

**UNIT 1**  
**BASIC**  
**CONCEPTS**  
**OF**  
**SOCIOLOGY**

- Sociology is the youngest member of the social science
- The term 'Sociology' was coined by Auguste Comte, a French philosopher in his book 'The course of Positive Philosophy' in 1838.
- The word 'Sociology' is derived from the Latin word 'societus' which means 'society', 'companion' or 'associate' and the Greek word 'logos' which means 'study or science'. Thus etymological meaning of sociology is 'the scientific study of society' or 'science of society'.
- It is study of man's behaviour in groups and in the society as a whole.
- Prof. Ginsbers defines it as "the study of society, which is the web of human inter-actions and inter-relations."

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- In other words, sociology is the scientific study of man's behaviour in groups(family, school, etc) or of the human relationships, social institutions and the social processes within their environment as environment greatly determines and influences social interactions and activities. For e.g. people near a lake(environment) become fishermen and eat fish (activity) during their socialization ceremonies.
- -Auguste Comte is considered to be the "father of sociology" not only because he was the first person to use the word sociology in print in 1839, but also the one who emphasised and established sociology as a scientific discipline.
- -However, John Stuart Mill, a social thinker and philosopher of the 19<sup>th</sup> century proposed the word 'ethology' for this new science. But later on, Herbert Spencer developed his systematic study of society and adopted the word 'Sociology'.
- -It became permanent name.
- -Comte in his famous book stressed the need for creation of distinct science.

- -It was indeed the very word 'science' used by Comte which became a great attraction for all the great intellectuals, scholars, philosophers etc.
- -science then, the practice applying scientific methods to study and understand about society and its problems' actions and reactions, causes and effects of social events began.
- -In fact, it is the use of scientific methods that has made Sociology of great importance today and is helping us to study and understand society and human actions (activities) systematically and scientifically.

# Definition of Sociology

There is no single standard definition of sociology. However, some well-established definitions are

“Sociology is the general science of society.”-Kingsley Davis

“Sociology is the science of social phenomenon subject to natural and invariable (constant) laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation.”-  
Herbert Spencer

“Sociology is the science of collective behaviour.”-R.E. Park and F.W. Burgess

From different definitions, we can find the following views

- science of society
- science of social relationships
- study of social life
- study of human behaviour in groups
- study of social action

- -study of forms of social relationships
- -study of social groups or social systems

# Nature/characteristics/features of Sociology

- There is still a debate concerning the real nature of sociology
- Robert Bierstedt in his book 'The social order' has mentioned some characteristics of sociology as
- Independent science
  - Social Science not a physical science
  - categorical(positive) and not a normative discipline
  - Pure not an Applied science
  - relatively abstract science not a concrete science
  - Generalizing and not a Particularizing science
  - General science and not a special social science
  - Both Rational and an Empirical Science

# Scope of sociology

- Every science has its own scope i.e. own areas of study or field inquiry.
  - It doesn't mean possible areas or jobs
  - Its scope is wider
- Difficult to use science systematically unless its boundaries are fixed.
  - Controversy about its scope
- Some try to fix it and others are against it.

There are two main schools of thought

## 1. Specialistic or formalistic school

- Sociology should be studied only in the form of social interactions and relationships, its content and matter.
- George Simmel is the founder and Max Weber, Van Wier, Tönnies, and Weber also advocated this thought



- Criticism
- a.Narrowing down the scope to merely social relationships leaving their contents of whole social life.
- b.Impractical without use of other social sciences.
- c.Its not only science to study social relations.

- 2.Synthetic School
- -It is synthesis(combination) of the social sciences.
- -Cant study or understand society from one aspect.
- -scope should not be limited
- -Advocated by Emile Durkheim,Morris Gins berg,P.A. Sorokin,L.T. Hobhouse,karl Mannheim and Alex Inkles

- Different opinion are described below
- a.Emile Durkheim
- -The chief exponent
- -Opines that it has three main divisons
- i)Social Morphology(study of social structure)-includes all those subjects which are basically geographic such as population size,quality,density,distribution,mobility etc.as much as it affects the qualities of social relationships and social groups.

- ii) Social Physiology (study of social action) - includes branches or subjects which are studied by particular social sciences such as sociology of law, religion etc. which are regarded as special sociologies
- iii) General Sociology - includes philosophical part that aims discovering the general character of social facts and to formulate general social laws.

# Subject Matter of sociology

What is the subject matter of Sociology?(Major concerns of sociology)

There are various views regarding the subject matter of sociology. In fact sociology borrows its subject matter from other social sciences and gives a completely new form by using its own tools and techniques. Along with time, sociologists are exploring and expanding their study on wide new aspects of society, therefore there is no any limitation of the subject matter of sociology. However, the subject matter of sociology is the society (i.e. social groups, institutions, social interactions and social change) rather than the individual.

But ever since the emergence of sociology as a discipline, sociologists have shown a great concern in human social behaviour and in the dynamics of society. It means that they have been engaging themselves in analyzing human society and culture. While trying to study and analyse society, sociologists have developed different perspectives and approaches from time to time.

- The subject matter of sociology are as follows;
- 1.Sociological Analysis-Sociologists seek to provide an analysis of human society and culture with sociological perspective and attempt is made to analyze the factors or forces underlying historical transformation of society.
- 2.Study of primary units of social life-Sociology has given sufficient attention to the study of primary units of social life such as social acts and social relationship i.e.love and care,individual personality,groups (including ethnic,class etc.),communities(urban and rural),associations ,organization,population,etc
- 3.Study of basic social institutions-Sociology is attempt to understand the development,structure and function of a wide variety of basic social institutions such as marriage,family,kinship which are micro-social institutions and religion,economy,polity,education,recreational and welfare institutions etc are macro-social institutions.

- 4. Study of social process-Sociology has due concern to fundamental social processes such as co-operation, competition, differentiation and stratification, accommodation and assimilation, social conflict, socialization, deviance (crime, suicide etc), social control, social change, social integration, social evaluation (study of values), etc.
- 5. Formulation of concepts, propositions and theories-In order to understand social phenomena, sociological study tries to formulate concept, propositions and theories which in turn help in conducting further study.
- 6. Method of Research-In order to conduct scientific sociological research various methods like observation, questionnaire, interview, case study, etc are applied and considered vital. That is why contemporary sociology has tended to become more and more rational and empirical rather than philosophical and idealistic.

- 7.Specialization in study-In trying to resolve the problem specific social aspects,sociology tries to carry out its study on specific area of social life.For eg,sociology of religion,law,urban,rural,industrial,etc.can help find out specific nature of social life of people living in different area of society.

# Sociology(Nature) as a science

## Reasons for saying science

1. Use of scientific Methods for data/information collection-Absence of laboratory like in the natural science but various basic methods of scientific investigation such as observation, comparison, questionnaires, etc are used.
2. Concept of lab
3. Prediction
4. Cause and effect relationship
5. Scientific Approach to study
6. Generalization



# Limitations of Sociology as a science(i.e. critical approach)

- 1.Unreliable open laboratory concept
- 2.Lacks experimentation
- 3.Lack of objectivity
- 4.Unpredictability
- 5.Lack of generalization
- 6.Inadequate terminology

# The emergence(origin)of Sociology as a scientiic/scholarly/Academic Discipline

Sociology is a young science and also a new discipline. The fact is that in the writings of philosophers, religious teachers and legislators of all the civilizations and epochs, their observations and ideas are relevant to modern sociology. In this regard, Kautilya's Arthashastra and Aristotle's 'politics' analyze political systems in ways which are still of interest to the sociologists of today. Various historical, socio-political and economic situations responsible for the emergence of it

1. Ancient philosophers contribution: The Greek philosophers like Plato, Aristotle and others described the very nature of society and emphasized on the solution of the problems of the society in order to make society a better place to live in. However, they couldn't give the concrete solution at last.

