differentiation and stratification, socialization, social control and deviance assume prominence in sociological studies.
- Sociology has placed high premium on the method of research also. Sociology has tended to become more and more rational and empirical rather than philosophical and idealistic.
- Sociologists are concerned with the task of “formulating concepts, propositions and theories.”
- In the present era of explosion of knowledge, sociologists have ventured to make specializations also. Thus, today a good number of specialized fields of inquiry are emerging out. Sociology of knowledge, sociology of history, sociology of medicine, sociology of culture, sociology of religion, sociology of education etc., represent such specialized fields.

The field of sociological inquiry is so vast that any student of sociology equipped with intellectual ingenuity and rich sociological imagination can add new dimensions to the discipline of sociology as a whole.

Every subject has its own scope and subject matter. Sociologists differ among themselves regarding the scope of sociology. As a result, there is no unanimity of opinion amongst scholars about the scope of sociology. Some sociologists opine that sociology studies everything and any- thing under the sun, whereas, others opine that the scope of sociology is very limited as it studies only those things which are not studied by other social sciences. V.F. Calberton opines “since sociology is so elastic a science, 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 theory, something which is impossible to decide”. However, an attempt has been made to demarcate the exact scope of sociology.

There are two schools of thought with different viewpoints regarding scope and subject matter of sociology- formal school and synthetic school. According to the formal school, sociology was conceived to be a social science with a specifically defined field. This school had George Simmel, Ferdinand Tonnies, Alfred Vierkandt and Leopold Von Wiese as its main advocates. On the other hand, the synthetic school with Emile Durkheim, L.T Hobhouse and Pitirim Sorokin advocated a synthesis in the form of coordination among all social sciences.

**Formal School of Sociology:** The formal school of Sociology argued in favour of giving sociology a definite subject matter to make it a distinct discipline. It emphasized the study of forms of social relationships and regarded sociology as an independent discipline. According to Simmel, sociology is a specific social science which describes, classifies, analyses and delineates the forms of social relationships or, in other words, social interactions should be classified into various forms or types and analyzed. Simmel argued that social interactions have various forms. He carried out studies of such formal relationships as cooperation, competition, sub and super-ordinate relationships and so forth. Vierkandt maintained that sociology should be concerned with the ultimate forms of mental or psychic relationship which knit the people together in a society. According to Max Weber, the aim of sociology is to interpret or understand social behaviour. But social behaviour does not cover the whole field of human relations. Indeed, not all human interactions are social. Sociology is concerned with the analysis and classification of types of social relationships.

**Synthetic School of Sociology:** The Synthetic school of Sociology wanted sociology to be a synthesis of the social sciences and thus, wanted to widen its scope. According to Durkheim, sociology has three principal divisions, Namely-Social morphology, Social Physiology and General Sociology. Social morphology is concerned with the geographical or territorial basis of the life of the people such as population, its size, density and distribution etc. Social physiology deals with the genesis and nature of various social institutions, namely religion, morals, law and economic institutions etc. In general sociology, the main aim is to formulate general social laws. Hobhouse perceived sociology as a science which has the whole social life of man as its sphere. Its relations with the other social sciences are considered to be one of mutual exchange and mutual stimulation. Karl Mannheim divides sociology into two main Sections-Systematic and General sociology and Historical Sociology. Systematic sociology describes one by one the main factors of living together as far as they may be found in every kind of society. Historical sociology deals with the historical variety and actuality of the general forms of society. Ginsberg has summed up the chief functions of sociology as it seeks to provide a classification of types and forms of social relationships especially of those, which have come to be defined as institutions and

associations. It tries to determine the relation between different parts of the factors of social life; for example, the economic and political, the moral and the legal, the intellectual and the social elements. It endeavors to disentangle the fundamental conditions of social change and persistence and to discover sociological principles governing social life.

From the above discussion, we may conclude that the subject matter of sociology is social life as a whole and it deals with the more general principles underlying all social phenomena. Thus, the scope of sociology is very wide. It is a general science but it is also a special science.

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### 3.5 METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

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In order to unravel truth regarding social world, sociologists employ different methods. Some of those methods are discussed briefly:

**Survey method:** This method involves systematic collection of facts regarding a group of people residing in a particular geographical, cultural or administrative area, for example census survey. Social surveys are usually conducted to elicit social facts regarding different aspects (attitudes, opinions or behavior pattern) of a particular society. This method usually covers a wider area. Therefore, a researcher generally makes use of a questionnaire to elicit data which is relevant for his/her study. A questionnaire consists of a set of questions which are relevant for a researcher's study. A questionnaire is sent to the respondents either through mail or is given directly by hand. The respondents are supposed to answer the questions and send it back. By analyzing the responses, the research comes to a conclusion.

**Historical method:** This method assumes that the contemporary social condition of a particular society has its roots in its past social life. Therefore, a researcher begins to study the events, processes and institutions which a particular society had earlier. For example: Karl Marx analyzed the problems in modern capitalist society by analyzing the earlier stages of a modern society.

**Comparative method:** In this type of research, a researcher tries to compare different societies or different groups within the same societies to understand man's social behavior in different contexts. For example: Max Weber compared eastern religions with western religions in order to understand why capitalism emerged in western societies.

**Case study method:** In this method a particular phenomenon is analyzed through intensive analysis of an individual, group or community. This method involves study of every minute detail of the unit (individual, group or community) under study.

**Statistical method:** This method tries to understand a social phenomenon by the use of mathematical calculations. Studies involving migration, standard of living, divorce, marriage, crime, suicide, etc. extensively make use of this method.

**Content analysis:** In this method, the researcher tries to understand a particular phenomenon by analyzing a text available in the published works including newspapers and magazines. For example: if a researcher tries to study how the mainstream media represents north-east India, then a researcher may start looking for the number of times the national dailies have reported about the events in the north east. A researcher may also start analysing the words which came to be associated with the region. If more positive words are used then it would indicate a positive representation of the north east. But if negative words are used more, then it would indicate a negative representation of the region.

**Ethnography:** This method tries to describe the social life of a particular group rather than explaining it. In other words, a researcher tries to note what the person whom he/she is trying to study understands about their social world and the meanings that they attach to their practices in daily life.

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### 3.6 LET US SUM UP

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- Sociology is scientific in nature.
- Survey method involves systematic collection of facts regarding a group of people residing in a particular geographical, cultural or administrative area.
- In historical method, a researcher begins to study the events, processes and institutions a society had earlier.
- In comparative method, a researcher tries to compare different societies or different groups within the same societies to understand man's social behaviour.
- In Case study method, a particular phenomenon is analyzed through intensive analysis of an individual, group or community.
- Statistical method tries to understand a social phenomenon by the use of mathematical calculations.
- In content analysis, a researcher tries to understand a particular phenomenon by analyzing newspapers and magazines.
- All the aspects of a society- economic, political, and social -form the subject matter of sociology.

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### 3.7 GLOSSARY

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- **Rational** -based on or in accordance with reason or logic
- **Emperical**-based on what is experienced or seen rather than on theory
- **Abstarct**-existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence

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### 3.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- Is Sociology a corpus of social sciences or a specialism?
- Discuss the nature of Sociology.
- Describe the scope of sociology as a specialised social science.
- Explain the various methods of sociology.
- In what sense sociology is a science.
- Make a summary analysis of the Sociaological Methods.

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**UNIT-4 IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY**

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**Structure**

- 4.1 Learning Objectives
- 4.2 Introduction
- 4.3 Importance of Sociology
- 4.4 Let Us Sum Up
- 4.5 Glossary
- 4.6 Check Your Progress
- 4.7 References

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**4.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- Learn the importance of sociology

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**4.2 INTRODUCTION**

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The most significance of sociology is that it studied the society social institutions scientifically. Of late the importance of sociology as the science of human relationship is being realised. The scientific study of society and the scientific promotion of human welfare has been neglected for long periods. Now the truly scientific study of society has been well under way.

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**4.3 IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY**

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As a matter of fact, the study of social phenomena and ways and means of promoting what Giddings calls human adequacy is one of the most logical and reasonable of all subjects that ought to be made scientific. This century must be one of developing human and social welfare if we are to make social progress. It is, therefore, rightly thought by many that sociology may be the best approach to all the social sciences and therefore a key study for the present situation.

As Beach says, sociology has a strong appeal to all types of minds through its direct bearing upon many of the critical problems of the present world. Giddings has suggested that just as economics tells up how to get the things we want to have; sociology tells us how to become what we want to be. Thus, sociology becomes as the scientific study of society, the representative of a great advice.

Society is the largest organisation of the individuals. Society has its own problems in every field. It is through the study of sociology that the scientific study of society has been possible. The study of society not only has a value in modern complex society, it becomes indispensable.

The study of society contributes to the formulation of social policies which required certain amount of knowledge about that society. Descriptive sociology provides a great deal of information that is helpful in making decisions on social policy.

In India, the solution of the problem of extreme poverty requires from the sociologists primarily an investigation of the facts such researches undoubtedly influence social policy. If the society is to develop and prosper, the study of society is must for politicians, administrators, social reformers, students and teachers.

The practical aspect of sociology is too of great importance in the study of social problems and in social work and social adjustment. The one social problem is of course that of people living well and happily together. To achieve this a scientific study of society is needed in order to make necessary adjustments.

Another specific aspect of the practical side of sociology is the study of the great social institutions and the relation of the individual to each of them. There is, therefore, a particular need for the strengthening of these institutions and one of the first essentials is the scientific study of their problems and situations. Sociology has analysed the causes of the many maladies of society and suggested the means for curing them. Society is a complex structure. There must be a scientific study of its problems if they are to be solved.

One of the most important aspects and one of the greatest opportunities of sociology is that of making scientific enquiries into the questions of social concern. It ought to be clear that social evils do not just happen and everything has its due cause. It ought to be clear that the world has gone on too long determining its social policies on unsound basis and with insufficient knowledge.

To begin the study of social problems through the method of scientific research, therefore, offers an important task to students everywhere. The aim of the sociologist is to study human society and its institutions with the dispassionate objectivity of an entomologist studying insects.

Sociology teaches every member of every association as to how they can progress in their life through mutual cooperation. The association must renounce their negative attitude towards others so as to progress in their life. Sociology with its widespread subject matter keeps enough ways and means to set everything in right direction.



Family is the leading organisation of the humanity that the first school and first world for a child. Like society; the family organisation has also its own problems. Various elements revolving around the family present a great problem for the sociologists and social reformers. Such problems as what should be the mode system age of marriage? What should be the mode of divorce and separation? What should be the relationship between wife and husband etc.

These problems must be viewed not through the opinions of the social reformers or sociologist but also from scientific angle.

There is the intellectual value of sociology. It has intellectual consequences for anyone who studies it. The study of sociology helps the individual to understand human society and how social system work. A comparative study of human societies enables us to understand that people in different societies have many different solutions to the universal human problems of making a living.

Sociology makes a reader up-to-date to various social predicaments. Sociology makes a reader up-to date in his feelings and also guides an individual how to stroll along with the society. Thus the, study of sociology keeps its reserved place in the life of individual since it contains various information's for him. Sociology is also important for individuals because it throws light on the problems of the individuals.

Sociology is popular as a teaching subject. It is being accorded an important place in the colleges and universities. The importance of sociology is further provided by the fact that the subject of sociology is also included in engineering, agriculture and other branches. Without the study of sociology, the training and knowledge of the candidates aspiring to hold high post in the administrative set up of their country will be incomplete and imperfect.

Sociologists, especially those trained in research procedures, are in increasing demand in Government, industry, town planning social work, communication administration and other areas of community life. Although teaching, especially in colleges and universities, will always draw sociologist, sociology has now become 'practical' enough to be practised outside the academic halls. Careers apart from teaching are now possible in sociology.

The various areas of applied sociology, in short, are coming more and more into prominence on local, State, national and international levels.

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#### 4.4 LET US SUM UP

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Sociology assumes significance in the study of international problems. The world which was seen as a living place spotted by the nations and classes living in isolation have become unified living society of humanity. But if we take up the social and cultural aspects, we find the humanity at the same age-old level of barbarism. Nations fight with each other with more fiery instruments of modern warfare. Countries propagate against each other to acquire narrow goals. It is in this context the study of sociology becomes important.

The value of sociology lies in the fact that it keeps us up-to-date on modern situations, it contributes to making good citizens, it contributes to the solution of community problems, it adds to the knowledge of society, it helps the individual find his relation to society, it identifies good Government with community, it helps one to understand causes of things and so on. Sociology has practical value for the individual as it assists him to understand himself, his resources and limitations, his potentialities and his role in society.

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#### 4.5 GLOSSARY

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- Social facts- are things such as institutions, norms and values which exist external to the individual and constrain the individual.
- Barbarism—the period during which man learns to breed domestic animals and to practice agriculture, and acquires methods of increasing the supply of natural products by human activity.

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#### 4.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- What is the importance for studying Sociology in India?
- Sociology has been defined in many ways by various sociologists. What are your views on the subject-matter of Sociology?

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# **Block-2**

## **SOCIOLOGY AND OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Unit-5: Sociology, Anthropology and History**

**Unit-6: Sociology and Psychology**

**Unit-7: Sociology and Political Science**

**Unit-8: Sociology and Economics**

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**UNIT-5 SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY**


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**Structure**

- 5.1 Learning objectives
- 5.2 Introduction
- 5.3 Relation between Sociology and Anthropology,
  - 5.3.1 Mutual help between Sociology and Anthropology
  - 5.3.2 Differences between Sociology and Anthropology
- 5.4 Sociology and History
  - 5.4.1 Difference between History and Anthropology
- 5.5 Let Us sum up
- 5.6 Glossary
- 5.7 Check your progress
- 5.8 References

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**5.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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**After going through this unit you will be able to know**

- Explain Relation between Sociology and Anthropology
- Mutual help and Differences between
- Sociology and Anthropology
- Relationship between Sociology and History
- Difference between History and Anthropology

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**5.2 INTRODUCTION**


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Sociology is the mother of all social sciences. Hence it has close and intimate relationship with Anthropology. The relationship is so close that Anthropologists like A.L. Kroeber consider Sociology and Anthropology as twin sisters. They often appear as two names for the same subject. R. Reddfield recognizes the closeness between these two social sciences. As a mother of social sciences sociology has close and intimate relationship with all other social sciences. Accordingly, it has close relationship with history. Because present society bears symbols of past. Relationship between the two is so close and intimate that scholars like G. von Bulow have refused to acknowledge sociology as a science distinct from history.

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## 5.3 SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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Sociology is a science of society. It studies behavior of man in groups. The term Sociology has been derived from the Latin word ‘Socius’ means society, companion or association and the Greek word ‘logos’ means study or science. Hence Sociology is concerned with the association of human beings. It is a science that deals with social groups.

Similarly, the term Anthropology is derived from two Greek words ‘anthropos’ meaning man and ‘logos’ meaning study or science. Accordingly, anthropology means study of man. As a science of man it deals with man, his works and behavior. Anthropology studies the biological and cultural development of man. Anthropology has a wide field of study which can be broadly divided into three main divisions such as physical anthropology, Archeology cultural anthropology and social anthropology. Physical anthropology studies bodily characteristics of early man and thereby try to understand both primitive and modern cultures.

Archeology studies cultures of pre-historic period. This study facilitates sociologists to make a comparative study of present social structure. It is concerned with the early periods of human existence. It reconstructs the origin, spread and evolution of culture by examining the remains of the past societies. Social anthropology deals with the behaviour of man in social institutions. Social anthropology and sociology are one and the same. Evan Pritchard considers social anthropology as a branch of Sociology.

### 5.3.1 Mutual Help

However, there exists a very close and intimate relationship between Sociology and Anthropology. Both contribute to the growth of others. Both are mutually related to each other. Of course Sociology studies society whereas anthropology studies man. But as man and society are mutually interrelated hence it is very difficult to distinguish two. However, their close relationship can be known from the following.

Anthropology contributes to the growth of Sociology. Without the help of anthropology, the study of Sociology can't be complete. It is a part of Sociology. Anthropology provides knowledge about ancient societies. To have a comprehensive understanding of present society Sociology takes the help of anthropology. Contributions of many Anthropologists like R. Brown, Linton, Mead and Pritchard enriches sociological knowledge's. The origin of family, marriage, religion etc. can be better understood through anthropological knowledge. The concepts like cultural area, cultural traits, and cultural lag etc. sociology accept from anthropology.

Sociology accepts the anthropological conclusion that 'racial superiority is not responsible for mental development.' Thus Sociology is greatly benefited by anthropological studies.

Similarly, Sociology contributes richly towards the growth of anthropology. Anthropology accepts many concepts of Sociology. Research and contributions of many Sociologists like Emile Durkheim, Herbert Spencer is of great help to anthropology. Anthropologists greatly benefited by the Sociological researches. Ideas and conclusions of Sociology contributes to the research in anthropology.

Thus there exists a great deal of relationship between Sociology and Anthropology. Both study human society and both are concerned with all kinds of social groups like families, friends, tribes etc. Many of the ideas and concepts are used in both the discipline. Hence both are interrelated and interdependent. But in spite of the inter-relationship both differ from each other.

### **5.3.2 Differences**

1. Sociology is a science of society whereas anthropology is a science of man and his behaviour.
2. The scope of Sociology is very wide whereas the scope of Anthropology is very limited. Because anthropology is a part of Sociology.
3. Sociology studies society as a whole whereas anthropology studies man as a part of society.
4. Sociology studies civilizations which are vast and dynamic on the other hand Anthropology studies cultures which are small and static.
5. Sociology studies modern, civilized and complex societies whereas Anthropology studies ancient and non-literate societies.
6. Sociology is concerned with social planning whereas anthropology is not concerned with social planning. On the basis of social planning sociology make suggestion for future but anthropology do not make any suggestion for future.
7. In the words of Kluckhohn, "The Sociological attitude has tended towards the Practical and Present, the anthropological towards pure understanding of the past."

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## **5.4 SOCIOLOGY AND HISTORY**

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Sociology is the science of society. It is a study of systems of social action and their inter-relations. Sociology is a science of social groups and social institutions. History studies the important past events and incidents. It records men past life and life of

societies in a systematic and chronological order. It also tries to find out the causes of past events. It also studies the past political, social and economic events of the world.

It not only studies the past but also establishes relations with present and future. That is why it is said that “History is the microscope of the past, the horoscope of the present and telescope of the future.

