Ch. 9 SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Social institutions have been created by man from social relationships in society to

meet such basic needs as stability, law and order and clearly defined roles of authority and

decision making.

Every organisation is dependent upon certain recognised and established set of rules,

traditions and usages. These usages and rules may be given the name of institutions. These

are the forms of procedure which are recognised and accepted by society and govern the

relations between individuals and groups.

**Definition :**

\*Wood ward and Maxwell: An institution is a set of folkways and mores into a unit

which serves a number of social functions.

\*Horton: An institution is an organized system of social relationships which embodies

certain common values and procedures and meets certain basic needs of society.

\* Landis: Social institutions are formal cultural structures devised to meet basic social needs.

Sociologists often reserve the term "institution" to describe normative systems that operate in five basic areas of life, which may be designated as the primary institutions.   
(1) In determining Kinship;   
(2) in providing for the legitimate use of power;   
(3) in regulating the distribution of goods and services;   
(4) in transmitting knowledge from one generation to the next; and   
(5) in regulating our relation to the supernatural.

These five basic institutions are called the family, government, economy, education and religion.

**The first social institutions for our discussion is THE FAMILY.**

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