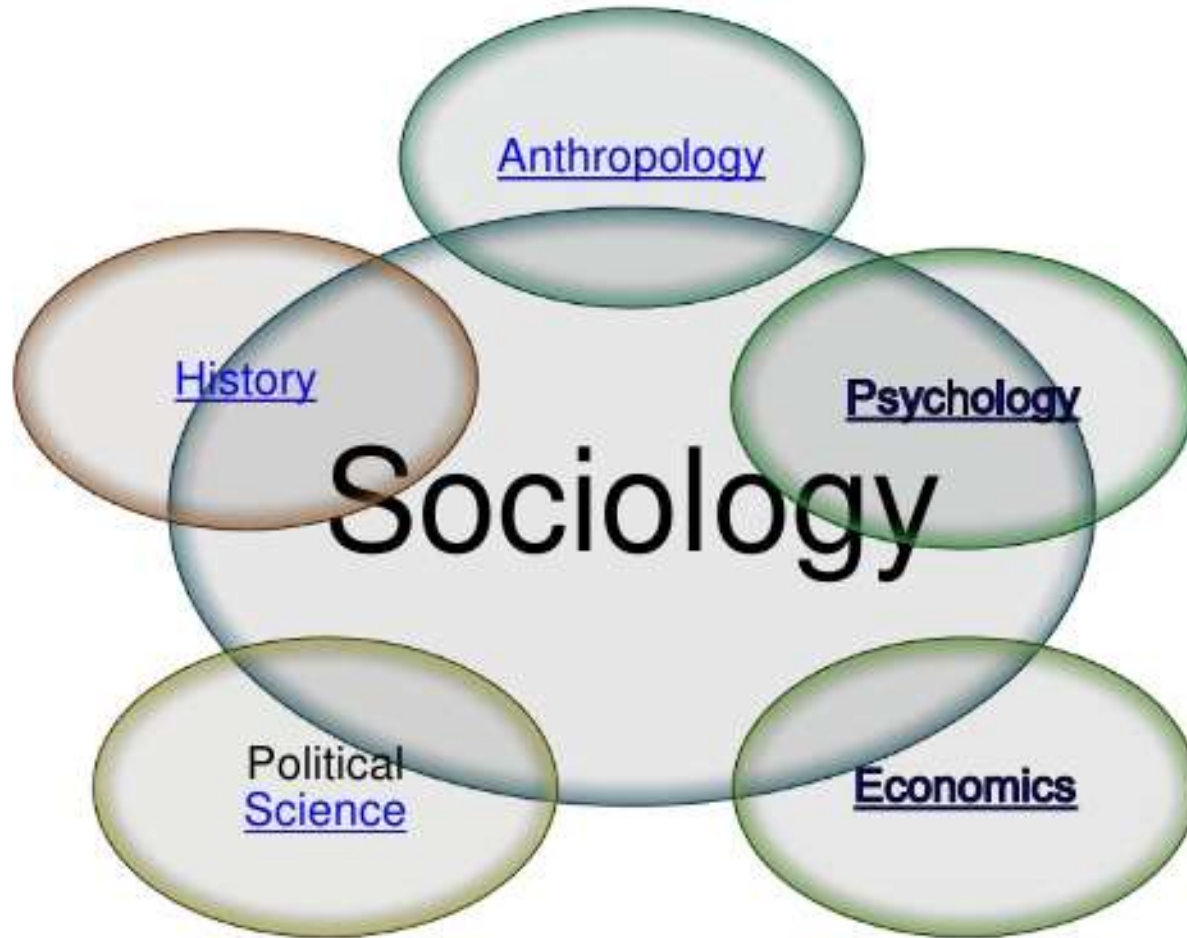
- 2.Reformation movement:New ideas in religion in 16<sup>th</sup> century Europe that led to attempts to reform Roman catholic church which,in turn,led to the formation of the Protestant churches and that challenged the very orthodoxy of the Christianity.
- 3.French Political Revolution(1789-1799):Established thought of Equality,Freedom,Faternity and overthrew monarchy.
- 4.The Enlightenment Movement(Age of reason):17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century,particularly 1685-1815A.D. when many writers argued that science and reason were more important.
- 5.Industrial revolution:It began in the 1760-1840 in europe(i.e. Great Britain) with introduction of steam engine and machines.It made various progress but also triggered various problems.With the advancement of social science,it was acknowledged that these existing social problems could be studied under the methods of social survey,which is adopted by sociology.

- All these above mentioned events created events which inspired Auguste Comte to develop a discipline to study society and the thinking was developed which was called positivism which was developed by four founding fathers of sociology- Comte, Durkheim, Spencer, Weber.

- When Emile Durkheim published a book called 'Methods of Sociology', the idea of application of fundamentals of science in the study of society or human affairs got recognized and was greatly consolidated in Sociological study. All of these facts made sociology a scientific discipline.
- Soon after, the teaching of sociology as a separate discipline started in 1876 in U.S., in 1889 in France, in 1907 in Great Britain, after World War I in Poland and India, in 1925 in Egypt and Mexico, in 1947 in Sweden and in 1981 in Nepal.

# Relationship of Sociology to other Social Sciences

er social



- Social sciences deal with the social universe or social phenomena or events in general. sociology is similar with all other sciences as just like other social sciences, it employs the scientific methods and its major aim is the production of scientific knowledge. Sociology is related to other social sciences in that all of them have more or less similar subject matter, they all in one way or the other study society, human culture, social phenomena, and aim at discovering the laws that govern the social world. However, sociology differs from other social sciences in terms of its focus of study, approach of study, and the method of study.

# Relationship of sociology with economics

Both have close relations,as often one is treated as branch of the other.

## Inter-relationships

- i.Both are interested in studying economic problems of the people and also their means of earning and spending.Both provide data and also help each other in finding out and solving social and economic problems.
- ii.Distribution and production of goods,which is the field of study of economists,must be studied after taking into consideration the social needs.
- iii.Sociologists have contributed to the study of different aspects of economic organisation.A sociologist provides knowledge of property system,division of labour,occupations,industrial organisation,etc,to an economist.Matters as labour relations,standard of living,employer-employee relations,social classes,socio-economic planning ,socio-economic reforms,etc,are common to both economists and sociologists.



- iv. The area of co-operation between sociology and economics is Economists are now analysing the social factors influencing economic growth. Economists are working with the sociologists in their study of the problems of economic development in underdeveloped countries. Economists are more and more making use of the sociological concepts and generalisations in the study of economic problems.
- v. Further, there are certain socio-economic problems of greater importance to be studied by both economists and sociologists. Such problems like poverty, beggary, unemployment, over-population and unregulated industrialisation have both social and economic implications. Combined studies of both the experts in this regard may be of great practical help in addressing the challenges.