However, both the sciences are closely inter-related and inter-dependent on each other. Both study the same human society. Their mutual dependence led G.H. Howard to remark that, “History is past Sociology and Sociology is present history.” Both takes help from each other. At the same time one depends on the other for its own comprehension.

History helps and enriches Sociology. History is the store house of knowledge from which Sociology gained a lot. History provides materials sociologists use. History is a record of past social matters, social customs and information about different stages of life. Sociology uses this information. Books written by historians like A. Toynbee are of great use for Sociologists. To know the impact of a particular past event sociology depends on history.

Similarly, Sociology also provides help to history and enriches it. A historian greatly benefited from the research conducted by Sociologists. Historians now study caste, class and family by using sociological data. Sociology provides the background for the study of history.

Now history is being studied from Sociological angle. Every historical event has a social cause or social background. To understand that historical event history need the help from Sociology and Sociology helps history in this respect. Sociology provides facts on which historians rely on.

Thus history and Sociology are mutually dependent on each other. History is now being studied from Sociological angle and Sociology also now studied from historical point of view. Historical sociology now became a new branch of Sociology which depends on history. Similarly, Sociological history is another specialized subject which based on both the Sciences. But in spite of the above close relationship and inter-dependence both the sciences differ from each other from different angles which are described below.



### 5.4.1 DIFFERENCES:

- (1) Sociology is a science of society and is concerned with the present society. But history deals with the past events and studies the past society.
- (2) Sociology is a modern or new subject whereas history is an older social science.
- (3) Sociology is abstract whereas history is concrete in nature.
- (4) The scope of Sociology is very wide whereas the scope of history is limited. Sociology includes history within its scope.
- (5) Sociology is an analytical science whereas history is a descriptive science.
- (6) Attitude of sociology and history differ from each other. Sociology studies a particular event as a social phenomenon whereas history studies a particular event in its entirety.
- (7) Sociology is a general science whereas history is a special science.

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## 5.5 LET US SUM UP

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Anthropology contributes to the growth of Sociology. Without the help of anthropology, the study of Sociology can't be complete. It is a part of Sociology. Anthropology provides knowledge about ancient societies. To have a comprehensive understanding of present society Sociology takes the help of anthropology. Contributions of many Anthropologists like R. Brown, Linton, Mead and Pritchard enriches sociological knowledge origin of family, marriage, religion etc. can be better understood through anthropological knowledge. The concepts like cultural area, cultural traits, and cultural lag etc. sociology accept from anthropology

Sociology is the science of society. It is a study of systems of social action and their inter-relations. Sociology is a science of social groups and social institutions. History studies the important past events and incidents. It records men past life and life of societies in a systematic and chronological order. It also tries to find out the causes of past events. It also studies the past political, social and economic events of the world.

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## 5.6 GLOSSARY

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- **Anthropology** is the study of the origin and development of human societies and cultures.

- **Concrete**- it involves facts and descriptions about everyday, tangible objects,

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### 5.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Who remark that, “History is past Sociology and Sociology is present history.”
2. Mention the two difference of sociology and history.
3. Anthropology is derived from which word?
4. What is Anthropology?

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### 5.8 REFERENCE

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## UNIT-6 SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

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### Structure

- 6.1 Learning objectives
- 6.2 Introduction
- 6.3 Sociology and Psychology
  - 6.3.1 Difference between History and Psychology
- 6.4 Let Us sum up
- 6.5 Glossary
- 6.6 Check your progress
- 6.7 References

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### 6.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning of Psychology
- Understand the relationship between sociology and psychology

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### 6.2 INTRODUCTION

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Sociology is a science of society. Hence it is closely related to other social sciences and so also with psychology. Sociology and Psychology are very closely interlinked interrelated and interdependent. Relationship between the two is so close and intimate that Psychologist like Karl Pearson refuses to accept both as special science. Both depend on each other for their own comprehension. Their relationship will be clear if we analyze their inter-relationship and mutual dependency

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### 6.3 SOCIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY

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Sociology is a science of social phenomena and social relationship. It is a science of social group and social institutions. It is a science of collective behavior. It studies human behavior in groups. But psychology is a science of mind or mental processes.

It is a science of human behavior. It analyses attitudes, emotions, perception, process of learning and values of individuals and process of personality formation in society. In the words of Thouless 'Psychology is the positive science of human experience and behavior.' But both the sciences are closely related to each other which can be known from the following.

Sociology receives help from Psychology. Psychology is a part of sociology hence without the help from Psychology Sociology can't understand itself fully and properly. There are many psychologists like Freud, MacDougal and others who have enriched Sociology in many respects. They opine that the whole social life could be reduced finally to psychological forces. Each and every social problem and social phenomenon must have a psychological basis for the solution of which sociology requires the help from psychology. A new branch of knowledge has developed with the combination of sociology and psychology which is known as social psychology.

Similarly, psychology depends on Sociology to comprehend itself fully. Psychology also requires help from sociology in many cases. As human mind and personality is being influenced by social environment, culture, customs and traditions hence psychology takes the help from Sociology to understand this.

To understand human nature and behaviour properly psychology depends on sociology. There are many Psychological problems which must have a Social Cause. Psychology requires the help from Sociology to understand these social problems. A research in Sociology richly contributes to psychology. Contributions and theories of many Sociologists also are of great help to Psychologists.

Thus Sociology and Psychology are mutually dependent on each other. One can't comprehend itself without the help from others. Besides there are some common areas of study such as social disorganization, public opinion etc. which are being studied by both Sociologists and Psychologists. Social Psychology is a branch of

Psychology is developed with the combination of the two. In the words of Kretch and Crutchfield Social Psychology is the science of behaviour of the individuals in society.

### **6.3.1 Differences:**

However, in spite of the mutual relationship and dependence both the sciences differ from each other in the following ways.

- (1) Sociology is a science of society but Psychology is a science of mind.
- (2) Scope of Sociology is wide whereas scope of Psychology is limited.
- (3) Society is the unit of study in sociology but individual is the unit of study in case of Psychology.
- (4) Sociology studies social processes whereas Psychology studies mental processes.

- (5) Sociology studies and analyses human behavior from Sociological angle whereas psychology studies and analyses human behavior from Psychological angles.

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#### 6.4 LET US SUM UP

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To understand human nature and behaviour properly psychology depends on sociology. There are many Psychological problems which must have a Social Cause. Psychology requires the help from Sociology to understand these social problems. A research in Sociology richly contributes to psychology. Contributions and theories of many Sociologists also are of great help to Psychologists.

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#### 6.5 GLOSSARY

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- **Sociology**-is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior.
- **Psychology** -is the scientific study of the mind and behavior

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#### 6.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1-Mentioned the name of two psychologists.

2-Mention two difference between sociology and psychology.

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#### 6.7 REFERENCES

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**UNIT-7      SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**


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**Structure**

- 7.1    Learning Objectives
- 7.2    Introduction
- 7.3    Sociology and Political Science
  - 7.3.1   Differences
- 7.4    Let Us Sum Up
- 7.5    Glossary
- 7.6    Check Your Progress
- 7.7    References

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**7.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning of Political Sciences
- Understand the relationship between sociology and political science

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**7.2 INTRODUCTION**


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As a mother of social sciences Sociology has close and intimate relationship with all other social science. Hence it has close relationship with political science as well. Their relationship is so close and intimate that led G.E.C. Catlin to remark “Political Science and Sociology are two faces or aspects of the same figure.” Similarly, other scholars could not find any difference between the two disciplines.

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**7.3 SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE**


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Sociology is a Science of society. It is a science of social groups and social institutions. It is a general science of society. It studies human interaction and inter-relations their conditions and consequences. Political Science is a science of state and Government. It studies power, political processes, political systems, types of government and international relations. It deals with social groups organised under the sovereign of the state.

In the words of Paul Junet, “Political Science is that part of social science which treats the foundation of the state and principles of government.” It studies the political activities of man. It only studies the organised society. However, their inter-

relationship and inter-dependence can be known from inter-dependence and mutual relationship.

Sociology depends on political science. In the words of Morris Ginsberg, “Historically Sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history.” Sociology greatly benefited by the books written by political scientists like Plato, Aristotle and Kautilya such as *The Republic*, *The Politics* and *Arthashastra* respectively.

Each and every social problem has a political cause. Political Science is a part of sociology. Hence sociology depends on political science to comprehend itself. To understand different political events sociology takes the help from political science. Sociology to draw its conclusions depends on political science. Any change in the political system or nature of power structure brings changes in society. Hence Sociology takes the help of political science to understand the changes in society. Hence both are inter-dependent.

Similarly, political science also depends on Sociology. Political Science is a part of sociology. To understand the part, it is necessary to understand the whole. Almost all political problems have a social cause and for the solution of these political problems political science takes the help of sociology.

In the words of Paul Junet, “Political Science is that part of social science which treats the foundation of the state and principles of government.” It studies the political activities of man. It only studies the organised society. However, their inter-relationship and inter-dependence can be known from inter-dependence and mutual relationship.

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Similarly, political science also depends on Sociology. Political Science is a part of sociology. To understand the part, it is necessary to understand the whole. Almost all

political problems have a social cause and for the solution of these political problems political science takes the help of sociology.

State frames its rules, regulations and laws on the basis of social customs, tradition and values. Without Sociological background the study of political science will be incomplete. Political Scientists largely benefited by the researches and research methods of the Sociologist. Some consider political science as a branch of Sociology. State is considered as a social group hence is a subject of Sociology.

Besides, there are some common topics which are being studied by both the subjects. These topics are War, Propaganda, authority, communal riots and law. With the help of both political science and sociology a new subject comes into existence which is known as political sociology. Some political events like war are also significant social events.

Thus both political science and sociology contribute to each other. But inspite of their inter-relationship and inter-dependence both the sciences differ from each other in the following way.

### **7.3.1 Differences:**

1. Sociology is a science of society and social relationship whereas political science is a science of state and government.
2. The scope of sociology is very wide but scope of political science is limited.
3. Sociology is a general science but political science is a special science.
4. Sociology studied organised, unorganized and disorganized society whereas political science studies only politically organised society.
5. Sociology is a new or young science but political science is an older science.
6. Sociology studies man as a social animal whereas political science studies man as a political animal.
7. Sociology studies both formal and informal relations whereas political science studies only formal relations.
8. Sociology analyses both conscious and unconscious activities of man whereas political science analyses only conscious activities of man.



9. Sociology studies the social activities of man whereas political science studies political activities of man.
10. Sociology deals with all forms of association whereas political science deals with only one form of association named state.

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## 7.4 LET US SUM UP

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Sociology is a Science of society. It is a science of social groups and social institutions. It is a general science of society. It studies human interaction and inter-relations their conditions and consequences. Political Science is a science of state and Government. It studies power, political processes, political systems, types of government and international relations. It deals with social groups organised under the sovereign of the state.

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## 7.5 GLOSSARY

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- **Custom-** is defined as a cultural idea that describes a regular, patterned behavior that is considered characteristic of life in a social system.
- **Tradition-** is a belief or behavior (folk custom) passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past.
- **Values-** refer to intangible qualities or beliefs accepted and endorsed by a given society

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## 7.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Who wrote the book The Republic?
2. Who wrote the book The Politics?
3. Who wrote the book Arthasastra?

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## 7.7 REFERENCES

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1. Abraham Francis. (2006). Contemporary Sociology – An Introduction to Concepts and Theories. Oxford University Press.
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**UNIT-8      SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS**

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**Structure**

- 8.1    Learning Objectives
- 8.2    Introduction
- 8.3    Sociology and Economics
  - 8.3.1   Differences
- 8.4    Let Us Sum Up
- 8.5    Glossary
- 8.6    Check Your Progress
- 8.7    References

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**8.1    LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning of economics
- Understand the relationship between sociology and economics

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**8.2    INTRODUCTION**

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Sociology is mother of all social sciences. Hence it has close relationship with all social sciences and so also with Economics. The relationship of sociology with economics is very close, intimate and personal. There exists close relationship between these two because economic relationships bear a close relation to social activities and relationships. Likewise, social relationships are also affected by economic relationships. Economic activities to a great extent are social activities. Hence both are mutually related.

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**8.3    SOCIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS**

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Sociology is a science of society. It is concerned with the association of human beings. Sociology is the study of human inter-actions and inter-relations their conditions and consequences. But Economics deals with economic activities of man. It is a science of wealth and choice. According to Prof. Robbins Economics is a social “science which studies human behavior in relation to his unlimited ends and scarce means which have alternative uses.” It is concerned with the activities of man such as production, consumption, distribution and exchange. It also studies the structure and functions of

different economic organizations like banks, markets etc. It is concerned with the material needs of man as well as his material welfare.

However, there exists a great deal of inter-relationship between these two sciences. Both are interdependent and inter-related with each other. Because of this inter-relationship Thomas opines that, "Economics is, in fact, but one branch of Sociology." Similarly, Silverman opines Economics is regarded as offshoot of sociology which studies the general principles of all social relations. Their inter-relationships are as follows:

Economics takes the help of Sociology. For its own comprehension economics takes the help of sociology and depends on it. Economics is a part of Sociology hence without the help from sociology economics can't understand itself completely. Economics is concerned with material welfare of man which is common welfare.

Economic welfare is a part of social welfare. For the solution of different economic problems such as inflation, poverty, unemployment etc. economists take the help of sociology and takes into account the social events of that particular time. At the same time society controls the economic activities of man. Economics is greatly benefited by the research conducted by Sociologists like Max-weber, Pareto etc. Some economists also consider economic change as an aspect of social change. Economic draws its generalization basing on the data provided by Sociology. Thus economics cannot go far or develop without the help of Sociology.

Similarly, Sociology also takes the help from economics. Economics greatly enriches sociological knowledge. An economic factor greatly influences each and every aspects of social life. Economics is a part of sociology hence without the help of economics we can't understand sociology properly.

Knowledge and research in the field of economics greatly contributes to sociology. Each and every social problem has an economic cause. For the solution of social problems like dowry, suicide etc. Sociologists take the help from economics.

Marx opines economic relations constitute the foundation of Society. Economic factors play a very important role in every aspect of our social life that is why Sociologists concerned with economic institutions. For this reason, Sociologists like Spencer, Weber, Durkheim and others have taken the help from economics in their analysis of social relationships.

Thus both sociology and economics are very closely related with each other. There are some problems which are being studied by both sociologists and economists. Economic changes result in social changes and vice versa. However, inspite of the

above closeness, inter-relationship and inter-dependence both the sciences have certain differences which are described below:

### 8.3.1 Differences:

1. Sociology is a science of society and social relationships whereas economics is a science of wealth and choice.
2. Sociology is a much younger science which has very recent origin whereas economics is comparatively an older science.
3. Sociology is an abstract science whereas economics is concrete in nature.
4. Sociology is a general social science whereas economics is a special social science.
5. The scope of sociology is very wide whereas the scope of economics is very limited.
6. Sociology is concerned with the social activities of man whereas economics is concerned with the economic activities of man.
7. Society is studied as a unit of study in Sociology whereas man is taken as a unit of study in economics.
8. Both Sociology and economics differ from each other in respect of the methods and techniques they use for their study.

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## 8.4 LET US SUM UP

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Economics takes the help of Sociology. For its own comprehension economics takes the help of sociology and depends on it. Economics is a part of Sociology hence without the help from sociology economics can't understand itself completely. Economics is concerned with material welfare of man which is common welfare.

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## 8.5 GLOSSARY

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- **Unemployment** -is a situation where a person who is capable, qualified and willing to work at the existing wage rate does not get work.
- **Dowry**- the money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband or his family in marriage.

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## 8.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. According to whom Economics is a social “science which studies human behavior in relation to his unlimited ends and scarce means which have alternative uses.”

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# **Block-3**

## **BASIC CONCEPTS**

**Unit-9: Society and Community, Associations  
and Institutions**

**Unit-10: Social Groups and Culture**

**Unit-11: Role and Status**

**Unit-12: Power and Social Norms**

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## **UNIT-9      SOCIETY, COMMUNITY, ASSOCIATION AND INSTITUTION**

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### **Structure**

- 9.1    Learning Objectives
- 9.2    Introduction
- 9.3    Society
  - 9.3.1    Origin of society
  - 9.3.2    Meaning and definition.
  - 9.3.3    Characteristics.
  - 9.3.4    Types of society.
  - 9.3.5    Man and society- interrelationships.
- 9.4    Community
  - 9.4.1    Origin
  - 9.4.2    Meaning and Definitions
  - 9.4.3    Characteristics
  - 9.4.4    Distinctions between society and community
- 9.5    Association
  - 9.5.1    Meaning and Definitions
  - 9.5.2    Characteristics
  - 9.5.3    Types
- 9.6    Institution
- 9.7    Let Us Sum Up
- 9.8    Glossary
- 9.9    Check your progress
- 9.10    References

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### **9.1    LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit, you will be able to –

- Know the meaning of society
- Study the relationship society and man
- Know about some of the basic concepts like community
- Understand the basic meaning of associations and its characteristics
- Explain about Institution



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## 9.2 INTRODUCTION

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Society is an important basic concept of sociology. Sociology is the science of society. Hence, for proper understanding of sociology, it is necessary to understand society. Besides, the existence of man is tied up to that of society. An association is a social organization purposefully created to attain specific goals. These goals may be very broad and abstract, such as healing the sick, eliminating poverty, making profit etc. In Sociology, social organization means the interdependence of parts, which is an essential characteristic of all enduring collective entities, such as groups, communities and societies.

Associations and formal organizations are nearly similar. All associations have a formal organizational aspect.

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## 9.3 SOCIETY

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Society is as old as human being itself. Interactions and relationships among human beings are studied by sociology. These human interactions and relationships are taking place in society. As a member of society and as a student of sociology one need to acquaint oneself with truest sociological meaning of the term society from the outset. Hence, an attempt is made to explain the sociological meaning of the term society.

### 9.3.1 Origin of Society

Society is as old as human being itself. It is believed that human beings organized to end the state of anarchy. It emerged out of men's existence. A number of theories attempted to explain the origin of society. These are

1. **Divine origin Theory:** According to this theory society was created by God. As God created everything so he created the society. This theory during sixteenth and seventeenth centuries took the form of Divine Right Theory.
2. **Force Theory:** According to this theory, society is created due to superior Physical force. People were brought together and compelled to live in society through physical force or physical coercion. Force is behind the genesis of society. Society originated in the subjugation of the weaker by the stronger.
3. **Patriarchal Theory:** This theory opined that society originated due to the expansion of family system. Society is the family writ large. Sir Henry Maine defines patriarchal theory is the theory of origin of society in separate families, held together by the authority and protection of the eldest male descendant.

