

Elements of society

Society is an interdependent arrangement amongst members who remain motivated by the we-feeling.

- Human society is unique in several respects.
- In order to interpret the society we examine the basic elements which constitute society:
 - Likeness of members
 - Reciprocal awareness
 - Inter dependence of members
 - Co-operation
 - Society also implies difference
- **LIKENESS OF MEMBERS:**
 - MacIver Says, " Society means likeness".
 - Likeness is the one element which must have strongly stimulated the group feelings in bringing men, women and children together.
 - It is likeness or similarity, which provides for understanding each by the other
 - It is the primary basis of mutuality.
- **RECIPROCAL AWARENESS:**
 - Likeness is related to reciprocity

- Social relations exist between the mother and the child, the teacher and the thought are determined by reciprocal awareness. Without this awareness, there can be no social relationship, and therefore no society.
- This makes the ‘we-feeling’
- **INTER DEPENDENCE OF MEMBERS**
 - Interdependence of members in a social group is its basic character. This is both due to the likeness of members and also due to their reciprocal response to each other.
 - A Human being cannot live alone. He needs the help of others for his survival. Society fulfills all the needs of the people.
- **CO-OPERATION**
 - Co-operation is growing affect of likeness, reciprocal awareness and interdependence of members
 - Without co-operation, no society can exist. If the members of the society do not cooperate and work together, they cannot lead a happy and comfortable life.
 - P.Gisbert says, “Co-operation is the most elementary process of social life without which society is impossible”.
- **SOCIETY ALSO IMPLIES DIFFERENCE**
 - Everyone in the society are not equally treated, society also implies some differences
 - Such distinctions are of wealth, there are people who are very rich, very poor, and middle class.
 - Every people show many difference in income, education, culture and tradition.

SUBDIVISIONS OF SOCIETY

Society is divided into:

- Organization
- Association
- Community
- Institution

Organization

The term 'organization' means an arrangement of persons or parts.

There are many kinds of organizations. An organization differs from group or association in the sense that group or association refer to two or more persons held together for the pursuit of some specific objective, while organization refers to the coordinated social relationships among independent parts or groups.

Thus family, church, college, factory, a play group, a political party are all examples of an organization. In all these cases there is an arrangement of persons or parts are inter-related and independent. They function in a coordinated manner to accomplish a goal. The members are assigned fixed tasks and responsibilities according to their status and role.

Elements of organization:

- ❖ A goal
- ❖ Preparedness to accept ones role and status
- ❖ Norms and mores
- ❖ Sanctions
- ❖ A Goal:
 - The members of an organization are inter –elates to each other for the pursuit of a common goal.
 - They have unity of interest
 - In the absence of such unity they will fall apart and the organization would come to an end.

E.g.: In a family all the members are interrelated o each other for the realization of the family's happiness. As soon as the unity is lost the family disintegrates.

The same can be said for a political group, the political party can survive only as long as the members remain united.

❖ Preparedness to accept ones role and status:

- Organization is the arrangement of persons and parts.
- By arrangement is meant that every member of the organization has an assigned role, a position and status.
- They should be prepared to accept their role and do act which the role assigned to them expects of them.

E.g.: college principle- the word ‘principal’ designates a position. His assigned role is to carry the administration of the college. Role is the behavior expected of him. In accordance to his role he enjoys a status.

❖ Norms and mores:

- Every organization has its norms and mores which control its members.
- Norms are the socially approved ways of behavior.
- An organization can function smoothly if its members follow the organizations norms.
- What a person is or is not supposed to do, is laid down by the norms of the group to which it belongs

E.g.: A college can realize its objective i.e. imparting knowledge: when its different parts the teachers and the students follow the college norms. This can be explained by how students of the college have to wear their id cars everyday and the students have dress codes.

❖ Sanctions:

- Every organization has a system of sanctions which support its norms.
- If a member does not follow the norms then he is compelled to follow them through sanctions which can range from warning to physical punishments.