# Difference between sociology and economics

| S.N | Sociology                                   | Economics                      |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Science of society and social relationships | Science of wealth and choice   |
| 2   | Much younger science                        | Comparatively an older science |

# Relationship between sociology and psychology

## Inter-relationships

- Both deal with human beings.
- Sociological explanations could be made firmly established through psychological explanations i.e. human behaviour can be explained clearly in the social context.
  - Social psychology serves as a bridge between psychology and sociology
    - Social psychology helps to face social problems

# Differences

| S.N | sociology   | psychology               |
|-----|---|--------------------------|
| 1.  | Science of society and human interactions and relationships | Science of mind          |
| 2   | No primary interest in individual                           | Individual unit of study |

# Relationship of sociology and anthropology

## Inter-relationships

- Sociologists depend upon anthropologists to understand the present day social phenomena because anthropology provides knowledge of the past meaning that knowledge of history tells how the present society came into existence.
- Without the help of anthropology, the sociological study cannot be complete as origin of family, the beginning of marriage, private property, the origin of religion etc can be better understood.
- Borrows various concepts from anthropology and make the understanding of various society through comparative study.
  - Anthropology and sociology are organized into single department in many universities like in T.U. before some years

| S.N | Sociology                                      | Anthropology  |
|-----|--|---|
| 1   | Science of society and social relationships    | Science of man and his behaviour                              |
| 2   | Studies modern civilized and complex societies | Studies ancient, simple, primitive and non-literate societies |

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**Makes use of various method and techniques of investigation like observation,interview,social survey,etc**

**Generally go directly and live in the community they study and make use of direct observations and interviews.**

# Relationship of sociology with political science

## Inter-relationships

- According to Morris Ginsberg "Historically, sociology has its main roots in politics and philosophy of history". It has greatly benefited from the books of political science.
  - 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 social changes brought by change in political system or nature of power structure sociology takes help of political science.
  - Almost all political problems have social cause so it needs help of sociology.
- Rules, regulations and laws cannot be made by state without the basis of sociological background.
- War, authority, communal riots and law are common topics and political sociology comes into existence by help of both.



# Difference

| S.N. | Sociology                                  | Political science               |
|------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Science of society and social relationship | Science of state and government |
| 2    | Young science                              | Older science                   |
|      |  |                                 |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | <b>Studies both formal and informal relations</b> | <b>Studies only formal relations</b>                |
| 9 | Deals with all forms of association               | Deals with only one form of association named state |

# Relationship of sociology and history

## Inter-relationships

- History provides records of past events
- Sociology provides the background for study of past events
  - History can be studied from sociological angle

# Differences

| S.N. | Sociology                       | History                    |
|------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1    | Concerned with preasent society | Concerned with past events |
| 2    | New subject                     | Older subject              |
| 3    | General subject                 | Special subject            |

# Relationship of sociology with computer science

1. Sociology for computer science
  - i. Sociology can assess the need of culturally appropriate computer
  - ii. Sociology studies how it affects culture , social organization and social relationships
  - iii. Sociologists are concerned about how technological society will be forced to adapt to social changes brought by technological advancements.

- Sociology is used to understand human behaviour , the attitude of humans with computer and this knowledge is used by computer professionals when making artificial intelligence

# Significance or use of sociology

- It can help identify social needs which help in planning and distribution of resources .
- Helps management professionals to understand the various aspects of society as business is also a part of society.
- It helps in maintaining national solidarity as it can provide knowledge about multi – ethnic , multi – cultural ,multi –lingual and multi - religious character of society

- Knowledge about cultural heritage helps in the conservation of those heritage
- It helps to find out the cause – effect relation behind various social problems.
- Sociology in one way promotes responsibility of a person as member of society and in other way promotes harmony and unity , therefore helping in the reduction of social frictions and tentions.



- It helps in identifying gaps existing between theory and practice in tackling social , economic and other problems. For e.g. in Nepal , sociologists have analyzed the acts and laws against caste discrimination and its influence in real life
- It helps to find new social problems that society is likely to face.

# Branches of sociology

- Theoretical sociology
- Applied sociology
- Historical sociology
- Sociology of knowledge
- Criminology
- Sociology of education

- Political sociology
- Sociology of religion
- Sociology of economy
- Rural sociology
- Urban sociology
- Sociology of demography

- Sociology of culture
- Sociology of family
- Medical sociology and many more

## UNIT 2

# Basic Concepts in sociology

# Society

## Meaning of society

Derived from latin word 'socius' which means 'association, companionship, togetherness'. Thus, society refers to a group of people living together with shared cultures, having social interactions and inter-relationships.

Society has been viewed as a system, made up of inter-related and inter-dependent parts that function together to maintain the system as a whole.

- “society is the union itself, the organisation, the sum of formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together.” - A. Giddings

## Basic features or characteristics or nature of a society

Society is viewed as a process as well as structure which are complementary to each other . It means that society exists only when they behave to each other and it is a structure as it is made up of web or network of relationships among the people and institutions. Society has the following basic features as follows;

1. Grouping of people
2. Common culture
3. Mutual interaction and mutual awareness
4. Likeness and similarities among members
5. Difference among the members
6. Possess social control
7. Division of labor

8 sense of identity and belongingness among the members

9 interdependence among the members

10 society is dynamic

Types or categories of societies

According to level of economic and technological development

- First world
- Second world
- Third world



According to major source of economic organization

1. pre-industrial society or pre-modern society

- Hunting and gathering societies: simplest society, hunting and gathering for survival
- Pastoral and horticultural societies: pasturing of animals, cultivating plants by simple tools
  - Agricultural or Agrarian societies: large scale agriculture, based on large-scale agriculture, which largely depends on ploughs using animal labor.

## 2. Industrial or modern or technological society

Industrial revolution gave rise of it, goods produced by machines powered by fuel

## 3. Post-industrial society

Based on IT, services and high technologies like AI, USA, Canada, Japan, and Western Europe has reached this stage.

# Differences between Pre-industrial and industrial society

| Pre-industrial society   | Industrial society                               |
|--|--|
| Social structure is comparatively simple. simple division of labour mostly based in age and sex. | Complex social structure and division of labour. |

**Social life occurs domination of primary groups such as family, kinship, small communities, etc so social relationships are intimate and emotional.**

**Social life occurs in the context of secondary groups and large anonymous urban communities so social relationships are non-intimate, impersonal and with little or no emotional involvement**

Homogeneous culture as the ways of thinking, behaving, dressing, conversing, believing, etc. resemble among the members. unity and uniformity in social life are largely visible.

Heterogeneous culture as there is diversity and pluralistic values, outlooks, opinions and beliefs.

# Population size and distribution

- Concept of Demography
- The term demography is derived from two words 'demos' meaning 'people' and 'graphy' meaning 'to study'. Hence it is the scientific study of the population of a specific place in a particular period of time.

- It focuses on the statistical and mathematical study of population size , regional distribution , composition and population change.
- The calculation of population growth rate , population doubling time , infant mortality rate , maternal mortality rate , crude birth rate , crude death rate , sex ratio ,dependency ratio , etc all fall under demography.

- Although , the British intellectual ,John Graunt initiated the study of demography in 1662 A.D. due to which he is known as the ‘father of demographic studies’ the term ‘demography’ was first used by the Belgian statistician ‘Achille Guillard’ in 1855 A.D.



- The population education i.e. demographic study as an academic discipline was developed during the period of 1960-1970 A.D.
- Population education as an educational programme makes the individuals aware about the effects and consequences of the population growth.
- From the demographic study , a clear-cut idea about the population situation can be visualized and the plans and policies can be made for the existing population for their progress and development . Therefore , demography is very important.

## Demographic components

The most important important demographic components include

- Birth
- Death
- Migration

These three components determine the population change of any place or country. Therefore , they are called the 'determinants of population change'.