4. **Matriarchal Theory:** According to this theory society originated due to the expansion of family system. It opined that polyandry was widely prevalent in ancient times than monogamy or polygamy. Descent is traced through mother.
5. **Social contract Theory:** According to this theory society was originated as a result of contract or agreement made among people. It believes that individual precedes society. Men created society either to end the state of anarchy or to free themselves from the laws of nature. Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and J.J. Rousseau were the main exponent of this theory. Hobbes opined men in the state of nature were in conflict with each other due to his selfish nature. To protect himself from evil consequences they organized society. Locke opined that there was no recognized society. Locke opined that there was no recognized system of law and justice in the state of nature. To overcome this deficiency man entered into a contract and society was created. It was a popular theory during 16th and 18th century.
6. **Evolutionary Theory:** According to this theory society was created through a gradual process of evolution. Society always moves from a less developed stage to a more developed stage, from unorganized to organized and from less perfect to more perfect. Auguste Comte believes in the evolutionary development of society which passes through theological, Metaphysical and Scientific Stages. Morgan opined that society has passed through the primitive, barbaric and civilized stages of development. Karl Marx analyses the development of society on the basis of the system of production which passes through the stages of primitive Communism, Slavery, agriculture, feudalism and capitalism.

However, the above theories of origin of society do not provide a real picture of its origin. All theories have been criticized by scholars from different angles.

### 9.3.2 Meaning and definition

The term society has been derived from the Latin word 'Socius' which means a companion, association or fellowship. It is because man always lives in the company of his fellow beings. This led George Simmel to remark that sociability is the essence of society. The term society is understood in different sense. In our day to day discussion society is used to refer to the members of specific in group for Example- Adivasi Society, Harijan Society etc. Some other time it refers to some institutions like Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj. At some other time, society refers to an association like consumer's society, co-operative society or cultural society. Society is also used in the sense of a group such as rural society or urban society.

To understand the meaning of the term society more clearly and exactly we must have to give a look towards the definitions given by Sociologists.

- (a) According to F.H. Giddings, “Society is the union itself, the organization, the sum of formal relations in which associated individuals are bound together”.
- (b) According to G.D.H. Cole, “Society is the complex of organized associations and institutions within the community”.
- (c) According to Morris Ginsburg, “A society is a collection of individuals united by certain relations or modes of behaviors which mark them off from others who do not enter into these relations or who differ from them in behavior.”
- (d) According to J.F. Cuber, “A Society may be defined as a group of people who have lived long enough to become organized and to consider themselves and be considered as a unit more or less distinct from other human units.”
- (e) According to MacIver and Page, “Society is a system of usages and procedures, authority and mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of controls of human behavior and of liberties.”
- (f) According to T. Parson, “Society may be defined as the total complex of human relationship in so far as they grow out of action in terms of means and relationship, intrinsic or symbolic.”
- (g) According to C.H. Cooley, “Society is a complex of forms or processes each of which is living and growing by interaction with the others, the whole being so unified that what takes place in one part affects all the rest.”
- (h) According to Leacock, “Society includes not only the political relations by which man are bound together but the whole range of human relations and collective activities.”

Thus, from the above analysis we conclude that from a wider angle society is considered as both a structural as well as functional unit. It is an organization, a system and a pattern. It is a system of rules and regulations which changes in course of time. Society is a larger group of which individual is a member. But society is not a group of people only rather it is a system of relationships which exists among individuals or groups. That is why MacIver remarked that society is “a web of social relationship” This relationship may be of different types. But no social relationship could be possible without awareness and without social relationship there could be no society.

### 9.3.3 Characteristics

A comprehensive understanding of society requires a thorough analysis of its characteristics. But the term society could be understood both from a narrower and broader sense. In a narrower sense society refers to a group of people but in a broader sense it refers to the whole human society. However, society has the following characteristics:

- (1) **Population:** A society must have population. Without a group of people, no society could be formed. Of course, society refers not to a group of people but to system of social relationships. But for the establishment of social relationships a group of people is necessary. This population is a self perpetuating individuals who reproduces itself through some sort of mating relationship. Hence it is the first requirement of society.
- (2) **Likeness:** Likeness is the most important characteristic of society. Famous sociologist MacIver opines that society means likeness. Without a sense of likeness, there could be no mutual recognition of 'belonging together' and therefore no society. This sense of likeness was found in early society on kinship and in modern societies the conditions of social likeness have broadened out into the principles of nationality. Society consists of like bodied and likeminded individuals. Friendship intimacy and association of any kind would be impossible without likeness. It also helps in the understanding of one by the other. That is why F.H. Giddings opines that society rests on the 'Consciousness of Kind'.
- (3) **Differences:** Along with likeness, differences is another important characteristic of society. Because society involves differences and it depends on it as much as on likeness. That is why MacIver opines that "primary likeness and secondary differences create the greatest of all institutions-the division of labour". Because, differences are complementary to social relationship. If people will be alike in all respect society could not be formed and there would be little reciprocity and relationship became limited. Family as the first society based on biological differences and differences in aptitude, interest and capacity. Though differences is necessary for society but differences by itself does not create society. Hence differences are sub-ordinate to likeness.
- (4) **Inter-dependence:** Interdependence is another important characteristic of society. This fact of interdependence is visible in every aspect of present day society. Famous Greek Philosopher, Aristotle remarked that 'Man is a social animal'. As a social animal he is dependent on others. The survival and well being of each member is very much depended on this interdependence. No individual is self sufficient. He has to depend on others for, shelter and security and for the fulfillment of many of his needs and necessities. With the advancement of society this degree of interdependence increases manifold. Family being the first society, is based on the biological interdependence of the sexes. Not only individuals are interdependent but also the groups, communities and societies.
- (5) **Co-operation and Conflict:** Both co-operation and conflict are two another important characteristics of society. Because famous sociologist MacIver once

remarked that “Society is Co-operation crossed by conflict”. Co-operation is essentially essential for the formation of society. Without co-operation there can be no society. People can’t maintain a happy life without co-operation. Family being the first society rests on cooperation. Co-operation avoids mutual destructiveness and results in economy in expenditure. Like co-operation conflict is also necessary for society. Conflict acts as a cementing factor for strengthening social relations. In a healthy and well developed society both cooperation and conflict co-exist. Because, with the help of these two universal process society is formed. Conflict makes co-operation meaningful. Conflict may be direct and indirect. However, both are necessary for society.

- (6) **Society is a network or web of social relationship:** Social relationships is the foundation of society. That is why famous sociologist MacIver remarked that society is a network of social relationship. Hence it is difficult to classify social relationships. But this social relationship is based on mutual awareness or recognition to which Cooley call wefeeling, Giddings call consciousness of kind and Thomas as common propensity. Without these social relationships no society could be formed. As social relationships are abstract in nature so also the society is abstract in nature. Different kinds of social processes like cooperation, conflict constantly takes place in society. And the relationships established around these creates society. Hence a network of social relationships which created among individuals constitutes society.
- (7) **Permanent Nature:** Permanency is another important characteristic of society. It is not a temporary organization of individuals. Society continues to exist even after the death of individual members. Society is a co-he rent organization.
- (8) **Society is Abstract:** Society is an abstract concept. As MacIver opines society is a web of social relationships. We can’t see this relationship but we can feel it. Hence, it is an abstract concept. Wright has rightly remarked that “society in essence means a state or condition, a relationship and is, therefore, necessarily an abstraction”. Besides society consists of customs, traditions, folkways, mores and culture which are also abstract. Hence, society is abstract in nature.
- (9) **Society is Dynamic:** The very nature of society is dynamic and changeable. No society is static. Every society changes and changes continuously. Old customs, traditions, folkways, more values and institutions got changed and new customs and values takes place. Society changes from it’s traditional nature to modern nature. Hence it is one of the most important characteristic of society.

- (10) **Comprehensive Culture:** Culture is another important characteristic of society. Each and every society has its own culture which distinguishes it from others. Culture is the way of life of the members of a society and includes their values, beliefs, art, morals etc. Culture is comprehensive because it fulfils the necessities of social life and is culturally self sufficient. Besides, each and every society transmits its cultural pattern to the succeeding generations.

### 9.3.4 Types of society

Society may be divided into different types on different basis. Some of types of society are mentioned below:

- Agrarian Society.
- Tribal Society.
- Industrial Society.
- Stone Age Society.
- Copper Age Society.
- Iron Age Society.
- Homogeneous Society.
- Heterogeneous Society.
- Primitive Society.

### 9.3.5 Man and society- interrelationships

Sociology is mainly concerned with the study of society. Society refers to a complicated network of social relationships by which every human being is interconnected with his fellow. Sociology gives stress on the interactions and relationships among human beings. This relationships and interactions takes up to that of society. Origin of society is as old as man itself. Society is the sum total of interactions among individuals. When more than one individual live together, mutual relationships develop among them, society is created. This process of mutual relationships and interactions creates among them the spirit of mutual cooperation, harmony, competition, conflict and accommodation. Such processes are continuously taking place in society. The relationships and interactions established around these human activities create society.

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## 9.4 COMMUNITY

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When more than one individual live together in a definite locality or in a close proximity with each other, mutual relationships develop among them. It is also obvious and natural that people residing in a definite area develop likeness, co-

operation and fellow feeling among themselves. Due to their common living they share common life, common customs, traditions, culture, sentiment and develop common social ideas among themselves. This fact of common social living within a limited or definite geographical area gives birth to community. In other words, when the members of a group or a number of individual live together and share no other particular interest but the basic conditions of common life, the group is called community. All types of relationships exist within community. Sociologists used the term community to refer to the unity of the common life of people.

#### **9.4.1 Origin and growth**

The community is as old as humanity. Man has been living in community of some type since his arrival. It is believed that community is the original and first abode of human civilization. Individuals assemble in a group in order to attain common goals. The human civilization itself reared up in community. During prehistoric age man has leading a nomadic or barbarian life and was wandering here and there for food and could not settle up anywhere. But when his mental horizon developed he learns the skill to collect food and other needs from a particular place, mainly on river banks or fertile areas and permanently settled there. When a group of people or families permanently settled or lived together in a particular area which led them to share each other's joy and sorrows, as a result a pattern of common living is created which marked the origin of community life. With the passage of time community life expands with the creation of different socioeconomic, cultural and political relations among the people of a particular area. This led to the emergence of different social, political, economic and cultural institutions. As a result, a full-fledged community was created. Sociologists have used the term community to refer a group of people living within a definite area and sharing the basic conditions of common life. Sociologists like Ferdinand Tonnies, Louis wirth, Emile Durkheim, Robert Redfield and R.M. MacIver have made important contribution for developing the concept of community in the field of sociology.

#### **9.4.2 Meaning and Definition**

Famous sociologist R.M. MacIver made on early attempt to study community in sociology. According to MacIver, Community is the name of settlement, Village, City, Tribe or nation. It is a local grouping within which people carry out a full round of life activities. It emphasizes the unity of the common life of people.

The term community has been derived from two Latin word 'com' and 'Munis' which means 'together' and servicing respectively. When the members of a group live together on a common territory and share no particular interest but the basic conditions of common life we call it a community. It is a local grouping within which people

carry out a full round of life activities. In the words of MacIver, community is the name of settlement, village, city, tribe or nation.

Community has three aspects: Geographical, social and Psychological. Thus, a community requires territory, all types of relationships among members and a sense of we-feeling. When individuals live together on a definite territory, have the feelings of mutuality and develop all types of relationships among themselves it is called a community. MacIver says, individual's life may be lived wholly within it. Members have common or shared interest. They enter into definite social, economic and cultural relations and have developed a sense of 'we-feeling' and a sense of community consciousness which distinguishes them from others. But in common discourses the term community very often wrongly used such as racial community, caste community, religious community etc. Here the meaning of the term community differs from the one which is used in sociology.

The term is also used both in a narrower and broader sense. In a narrow sense community refers to Hindu or Muslim community but in a broader sense community may refers to a nation or world community. It also refers to a village, a town or a tribal community. Thus, great community and small community-both exist side by side. A community is an area of social living marked by some degree of coherence. Besides, there must be some sense of we feeling or community sentiment among the members.

1. According to MacIver, "Community is an area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence."
2. According to kingsley Davis, "Community is the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life".
3. According to ogburn and Nimkoff, "Community is the total organization of social life within a limited area".
4. According to E.S. Bogardus, "Community is a social group with some degree of 'wefeeling' and living in a given area'.
5. According to Arnold W. Green, "A community is cluster of people, living within a contiguous small area, who share a common way of life".
6. According to G.A. Lundberg, "Community is a human population living within a limited geographic area and carrying on a common inter-dependent life".
7. According to karl Manheim, community is "any circle of people who live together and belong together in such a way that they do not share this or that particular interest only, but a whole set of interest".
8. According to T. Parsons, "A community is that collectivity the members of which share a common territorial area as their base of operation for daily activities".



9. According to Morris Ginsberg, "Community is a group of social beings living a common life including all the infinite variety and complexity of relations which result from that common life which constitutes it".
10. According to Sutherland, "A community is a local area over which people are using the same languages, conforming to the same mores, feeling more or less the same sentiments and acting upon the same attitudes".
11. According F.L. Lumley, "A community may be defined as a permanent local aggregation of people having diversified as well as common interests and served by a constellation of institutions".
12. According to H.T. Majumdar, "Community comprises the entire group sympathetically entering into a common life within a given area, regardless of the extent of area or state boundaries".

Thus, community refers to a group either small or large whose members live together in an area in such a way that they share a common life and have developed a strong sense of community sentiment of consciousness among them which distinguishes them from others. It is said that communities exist within greater communities i.e a town within a region, a region within a nation and nation within the world. Community has four aspects; geographical, demographic, cultural and psychological.

### 9.4.3 Characteristics

MacIver opined that community is a group of people who live together and share basic conditions of common life. Hence, as a group, community has the following characteristics or elements which distinguishes it from others. Territory, mutuality and organized interaction are three main characteristics of community. Common beliefs, close relationships and strong group feeling are other elements of community. On the basis of these elements we can decide whether a group is a community or not?

However, community has the following characteristics.

1. **Population:** Community must have population because it refers to a group of people. This group may be small or large but without a group of people we can't think of a community. A community is formed when a group of people live together and share a common life and organized by a strong sense of community consciousness. Population or a group of people is the first prerequisite of community.
2. **A Definite Territory:** Definite Territory is the next important characteristic of community. A group of people forms a community when it begins to reside in a definite territory. Community is a territorial group. The territory may not be fixed

forever. A group of people like majority of community are settled and a strong bond of unit and solidarity is derived from their living in a definite territory.

3. **Community sentiment:** To constitute a community the presence of sentiment among the members is necessary. Without community sentiment a community can't be formed only with a group of people and a definite locality. Community sentiment refers to a strong sense of we-feeling among the members or a feeling of belonging together. It refers to a sentiment of common living that exists among the members of a territory. Due to their common living within an area for a long time a sentiment of common living is created among the members of that area. With this the members emotionally identify themselves. This emotional identification of the members distinguishes them from the members of other community. We-feeling, role-feeling and dependency feeling are the elements of community sentiment.
4. **Permanence:** Community is always a permanent group. It refers to a permanent living of individuals within a definite territory. It is not temporary like that of a crowd or association.
6. **Similarity:** The members of a community are similar in many respects. They live within a definite locality and lead a common life and share some common ends. Similarity in language, culture, customs, traditions and in many other thing is observed among the members of a community. These similarities resulted in the development of community sentiment.
5. **Wider ends:** A community have wider ends. Members of a community associate not for the fulfillment of a particular end but for a variety of ends. This is natural for a community.
6. **Total organized social life:** A community is always marked by total organized social life. A community includes all aspects of social life. Hence, a community is a society in miniature.
7. **A particular name:** Every community has a particular name by which it is known to the world. Members of a community is also identified by that name.
8. **No legal status:** A community has no legal status because it is not a legal person. It has no rights and duties in the eyes of law. It is not created by the law of the land.
9. **Concrete nature:** A community is concrete in nature as we can its existence.

#### 9.4.4 Types

Community may be divided into the following types:

1. **Great community:** Great communities are characterized by diversity of organizations and specialization of division of labour. Relationships among individuals become impersonal. Nation, Metropolis are example of great community.
2. **Little Community:** Village, tribe are examples of little community. Little community develops within great community. Smallness, distinctiveness, homogeneity and self-sufficiency are main features of little community. Little communities are gradually disappearing due to industrialization, organization and development of Metropolis.
3. **Rural Community:** These communities are found in rural areas. Village and tribes are example of rural community.
4. **Urban community:** These communities are found in urban areas. Cities, towns and Metropolis are examples of urban community.

#### 9.4.5 Distinctions between society and community

The term society and community are two important concept used in Sociology. There exists both similarities as well as differences between the two. But in a wider sense both society and community is a social group. However, following differences is observed between the two.

- (1) A group of individual is necessary for both society and community. But society refers to a system or network of relationships that exists among these individuals, whereas community refers to a group of individual living within a definite locality with some degree of we-feeling.
- (2) Society has no definite locality or boundary because it refers to a system of social relationships. Hence it is universal or pervasive. On the other hand, a community always associated with a definite locality.
- (3) Community sentiment is another important factor from which society and community can be distinguished from each other. Community sentiment is an essential characteristic of community. Without which a community can't be constituted. But a society may or may not have community sentiment. Society is more concerned with organization but community is concerned with life from which organization develops.

(4) Society is abstract whereas community is concrete in nature. Community has its own physical existence but society exists only in the minds of individuals who constitute it. Community refers to a group of people who live in a definite locality but society refers to a system of social relationships.

(5) Society is a broader concept whereas a community is narrower concept. Because, there exists more than one community within a society. Hence community is smaller than society.

(6) Society is based on both similarities as well as differences. But community is based only similarities among its members.

(7) Society has wider ends but the ends of community are general or common.

(8) Size of a community may be small or big like a village community or a nation community but the size of a society is always large.

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## 9.5 ASSOCIATION

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Association is “a group organised for the pursuit of an interest or group of interests in common”. In this way, we can say family and state also as an association.

An association is defined as an organized group formed in pursuit of some common interest with its own self-contained administrative structure and functionaries. When people try to pursue their goal by spontaneously co-operating with others and have the same goal, then associations are formed.