E.g.: A student can be expelled from college if the rules are not followed. A worker may be dismissed from service in case he acts against the factory norms.

Association

Association is a group that people choose to join, in which members are united by the pursuit of a common goal. Some voluntary associations operate on the local level, like the parent-teacher association, and even statewide level, such as a campaign to reelect a particular state politician. Associations can be temporary or permanent.

According to MacIver, an association is an organization deliberately formed for the collective pursuit of some interest or set of interests, which its members share.

Thus trade unions, music club are associations. There are both temporary associations like flood relief association and permanent association like state.

Characteristics of association:

- ❖ A group of people
- ❖ These people must be the organized ones i.e. there must be rules for their conduct in the group
- ❖ They must have a common purpose of specific nature to pursue

E.g.: Family, church, trade union, music club are all instances of association.

Community

According to MacIver community is ' an area of social living marked by some degree of social coherence.

A community can be big or small .A big community such as a nation will contain a number of small communities and groups with more close bonds of unity and more common qualities. Smaller communities like village or neighborhoods are the examples of the primitive world. Both types of communities, big or small, are essential to the full development of life. While big communities provide peace and protection, the smaller communities provide friends and friendship.

Elements of community:

- ❖ Group of people
- ❖ Locality
- ❖ Community sentiment
- ❖ Permanency
- ❖ Naturality
- ❖ Likeness
- ❖ Particular name
- ❖ No legal status
- ❖ Size of community

- ❖ Group of people:
 - Community is a group of people
 - Whenever individuals live together in such a way that they share the basic conditions of a common life we call them forming a community.

- ❖ Locality:

- A group of people form a community when it begins to reside in a definite locality.
- The area need not be fixed forever.
- The people may change their area of habitation from time to time just as a nomadic community does.
- However most communities are now settled and derive a strong bond with the conditions of their locality.

❖ Community sentiment:

- Community sentiment means a feeling of belonging together.
- In modern times this sentiment very much lacks among the people occupying the specific local area.

E.g.: In big cities a man does not know even know his next door neighbor.

❖ Permanency:

- A community is not a transitory like crowd.
- It is a permanent life in a definite place.

❖ Naturality:

- Communities are not made or created.
- It is natural
- An individual is born in a community.

❖ Likeness:

In community there is likeness in language, customs, mores, etc.

❖ A particular name:

- Every community has a particular name.

E.g.: people living in Punjab are called Punjabis or people living in Kashmir are called Kashmiris.

❖ No legal status:

- A community is not a legal person
- It cannot sue or be sued
- In the eyes of the law, it has no rights and duties.

❖ Size of community:

- A community may be big or small
- Smaller communities like villages or neighborhoods are the examples of the primitive world.

- Both big and small communities are essential to the full development of life.
- Larger communities provide peace and protection
- Smaller communities provide friends and friendship.

Institution

Institutions are established as a social order and cooperation governing the behavior of a set of individuals within a given community. They include the family, education, religion, and economic and political institutions. Social inequalities get fixed in social institutions.

Characteristics of institutions:

- ❖ Institutions are the means of controlling individuals
- ❖ Institutions depend upon the collective activities of man
- ❖ Institution is more stable than other means of social control
- ❖ Every institution has rules to be followed
- ❖ The institution has some proceedings which are formed on the basis of customs and dogmas.

TYPES OF SOCIETY

- Our planet is made up of different Societies
- Main types of Society:
 - Tribal – e.g.: Africa
 - Agrarian – e.g.: India
 - Industrial – e.g.: America

TRIBAL SOCIETY

- Main Activity: Hunting and Food gathering
- Tribe is a group of people having common name, religion territory or culture.
- Chief Characteristics:
 - ❖ Sense of unity
 - ❖ Blood Relationship
 - ❖ Political organization

- ❖ Importance of Religion
- ❖ Common territory, name and language.
- Tribe is different from Caste

Tribe

- Territorial group
- Originated on the basis of division of labor.
- Political Organization
- Social group
- Originated because of the evolution of community.
- Not a Political Organization