## Major sources of population statistics

- Primary sources: census, vital registration , sample surveys, Administrative records.
- Secondary sources: organizations and institutions , books, journal, newspaper

# Demographic composition of Nepal

According to 2011 A.D. census

## 1. Population size , growth and distribution

Population size 26,494,504

Annual average population growth rate 1.35percent

Terai had 50.27, hills had 43 and mountain had 6.73percent population.

## 2. Caste/Ethnicity

There are 125 caste/ethnic groups reported in the census 2011. chetteri 16.6, brahmin –hill 12.2, Magar 7.1, tharu 6.6, tamang -5.8, newar-5.0, kami-4.8 ,musalman-4.4,yadav-4.0, rai-2.3, gurung 1.9 ,damai/dholi-1.8 ,etc.

### 3. Mother tongue

There are 123 languages Nepali 44.4, Maithali 11.7 etc.

### 4. Population composition on the basis of occupation

Population of every country can be divided into various groups according to their occupation. In Nepal

Agriculture 60.43, Service-8.29, Trade 8.07, production 2.22, technical 2.09, others 2.09

## 5. Age status of population

0-14 34.6, 15-64 61.0, 65 and above 4.40 percentage

The age of the population has impact on a nation's key socio-economic issues. Countries where population of youth under age 15 is high, they must have to invest more in schools in comparison with the countries with high old aged populations. They have to invest more in health.

## 6. Working age population

The working age population (aged 15 to 59 years) has increased from 54 percent in 2001 to about 57 percent in 2011 shows demographic dividend or surplus.

## 7. Sex ratio

Sex ratio is has decreased from 99.8 in 2001 to 94.2 in 2001 . It means there are 796,422 more femals than males the country.



## 8. Population density

180 while 4416 in kathmandu and 3 in manang

## 9. Household size

It has decreased from 5.44 in 2001 to 4.88 in 2011 while 6.44 in rautahat and 3.92 in kaski

## 10. Literacy

Overall literacy rate (for population aged 5 years and above) has increased from 54.1 in 2001 to 65.9 in 2011. male 75.1 and female 57.4 while kathmandu 86.3 and rautahat 41.7.

## 11. Religion

Ten types of religions are recorded in Nepal.

## 12. Absentee population who have migrated above

At least one member in every four households and 44.81 percent are of 15 to 24 years age group.

## 13. Life expectancy

It is estimated to be 67.44 for females and 64.94 for males

- What is demographic change?
- It is the change in the various population components like total population, life expectancy, family structures, birth rates, migration rates of a given place.
- Three main factors of demographic change

Birth(fertility rate)

Death(mortality rate)

Migration(migration rate)

- Causes or reasons for demographic change

Some of the major causes are

- Migration
- Natural increase(higher birth and lower death)
- Education
- Economic status
- Age structure
- Nutrition

# Community

**What is community?**

**The community is as old humanity or even before the origin of human being. The anthropologists argue that the community existed among our sub-human ancestors too. The group whether small or large, where the members live together in such a way that they share particular group interest, have some degree of social coherence and basic conditions of common life is called a community. In this regard, one cannot live wholly within tribe or city.**

- “a local grouping within which people carry out a full round of life activities.”- Horton and Hunt**

According to Horton and Hunt, the prerequisites for formation of community are;

1. A group of people within a geographic area
2. Division of labour with a common culture and a social system which organizes their activities
3. Some degree of feeling among the members and their sense of belonging to the community.
4. Members act collectively in an organized manner.

## The bases of community

- i. locality-A community is always possible within a territorial area. Even a nomad community or a band of gypsies, has a locality, although they keep on changing their habitat. Most communities are settled and featured with conditions of locality which is a strong bond of solidarity but in modern world, this local bond has been weakened. For e.g. some ethnic groups have migrated from their native place to many modern city areas where they have no any formal bond in their life thus reducing the relation between social coherence and the geographical area.
- ii. Community sentiment- there must be sharing of way of common life and sense of belonging to the community i.e. common settlement. However, this common sentiment is being gradually being lost due to the extensive division of labour and professionalization of work.

# Differences between society and community

| Society                    | Community  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Web of social relationship | A particular area and some degree of we feeling is a pre-requisite for community |



# Culture

What is a culture?

The term culture refers to the groups shared belief, practices and values for a living. culture is the total peoples or groups way of life, from routine everyday interactions to the most important parts of group members lives. It includes everything produced by a society such as peoples way of talking, dressing, cooking, mourning, eating, marrying, etc, including all of the social rules. Adherence to a culture makes one an integrated member of a society.

Sociologists often study culture using the sociological imagination.

“as the handiwork of man and as the medium through which he achieves his end.”-B.  
Malinowski

“design for living”-Clyde Kluckhohn

#### Features or characteristics of culture

- Culture is inherent in society: culture exists in the social system, it influences the people's behaviour
  - Culture satisfies human/social needs:
    - Culture is not inborn
    - Culture is shared: It is transmitted through different institutions
    - Culture is dynamic and adaptive: changes as change in environment
- Culture is transmissible in nature: Transmitted through one generation to other by language, signs, symbols, etc through imitation or instruction.
  - Culture varies from society to society

- Culture is symbolic:the meaning of culture is rooted in symbols.
  - Culture is social not individual
  - Culture is ideational:helps man in formation of ideas.

# Elements or components or constituent factors of culture

- i. Norms
- ii. Values
- iii. Symbols
- iv. Language
- v. Myths
- vi. Folkways
- vii. Moeres(i.e. customs )
- viii. Rituals
- ix. Fashion
- x. Laws
- xi. Knowledge

# Cultural traits and culture complexes

The smallest unit of culture is called a trait which means that trait cannot be reduced to further smallest part. For example dance is a collection of traits such as dance steps, formula for selecting the performers and musical accompaniment. Moreover dance has a meaning, which may mean religious, ceremonial, a magical rite, a courtship activity etc. All these traits (elements) combine to form a culture complex.

A cultural complex is a cluster of related traits. The culture complex is intermediate between the trait and institution.

## Types of culture

- i. Material culture: It consists of manufactured objects such as tools, technology, furniture, automobiles, buildings, roads, and any physical objects which has been changed and used by man.

ii. Non-material culture: It consists of the words people use, the ideas, customs, beliefs they hold, habit they follow.

# What is cultural lag?

An American sociologist W.F. Ogburn, introduced the concept of 'cultural lag' in his book "social change" published in 1920. 'cultural lag' refers to the phenomenon that occurs when changes in material culture occur before or at a faster rate than the changes in non material culture.

# Functions of culture

1. Culture is a treasury of knowledge with instincts they adapt to environment.
  2. Culture shape our daily activities.
  3. Culture defines attitudes, values and goals.
    4. Culture decides our career
  5. Culture provides behaviour pattern
  6. Culture molds personality of individuals.



# Sub-cultures and counter cultures

Culture of a place or nation is not always homogenous but there is heterogenous language, religion, customs and traditions as there are various sub groups within dominant culture known as sub cultures.

# Types of sub-culture

1. Nationality: Although we all are Asians due to sub-culture we are called Nepalese.
2. Geographical location: As we call himali, pahadi, madhesi
3. Religion
4. Caste/ethnicity
5. Gender: According to it we can divide into feminine and masculine .
6. Age: every age group has the distinct values and beliefs.

subcultures which are in active opposition to the dominant culture are called counter culture for e.g. the delinquent gang with no standards or moral values. Youths trained in this culture are influenced against the dominant cultural norms.

# Group

Collection of two or more persons in regular interactions and having a common goal(interest) and shares a common identity(common way of thinking and behaving). For e.g. family, college graduates , women activists , sports team , church group , workplace, etc.