### 9.5.1 Definition

1. According to MacIver, An association is an organization deliberately formed for the collective pursuit of some interest or a set of interests which its members share.”
2. According to P. Gisbert, “Association is a group of people united for a specific purpose or limited number of purposes.”
3. According to E. S. Bogardus, Association is usually working together of people to achieve some purposes.”
4. According to Gillin and Gillin, An association is a group of individuals united for a specific purpose or purposes and held together by recognized or sanctioned modes of procedure or behaviours.”

### 9.5.2 Characteristics

Association is characterized by several characteristics. These characteristics are mentioned below:

1. **A group of People:** An association is basically a group of people who have some common objectives. Without a group of people, no association can be formed. Hence a group of people is important.
2. **Organization:** Association does not refer to any ordinary group of people rather it refers to an organized group of people. In other words, when a group of people organize themselves for the pursuit of some common interest an association is formed. Hence association is called as an organized group. There are certain rules which guide the people.
3. **Common Aims and Objectives:** It is the most important characteristic of association. Because association does not refer to a mere collection of human beings rather it refers to those group of individuals who have some common aims and objectives. All the members try to achieve the common objectives. Hence association is a means to achieve the common objectives. For example, people having similar political objectives may join in a particular political party.
4. **Some rules and regulations:** We know association is an organized group. Every organized group or organization based on some rules and regulations. This body of rules and regulations governs and guides the relations of its members. These rules and regulations are either written or unwritten. Members or officials of an association obey these rules and works according to these rules and regulations.
5. **Co-operative Spirit:** Association is the result of co-operative spirit of some organized individuals. Hence, the other name of association is co-operation. Here people work together with a co-operative spirit to fulfill some common purposes. This co-operative spirit helps them to realize their objectives. When this spirit is lacking there is no co-operation and no association.
6. **Voluntary Membership:** The membership of an association is voluntary in nature. People voluntarily join in an association to fulfill their aims objectives. They can also withdraw their membership when they feel so. Similarly, no one can compel them to be a member of any association. But he has to obey the rules and regulations of the association.

7. **Degree of Permanency:** The degree of permanency varies from association to association. Some association may be temporary where as some are permanent. There exists some long-lived association like family or state. Similarly, there exists some temporary associations like flood relief association.

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## 9.6 INSTITUTION

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Institution is an organized way of doing something. According to Kingsely Davis, institution is a set of interwoven folkways, mores, and laws built around one or more functions. “An institution is an organised stem of social relationships which embodies certain common values and procedures and meets certain basic needs of the society.” There are five basic institutions in complex societies which are the familial, religious, government, economic and educational institutions. Institutions are the established forms of procedure. In other words, when people create associations they must also create rules and procedures for dispatching the common business and for the regulation of the members to one another. Those rules and procedures comprise an institution.

The difference between institution and association is that, if we are considering something as an organised group, it is an association; if as a form of procedure, it is an institution. Association denotes membership; institution denotes a mode or means of service. For example, when we regard a college as a body of teachers and students, we are selecting its associational aspect, but when we regard it as an educational system, we are selecting its institutional features.

Horton and Hunt says that though institutions and associations are separate concepts, they are not entirely separate from each other. An institution is a set of relationships and a system of behaviour. Although the institution itself consists of relationships and norms, it is people who maintain the relationships and practice the norms. Again, it is the people who organise themselves into groups and form associations. Therefore, association is an organized group of people while an institution is an organized system

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## 9.7 LET US SUM UP

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- Society refers not to a group of people but to the complex pattern of norms or interaction or relationships that arise among them. People exist only as an agent of social relationships.
- Population, Likeness, Differences, inter-dependence, cooperation and conflict, comprehensive culture, usages, mutual aid, controls, liberty, some sort of authority etc. are characteristics of society.

- Community is characterized by its territorial aspect. Like associations, community is also formed by members of any group but in the latter, the members live together.
- Association is a group of people coming together to attain common goals.
- Associations and formal organizations are nearly similar. All associations have a formal organizational aspect.
- Institution refers to how certain things get done. Example, when men create associations they must also create rules and procedures for the dispatching of the common business and for the regulation of the members to one another. Such forms are distinctively institutions.

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## 9.8 GLOSSARY

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- **Conflict**- Occurs when unequal amounts of resources and power exist.
- **Co-operation** Sociology is the process in which two or more individuals work together to accomplish a shared goal

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## 9.9 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Who remarked that “Man is a social animal?”
2. Mention the Characteristics of Community.
3. Mention the Characteristics Association.
4. What is Institution.

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**UNIT-10      SOCIAL GROUP AND CULTURE**


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**Structure**

- 10.1 Learning Objectives
- 10.2 Introduction
- 10.3 Group
  - 10.3.1 Meaning and definition
  - 10.3.2 Characteristics
  - 10.3.3 Classification of group
- 10.4 Culture
  - 10.4.1 Meaning and Definitions
  - 10.4.2 Characteristics
- 10.5 Related concepts
- 10.6 Let us Sum Up
- 10.7 Glossary
- 10.8 Check Your Progress
- 10.9 References

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**10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the concept of group and types of group
- Defining the norms and its importance
- Explain what is value

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**10.2 INTRODUCTION**


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Group is one of the most important concepts in sociology. It plays an important role in the process of socialization, formation of personality and in the development of social organization. That is why groups have an important place among other basic concepts of sociology. For this reason, sociologists have given special attention to the study of groups. W.G. Summer, C.H. Cooley, T.M. Newcomb and R.K. Merton have made important contributions to the development of the concept of group.

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**10.3 GROUPS**


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As a social animal, man always lives in group. He never lives in isolation. The very existence of man is tie d up to that of group. Group is as old as man itself. Human life



is essentially a group life. He begins his life as a participating member of the group i.e. family. He born, live, grows and dies in a group. He forms group to fulfill his different needs and to attain common goals. Human relationships and interactions take place in group. Long term interactions or reciprocity for attaining common goal is the basis of the structure of groups. Thus, in the process of interactions or when individuals working together creates various types of groups. The concept of group may be considered from both individual and society's point of view. Study of group helps in understanding the behaviour of individuals. Sociologist H.M. Johnson rightly remarked that "sociology is the science that deals with social groups". This shows the importance of groups in sociology. Groups provide us companionship, experience, recognition and security in both a physical and emotional sense.

### **10.3.1 Meaning and definition**

Even if group is one of the most important concepts in sociology, there is disagreement over its meaning among sociologist. As a result, there are several meanings of group in sociological literature. In one sense group refers to any physical collection of people. In the words of E.S. Bogardus, "Group refers to a number of units of anything in close proximity with one another". Accordingly, it may refer to a group of trees of trees, a group of houses, a group of horses etc. But in case of human beings as MacIver and page says a group refers to "any collection of human beings who are brought into social relationships with one another." Individuals assemble in a group in order to attain common goals. The concept of group may be considered either from the point of view of society or that of individual. Individuals assemble in a group in order to attain common goals. Besides, being one of the human collections, group has a given number of individuals, clarity of goal, long-term interaction and common values.

A group is a number of people who share some common characteristics. Accordingly, doctors, nurses, commuters etc. Each refers to a group. A group also refers to a number of people who share some organized patterns of recurrent integration. Family, club or church is example of such group. Besides, any number of individuals who share consciousness of membership together and of interaction may be called as a group. The essence of the social group is not physical closeness but a consciousness of interaction.

1. According to MacIver and Page a social group is "any collection of human beings who are brought into human relationships with one another.
2. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, "whenever two or more individuals come together and influence one another, they may be said constitute a social group".

3. According to George Homans group means such individuals that interact according to established patterns.
4. According to Horton and Hunt, "Groups are aggregates or categories of people who have a consciousness of membership and of interaction".
5. According to Turner and Killing, "a group is always formed by the individuals who interact and this interaction is affected by the fact that they are a unit. The awareness of interaction and being a unit depends mainly on the criteria of the group".
6. According to A.W. Green, "A group is an aggregate of individuals which persists it time, which has one or more interests and activities in common which is organised".
7. According to E.S. Bogardus, "A social group may be thought of a number of persons two or more, who have some common objects of attention who are stimulating to each other, who have common loyalty and participate in similar activities".
8. According to Williams, "A social group is a given aggregate people playing inter-related roles and recognised by themselves or others as a unit of interaction"
9. Bennet and Tumin consider similar goals and agreeable means also as the necessary factors along with interaction in the structure of group.
10. Albion small opines, A group is "any number of people larger or smaller between whom such relations are discovered that they must be thought of together".
11. According to Elbridge and Merrill, "A social group may be defined as two or more persons who are in communication over an appreciable period of time and who act in accordance with a common function or purpose".
12. According to sheriff and sheriff, "A group is a social unit which consists of a number of individuals who stand in (more or less) definite status and role relationships to one another and which possess a set of values or norms of its own, regulating the behaviour of individual members at least in matters of consequence to the group".

### 10.3.2 Characteristic

- 1) **Given number of Individuals:** A social group consists of a given number of individuals. Without a number of individuals, no social group can be formed. Two or more than that individuals are necessary to form a group. This number may vary. These individuals belong to the group as members of the group and are considered as unit of the group.
- 2) **Reciprocal Relation:** There exists reciprocal relations among the members of a social group. These reciprocal relations among the members are the basis or foundation of social group without which social group cannot be formed. The members must interact or interrelated with each other.
- 3) **Common Goal:** It is another important characteristic of a social group. The aims, objectives and ideals of the members are common. For the fulfillment of these common goals social groups are formed. Here individual interests are sacrificed for group interests.
- 4) **Sense of unity and solidarity:** Members of a social group are always tied by a sense of unity and bond of solidarity. Common goals and mutual relations strengthen this bond of unity and solidarity. This creates loyalty and sympathy among the members of social group.
- 5) **A strong sense of we-feeling:** Members of a social group is characterized by a strong sense of we-feeling. This we-feeling fosters co-operation among members. Because of this wefeeling the members identify themselves with the group and consider others as outsiders.
- 6) **Group Norms:** Every social group has its own, regulations and norms which the members are supposed to follow. With the help of these rules and norms the group exercises control over it's members. These norms may be written or unwritten. Any violation of group norms is followed by punishment. The group norms maintain unity and integrity in the group.
- 7) **Similar Behaviour:** Member of a social group shows similar behaviour. As the interests, ideals and values of a group are common hence its members behave in a similar manner. This similar behaviour helps in the achievement of common goals.

### 10.3.3 Classifications of groups

Sociology considers groups as its major unit of analysis. But groups are not alike. There are many criteria by which social groups may be classified. They for instance, include the nature of their interests, the degree of organization, the extent of their permanence, the kind of contact among the members and the like. But sociologists have classified groups into different types according to their own view point. Some sociologists have given a simple classification while other has given an elaborate and exhaustive classification. Sociologist M. Ginsberg says, “Groups can be classified in numbers ways, according to size, local distribution, permanence and inclusiveness of the relationships on which they rest, mode of formation, type of organisation and so forth.

“Famous sociologist H.T. Mazumdar in his book ‘The Grammar of sociology’ mentioned about ten dichotomous social groups such as

1. Primary and secondary group
2. In group and out group
3. Permanent and Transitory group
4. Voluntary and involuntary group
5. Vertical and Horizontal group
6. Homogeneous and Heterogeneous groups
7. Formal and Informal group
8. Community and society
9. Institutional and non-institutional
10. Contractual and non-Contractual.

George simmel classifies social groups on the basis of its size into three types such as

1. **Monad:** A single person as a focus of group relationship
2. **Dyad:** A group at least two persons
3. **Triad:** A group of three persons or so C.H. Cooley classifies groups into two types, namely
  - Primary group and
  - Secondary group on the basis of the kind of contact.

Dwight sanderson classifies group into three types namely

1. Involuntary
2. Voluntary and
3. Delegate groups.

George Hasen classifies groups on the basis of their relations to other groups into unsocial, pseudo-social, anti-social or pro-social. Hobhouse accounts three broad types of union based respectively on kinship, authority and citizenship. F.H. Giddings classifies groups as genetic (based on birth) and congregate (consciously formed) on the basis of types of relationships. Miller divides social groups into horizontal and vertical groups. Tonnies classifies groups into Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft. Emile Durkheim divides groups into mechanical and organic solidarity type. W.G. Summer classifies group into two types namely in-group and out-group on the basis of consciousness of kind. Park and Burges have classified groups into territorial and non-territorial groups. Gurvitch talks of three types of groups such as communion, community and Mass. New comb divides groups into two type's i.e. positive and negative groups.

## **PRIMARY GROUP**

Famous American Sociologist Charles Horton Cooley in his book 'Social Organization' published in the year 1909 has given the most popular classification of social group. In that book he classified groups into primary and secondary type on the basis of nature of social relations and closeness. Cooley only used the term 'primary group' in his book but no where he used the term secondary group. But later on sociologist K. Davis, W.F. Ogburn and MacIver developed the concept of secondary group from Cooley's concept of primary group. This classification of Cooley is almost similar with that of Summer's in-group and out group and Tonnies Geminschaft and Gesellschaft.

Primary group is a very small group in which few numbers of individuals come into direct contact with each other. This group is characterized by intimate and face-to-face association and co-operation. They meet face to face for mutual help, companionship and for the discussion of their common problems. Here direct, informal and primary relations are found. Primary groups are universal group. They are nucleus of all social organizations. They are nursery of human virtues like love, sympathy and co-operation. The real self of man develops in primary group.

## **SECONDARY GROUPS**

Though it is said that Cooley has classified groups into primary and secondary but actually he no where used the term secondary group. But it was later days Scholars inferred the concept of secondary group from the Cooley's primary group. We will discuss this because it has special significance in modern society. Secondary groups are almost opposite of the primary groups. They are large in size and are of short duration. Here face to face contacts are lacking. In secondary groups human contacts are superficial and undefined. Member of secondary groups do not know each other

personally and exerts only indirect influence over others. Relations among members are limited in scope and significance and are based on self-interest calculations. Here individual members co-operate and communicate with each other through indirect means and formal rules. Interactions among members are formal, utility oriented and interest based. That is why; secondary group is called as special interest group. Relations among members are impersonal and touch-and-go type and secondary in nature. They are characteristic of modern industrial society. Specialisation and division of labour are the main characteristic of secondary group. A city, nation, political party trade union, a factory, a corporation are classic example of secondary group. Sociologist Paul Landies called secondary group as cold world. Secondary groups are consciously formed to fulfill some objectives.

- (1) According to K. Davis, “Secondary groups can be roughly defined as the opposite of everything already said about primary groups”.
- (2) According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, “The groups which provide experience lacking in intimacy are called secondary groups”.

### **Differences between Primary and Secondary Social Group:**

From what we have discussed above, it is clear that both primary and secondary groups have some differences. In the following table, some of the differences between the primary and secondary groups have been serialized.

#### **Primary group:**

- The sizes of the groups are usually small.
- They originate naturally and spontaneously.
- Face to face intimate relationship between the members.
- Communication between the members is direct and quick.
- Members are united for common interest and common welfare. Individual interest is secondary.
- Membership in a primary group is mandatory.
- Members cooperate with each other directly and work together in critical situations.
- As these groups are spontaneous, the status, powers and functions of the members are not regulated by any formal rules or procedure.
- The group has effective control over their members, although, means of control is informal.
- Sizes are big.
- They are created purposefully with certain aims.
- Formal and less-intimate relationship between the members.

- Communication between the members is not always direct as they spread over a large area.
- Members join secondary groups to realize their own interest. That is why secondary groups are also called 'special interest groups.'
- Membership is voluntary.
- Cooperation is mostly indirect and even in critical situations cooperation is not spontaneous.
- The status, powers and functions of each member are formally laid down in rules and regulations.
- The group has only limited control, although, they have laid down rules and regulations

### **IN GROUPS (We-Group)**

Famous Sociologist William Graham Sumner has classified groups on the basis of we feeling into two broad categories such as in group and out group. The individual belongs to a number of groups which is considered as his in-groups. In groups are the groups with which an individual identifies himself completely. Member of in-group has feelings of attachment, sympathy and affection towards the other members of these groups. In-groups are generally based on a consciousness of kind. Members of an in-group identify themselves with the word 'we'. In groups are relative to a particular social circumstances. These groups are marked by a feeling of 'ethnocentrism' i.e. the members of in-group consider their group superior than other groups. The family, the tribe, the college, the village to which a person belong are his ingroups. The members of an in-group feel that their personal welfare is in someway or other connected with the other member of the group. In the relationship among the members of ingroup they display co-operation, good will, mutual help and respect for each other. Members of in-group possess a sense of solidarity a feeling of brotherhood. In group members are always ready to sacrifice themselves for the group. Due to in-group human qualities like love, sacrifice and sympathy develop among individuals. In group may be called as we-group. We are odias are the example of we-group feeling. There always exists a considerable degree of sympathy among the members of in-group. In-group members identify themselves with the group as a whole. In-groupness is the core of group life. This ingroupness sets the members of an in-group apart from all other people.

### **OUT-GROUPS (they Group)**

W.G. Sumner classified groups into in-group and out-group on the basis of we feeling. Out group is the opposite of in-group. An out-group is always defined by an individual with reference to his in-group. Out-group are marked by a sense of difference and frequently, though not always, by some degree of antagonism. In other words, out-groups are those to which a person does not belong. Out-group people used the term

they or other to express themselves. Out-group refers to a group of persons towards which we feel a sense of avoidance, dislike and competition. For example, for an Indian India is his in-group but China is an out-group for him. Out-group people do not share an awareness of kind. One did not identify himself with his out-group. We feel a sense of indifference towards the members of out-group. Individual develops a feeling of antagonism towards his out-group.

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## **10.4 CULTURE**

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Like society, culture is another important basic concept of sociology. The very existence of man is tied up to that of society and culture. Man is a social animal at the same time is a cultural animal. Man is a culture bearing animal. Understanding of human society requires the understanding of culture. Sociologists have developed the two concepts i.e. culture and society in order to account for and explain the regularities in human action and the essence of social life. It is culture which makes human and social life meaningful. Human being is born and brought up in a cultural environment. It is culture which distinguishes a man from animal. Every society possesses culture and humanness only develops in a cultural framework. Man's biological traits and requirements determine the form of culture. Physical environment and settlements also influence individual's culture. Human relationships and interactions take place in society in a cultural framework. As an encompassing institution, society enfold within it various groups and their culture. Hence, understanding the meaning of culture is very vital to the understanding of the nature of society.

### **10.4.1 Meaning and definition**

Culture is man made. It is a heritage in to which a child is born. Culture is a way of life, a mode of thinking, acting and feeling. It also refers to the distinctive way of life of a group of people. Culture refers to a set of rules and procedures along with a supporting set of ideas and values. Culture is a learned behaviour which passes from one generation to another. Culture includes all that man has acquired in the mental and intellectual sphere of norms and values which people hold. Culture is acquired by man as a member of society and persists through tradition. Singing, dancing, talking, eating etc. belong to the category of culture. Johnson points out that culture has two aspects i.e. Explicit and implicit. The explicit aspect of culture consists of those aspects which bearers are fully conscious. The implicit aspect of culture consists of those aspects of culture; which bearers are not able to describe exactly. Tylor speaks about the social aspect of culture. Acquisition of a particular way of life is known as culture. Thus, culture is a learned behaviour, a social heritage in to which a child is born. It is an accumulation of folkways and mores. It is an organized system of behaviour. Culture is superorganic and is a decision for living. There are four different dimensions of



culture. Hence, culture is a complex phenomenon. To understand this complex phenomenon, it is necessary to analyze some of the definitions of culture.

### **Definitions**

Different sociologists and scholars have defined culture in different ways. Some such definitions are

1. According to well known anthropologist E.B. Tylor, “Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law custom and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society”.
2. According to Robert Redfield, culture is “an organized body of conventional understanding manifest in art and artifact, which persisting through tradition, characterizes a human group”.
3. According to B. Malinowski, “culture is the handiwork of man and the medium through which he achieves his end”.
4. According to David Bidney, “culture is a product of agrofacts, (cultivation), artifacts (industries), social facts and mental facts (language, religion art and so on).
5. Herskovit defines culture as “man made part of environment”.
6. MacIver and Page consider culture as a realm of styles, of values, of emotional attachments, of intellectual adventures. It is the expression of our nature in our modes of living and thinking in our everyday intercourse, in art, in interaction, in reaction and enjoyment”.
7. According to H.T. Mazumdar, “culture is the sum total of human achievements materials as well as non-material, capable of transmission, sociologically i.e. by tradition and communication, vertically as well as horizontally”.
8. In the words of S. Koenig, “culture is the sum total of man’s effort to adjust himself to his environment and to improve his modes of living”.
9. According to Lundberg, “culture refers to “the social mechanisms of behaviour and to the physical and symbolic products of these behaviour”.

10. According to R.T. Lapiere, culture “is the embodiment in customs, tradition etc. of the learning of a social group over the generation”.
11. According to Anderson and parker, “culture is the total content of the physico-social, bio-social and psycho-social products man has produced and the socially created mechanisms through which these social products operate”.
12. In the words of A.W. Green, culture is “the socially transmitted system of idealized ways in knowledge, practice and belief along with the artifacts that knowledge and practice produce and maintain as they change in time”.
13. According to Robert Bierstedt, “culture is the complex whole that consists of everything we think and do and have as members of society”.
14. According to A.F. Walter Paul, “culture is the totality of group ways of thought and action duly accepted and followed by a group of people”.

#### 10.4.2 Characteristics

1. **Culture is acquired:** Culture is an acquired quality or behaviour. It is not biologically inherited but learnt socially by individuals. In other words, any behaviour or quality which is socially acquired or learned is called culture. Behaviour’s learned through socialization habits and thoughts are called culture. Human being learns or acquires culture by living in group. He learns it from society through education.
2. **Culture is Social:** Culture is not individual but social in nature. As a social product culture develops through social interaction which is shared by all. Without social interaction or social relations, it is very difficult and almost impossible to be cultured. Culture is inclusive of the expectations of the members of the groups. It is created or originated in society. Hence it is social.
3. **Culture is Transmissive:** Culture is transmitted from one generation to another. It passes from parents to children and so on. This transmission is a continuous and spontaneous process. It never remains constant. Man inherits or learns culture from his ancestors and passes it to his successors. In this way culture constantly accumulate.
4. **Culture fulfils some needs:** Culture fulfills many social psychological, needs of individuals. Culture is created and maintained because of different needs. It fulfils needs of both society as well as individuals. For example, religion used to fulfill

the solidarity and integrative needs of society. Our need for food, clothing, shelter, name, fame, status and position are fulfilled as per our cultural ways.

5. **Culture is shared:** Culture is not possessed by a single or a few individual. Culture is shared by majority of individuals. Hence culture is collective in nature. For example, polytheism is our culture. It means majority of Indians believe in polytheism.
6. **Culture is Idealistic:** Culture is idealistic in nature. It embodies the ideals, values and norms of the group. It sets ideal goals before individuals which are worth attaining. In other words, culture is the sum total of ideals and values of individuals in society.
7. **Culture is accumulative:** Culture is not created in one day or one year. It gradually accumulates through centuries. Beliefs, art, morals, knowledge are gradually stored up and became part of culture. Hence, culture is the social heritage.
8. **Culture is adaptive:** Culture possesses adaptive capacity. It is not static. It undergoes changes. Different aspects of culture adapt with new environment or challenges posed by social and physical environment. Adaptation refers to the process of adjustment. And culture helps man in this process of adjustment.
9. **Culture is Variable:** Culture is variable and changeable. It varies and changes from society to society. Each and every society has its own culture. It also varies within a society from time to time. Ways of living of people of a particular society varies from time to time.
10. **Culture is Organized:** Culture has an order or system. As Tylor says culture is a 'complex whole'. It means different parts of culture are well organized into a cohesive whole. Different parts of culture is organized in such a way that any change in one part brings corresponding changes in other parts.
11. **Culture is Communicative:** Man makes and uses symbol. He also possesses capacity of symbolic communication. Culture is based on symbol and it communicates through different symbols. Common ideas and social heritage etc. are communicated from one generation to another. In our society 'red colour' stands for danger. In Indian culture red colour symbolizes danger. Hence, culture is communicative in nature.

12. **Language is the chief vehicle of Culture:** Culture is transmitted from one generation to the next. It never remains static. This transmission became possible through language. Culture is learned through language.
13. **Culture is the total social heritage:** We know culture is a social product. It is linked with the past. Through transmission past continues to live in culture. It is shared by all.

### 10.4.3 Related Concepts

Related concepts. These are some important concepts which are related to culture. Some such concepts are mentioned below:

1. **Culture Trait and culture complex:** The smallest and simplest unit of a culture is known as a cultural trait. According to Hoebel “A reputedly irreducible unit of learned behavior pattern or material product, the nail, the cardboard, the pen, the trousers etc. “Traits of non-material culture are shaking hands. Saluting national flag etc. Each culture has thousands of traits. When different traits of a particular culture come together they form a culture complex. It is a cluster of related traits. The culture complex is intermediate between the trait and the institution.
2. **Culture and culture construct:** This concept was given by Linton. When we see something from our own eyes if that is culture, then whatever we write about the inside aspect of culture, that is “culture construct”. Way of life of people is one thing and what we study and write about it is another thing. First is reality later s culture construct.
3. **Cultural Relativism:** It is one of the important approaches in social anthropology. It helps sociologists to look at others actions and behavior patterns rationally. Cultural relativism means that the function and meaning of a trait are relative to its cultural setting. The cultural relativism’s perspective studies and interprets a particular culture from participant’s view of that culture. It forbids any prior assumption or preconceived notion in the study of any culture. It is against any ethnocentric bias.
4. **Cultural Revitalization:** It refers to the process through which a society in decline reinterprets symbols from its culture and revives the will of its members to survive. The new identity is combination of old and new elements.
5. **Counter culture:** The term was of thinking and acting which are in opposition to the prevailing norms and values of the society is known as counter culture.

6. **Ethnocentrism:** The term was used by Sumner in his book “folkways”. It is defined as “that view of things in which one’s own group is the centre of everything and all others are scaled and rated with reference to it. “Ethnocentrism makes ‘our’ culture into a yardstick with which to measure all other cultures as good or bad. Here one’s own culture is kept at the centre. The members of that particular culture consider themselves superior to others.
7. **Sub Culture:** “Subculture is a system of values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and life styles of a social group which is distinct from but related to the dominant culture of a society. “It implies the existence of an identifiable dominant culture.
8. **Ethos and Eidos of culture:** This distinction of culture, proposed by A.L. Kroeber, shows two different aspects of culture. Eidos is the formal appearance of a culture derived from its constituents. Its internal or core aspect is ethos. Ethos is the disposition of a culture which determines its quality, its main themes and interests. According to Bateson, the first consisting of the total emotional emphasis of a culture is called eidos. For example, gradation of different occupational group in the caste system can be seen as a manifestation of eidos of a culture whereas the concept of purity and pollution is the ethos of the caste system.
9. **Culture Determinism:** It means culture determines everything; Leslie White is today the main spokesman for culture determinism. According to culture determinism, culture is the Matrix of everything else and is itself governed by its own laws of growth.

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## 10.5 LET US SUM UP

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- A social group is a collection of individuals who interact with one another and who recognize themselves as a distinct social unit.
- Among the members of a social group, frequent interactions take place.
- A social group is distinct from an aggregate
- According to the degree of closeness of the members, social groups are often classified into two broad categories—namely primary and secondary.
- Primary Group refers to a social group that shares close and personal relations among the members. For example, our family, neighborhood, etc.
- Members of a Secondary group have a lesser level of personal relations than a primary group. People in a Secondary group interact on a less personal level than in a primary group, and their relationships are temporary rather than long lasting.

- The term in-group in Sociology refers to a group of people who are united by common beliefs, attitudes, or interests by which they identify themselves.
- Culture is a way of life, a mode of thinking, acting and feeling. Culture refers to acquired behaviour which are shared by and transmitted among the members of society.
- Sociologist W.F. Ogburn divide culture into two types such as material and non-material. Material culture consists of products of human activity which is concrete, tangible and observable, Exa-table. Non-material culture consists of intangible things like customs, values, good will, beliefs etc.
- Cultural lag refers to the strain that exists between two correlated parts of culture that changes at unequal rates of speed. 41. Status and role are two structural units of a society. Every members of society occupies different statuses and performs some roles related to a particular status.

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## 10.7 GLOSSARY

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- **Ethos**-is the set of ideas and attitudes that is associated with a particular group of people or a particular type of activity
- **Eidos**-the cognitive part of cultural structure made up of the criteria of credibility.
- **Ethnocentrism**- occurs when one has the belief that their own cultural group is superior to others.

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## 10.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- 1 Who classified in group and out group?
- 2 Who divide culture into two types such as material and non-material?

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## 10.9 REFERENCES

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**UNIT-11      STATUS AND ROLE**


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**Structure**

- 11.1 Learning Objectives
- 11.2 Introduction
- 11.3 Status
  - 11.3.1 Meaning and Definitions.
  - 11.3.2 Characteristics.
  - 11.3.3 Types.
- 11.4 Roles
  - 11.4.1 Meaning and Definitions
  - 11.4.2 Characteristics
  - 11.4.3 Related concepts
- 11.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 11.6 Glossary
- 11.7 Check Your Progress
- 11.8 Reference

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**11.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning and characteristic of status
- Explain the concept of role

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**11.2 INTRODUCTION**


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As a science, sociology is mainly concerned with the study of society. In order to study and analyze society sociology uses different concepts. Every subject has its own concepts and ideas, So also sociology. Definite concept eradicates ambiguity of meaning and give scientific form to any idea. Social status is one such concept of sociology.

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**11.3 STATUS**


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Social status is very important both for individual and society. A status system is a universal feature of human society. It is basis of organization of group life and determines who occupies what. Inequality of status is a marked feature of every society, ancient or modern. Inequalities are inherent in the nature of human beings.

Apart from natural differences, human beings are also differentiated according to socially approved criteria. Every member of society occupies different statuses. Hence, understanding society requires an understanding of status is one of the structural unit of a society.

### 11.3.1 Meaning and Definition

Ordinarily the word 'status' is used to refer to an individual's total standing in society. It refers to a set of privileges and duties. Status is usually defined as the rank or position of a person in a group or a group in relation to other groups. Status is the social position occupied by the members in a particular social setting. It also refers to social standing of a person based on some social evaluation. Status is a position in the social system. It refers to what a person is. The term status is used to designate the comparative amounts of prestige or respect accorded to persons who have been assigned different roles in a group or community. Status of a person is based on social evaluations. Status may vary from person to person or situation to situation. Status is closely related to roles.

Status has been defined by different sociologists in a number of ways. Some define it as a social position occupied by an individual in a particular social setting. While others define it as a social standing of a person according to some social evaluation.

1. According to MacIver and Page: "Status is the social position that determines for its possessor, apart from his personal attributes or social service, a degree of respect, prestige and influence".
2. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff "Status is the rank-order position assigned by a group to a role or to a set of roles".
3. According to K. Davis, "Status is a position in the general institutional system, recognized and supported by the entire society spontaneously evolved rather than deliberately created, rooted in the folkways and mores".
4. According to A.W. Green, status is a position in a social group or grouping, in relation to other positions held by other individuals in the group or grouping".
5. According to Secured and Bukman, "Status is the worth of a person as estimated by a group or a class of persons".
6. According to H.T. Mazumdar, "status means the location of the individual within the group his place in the social network of reciprocal obligations and privileges rights and duties".
7. Martindale and Menachesi defines status as "a position in social aggregate identified with a pattern of prestige symbols and actions".



Thus, the above definitions make it clear that status is a social position which involves some sort of evaluations. These evaluations help in ranking of different statuses in a hierarchical order. Secondly, status is culturally determined, despite the fact they may be based on biological factors such as age, sex, race etc.

### 11.3.2 Characteristics

Status have the following characteristics.

1. Status is the structural unit of a society.
2. Status is a position or social standing of a person.
3. Status evolved spontaneously.
4. Status is closely related to roles.
5. Status involves some sort of evaluations.
6. Status is comparative in nature.
7. Status may be achieved or ascribed.
8. Status is created by opinion of others.
9. Status is variable.
10. Status is greeted with respect.

### 11.3.3 Types

There are mainly two types of status:

- (a) Achieved status.
- (b) Ascribed status.

**(A) Achieved Status:** Statuses which are not fixed by inheritance, biological characteristic or other factors, over which the individual has no control are known as achieved status. This type of status is generally found in an open system of stratification. It came into existence as a result of some degree of purposive action and choice. Lecturer, doctor, engineer is example of achieved status. When a society allows its members to change their status according to their talents and efforts it came under this achieved status category.

**(B) Ascribed Status:** Statuses which are relatively fixed and individual can do little to change, it is known as ascribed status. This status can not be changed during the life span of an individual is ascribed in nature. Society has its own rules to ascribe status to different people. Generally, three factors are important in being ascribed status in society i.e. age, sex and kinship.

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## 11.4 ROLES

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Role is a basic concept of sociology. It is a structural unit of society. It is a universal feature of the society. As a Science, Sociology is mainly concerned with the study of society. In order to study society sociology tries to understand concept like role. Every member of society performs some roles. Performing or playing roles involves social relationships in the sense that an individual plays a role in relation to other roles. Sociology lays stress on the interactions and relationships of human beings. Human relationships, interactions and role playing or role performance take place in society. Hence understanding society requires the understanding of roles. Shakespeare's classic description of the world as a stage in which each individual play different roles shows the importance of roles in society. In society every person is assigned different tasks to perform which makes up his role.

### 11.4.1 Meaning and definition

If you give a look at society you find that individuals differ in attributes like age, sex, colour and occupations. Individuals perform different functions in society. Some are laborers other are scientists, some are professor's others are engineers while others are doctor, leaders, soldiers etc. The society is based on division of labour in which every person is assigned a specific task to perform which makes up his role. Role is the behaviour expected of one who holds a particular status or position. Role is closely associated with status. Roles provide means for accomplishing certain tasks. The concept of role implies a set of expectations. Human behaviour is regulated and organized by social roles. Learning roles involves learning the norms of the culture. As an aspect of culture roles provide an important part of the guidelines necessary for an ordered society. Originally, the word 'role' refers to 'roll' on which an actor's part was written. Accordingly, role consists of behaviour expected of an individual in community. Role is a relational term. One plays a role in relation to another. There cannot be a teacher without a student. Hence role represents reciprocal relations among individuals and involves a series of rights and duties. Each status in a society is accompanied by a number of norms which define an individual occupying a particular status expected to act. This group norm is known as role. For example, status of teacher is accompanied by the role of teacher. Playing or performing roles involves social relationships in the sense that an individual plays a role in relation to other roles. Role is a dynamic aspect of status.

1. According to K. Davis Role is the manner in which a person actually carries out the requirement of his position”.

2. According to Ogburn and Nimkoff, "Role is a set of socially expected and approved behaviour patterns; consisting of both duties and privileges, associated with a particular position in a group".
3. According to G.A. Lundberg, "A social role is a pattern of behaviour expected of an individual in a certain group or situation".
4. According to Morris Ginsberg, status is a position and a role is the manner in which that position is supposed to be filled. In other words, role is the functional aspect of a status".
5. According to Linton, "Role is a dynamic aspect of status". Thus, role is a set of expectations which is expected from an individual in society. Smooth running of society depends on efficient and consistent performance of roles. Successful role performance requires possession of attitudes to such role. Role represents reciprocal relations among individuals.

#### **11.4.2 Characteristics**

Role have following characteristics.

1. Role is the structural unit of society.
2. Role is always associated with status or position.
3. Role is relational in nature.
4. Roles regulate and organize human behaviour.
5. Roles provide guidelines and directives to an ordered society.
6. Role implies a set of expectations.
7. Roles involves a series of rights and duties.
8. Role is dynamic.
9. Role is functional.

#### **11.4.3 Related concepts**

Understanding of roles requires the understanding of some related concepts. Some such concepts are as follows:

1. **Role Set:** Role set refers to variety of roles associated with a single status. For example, status of a principal involves a number of roles i.e. his role in relation to student, staff, teacher etc.
2. **Role Playing:** Role playing refers to the performance of role by an individual related to his status.

3. **Role Taking:** Role taking means learning of role. It means taking the role of the other. In the process of socialization an individual learns a number of role. It means responding by placing oneself imaginatively in the role of the other person in order to regulate one's own behaviour Exa- a boy facing an interview for his selection as lecturer.
4. **Role Conflict:** Role conflict refers to the contradictory demands within a role or competing demands of two different roles. Different role expectations is known as role conflict. Exa. -conflict of police officer between duty and arresting a friend.
5. **Role Behavior:** While role is the expected behaviour, role behavior is the actual behavior of one who plays a role. Actual behavior may vary from expected behavior due to number of reasons.