Group plays an important role in the development of social organization, socialization and formation of personality. For this reason, groups have an important place amongst the basic concepts of sociology.

- “A system of social interaction.”- Harry M. Johnson

# Features, characteristics or nature of group

The nature of group may be formal (mainly created by the organization and in normal (friends, family, etc))

Some important characteristics are

1. collection of individuals
2. Interaction among members
3. We feeling and group unity
4. Common goals
5. Group norms
6. Variation in group size
7. Stability
8. Groups are dynamic
9. Groups influence on personality of members

# Stages or processes of group formation

According to Bruce Tuckman

- Forming: members get to know each other and define the mission of the group
- Storming: members come to resist the control of the group members show hostility.
- Norming : members begin to focus on the purpose and start to work together by building rapport.
  - Performing: the group is most productive and begins to experience results.
- Adjourning (retire or discontinue): group breaks apart to return to normal activities and this phase gives the group a chance to review the successes and failures of the group.

- People join group for
- having a sense of security
    - To have a status
  - Develop self esteem
    - Gain power
    - Achieve goals

# Importance of social group

- Basis of survival
- Man becomes man only in group
- Group shape personality of man

# Types of groups

1. On the basis of nature and quality of social interaction

- a. Primary group

American sociologist C.H. Cooley propounded the idea of primary group and it is the primary source of relationship and socialization. For e.g. family, friend circles, neighbourhood and sports group etc.



### Characteristics or nature

- Face to face interaction and close relationship
  - Personal/emotional relationship
    - Spontaneous relationship
      - Small sized
  - Physical proximity or nearness
    - Stability of the group
- Priority of group interest over individual or self-interest
  - Regular communication
  - Direct cooperation

## b. Secondary group

- Just opposite of primary group. they are mostly impersonal and usually short term. For e.g. school, workers members of club, professionals, political or trade unions etc.

### Characteristics or nature

- i. Indirect relationship
- ii. Impersonal relationship
- iii. Large sized
- iv. Membership
- v. No physical proximity or closeness
- vi. Has specific ends or interests
- vii. Indirect communication
- viii. formal means of social control
- ix. Formal group structure

# On the basis of association

In group or we group: an in group is the group in which an individual feels he or she belongs to, and believes it to be an integral part of who he or she is.

Out group or they group: vice versa of in group. there may be feeling of competition in relation.

Basis of stratification and differentiation

Horizontal group: they are large, inclusive groups such as nations, religious organizations and political parties

Vertical groups small divisions such as economic classes (high class and low class) which give the individual his status in society.

On the basis of territory occupied or not  
Territorial group: for e.g. communities and states

Non territorial group: for e.g. non-territorial group.

On the basis of membership and non membership  
According to Robert k. Merton

- Membership group: The individual is born in the midst of a group i.e family. He gets the membership of some group by birth such as that of village, town, caste or religion.
- Non-membership group: on the other hand, as he grows, the individual comes with contact of non-membership group such as school, clubs, political parties etc because of education, profession, mobility, emigration.

On the basis of individuals liking, desire and orientation

According to T. Newcomb

- Positive group: Those groups towards whom individuals have more liking or tends more favourably are positive groups.
- Negative group: Those groups that the individual does not like are negative groups. He rejects their assumptions. For e.g. Teenagers resentment towards family and parents is example of such negative tendencies so here family and parents are negative groups.

From the organizational point of view

- a. Formal group: established by organization to achieve its goal
- i. Command group: It is specified by the organizational chart and often consist of Supervisor and the subordinates who respond to that supervisor like CEO and research associates under him in a market research firm.
- ii. Task group: to accomplish a narrow range of task in a time period like ad hoc committees, project group, etc.
- iii. Functional group: created by the organization to accomplish specific goals within an unspecified time frame and remain in existence after achievement of current goals and objectives like marketing department, costumer service department, etc.



### Characteristics

- i. Formed consciously
- ii. Fulfill social needs
- iii. Hierarchy
- iv. Division of labor and work specialization
- v. Impersonal
- vi. Existence of standard set of rules and regulation

- b. Informal group: voluntary group that evolves spontaneously for fulfilling personal and social needs of members
1. interest group: interest groups may not be a part of the same organization and may continue over time and may last longer than general informal groups like students who come together to form a study group for a specific class.
  2. Friendship groups members who enjoy similar social activities, political beliefs, religions, values or other common bonds. members enjoy each others company and often meet after work to participate in these activities like a group of employees who form it for yoga class.
  3. Reference group: it is a group which is referring point of the individuals toward which is oriented and which influence his opinion, tendency and behaviour like older brothers friend may be reference for younger one.

- Characteristics
  1. Spontaneous formation
  2. Satisfaction of needs
  3. Voluntary membership
  4. Multi group membership
  5. Systems and processes
  6. leadership

| Formal group   | Informal group                          |
|--|---|
| Legally constituted,rationally designed and consciously planned                              | Emerged naturally and spontaneously     |
| Its purpose is well defined and centers around survival , growth, profit, service to society | Its purpose is not defined consciously. |

# Factors enforcing group formation

Rao has mentioned following multiple factors responsible for group formation

- i. psychological factor: Boredom and fear
- ii. Biological factor: Marriage for sex and family for raising children
- iii. Kinship bond: due to relationship of blood, marriage or adoption
- iv. Geographic factor: settlement near water, fertile soil etc
- v. Cultural factor: common language, religion, historic traditions, etc
  - vi. Economic factor: production, distribution
  - vii. Religious factor: worshipping, meditation, etc
  - viii. Political factor: political ideology

# Social norms and values

often use interchangeably in our day to day life but sociologists use them in specific sense. social norms are culturally established rules, standards, guides and which defines correct and acceptable human behaviour in a society or a group in particular situations or circumstances. The norms are based in social values. Norms prescribe the way the people should behave in particular situations. In short, norms are a bundle of do's and don't's and are rules to regulate individual and groups behaviour for social order.

- the expectation that students should not cheat in the examinations is the norm and honesty is the value.

4 types of norms

- folkways
- Mores
- Taboos
- Laws

### The characteristics of social norms

1. Social norms are universal
2. Norms incorporate value judgement
3. Norms are relative
4. All norms are not equally important as 'mores' are most important and violation of that is subject to severe punishment and violation of 'folkways' is less severe
5. Norms are internalized by individuals



# Functions or importance of Norms

- Norms is indispensable to society's existence
- Norms regulate behaviour
- Norms maintain social order
- Norms maintain social cohesion
- Norms helps to have self control

# Meaning of values

Values are stable long lasting beliefs about what is right, good, important, desirable and worthwhile to an individual. values are the criteria people use in assessing their daily lives; arrange their priorities and choosing respect for human dignity, rationality, sacrifice, individuality, equality, democracy etc. influences the nature of an individuals behaviour and guides their behaviour in many ways.

“Values are group conceptions of the relative desirability of things”-G.R. Leslie,R.F. Larson,H.L. Gorman

# Characteristics of values

- Provides standards of competence and morality
- Values are fewer in number than attitudes
- Values are abstract concepts not the specific objects, situations or persons
- Values are relatively stable, permanent and resistant to change
- Values are most central to the core of a person
- Values have two attributes – content and intensity
- When we rank an individual's value in terms of their intensity, we obtain the value system of that person.

# Functions of values

- Value provide goals or ends for a members to aim at.
- As values are shared in common,they hold the society together by providing uniformities in group interaction.some sociologists agree that shared values form the basis for social unity.
- Values bring legitimacy to the norms or rules that govern specific behaviours and activities.
- Values help to bring some kind of adjustment between different sets of norms. As people seek the same kinds of ends or goals in different field of their life,they modify the rules in order to achieve their goal.

# Relation between norms and value

- Norms and values have unique relation. Norms are specific whereas values are not. social norms are culturally established rules ,standards ,guides and which define correct and acceptable human behaviour in a society or a group in particular situations or circumstances whereas value are stable ,long lasting beliefs about what is right,good,important,desirable and worthwhile to an individual and are more nearly independent of specific situations.

- The same value may be a point of reference for many specific norms while a particular norm may have several separate values. For e.g. the value “equality” may be the norms for relationship between husband and wife, brother and brother, teacher and student etc. on the other hand, the norm “a teacher must not show favouritism in grading” may in particular instance involve the value of equality ,honesty,humanitarianism etc.

# Difference between norm and values

1. norms are rules and expectations that describe how people should and should not behave in particular situations whereas values are general standards which decide what is good and what is bad independent of a specific situation.
2. Values are ends while norms are means to achieve these ends.
3. Sometimes the values and norms of a society conflict with each other. The change in one element of material culture (e.g. mechanization of agriculture as value) may conflict with the associated aspect of non-material culture (destroy norms of joint family and collective living)



# Relationship of norm values and sanction

- like If a society views private property as a basic value,it will probably have strict laws(i.e. norms) against theft.

# Status and role

- Status refers to the position or the rank one holds in a social group and approved by the members of society. In any society people have occupational, family etc statuses. Generally it is defined socially and culturally but sometimes it is also defined biologically like sex and race. sometimes it may be closed or open.
- “A status is a position in social group or grouping, a relation to other positions held by other individuals in the group or grouping.” – Morris Ginsberg

# Nature or characteristic or essential elements

- Each status has a norm
- Determined by cultural situation of society
- There can be multiple statuses of single person
- Determined only in relevance to the other members of the society
- Every status has its own rights, duties and obligations
- It is dynamic
- It consists of external symbols, respect and social dignity accordingly.
- Helps to create social order and equilibrium in organization

# Types of statuses

1. Ascribed:by birth or placement in a social group  
like caste
2. Achieved:personal ability,education,earned wealth  
like class
3. Mixed status:like son of a star.

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# Social roles

- Behavioural pattern of a person in different status according to prescribed norms and values along with well drafted rules and regulations. for e.g. teacher has a certain role. it provides means for accomplishing certain task. As an element of culture roles provide guidelines and directives necessary for an ordered society.
- “A role is a function of a status” – Young and Mack

# Nature of role

- Role playing is obligatory for all members
- Some social role are shared by many people for e.g. voters, authors,ministers,teachers etc.
- It may be voluntary or involuntary
- In many cases role is followed by status whereas in some cases the status is followed by role

# Relationship of norm values and sanction

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- SOCIAL  
INSTITUTION

# Meaning of Social Institution

- In our day to day communication institution is used as a synonymous of organization, association and union, but in the sociological point of view this understanding is not right.
- Institution does not represent the office, organization, firms but it refers to the organized way of doing any activities to get definite goal. So, institution is common working procedure or methods developed in associations, organizations or union to achieve some specific goal.
- Institution consist of laws, rules, and regulations but it does not have location. So it is theoretical. Institution does not possess specific names but has a structure and may have a symbol.

# Definition of Social Institution

- “Institutions may be defined as the established forms or conditions of procedure characteristics of group activity”. – **Maclver and Page**
- “Institution can be defined as a set of interwoven folkways, mores, and laws built around one or more functions”. – **Kingsley Davis**
- “A social institution is a structure of a society that is organized to meet the needs of people chiefly through established procedure”. – **Bogardus**
- “Institutions may be described as recognized and established usages governing the relations between individuals and groups”. – **Ginsberg**

# Features of Social Institutions

- It is universal (means found everywhere).
- Social in nature (because it should be accepted by society).
- Permanent in nature (forms of institution may be different but institutions are enduring with social system).
- Institutions are means of satisfying needs of people.
- It is regulating mechanism (method) of the behavior of individual.
- It is abstract (theoretical) in nature.
- Well defined objectives
- Institutions are standardized norms.
- It is clear written or oral tradition.
- Social sanction is essential for institution.
- Institutions may have their own symbols.

# Functions of Social Institution

1. Institution provide and prescribe the ways and means to fulfill the human needs. For e.g., economic, social and some biological needs are satisfied within a framework of family.
2. Institutions provide means of social control and force an individual to perform expected, systematic, regular and predictable behavior.
3. Institutions provide roles and statuses to individual. For e.g., the institutions like political parties limit the human energies to play suitable and respective roles.
4. Social Institutions prescribe the ways to behave with others and thus avoid confusions and uncertainties in that particular group.
5. Institutions have particular norms to maintain the order and the norms always promotes to establish unity and solidarity (harmony) in that group.
6. Institutions have latent (hidden) functions, which not recognized or established, however, have a great contribution in order to maintain well order of a society.

# Types of Social Institutions

## 1. Primary Institution

- The most basic institutions which are found even in primitive societies such as family, marriage, kinship, religion, property and some kind of political system are primary in nature.

## 2. Secondary Institution

- As societies grew in its size and complexity, institutions became progressive and more differentiated.
- Accordingly large number of institutions are evolved to provide the secondary needs of people, they may be called secondary institutions.
- For e.g. education, examination, law, legislation, constitution, parliamentary

# Marriage

# Meaning of Marriage

- Marriage is one of the universal social institutions. It joins a man and woman together and permits them to establish sexual relationship through sanctioned (approved) means.
- It can also be explained as an institution that admits men and women to family life.
- The function, purpose and form of marriage may differ from society to society.
- The concept of marriage has undergone a lot of changes in all of the societies, however, the significance of old ideas has not disappeared.



# Definition of Marriage

- “Marriage is a contract for the production and maintenance of children”. – ***Malinowski***
- “Marriage is the approved social pattern where by two or more persons establish a family”. – ***Horton and Hunt***
- “Marriage is relatively permanent bond between permissible mates”. – ***Robert H. Lowie***
- “Marriage is the public joining together, under socially specified regulations of a man and woman as husband and wife”. – ***Alfred Lee***

# Characteristics of Marriage

- Marriage is more or less a universal phenomenon.
- Marriage unites man and woman for a sensitive relationship. It can refer a relationship between one or more men to one or more women.
- Marriage needs social approval to be continued for whole life.
- Marriage is associated with some civil or religious ceremony.
- Marriage creates certain responsibilities for the partners such as supporting each other and caring their children.
- Marriage indicates a long lasting bond between husband and wife.

# Functions of Marriage

- Sex has to be controlled and regulated in a proper manner to avoid confusion in society. Marriage regulates the sex life and acts as a regulatory mean.
- Marriage leads to the establishment of a family.
- Marriage makes division of labour for the partners of marriage and plays a great role in economic cooperation.
- Marriage brings life partner together and helps them to develop intense love and affection towards each other.
- Marriage does not only bring two persons together but also brings the respective families or groups. This action helps to minimize the social distance

# Types of Marriage

## A. Marriage based on number of partners

1. **Monogamy:** One man is married to one woman, and change of partner can take place only after the death of one of the spouse or after divorce.

### Advantages of Monogamy

- Universality
- Economically better suited
- Promotes better understanding between husband and wife
- Contributes to form stable family and sex life
- Helps to make better socialization
- Better for the aged parents
- Better status of woman

2. **Polygamy:** It is just reverse of monogamy. It is also divided into two types.