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## 11.5 LET US SUM UP

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- Status and role are two structural units of a society. Every members of society occupies different statuses and performs some roles related to a particular status.
- Status is a social position occupied by the members in a particular social setting. It also refers to social standing of a person based on some social evaluation.
- Ogburn and Nimkaff says status is the rank order position assigned by a group to a role or to a set of roles.
- Statuses which are not fixed by inheritance, biological characteristics or other factors over which the individual has no control are known as achieved status.
- Ascribed statuses are usually fixed at birth. It is based on age, sex, colour etc. It changes little over time.
- Each status in a society is accompanied by a number of norms which define an individual occupying a particular status expected to act. This group of norms is known as role.
- K. Davis opines, Role is the manner in which a person actually carries out the requirement of his position.
- Linton says Role is a dynamic aspect of status.

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## 11.6 GLOSSARY

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- **Role-** the behaviour expected of an individual who occupies a given social position or status.
- **Status** - the relative rank that an individual hold, with attendant rights, duties, and lifestyle, in a social hierarchy based upon honour or prestige.

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## 11.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- Who opines, Role is the manner in which a person actually carries out the requirement of his position.
- Who says Role is a dynamic aspect of status.

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**UNIT-12      POWER AND SOCIAL NORMS**


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**Structure**

- 12.1 Introduction
- 12.2 Learning Objectives
- 12.3 Norms
  - 12.3.1 Meaning and Definition of Norms
  - 12.3.2 Types of Norms
  - 12.3.3 Need and Importance of Social Norms
- 12.4 The Concept of Power
  - 12.4.1 Importance of Power
- 12.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 12.6 Glossary
- 12.7 Check your progress
- 12.8 References

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**12.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit, you will be able to:

- Define social norms;
- Enlist various types of social norms;
- Elucidate the needs and importance of social norms;
- Explain the characteristic features of social norms; and
- Describe the influence of norms on individual's behavior.
- Explain the concept of power;
- Discuss the importance of power;
- Identify the essence of power;
- Analyze various types of power

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**12.2 INTRODUCTION**


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Social norms are the informal, often unspoken rules, guides and standards of behaviour which people in that society follow with great care. These social norms are generally internalized during the process of socialization and produces guilt, shame etc. when they are violated. Though there is no identifiable formal authority that will enforce compliance to norms, the communal sanction for violation of norms can be swift and harsh. These norms are followed and fulfilled in general because failure to do so induces feelings of guilt or shame, gossip, shunning, ostracism, and at times

violence. While compliance to norms brings with it tangible and intangible rewards such as increased esteem, trust and, most importantly, cooperation, noncompliance brings with it a disparaging glance or expression of disapproval or disgust, often as a prelude to shunning, ostracism etc. Norms typically have strong roots in the soil of small groups and communities. The feeling of guilt or shame may make the external enforcement of internalized norms unnecessary. Some social norms are universal (e.g., the prohibition of incest), while others are more localized. Social norms, as such, are neither good nor bad, but rather become benefit or burden in so far as they facilitate or constrain behaviour guided by moral values, practical reasons or instrumental ends. The behaviour guided by these norms may be strongly reinforced by self-interest. Furthermore, universalistic norms without dyadic sanctions or enforcement are often comparatively weak, as would be a norm of trustworthiness in a large society.

The operation of social norms often takes place, when a subcultural group, such as a gang, draws attention to itself through its regular and flagrant violation of popular or culturally predominant norms. While the internalization of social norms may take place below the surface of consciousness, it is worth noting that at times social norms can get internalized to the extent that they do not need social enforcement.

In fact, they are adhered to by individuals of their own accord. Social norms are in fact omnipresent and they resemble tradition and customs which are generally not violated. Violation brings severe sanctions of which the social ostracisation makes people think twice before they break the norm. Social conflict is exclusively an aspect of social power. To understand social conflict, we must deal at the level of social powers and their related factors. When two persons or more than two persons clash with each other verbally or physically, there is a conflict and in a social situation it turns out to be a social conflict.

The social conflict cannot be understood without taking into consideration the social power as most of the conflicts that emerge in a social situation is related to the power one has and the power one is able to wield. In this unit, we will be defining the norms in general, the social norms and give a description of the different types of norms etc. Emphasis will be laid on the need for such norms and the typical characteristics of the norms. In this unit we also deal with the nature of social power and family power and how these affect individual's behaviours.

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### 12.3 NORMS

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It is a mutually agreed fact that our behaviour is guided by the norms of the society we live in and we like to do the things which we think and believe that other people will approve of. Similarly, we try to avoid those behaviours which we think and believe

that other people will disapprove of. That's why, everybody smiles while wishing somebody happy birth day and nobody laughs during somebody's funeral. We use social norms that are the socially established behaviours, as information about what behaviour is appropriate in a given situation. Let's have a closer look at the word norm before entering this interesting field.

The word norm comes from the Latin word 'norma' which means a carpenter's square (see picture below), a pattern or a rule. You might have seen a carpenter's toolkit having this tool. Stopping for a while, have you ever seen him using it? Can you just describe how and why he uses this tool? This tool is used as a guide to create true, standard lines for cutting the lumber. Thus, norma is used by the carpenter to know how to "go on", and if he systematically follows the guidance, it results in a well-made, beautiful structure. And, the credit for this goes to the carpenter and not to the norma or square as such. Isn't it? OK, let's now move on to the meaning of norms in psychological terms in social context.

### **12.3.1 Meaning and Definition of Norms**

Here we shall look into various definitions of norms and shall try to know the norms we are going to study in this unit. Sherif (1936) explained norms as the jointly negotiated rules for social behaviour, the "customs, traditions, standards, rules, values, fashions, and all other criteria of conduct which are standardized as a consequence of the contact of individuals". Granovetter (2004) defines norms in simple terms as the "shared ideas about the proper way to behave". Postmes, Spears and Cihangir (2001) defined group norm as "a standard or a rule that is accepted by members of the group as applying to themselves and other group members, prescribing appropriate thought and behaviour within the group". According to Critto (1999), "social norms are shared ways of thinking, feeling, desiring, deciding and acting which are observable in regularly repeated behaviours and are adopted because they are assumed to solve problems". It is also worth sharing a widely accepted definition of social norms: "socially shared definitions of the way people do behave or should behave".

On the basis of the above definitions of norms, group norms and social norms, what do you conclude? We may say that, having a unique characteristic of being shared, norms are attitudes and behaviours of people which we expect them to show uniformly when they are in their group and/or society and these norms are learned, established and utilized when a person comes in contact with others. Let us take a few situation examples which can make these definitions more explicit. An exercise is given in the box. Try it before proceeding further.



### 12.3.2 Types of Norms

In the above few paragraphs of the previous section, we have just read up a few important definitions of norms and realized that these are something highly crucial and integral part of our life which influence almost each and every domain of our behaviour as the backbone of our social life. You might be wondering here that how many types of norms are there.

Let's us have a look at some of the major types of norms.

#### 1) Group norms vs. social norms

Group norms may be situational and locally defined, and hence may be quite independent and distinct from social norms that exist at the levels of communities and societies (see Postmes, Spears and Cihangir, 2001).

#### 2) Explicit vs. implicit norms

This is a very important distinction between two types of norms. Many times, we have clear, detailed and explicitly stated rules of behaviour and usually cover the written constitutions and laws. A general example is “No parking” or “No Horn” designated areas, and while traveling in public transport, it is explicitly prohibited to carry weapons, explosives or the things which may be dangerous to the health and life of others. On the other hand, we also have norms which are unspoken or implicit which usually develop in informal manner. Why do we usually go the parties or social meetings late? Because we apply our past experiences to the specific situations and think (rather, know) that it would not start in time and others would also have not yet arrived. Similarly, how many of us leave the hotel/restaurants without giving a tip for the waiter who served us?

#### 3) Injunctive norms vs. descriptive norms

When we are concerned about what others think we should do or should not do in a given situation in order to either get others' approval or to avoid their disapproval, it is regarded as injunctive norms or also as subjective norms. Injunctive norms are based on one's perception of what others believe to be appropriate behaviour. Taking cognizance of few contemporary researches, Deutsch and Gerard (1955) remarked that individual psychological processes are subject to social influences. They described two different types of social influences, viz., (i) Normative social influence (ii) Informational social influence. Normative social influence refers to an influence to conform to the positive expectations of others and is based on our fundamental need to be accepted by others, making us follow injunctive norms. On the other hand,

informational social influence is one in which we accept information obtained from another as evidence about the reality., These are descriptive norms which are concerned with individuals' perceptions and beliefs about the prevalence of others' behaviour or about what others do in a specific situation (Deutsch & Gerard, 1955).

#### **4) Consensus norms vs. critical norms**

Postmes, Spears and Cihangir (2001), made a distinction between consensus norms and critical norms while studying the impact of group norms on the quality of decisions taken by them. In consensus norms, they ascribed devotion of groups to initial decisions and the inclination to ignore disconfirming evidence in order to strongly tilt toward reaching a consensus. On the other hand, critical norm group members, adopting critical thought, invested their energy in the critical examination of decision alternatives before reaching a consensus. The researchers found that the groups with a consensus norm made poorer decisions than the groups with critical norms. Critical norms improved the quality of decisions, whereas consensus norms did not. This revealed the importance of critical thinking and independence in certain group situations.

#### **5) Reciprocity norms vs. social-responsibility norms**

Myers (1990) discussed about the above two types of norms: The reciprocity norm, as the name suggests, guides us to return help to those who have helped us at the appropriate time that is when they also need help. And, the social-responsibility norm makes us help the needy, who deserve help even if they have never helped us when we were in need of some type of help.

#### **6) Situational norms**

Norms are also situation dependent and are known as situational norms. For example, when you in a library, you either remain silent or do not speak in loud voice. Instead, you whisper. Similarly, whenever a Hindu devotee goes to temple, he/she removes the shoes to enter the temple. He/she takes care that temple is a sacred place and does everything, expected of him/her, to maintain its sanctity. Thus as is seen above, there are various types of norms. Law is always in written format. Norms need not always be in written form. There are also verbal norms which are nowhere written and we learn as well as teach them during the course of interaction and in the process of socialization. For example, it is a written norm you usually find pasted at the railway stations and in the trains warning people and forbidding them from taking eatable from strangers because earlier some innocent passengers have been drugged and looted. It is usually in verbal form that we teach the norm to our children not to talk to strangers on

road or in park or else they may get kidnapped. Regardless of the type of norm, we all respect, follow and obey them.

### **12.3.3 Need and Importance of Social Norms**

The social norms perform important functions and serve our specific purposes, even our being unaware of these most of the time, which highlight their need and importance in our daily life. Various experimental studies have revealed that social norms can influence and determine one's perception, evaluation and behaviour (e.g., Sherif, 1936 and Asch, 1955) about which we shall study in detail in the third and fourth units. In one study, the research found that despite being rated by participants as less motivating, descriptive norms were stronger predictors of activity behaviour and healthy eating intentions than other well established non normative reasons (Priebe, 2009).

Critto (1999) remarked that social norms function as shared ways of thought and action due to which we may expect some predictable courses of action when we observe them appropriately in a given specific situation. So, we may guess what others might do under certain social circumstances and accordingly we may choose our course of action also. Norms especially group norms are important because, besides controlling the group behaviour, they also control the behaviour of its members, and provide stability and a socially desired orderliness to the groups.

In the absence of norms, the behaviour of group members will become chaotic and the group and its members will not be able to survive for long. Norms are also important for as they facilitate and foster interaction between and among the group members. It is because of these social norms that we see the predictable similarities in the behaviour of group members. At the same time, it is these group norms which make the groups different from each other because they follow different norms and traditions. The effect of these norms on one's behaviour is not necessarily dependent on his/her being in the group. Rather, these norms affect the behaviour even when he/she is not a part of a group and remains alone.

Thus, the norms regulate the social behaviour. If one's behaviour is in conformity with the group norms, he/she may get the acceptance and praise. On the contrary, if there is nonconformities or breaking of social norms, the non-conformist or violator person may have to face criticism or be subjected to punishment as decided by the particular group. Another important function performed by the norms, which makes them important for us, is that they provide us solutions to common problems by offering available possible alternatives.

Also, norms promote mutual respect and service for others which ultimately give rise to harmony in the social relations and a sense of social well-being. So, norms perform an important function of linking people to people, people to the society and society to society. Norms, in addition to the above also help us fulfill one of our basic psychological needs, viz., to belong to others. Being social beings, humans need to be associated with others; they require love, self-esteem and belongingness. Following norms, all these needs of the individuals will be satisfied. This otherwise is neither possible nor persistent.

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## **12.4 POWER**

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Power exists in all social situations and practically pervades in all organizations. Different authorities have tried to define power in different ways. According to R. A. Dahl, power is the ability of one person or group to cause another person or group to do something they otherwise might not have done. It is the ability to influence others successfully in the desired fashion. Power resides in individuals (such as managers, and informal leaders), in formal groups (such as department and committees) and in informal groups. It is the principal means of directing and controlling organizational goals and activities. The person or the group having power influences the behavior of others. We can say a manager or the supervisor has the power when works are done by their subordinates as they wish to be done, way they want to be done etc. Thus, the manager's ability to get the work done depends upon the power possessed by him or her. In fact, almost everyone, at every level from within and outside try to exert their power on organisation to get their work done. Accordingly, knowledge of power in organisation is very important for every individual in general and the people possessing power in particular in order to manage their activities and for the smooth functioning of the organisation. You should not get confused with the power and authority. Though power and authority are used interchangeably, but there exists difference between the two. While power is the ability to influence others, authority is the right to command. Normally power is exercised by the person but authority is attached with the position and it is legitimate. Authority is one of the major sources of power. Authority is always positional, concerned with position and legitimate. However, when one's authority can increase one's growth in organizational hierarchy, but the growth may not accompany same amount of power. Moreover, while authority normally moves downward but power moves in all direction, depending upon the power being used by the person in the organisation. It is because power is not institutional but the authority is institutional.

## Definition

- i. Power is the production of intended effects. If intentionality is omitted from this definition, it would be similar to power as a capability to produce effects.
- ii. Power is the ability to employ force. This definition confounds the difference between It does not take into account power in terms of non-coercive forms.
- iii. Power is when one's behaviour causes another's. This is a broad definition overlapping power in its various forms. As a person with power behaves, it affects others. One can affect another's perception, intentions, temperament, and moods without affecting his behaviour. In fact you may cause another to reassess his goals without changing them. This definition misses power's essence. It neither captures the genus or species of power, nor only obliquely taps its many forms.
- iv. A person 'i' has power over another person 'j' to the extent that 'I' can get 'j' to do something that j would not otherwise do. Here power is defined as a form of power that is coercion. And the definition is restricted to having as distinct from exercising coercive power. And other forms of power are ignored or unappreciated.

### 12.4.1 Importance of Power

For a variety of reasons, power is very important and needed in the society. Not only the society needs power for its functioning, but people in the society seek power because of the following reasons:

- Power is used in the society to control the people and other resources so that they cooperate and help to achieve a society's current goals.
- Power can also be used to engage in politics and influence decision-making process in order to help promote new and more appropriate organizational goals.
- It is the power, which influences complexity, formality and centralization of activities in the organizations.
- Individuals having power even determine about the size of the organisation, allocation of rewards, selection of technology etc.
- Power is needed for the efficient functioning of the society.

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## 12.5 LET US SUM UP

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- Norms provide specific directive for conduct while values give a more general guideline. Example of a norm will be- be knowing what dress to wear in specific occasions like dress in a formal dance, etc.
- Social power refers to the capacity to produce effects that is using that power one should be able to make another person or persons to do what you desire. There are two factors involved in social power to have its effects, viz. the intentionality and orientation towards another person's self, apart from their body.

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## 12.6 GLOSSARY

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- **Norms**- are shared standards of acceptable behavior by groups
- **Power**- is the social production of an effect that determines the capacities, actions, beliefs, or conduct of actors

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## 12.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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Q.1 What is Norms?

Q.2 What is Power?

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## 12.8 REFERENCES

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# **Block-4**

## **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

**Unit-13: Meaning, Definition, Characteristics**

**Unit-14: Forms of Stratification-Caste, class & gender**

**Unit-15: Functionalist Theories of stratification  
(Parsons, Davis Moore) Marxian &  
Weberian Theories of stratification**

**Unit-16: Elite Theory: Pareto, C Wright Mills**

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## **UNIT-13 SOCIAL STRATIFICATION: MEANING, DEFINITION AND CHARACTERISTICS**

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### **Structure**

- 13.1 Learning Objectives
- 13.2 Introduction
- 13.3 Meaning of Social Stratification
- 13.4 Characteristics of Social Stratification
  - 13.4.1 Diversity of Form and Amount of Stratification
  - 13.4.2 Consequences of Social Stratification
- 13.5 The Importance of Studying Social Stratification
- 13.6 Let Us Sum Up
- 13.7 Glossary
- 13.8 Check Your Progress
- 13.9 References

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### **13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning of Stratification
- Explain the characteristic of social stratification

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### **13.2 INTRODUCTION**

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All human societies from the simplest to the most complex have some form of social inequality. Inequality in property, prestige and power is found in all societies. It means that Power, prestige and wealth are unequally distributed among individuals and social groups. On the basis of unequal resources, our society is stratified. In this unit we will discuss about social stratification in detail.

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### **13.3 MEANING OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

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Social inequality simply refers to the phenomenon of socially created inequalities. Social stratification is a particular form of social inequality. It refers to the division of social groups one above the other in terms of the amount of power, prestige and wealth. The members of a particular stratum will share a similar life style on the basis of which will distinguish them from members of other social strata. The caste system of India is an example of social stratification. The society in a tea estate provides another example of social stratification where there is clear cut distinction between the



members of the class of laborers and the management in terms of power, prestige and wealth.

1. According to Raymond. W. Murray, 'social stratification is a horizontal division of society into 'higher' and 'lower' social units.'
2. In the words of P. Gisbert, "social stratification is the division of society into permanent groups or categories linked with each other by the relationship of superiority and subordination."
3. According to W.J. Goode, "stratification is a system through which resources and rewards are distributed and handed down from generation to generation."
4. According to Sutherland and Maxwell, "Stratification is the process of interaction or differentiation which places some people higher than others."
5. According to P.A. Sorokin, "Social stratification means the differentiation of a given population into hierarchically superposed classes. It is manifested in the existence of upper and lower social layer"
6. Williams opined, "Social stratification is the ranking of individuals on a scale of superiority-equality or inferiority, according to some commonly accepted basis of valuation."
7. In the words of G.A. Lundberg, "A stratified society is one marked by inequality, by differences among people that are evaluated by them as being lower and higher."
8. According to K. B. Mayer, Social stratification is a system of differentiation which includes a hierarchy of social positions whose occupants are treated as superior, equal or inferior relative to one another in socially important respects."