- i. **Polyandrous:** One wife and several husbands. For E.g., Sherpas of upper Mustang, Todas, Kotas. Types of Polyandry are:
  - **Fraternal Polyandry:** When two or several brothers share the same wife.
  - **Non-Fraternal:** When wife goes to spend some of her time with one of her many husbands.

# Types of Marriage Contd.

## **Causes of Polyandry**

- Lesser number of woman
- Poverty-bride price
- Population control
- Backwardness
- Joint family

## **Advantages of Polyandry**

- Controls population
- Property remains or not to be divided
- Strengthens economic position
- Fosters (promotes) we-feeling
- Members feel secure

## **Disadvantages of Polyandry**

- Adversely affect on the health of woman
- Adverse effect to the habit of woman
- Diminish population
- Easy divorce and not having feeling of own generation

# Types of Marriage Contd.

- ii. **Polygynous:** One man with more than one wife along with children. For e.g., Muslims

## Causes of Polygyny

- Enforced celibacy (nonparticipation from sexual relation) of man during pre and post pregnancy period of woman
- Earlier aging of female
- Variety of sex partners
- Social prestige for some people
- Economic necessity

## Advantages of Polygyny

- Controls prostitution
- Gives healthy children
- Socialization of children

## Disadvantages of Polygyny

- Creates economic burden to the head of the family
- Children are not looked after/ too many cooks spoil the food
- Jealousy among wives
- Destroys female happiness
- Lower status of woman

# Types of Marriage Contd.

## B. Marriage based on internality and externality:

1. **Endogamy:** A man belonging to a certain group (tribe, caste, class, religion, race, linguistic group) is preferred to be married to a woman of the same group. For e.g., the marriage between Brahmin male and Brahmin female in Hindu caste system.

### Forms of Endogamy

- Tribal Endogamy: Marriage outside own tribe is restricted
- Caste Endogamy
- Class Endogamy
- Sub-Caste Endogamy
- Race Endogamy

### Advantages of Endogamy

- Preserves homogeneity
- Protects prestige and status
- Maintains the numerical face
- Preserves purity
- Keeps woman happier
- Fosters the sense of unity
- Keeps property within the group

# Types of Marriage Contd.

## Disadvantages of Endogamy

- Limits the sphere of mate selection
- Emphasize on group feeling and checks national unity
- Encourages casteism
- Encourages hatred among various groups

2. **Exogamy:** When partners for marriage are taken from outside of one's group such as clan (race), kul, gotra and religion, it is termed as exogamy. Exogamy is found in every community of the world.

## Forms of Exogamy

- Gotra Exogamy
- Village Exogamy
- Pinda Exogamy (pinda means common parentage)

## Causes/ Merits of Exogamy

- To maintain incest taboo (prohibited) in order to maintain confusion in addressing
- To reduce conflict among members
- To minimize social distance



# Types of Marriage Contd.

3. **Hypergamy:** When a woman is restricted from marrying man of lower caste or class in very rare case, but a man can marry a girl either from his own caste or from a caste below his own, it is called hypergamy. According to Hindu system, it prevents a woman from losing caste status and become ritually impure.
4. **Hypogamy:** This refers a woman marrying a man belonging to lower caste than that of hers is called hypogamy.

## Factors Effecting Marriage

### 1. Industrialization

- Industrialization refers to sustained economic growth following the application of mechanization production.
- One can easily observe the vast changes in the social institutions because of the industrialization. Among the various social institutions, marriage gets high influence of it.
- Industrialization has given an ample (sufficient) opportunity for girls to go out of family for work and to earn money. Therefore, females are not financially dependent to their men but play an active role balance and uplift their economy.
- In addition, the role of parent in marriage is decreasing day by day due to industrialization.

# Factors Effecting Marriage Contd.

## 2. Urbanization

- Urbanization refers to the growth of rural areas into the huge town and cities.
- In this process, villages changes to cities. People give up their traditional way of livelihood and begin to adopt new technology and as significant can be observed in the behavior of people.
- We talk on the institution of marriage, the urbanization has greatly influenced it. The marriage age, process of selection of life partners, marriage ceremony, expenses of marriages etc. are mostly affected by urbanization.
- The traditional form of marriage is slowly changing into love marriage.
- Moreover, pre and post-marital sex are quite common in urban areas that have high influence on the traditional aspect of marriage.

## 3. Education

- Modern education system has a significant role in the initiation of marriage.
- Because of the western influence on modern education system, young generations have their own view on the partner of marriage, age of marriage, ceremony of marriage etc.
- Moreover, the youths give more preference to their own choice rather than gotra, kul or horoscope, which were basic features of marriage of traditional society.
- We observe the significant change in dowry system due to the influence of modern education system.

# Factors Effecting Marriage Contd.

## 4. Legislation

- Legislation has also enough affects on marriage in the modern day society.
- It mentions the age of marriage, field of mate selection, number of partners in marriage, dowry to be given or taken, remarriage, divorce etc.
- Upon violating the rules of the legislation, people have to undergo various types of fines and imprisonment. Therefore, the legislation has helped a lot to manage the various aspects of marriage patterns.
- For e.g., marriage below the age of for the boys and for girls without consent of their parents is forbidden by the legislation of our country. This rule has regulated the age of marriage.

# Family

- Meaning
- An intimate and relatively permanent domestic group connected by blood , marriage or adoption that live together and share social and economic responsibilities is called a family.
- It is the basic social unit and also the most important primary group found in the society.

- It is the most immediate group a child is exposed to. In fact it is the most enduring group , which has tremendous influence in the life of an individual , from birth until death.

“family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife , with or without child , or of a man or women alone , with children.” – M.F. Nimkoff

## Characteristics or features of family

- i. Universal group
- ii. Marriage as basis of family
- iii. Source of nomenclature
- iv. Trace of ancestry
- v. Primary agent of socialization
- vi. Various forms
- vii. Nucleus of all institutions
- viii. Functional attachment
- ix. Unit of cooperation
- x. Division of labour
- xi. Social roles

# Types of family

## a. On the basis of birth

Family of orientation – in which individual is born

Family of procreation – sets up after marriage

## b. On the basis of marriage

i. Monogamous family-one husband and wife including children

ii. Polygamous family

polygynous family – one husband and more than one wife , and all the children born to all the wives or adopted by each of them. This type of family is based on polygynous marriage.

Polyandrous family – one wife and more than one husband , and the children , either born or adopted with each one of them. This type of family is based on polyandrous marriage.

- On the basis of residential patterns
  - i. Patrilocal family – married couple lives with or near the husband's family.
  - ii. Matrilocal family – married couple lives with or near the wife's family.
  - iii. Neo-local family-married couple lives apart from the parents of both spouses.



- On the basis of ancestry or descent
  - i. Patrilineal family – ancestry or descent is traced through the male line.
  - ii. Matrilineal family – ancestry or descent is traced through the female line.
  - iii. Bilateral family – tracing kinship through both males and females.

- On the basis of nature of relations

Conjugal family – A family consisting of a married couple and typically their children through birth or adoption or it also refers to partners who have a long- term sexual relationship but are not actually married.

Consanguine family – A Consanguine Family is a family whereby the nuclear family lives with other relatives under one roof. Basically, it's the mother, father, children plus a relative or relatives in one house, under one roof.

- On the basis of patterns of authority
  - i. Patriarchal family – men is the head
  - ii. Matriarchal family – women is the head
  - iii. Egalitarian family – men and female share authority

- On the basis of structure and size
  - i. Nuclear family – only two generations
  - ii. Joint family – consists of three or more generation

- Advantages of nuclear family
  - i. Personality development of childrens
  - ii. Autonomy
  - iii. Economic advantage
  - iv. Condition of women
  - v. Peace and harmony
  - vi. Responsibility and accountability
  - vii. Family bonding
  - viii. Culturally accepting

## Disadvantages

- i. Defects in personality growth
- ii. Autonomy and immaturity in decision making
- iii. Economic disadvantage
- iv. Loneliness
- v. Lack of peace and harmony
- vi. Loss of family cultural and traditional heritage

- Advantages of joint family
  - i. Economic support
  - ii. Unity and togetherness
  - iii. Development of social virtues
  - iv. Security and comfort to old-aged members
  - v. Upbringing of childrens
  - vi. Preservation of culture and traditions
  - vii. Career growth

- Disadvantages
  - i. High economic burden
  - ii. Lack of freedom
  - iii. Development of unwanted personalities
  - iv. Propagation of orthodox ideology
  - v. Differential benefits to childrens
  - vi. Development of anti- social consequences
  - vii. Career negligence



- Function of family
- As a social group and as an important social institution family performs various functions in human society and. Many sociologists have divided the functions of family into different forms but all of them emphasize on the same aspects in the different manner.

- According to Maciver it can be divided into two types

## Essential functions

MacIver have mentioned three functions such as stable satisfaction of needs , production and rearing of children and a provision of home and other function like socialization can be included in it.

- Non- essential or secondary functions
- MacIver has included economic, religious , educational ,health and recreational function and besides it cultural functions , social functions , division of labor can also be included under it.

# Nuclearization

- It is a process of movement and shift from joint family to nuclear family system. It doesn't happen automatically rather it has the various factors influencing it.

### Major pushing factors

- Common property
- No money
- Family conflicts
- Small house
- In-laws attitude
- No proper education for children
- No comfort in life.

### Minor pushing factors

- no privacy
- No freedom
- No health facilities

- The structural functionalist T. Parsons argues that contemporary society has removed many of the functions of the family which is used to perform in the pre-industrial period. However another structural functionalist Ronald Fletcher argues that with the growth of education and welfare services ,the function of the family in contemporary society has changed by adding more responsibility onto the family instead of removing . For example
  - i. parents supplement their children's learning in schools by providing advice and help more effectively than in the past
  - ii. An increased knowledge of diet and exercise means that the family plays greater role in health

- iii. With the limitations of the state health services , the family plays a significant role in the care of elderly relatives instead of allowing them into old-age homes.
- iv. The family has changed from unit of production in past to unit of consumption today.
- v. In order to improve its standard of living , the family is engaged in economic activities.

## Changing functions of family

Society is dynamic and every institution of society are dynamic. Various functions of Family has also changed due to change in time and situation, which are as follows

- i. changes in the function of sexual regulation
- ii. Changes in the reproductive function
- iii. Changes in child rearing function
- iv. Changes in the protective functions
- v. Changes in socialization function



- vi. Changes in educative function
- vii. Changes in economic functions
- viii. Changes in health related functions
- ix. Changes in religious functions of family
- x. Changes in recreational functions of family
- xi. Changes in social control

- Theoretical approaches /perspectives to function of family

## 1. Structural-functionalism

- Socialization
- Regulation of sexual activity
- Social placement
- Economic and emotional security

2. Conflict perspective: social inequality is perpetuated in three ways

Property and inheritance- Engles traced the need for men in the family to transmit property to their sons

Patriarchy – men determine their heirs by controlling the sexuality of women

Race and ethnicity – racial and ethnic categories persist over generations only to the degree that people marry others like themselves.

- Symbolic-Interactionism- people experience family life in terms of relationships , and these vary from person to person and change from day to day, family living offers an opportunity for intimacy. Members of families forge emotional bonds.

# Kinship or kinship system

- Meaning
- A society is a network of interlocking groups which are related or tied to each other through institutionalized patterns. This interlocking groups is a kin group that occupy an important place in an individual's life. Hence , among several parts of social system is one of the most important that form the social system.
- Some sociologists and anthropologists have argued that kinship goes beyond familial ties , and even involves social bonds.

- Kinship is formed by blood ,marriage or adoption.
- It includes socially accepted relationships based on fictional as well actual ancestral, geographical and cultural ties. These relationships are established due to social interaction and accepted by the society.

- In kinship system, relatives are addressed through specific terminology like mother , father ,sister , brother , aunt ,uncle , etc. which specifies the relationship of a particular person.
- The relatives bound by kinship system look towards each other for help and support in case of distress or problems and cooperate each other and have particular levels of interactions according to the cultural norms of a particular society.

- “kinship is a structured system of relationships in which kin’s are bound to one another by complex inter-locking ties”- G.P Murdock



- Types of kinship
- Most social scientists argue that kinship is based on two broad areas blood and marriage others say a third category of kinship involves social ties
- i. Consanguinal kinship- based in blood relation like relationship between parents and children, siblings.

ii. Affinal kinship-based in marriage ,adoption or other connections like relationship of husband and wife,various in-laws.

iii. Social kinship: schneider argued that not all kinship are based in affinal or consanguinal but two people who live in different communities may share a bond of kinship through a religious affiliation or a social group such as rotary service club or within a rural or tribal society due to close ties among them.

- On the basis of proximity or distance between the relations

i. Primary kinship- It refers to direct relationship.

There are eight types

Husband-wife, father-son, mother-son, father-daughter, mother-daughter, younger brother-elder brother, younger sister-elder sister , brother-sister.

- ii. Secondary kinship-it refers to the secondary relations like mothers brother ,sisters husband,etc.
- iii. Tertiary kinship-it refers to the tertiary relations like wife's brothers son, sisters husbands brother etc.
- iv. Distant kinship- the primary kins of tertiary kins

Thus the kin groups are united by ties of blood and marriage and can be traced back to several generations. Kinship relations are characterized by solidarity and unity among the sibling groups and include terminologies or nomenclature for addressing the kins. The kinship system regulates patterns of behaviour among different individuals. Kinship system signifies the nature of relationship and status of a person in the household.

According to Murdock there are thirty three secondary and 151 tertiary kins of a person.

- Kinship terms

Kinship terms are those terms which are used in designating kin of various types. L.H. Morgan made an important study of kinship terms and he classified the kinship terms into;

i. Classificatory system: In this system the various kin are included in one category and all referred to by the same term. Like the term uncle is a example of it as it is used for fathers brother mothers brother etc.

- Descriptive system: In this system different terms are used to refer different kins like father, mother. It refers speakers exact relation.

Both the system cannot be found exactly in any place. Everywhere mix system can be found.

- Rules of descent

The kinship relationships are governed by the rules of descent. There are three basic rules of descent.

- a. Patrilineal: individual is a member of fathers consanguinial kin group and descent is traced through fathers lineage.
- b. Matrilineal: individual is a member of mothers consanguinial kin group and descent is traced through mothers lineage.
- c. Bilateral: both fathers and mothers lineage is given importance.

- Function or importance or role of kinship
  - i. Maintains unity , harmony and cooperation among relationships.
  - ii. It sets guidelines for communication or interactions among people based on cultural norms of the society.
  - iii. It governs reciprocity, mutual assistance and relations of domination and subordination in the family household.
  - iv. It defines the rights and obligations of the family and marriage as well as the system of political power in rural areas or tribal societies , including among members who are not related by blood or marriage.
  - v. Kinship systems are also seen as methods of organizing marriage relations between groups.