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### 13.4 CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

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M. M. Tumin in his famous book "Social Stratification: The Forms and Functions of Inequality" has highlighted five basic characteristics of social stratification. They are briefly discussed below.

**Antiquity:** According to historical and archeological records, stratification was present even in the small wandering bands existing in the earliest days of human society. In such primitive societies both age and sex along with physical strength must have been important criteria of stratification.

**Ubiquity:** Social Stratification is found in all societies. It is present in non-literate societies, whose traditions are largely oral and even in highly developed modern societies.

**Social Patterning:** The Social patterning can be seen in five different aspects mentioned below:

- a) The Significance of Social Definitions the system of social stratification is always part of a complex social and cultural pattern, often having little to do with biological traits.
- b) The Significance of Norms and Sanctions. The system of stratification in a society is governed by norms.
- c) Need to Socialize Each Generation Every child is socialized about the existing system of stratification in which he or she is born.
- d) The Inherent Instability of Social Arrangements Though norms have stability and continuity because of socialization process and sanctions that ensure conformity, they are also unstable and discontinuous because that process of socialization and sanctions never works perfectly.
- e) The Connections of Stratification with other Institutions. The system of stratification is always connected with other aspects of a society. Such connections are known as institutional interdependencies or institutional interrelationships. This implies that the existing stratification arrangements are affected by and have effects upon other institutions like politics, kinship, marriage and the family, economy, education, and religion.

Sociologist Melvin M. Tumin had attributed following characteristics to social stratification:

**Social stratification is social:** It is socially patterned by the consensus of the people of the society. The criteria of inequality, whether it is wealth or ritual purity, are derived from the prevalent beliefs and values of the people of a particular society. The attitude of the people determines the level of rigidity or openness of the system of stratification. Therefore, social stratification is not a naturally given thing but a socially constructed phenomenon.

**Social stratification is ancient:** It means that one or the other form of social stratification has always existed in societies in all epochs of history. In primitive societies, people were divided on the basis of their age and sex. They had arrangement of age sets, whereby, people belonging to a particular age were grouped together and allotted with different functions. Thus, since ancient times, social stratification has been a characteristic of all human societies. Social stratification is therefore ubiquitous.

**It is in diverse forms:** In different societies, there exist different systems of stratification such as caste, class, race and estate. These are based on criteria such as ritual purity, types of occupation, physical features like skin color and ownership of property. Similarly, a system of social stratification can also exist in different societies in different degrees. For example: in one society we may find extreme inequalities

between the classes and in others there may be fewer gaps between classes and more cooperation. Thus, in some societies the system of social stratification may be very rigid and in some societies, it may be flexible in nature allowing people to change their social status.

Social stratification has pervasive social consequences: Since a person's social status also determines his or her access to resources for survival and development. Social Stratification determines life chances of the individual as well as the members of a particular stratum. Hence factors like longevity, mortality, nutrition, education and others are heavily dependent on the process of social stratification. Similarly, social stratification also denotes the life styles of the members of a particular social group. Food, dress habits, type of residence, quality of education, friendship groups are dependent on the social position of an individual or the group. Again, the behaviour of people are determined by the codes of conduct prescribed to the groups to which individuals belong. One example of this can be the occupational groups like the army personnel.

Apart from these characteristics, social stratification also has an impact on the values, attitudes and ideologies of the people living in a society: The rigidity and openness in a system of social stratification determines the attitudes of the people towards the members of the groups having higher or lower status. This again has an impact on the interactions of the members of both the groups. Interaction between the members of one race with another is an example of this. The identification of what is good and what is bad in social behaviour is also to a great extent determined by the sanctions associated with the system of social stratification. For example: the ideas of purity and pollution in the caste system determine the preferred way of life for the caste groups. Finally, system of social stratification and its prescribed practices also have an impact on the ideologies of the future course of action for the members of the social groups in a society

#### **13.4.1 The Diversity of Form and Amount of Stratification:**

The diversity of stratification can be explained both in terms of forms and amount. The diversity in amount of stratification found in societies of the past and present is matched by diversity in form. The terms such as class, caste, and estate are useful to express the different ways in which strata can be arranged.

#### **13.4.2 The Consequences of Stratification**

The consequences of social are different life chances, institutional patterns of conduct, life style, different values, attitudes and ideologies. Life chances refer to the

probabilities that one will enjoy (or fail to enjoy) a range of opportunities, achievements, and satisfying experiences during the course of his/her life. The term institutional patterns of conduct refer to the patterns of behavior of everyday life in all the basic institutions of society like the economy, the political system., the educational network, the family, and religion. Do people in different income groups raise their children differently? If they do, why? The term life style refers to the ways in which people use their disposable energy, time, and resources to obtain certain levels of honor. How do they dress and do their hair? What kinds of vehicles do they purchase? How do they decorate their homes? What is their style of visiting and entertainment? What media do they read, listen to, or watch? What are their patterns of speech and gesture? The terms values, attitudes, and ideologies refer to sets of beliefs about such questions as the following: What defines a good society? What constitutes good personal life? How much freedom and of what kind should people have?

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### **13.5 THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

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The study of social stratification is particularly important for sociologists. Some of the reasons for this may include (Giddens, 1995):

- To investigate the class membership of individuals in society with the aim of understanding the type of life people live. That is, knowing what type of life individuals in a given social group or stratum live is very important for sociological analysis.
- To explore the bases for the assignment of individuals into various hierarchies of the social structure. What are the bases for stratifying individuals into a specific stratum?
- To understand the relationship between individuals assigned into different hierarchies. What kind of interaction and relationship exist between individuals located into different strata?
- To investigate the relationship between individuals or groups belonging to the same hierarchy. What kinds of relationship exist between people in the same stratum?
- To understand what type of social system gives rise to what or which types of hierarchies. That is, the type of social stratification varies across cultures, times and types of social systems.

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### **13.6 LET US SUM UP**

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- In simple words, social stratification is the arrangement of social groups on the basis of certain characteristics.

- The study of social stratification is a core subject of sociology as a discipline. It helps us to understand the nature of social organization and the distribution of role and status in society.
- There are various characteristics of social stratification. For example, it is socially patterned; it exists in diverse forms; and it is ubiquitous.
- Examples of systems of social stratification are caste, class, estate, etc.

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### 13.7 GLOSSARY

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- **Stratification**- refers to a society's categorization of its people into groups based on socioeconomic factors like wealth, income, race, education.
- **Prestige**-refers to the reputation or esteem associated with one's position in society

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### 13.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Who is the author of the book, Social Stratification: The Forms and Functions of Inequality?
2. Mention three characteristics of social stratification.

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**UNIT-14      FORMS OF STRATIFICATION**


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**Structure**

- 14.1 Learning Objectives
- 14.2 Introduction
- 14.3 Forms of Social Stratification
  - 14.3.1 Caste as a Form of Social Stratification
  - 14.3.2 Class as a Form of Social Stratification
  - 14.3.3 Race as a Form of Social Stratification
  - 14.3.4 Ethnicity as a Form of Social Stratification
  - 14.3.5 Gender as a Form of Social Stratification
- 14.4 Let Us Sum Up
- 14.5 Glossary
- 14.6 Check Your Progress
- 14.7 References

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**14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the various forms of stratification
- Explain the forms like caste, class, race, ethnicity and gender stratification
- Understand the meaning of Functionalist perspective
- How Functionalist views social stratification

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**14.2 INTRODUCTION**


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Social stratification has been analyzed by different scholars from different points of view. Stratification structures may take different forms. Sociologist Max Weber distinguishes between class, status and party. Similarly, T.B. Bottomore has distinguished four types or forms of stratification such as slavery, Estate, Caste and Class. These forms are discussed below. Theory is a set of related ideas. The theories of stratification are concerned with the inherent inequality on which social order is based. Social stratification is an inherent character of all societies. Keeping an eye on various dimensions of social stratification a number of explanations have been formulated by sociologists which led to the development of different theories. The concept of social stratification has been theoretically analyzed by different scholars. Besides, some present day scholars have approached social stratification from a

different angle. As a result, we come across mainly the following three theories of stratification. Besides, the elite theory of social stratification is also there.

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### **14.3 FORMS OF STRATIFICATION**

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#### **14.3.1 Caste as a Form of Social Stratification**

Caste is one of the most pervasive forms of stratification found in India. This system of stratification comprises of the four varnas namely, the Brahmins at the top, followed by the Kshatriyas or warriors, the Vaishyas, or traders, and the Shudras, or the servants and labourers in that order. The Panchamas or the outcastes were outside the caste system and were considered to be inferior to even Shudras. The caste system divides or stratifies individuals or social groups on the basis of the caste he or she belongs to. Accordingly, the individual's position depends on the position of his/her caste in the caste hierarchy. An individual is bound to remain in the same social position into which she or he is born.

Each position in the caste structure is defined in terms of its purity or pollution in relation to others. The underlying assumption while allocating such position was that those who are the purest, namely the Brahmins, are superior to all other castes. According to the caste ideology, purity and pollution related to each caste can only be retained by caste endogamy, that is, the practice of marrying within the caste, and through the avoidance of contact with members of the lower castes. As a matter of fact, the extent to which one can enter into any sort of interactions with other caste group is determined by caste ideology. These practices play an important role in retaining stratification in society. The caste system of India has undergone considerable changes over the years. The Bhakti Movement of medieval India facilitated the birth of new social values that challenged the Brahmanical caste ideology. The most important driving force for changes in the caste system was British rule and the socio economic and administrative institutions introduced by the British. Westernization, urbanization, secularization and opening of new economic opportunities acted as a blow to rigid caste-based social structure. The various anti-Brahmin movements, the spread of liberal ideology, and the governments' policy and programme of protective discrimination for the upliftment of the downtrodden caste groups have also eroded caste-based social customs and behavior patterns.

#### **14.3.2 Class as a form of Social Stratification**

The concept of class is a useful category to understand the social stratification system in modern societies. Basically class as a social category refers to such a group whose members have similar economic conditions, maintain similar life style, adhere to

similar ideologies etc. Karl Marx and Max Weber have put forth their own understanding of class as a social category. In this context Marx's analysis of class is worth mentioning. A class, according to Marx, is a group of people whose members share similar relations to the 'forces of production'. Marx further argued that in all societies there exist two major classes with antagonistic interests – namely the haves and have-nots. The haves control the forces of production (land, labour, capital and enterprise), while the have nots work under the haves for their survival. As soon as the have-nots develop class consciousness, they revolt against the haves or the oppressors.

Marx had a vision that the conflict between the haves and have nots will lead to a change in the mode of production followed by a new social formation. In the section on Marxist theory of social stratification we will deal with the issue in detail. Weber too argued that the major class division is between those who own the forces of production and those who do not. Thus who have substantial amount of property will enjoy superior life chances. However, Weber observes significant differences in the market situation of the classes who do not own property. The Weberian analysis of class will be discussing in detail in the section on Weberian theory of social stratification.

The class position of an individual greatly affects his or her educational attainment and consequently occupational opportunities. Class is closely associated with race, caste, ethnicity and gender. In America the number of individuals occupying higher class position is more among the whites than that among the blacks. Similarly, in India there is a close connection between caste and class. Traditionally the people belonging to the upper castes possessed more land and other properties in comparison to the people belonging to the lower castes. It has been observed that an individual belonging to an upper caste has a better chance to emerge as a member of middle class and upper class. In patriarchal societies women's class position is seen as inferior to that of men since in patriarchal societies they are not given ownership rights over the valued resources of society.

### **14.3.3 Race as a form of Social Stratification**

The practice of inequality on the basis of the difference in the physical traits (like hair, skin type, stature, type of eyes etc.) of one group of people from another has existed in many parts of the world. The inequality between the Blacks and the Whites provides

a suitable example of racial stratification system. Black Americans, who constitute around 12% of the population, have formed a distinct social stratum at the bottom of the stratification system. The system of racial stratification in America is largely based on a prejudice that the Blacks are innately inferior to the Whites in terms of intelligence. It is found that majority of them occupied menial and other inferior jobs



in industry. The average income of the Black families is also reported to be much lower than that of the White families. Statistics reveals the fact that the Blacks possess little political power being scarcely represented in local and national government.

However, the issue concerning the relationship between intelligence and social inequality on the basis of race is highly debated. M. Haralambos in his book *Sociology: Themes and Perspectives* has put forth some preliminary remarks in this regard. Firstly, intelligence is based on both genetic and environmental factors; the two are inseparable. Thus an individual's social background affects his/her performance in an IQ test. The deprivations which a student experiences as a member of a low social stratum will negatively affect his/her IQ score. Secondly, intelligence tests are biased against the Blacks as they are based on White middle-class knowledge and skills. Thirdly, the tests measured only a small part of the range of mental abilities.

Most sociologists therefore comment that the social status of the Blacks in the USA is the result of social rather than biological factors.

#### **14.3.4 Ethnicity as a form of social stratification**

According to "Oxford Dictionary of Sociology" individuals who consider themselves, or are considered by others, to share common characteristics which differentiate them from the other groups in a society, and from which they develop their distinctive cultural behavior, form an ethnic group. The term ethnicity was coined in contrast to race, which is often seen in biological terms. Members of an ethnic group may be identifiable in terms of racial attributes.

They may also share other cultural characteristics such as religion, occupation, language, or politics. Ethnic groups can be distinguished from social classes, since membership in an ethnic group cuts across various socio-economic groups within society. An ethnic group usually encompasses individuals who share common characteristics that supersede class. In almost all multiethnic societies some socio-economic and political forces make one or a few ethnic groups dominant over other similar groups. Other, subordinate ethnic groups exert less power, corresponding to their place in the hierarchy, extending down to the lowest ranking groups, which may wield little or no power.

The position of other subordinate groups in the hierarchy is determined mainly on the basis of distance from the dominant group in culture and physical attributes. Those who are similar to the dominant group are more highly ranked, and those most different are ranked correspondingly low. A system of ethnic stratification, therefore, is the ranking of groups one above the other in terms of their distance, (culturally and physically) from the dominant ethnic group. In this system each group is made up of

people with presumed common cultural or physical characteristics interacting in patterns of dominance and subordination.

### **14.3.5 Gender as a Form of Social Stratification**

It was Ann Oakley who introduced the term ‘gender’ to Sociology. According to Oakley “sex” refers to the biological division into male and female; “gender” refers to socially unequal division into femininity and masculinity. In other words, gender is a social construct specifying the socially and culturally prescribed roles for men and women. The term gender is not confined to individual identity and personality alone; it also encompasses sexual division of labour at home and workplaces, cultural ideals and stereotypes of masculinity and femininity. Simone de Beauvoir’s statement “one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman” which she made in her celebrated book *The Second Sex* also suggests that gender is an aspect of identity gradually acquired. The anatomically distinct female body, i.e., sex, acquires cultural meaning (gender). For example, during the menstruation period the notion of impurity is attached to the female body and therefore she is debarred from participation in religious ceremonies. This speaks of gender as a cultural construct.

Sociologists have argued that culturally dominant ideas about masculinity and femininity are stereotypes, as they do not reflect the actual nature of men and women. More specifically, gender stereotype refers to one-sided and exaggerated images of men and women deployed repeatedly in everyday life. Stereotyping is seen as a part of the process by which children are socialized into sex roles. Socialization plays an important role in the construction of gender roles. Through the process of socialization young boys and girls are turned into adult men and women through child rearing, education, employment practices, family and religion. Studies have revealed the fact that there exists discrimination in employment between men and women where sex plays a huge role in determining types of job and chances of promotion. There also exists unequal division of labour in the household, even between men and women engaged in full-time jobs outside home.

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## **14.4 LET US SUM UP**

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- In this unit, we have learned about the various forms of social stratification beginning with Race, Caste, Class, Estate and Gender.
- Each of these bases of stratification is characterized by different criteria for the evaluation of social inequality.

- Race is based more on perceived biological differences between human groups, whereas, caste is based on ritual purity and maintenance of blood ties.
- Class is based on income and wealth, whereas, estate was based on the ownership of land and warfare.
- Gender is a very different base of social stratification as it is based on both subjective and objective criteria of evaluation of the personality and behaviour of people.

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## 14.5 GLOSSARY

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- **Race-** is a category that groups together people who share biological traits that a society believes to be socially significant
- **Gender** -refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed.

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## 14.6 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. What is class?
2. What is the basis for determining one's class in society?
3. How does Marx define class?

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## UNIT-15 FUNCTIONALIST THEORIES OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION, MARXIAN & WEBERIAN THEORIES OF STRATIFICATION

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### Structure

- 15.1 Learning Objectives
- 15.2 Introduction
- 15.3 Functionalist Theory of Stratification
  - 15.3.1 Tacott Parson
  - 15.3.2 Kingsley Davis and Moore
  - 15.3.3 Malvin & Tumin
- 15.4 Marxist Theory of Stratification
- 15.5 Weberian Theory of Stratification
- 15.6 Let Us Sum Up
- 15.7 Glossary
- 15.8 Check Your Progress
- 15.9 References

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### 15.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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This Unit will enable you to understand:

- The assumptions of the Marxist explanation of stratification.
- The assumptions of the Weberian theory of stratification. :
- Understand the meaning of Functionalist perspective
- How Functionalist views social stratification

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### 15.2 INTRODUCTION

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Theory is a set of related ideas. The theories of stratification are concerned with the inherent inequality on which social order is based. Social stratification is an inherent character of all societies. Keeping an eye on various dimensions of social stratification a number of explanations have been formulated by sociologists which led to the development of different theories. The concept of social stratification has been theoretically analyzed by different scholars. Besides, some present day scholars have approached social stratification from a different angle. As a result, we come across mainly the following three theories of stratification. Besides, the elite theory of social stratification is also there.

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### 15.3 FUNCTIONALIST THEORY OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

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Besides Karl Marx and Max Weber, social stratification has also been dealt with by functionalists such as Talcott Parsons, Kingsley Davis, W.E. Moore, Tumin, Durkheim, R.K. Merton and many others. These scholars have considered the functional importance of the role in society and gave their own ideas on social stratification. Functionalists consider the system of stratification as a functional necessity of society. They argue that if a system has to survive, there must be a mechanism to ensure effective role allocation and role performance. The stratification system performs this function. Functionalists give stress on prestige dimension and opined that society has been stratified on the basis of socially ascribed prestige attached to the occupational structure in social hierarchy. They opine that the effective functioning of society depends on the successful performance of roles or functions. There are many set of roles/ functions in society which require to be performed by most able persons. Views of some of the functional theorists are discussed below.

#### 15.3.1 Talcott Parsons:

His contribution is unique in developing the structural functional theory. Giving stress on the positive role of stratification, Parsons argue that social stratification is derived from common values of society. Those who conform to the values of society are ranked high and are rewarded properly. Different societies have different value systems; hence we find difference in stratification system from one society to another. Since social stratification is derived from the common values of society and it is essentially an expression of shared values; it is considered as just and legitimate.

The degree of respect society attaches to certain individuals is coterminous with the degree of value and functional importance their corresponding positions carry. Positions carrying the highest respect/ power are usually rare and correspondingly there is always a high degree of competition among individuals to occupy those positions. People are ranked higher to lower on the basis of the value society attaches to their corresponding positions. The conflict between highly and lowly rewarded is checked by the common value which justifies the unequal distribution of rewards. Parsons claims that it is functional and inevitable aspect of society. Role of stratification is functional in managing social order smoothly. Parsons believes that the functionalist theory of stratification is universal because all societies have a system of evaluating the individual qualities and performance. Besides the functional significance parsons have also highlighted some other aspects of social stratification. To him status groups are ranked in the society in accordance with the possession, qualities and performances.

### 15.3.2 Kingsley Davis and W. E. Moore:

Davis and Moore consider social stratification as natural expression of the demands of society. They opine that effective role allocation and role performance is done by the system of stratification in every society. That some positions of society are functionally important which call for special skill and training. Some people are more intelligent than others. The systems of stratification match the functionally important position to the most intelligent person. They present two measures of the importance of a particular position. The first is measured by the degree to which a position is functionally unique, there being no other positions that can perform the same function satisfactorily. The second measure of importance is the degree to which other positions are dependent on the one in question. They further maintain that relative importance of functional positions and intelligent persons justifies the unequal distribution of rewards. Besides, the system provides motivation to the other members of society to work with all efficiency in anticipation of higher position and rewards.

### 15.3.4 Melvin M. Tumin:

Tumin presents a critical reply to Davis and Moore's view on social stratification. His view can be summarized in the following:

1. How to measure the functional importance of a position is a matter of opinion that may differ from person to person and from group to group.
2. He claims that power affects reward distribution rather than functional importance.
3. It is not true to believe that only a few people have intelligence to perform the functionally important roles.
4. The unequal distribution of rewards does not always motivate the talented person.
5. The system of stratification is not essentially integrative. It may be dysfunctional in case of hostility and division among the members of society over the distribution of rewards.

The functionalist theory of stratification is open to many criticisms. First, its claim of universality is questioned. Secondly, Marxist accused the functionalist theory for giving validity to social inequality.

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## 15.4 MARXIST THEORIES OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

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Karl Marx's ideas of stratification are based on social conflict. His theory is the product of industrial capitalism. Marx analyzed social stratification from economic angle. He emphasized the basic importance of the individual or the group in the economic structure. Marx holds that the system of stratification derives from the relationships of social groups to the forces of production. It has three main elements such as system of production, class structure and class struggle. He opines that class structure is the main basis of social stratification. He explains the system in terms of class relations. He defines class as a social group whose members share the same relationship to the forces of production. He opines, criteria other than this relation are not important. He rejects income, occupations and education etc. as the defining basis of a class. Marx opines that in all societies there exists two major classes i.e. a ruling class and a subject class. The power of the ruling class derives from its ownership and control of the forces of production. The ruling class exploits and oppresses the subject class. As a result, there is a basic contradiction between these two classes which can be resolved by the common ownership of the means of production. The various institutions of society serve the interests of the ruling class.

Marx opined that western society has developed through four main epochs, primitive communism, ancient society, feudal society and capitalist society. All the above societies, except primitive communism, are divided into two major classes such as masters and slaves in ancient society, lords and serfs in feudal society and capitalist and wage workers in capitalist society. The masters, lords and capitalists have been exploiting the slaves, serfs and wage earners in their respective epochs. Marx opines that classes emerge due to the existence of the institution of private property and specialized division of labour. Marxist theory of stratification can be understood through the system of production.

The main aim of production is profit. The relationships in the system of production create classes. Marx's ideas about social stratification can be understood by the relationships developed under the system of production and classes. Social relationships and classes determine the individual ideas and action. He cannot escape influence of class. The struggle between the capitalist and wage earner class will give rise to an equalitarian system. The capitalist era differs from other with regard to the exploitation of labour.

Alienation, pauperization and polarization became the defining feature of capitalist society which ultimately results in the establishment of classless society due to the violent struggle of proletariat class. But Marxist theory of social stratification has been subjected to several criticisms. He did not provide an actual account of the structural

differentiations in the modern society. His theory also ignores a number of socio-cultural factors that are very important in the analysis of stratification i.e. lineage, kinship and ethnicity. Marx stratified society into only two classes- the bourgeois and proletariat but many other classes are existed in the society. He placed too much emphasis on economic factors as determinant of class.

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## **15.5 WEBER'S THEORY OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

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German sociologist and philosopher Max Weber was considered as the main critique of Karl Marx. Weber is critical of economic determinism. Both studied the stratification in industrial capitalist societies. Like Marx, Weber also explains capitalism and class structure. His thought is greatly influenced by Marx. In the course of analyzing Marx's theory of stratification, Weber points out its shortcomings and presents his own views as an alternative. But Weber differs from Marx in his approach to social stratification. While Marx gave a unilateral model of stratification by emphasizing the economic factors in the society, Weber also agreed with Marx on some points relating to economic criteria of social stratification.

However, Weber argues that social realities are so complex that we can not reduce all the realities of society to economic interests. Weber opined that unequal distribution of power is the basis of social stratification. Power has three aspects i.e. economic, political and social. These three aspects are manifested in the form of class, status and party. He further opines that these three orders are interrelated. The economic aspect refers to the ways in which goods and services are distributed, whereas political order is concerned with the ways in which power is distributed among the individuals and groups. The social order includes the structure and process of distribution of social prestige. Social prestige is based on mode of livelihood, birth, education, occupation and these are related to social status. In Weber's analysis, class is associated with the economic aspect; status with community and caste system; and power with politics. In order to fully understand the concept of power, it is required to understand its relationship with class and status. The concept of power is associated with both class and status. Weber opines that power is the capacity to influence others.

Weber defines class as a group of individuals who share a similar position in a market economy and by virtue of that fact receive similar economic rewards. A person's class situation is basically his market situation. Those who share a similar class situation also share a similar life chances. Weber rejects dichotomous division of class as suggested by Marx.

He identifies four important classes in capitalist society:



- (1) The propertied upper class
- (2) The property less white collar workers
- (3) The petty bourgeoisie
- (4) The manual working class.

Weber recognizes the importance of criteria other than the ownership or no ownership of property in the formation of classes. He also rejects the Marxian view of polarization of classes and the inevitability of proletarian revolution. He further opines that political power is not necessarily derived from economic power. The economic power is only one possible basis for political power. Other bases of power are status group and parties derived from social and political order. These play important role in the system of social stratification.

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## 15.6 LET US SUM UP

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- The functionalist and the dialectical perspectives have influenced to a large extent the studies of social stratification, particularly caste and class, and these two approaches have also resulted in certain field-work traditions in India. For example, the synchronic analyses have been rooted into the functionalists' perspective giving primacy to equilibrium or harmony of social structures at different levels of stratification. On the other hand social change, replacement/alteration of social structure is the prime concern of the dialectical approach. Social stratification is viewed according to this perspective moving from closed to open or from harmonic to disharmonic system of social relations. 'Integration' is inevitably existent in 'conflict' and vice-versa. 'Harmony' or 'unity' sustains the system, and the process change rekindles the static arrangements of social relations. Social stratification is multidimensional and a 'composite' phenomenon. Structural changes attack established hierarchies and bring about both downward and upward mobility. Differentiated evaluation at the group, family, and individual levels occurs due to basic structural transformation of society.
- Karl Marx's ideas of stratification are based on social conflict. His theory is the product of industrial capitalism. Marx analyzed social stratification from economic angle. He emphasized the basic importance of the individual or the group in the economic structure.
- Weber argues that social realities are so complex that we can not reduce all the realities of society to economic interests. Weber opined that unequal distribution of power is the basis of social stratification. Power has three aspects i.e. economic, political and social. These three aspects are manifested in the form of class, status and party.

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## 15.7 GLOSSARY

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- **Capitalism**-An economic system based on market competition and the pursuit of profit.
- **Kinship**- is the most universal and basic of all human relationships and is based on ties of blood, marriage, or adoption.

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## 15.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1-Who identifies four important classes in capitalist society, i e-

- (1) The propertied upper class
- (2) The property less white collar workers
- (3) The petty bourgeoisie
- (4) The manual working class.

2. Write down Tumin's critique of Functionalism

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**UNIT-16 ELITE THEORY**


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**Structure**

- 16.1 Learning Objectives
- 16.2 Introduction
- 16.3 Pareto: Law of the Circulations of elite
- 16.4 C Wright Mills: The power of Elite
- 16.5 Let Us Sum Up
- 16.6 Glossary
- 16.7 Check Your Progress
- 16.8 References

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**16.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**


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After go through this unit you will be able to-

- Understand the meaning of elite theory
- Explain the contribution of pareto in elite theory
- Explain the contribution of C Wright Mills in elite theory

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**16.2 INTRODUCTION**


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Studies on elites have been one of the largest subject in social sciences particularly in sociology and political sciences. This emphasis is mostly due to undeniable effects and roles of elites in societies developed or developing. Interestingly, most of these studies hardly cover the studies of founder of elite theories. Elite theories introduced not only elites, but also new important subjects like power, and rose questions for example on oligarchical tendencies in democracy. Unfortunately, more studies have been done on elitist theories' ideas on political subjects than their ideas on social thoughts. In this study work on the classic elite theories, namely Pareto's Circulation of Elite, C W Mills. The Power of Elite and I will not get into neither the subject of Power Elite nor elites roles in today's societies particularly in developing countries. Therefore, my focus will be on political elites in the writings of Pareto and Mills.

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**16.3 PARETO: THE LAW OF CIRCULATION OF ELITES**


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Pareto says that people are always governed by elites except short period of time. He rejects a linear progressive evolutionary interpretation of history and social change. For him, "History of men is the history of the continues replacement of certain elites as

one ascends another declines, such is the real phenomenon, though to us it may often appear under another form" (Pareto 1968, p.36). The notion of elite had been known before Pareto. He himself also used Kolabinska's study, who was also one of Pareto's student, "La Circulation des Elites en France" as a reference source. To Pareto elites are those people who possess in marked degree qualities of intelligence, character, capacity, of what ever kind. More precisely if we grade every individual regardless of any ethical judgment, according to their branch activity and occupation in the society, we find at each grade level there will be a certain amount of individuals that consists of a class. In this class hierarchy, people who are in the class which is on the top of the other classes are called, "elite".

Then, Pareto classifies social classes by taking elites as a stratum. Elites represent the higher stratum, the others, namely non-elites are thought as the lower stratum. He further emphasizes and divides it into subgroups, because for him, there is no one elite stratum. There are various strata in it and all of them constitute the elite stratum.

The main strata in elite stratum are

- (a) governing elite that consists of rest of the individuals who directly or indirectly have a considerable role in government;
- (b) non-governing elite that consists of rest in the elite stratum;
- (c) political elite that effectively and particularly, exercise political power.

The elite or upper stratum or aristocracy (Pareto uses these terms interchangeably) contains a certain number of people, but it cannot be sharply defined because social classes like societies are not homogeneous and they are not entirely distinct to each other even in a caste system and particularly in societies where class circulation is extremely rapid like modern societies.

Pareto examines structure and change of elites rather than non elites. This is mostly due to availability of historical data according to him. Elites and nonelites are not stable, they are subject to change. New elites rise and takes old elite's place. This change is called the law of circulation of elites by Pareto. He says "elites" or aristocrats do not last. They live or take position in a certain time. "History", he says, "is a graveyard of aristocracies" ( Pareto 1935, p. 1430). In course of the time, elites undergo a change when elite member's composition change or their descendants do not have qualities to be elite; or, infiltration of extraneous elements from lower classes and another society, or, changes in legal rights in society like extension of right of citizenship that gives an opportunity for non-elites to move up.

Rising and declining of the elites take place at the same time. Generally, there are two signs that show elites are declining:

- (1) declining elite becomes softer, milder, more humane and less apt to defend its own power; and
- (2) elites loss its rapacity and greed for the goods of others, but rather tends as much as possible to increase its unlawful appropriations and indulge in major usurpation of the national patrimony (Pareto 1968, p. 59).

In contrast new rising elites are active, stronger and dedicated in character. The circulation of elites in ruling class is more clear than general circulation of elite. Governing or ruling elite is always in a state of slow and continuous transformation. The transformation is basically based on change in residues of ruling elite. Change in the proportion of Class I (combinations) and class II (Persistence of aggression) residues leads to replacement of ruling elite. Because relative proportions of class I and class II residues principally determine social equilibrium, and make possible for elite to stay in power. In course of time, ruling class becomes weak in class II residues and loose its strength. In this case, people who are strong in class II residues rise upwards into the governing class either by gradual infiltrations (class circulation) or in sudden spurt through revolution.

Ruling class follows various ways to protect itself from the threats of non-elites such as using force; death; capital punishment, financial ruin, exclusion from public offices, exile and ostracism. On the other hand, ruling class recruit the individuals from lower strata in order to fulfill its gap in both Class I and Class II residues and also eliminate the individuals who are potential threat for ruling class itself. Recruitment must be controlled otherwise it can lead corruption of ruling class because when one moves up, he also brings his inclinations, sentiments and attitudes. Another way to control ruled class is device.

Considering means to control the subject classes, Pareto divides political elites into two groups: (1) "foxes" who are strong in Class I residues and

(2) "lions" who are strong in Class II residues.

While foxes prefer to rule through cooperation, diplomatic intrigue, and deviousness, Hons prefer to rule through the use of force (Powers 1987, p 41). Foxes and Hons live under any type of political structure; their attitudes are not affected or shaped by the form of government. He says "Whatever the form of government, men holding power have as a rule a certain inclination to use that power to keep themselves in the saddle, and, to abuse it to secure personal gains and advantages" (Pareto 1935, p. 1608).

In fact, all governments use force but no government can rule by depending solely on force. Theories designed by ruling class and derivations are used to convince the subject classes to obey the government, and, to justify government policies, and, to use visible force like army, and, invisible force like political machine. In addition to these, sentiments of superiority and inferiority are used to keep ruled class in order.

General condition of society is of particular importance for the ruling class's position. When a governing elite establishes its control over the subject classes by using force and providing great wealth, the ruling class survive sometime without using power, but it also survives by granting its adversaries, in terms of money, dignity and respect. Bargaining, concessions, and deceive are also this kind of policies. Economic prosperity not only keeps the ruling class in power and makes easy to govern society than period of depression, but also affects the type of political regimes. For example, in prosperity periods, there is a tendency to shift from oligarchic regimes to democratic regimes.

On the other hand, general conditions of society shape the type of circulation of elites: soft and violent. Soft replacement of elites comes through the change of supply to and demand for certain social needs or elements. For example, when there is a war, more soldiers are required. Rising armies and military elites change the balance among the social classes and diminish the power of old elites. It happened in Europe when rising of strong military armies collapsed aristocracies.

Violent circulation of elites is via revolutions. Accumulations in elite strata and failing to use force by political class lead to revolutions, when elements of superior quality in lower class come to fore and this lower class is willing to use force. The battle between ruling class and ruled class is always subject to manipulations. Both sides, old elite and new elites, declare that they are not fighting or working for their interests but for the good of the many. Of course when the victory is achieved, one side loses and other side gains.

After this political revalry, who wins, will get the lion's share of the distribution of wealth, power, prestige in the society. The type of policy necessary to get these goals will be employed including force. Elites particularly ruling class, are well aware of heterogeneity of individuals, unequal distribution of material, and non-material assets in the society, and their interests. Further more, in contrast to masses, ruling elite involves more logical actions than illogical, that makes elites more flexible and awake for their own interests.

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## 16.4 C WRIGHT MILLS: THE POWER OF ELITE

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C. Wright Mills was a social-conflict theorist who argued that a simple few individuals within the political, military and corporate realms actually held the majority of power within the United States and that these few individuals made decisions that resounded throughout all American lives. To look at an example of the hierarchy of power, imagine a triangle with the executive branch, military leaders and corporate leaders at the top; interest group leaders, legislators and local political leaders in the middle; and, then, the common masses (the everyday people) at the bottom.

Mills wrote *The Power Elite*, identifying certain individuals as the 'national upper class' that own most of the country's wealth, run its banks and corporations, are in control of the universities and mass media and staff some of the highest ranking positions within government and courts.

Mills further explained that these elites often move fluidly between positions within the three controlling realms. For example, Hillary Clinton moved from the position of first lady to that of senator to secretary of state. Mitt Romney moved from the corporate world to governor and even presidential candidate. Mills noted that these power elite usually were people who interacted with each other regularly and typically held the same political and economic views or agendas.

Many power elite theorists actually argue that there is not such a thing as a true democracy because these few individuals have so much power that the wishes of the average people cannot be heard. These theorists believe that those at the top are so distant from the average people and that they are so powerful that there isn't any true competition for them. Thus, they usually tend to get what they want.

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## 16.5 LET US SUM UP

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- To Pareto elites are those people who possess in marked degree qualities of intelligence, character, capacity, of what ever kind. More precisely if we grade every individual regardless of any ethical judgment, according to their branch activity and occupation in the society, we find at each grade level there will be a certain amount of individuals that consists of a class. In this class hierarchy, people who are in the class which is on the top of the other classes are called, "elite".
- Mills wrote *The Power Elite*, identifying certain individuals as the 'national upper class' that own most of the country's wealth, run its banks and corporations, are in control of the universities and mass media and staff some of the highest ranking positions within government and courts.

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## 16.6 GLOSSARY

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- **Aristocracy** -government by a relatively small privileged class or by a minority consisting of those presumed to be best qualified to rule.
- **Accumulation**-defines neoliberal capitalist policies that result in a centralization of wealth and power in the hands of a few by dispossessing the public and private entities of their wealth or land.

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## 16.7 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- 1-Who divides political elites into two groups: (1) "foxes" (2) "lions".
- 2- Who wrote The Power Elite?

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## 16.8 REFERENCES

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