



SOCIOLOGY FOR ENGINEERS

LECTURER: MS. HUMA ITTEFAQ



SOCIOLOGY

- Sociology is the science of social phenomena ‘subject to natural and invariable laws, the discovery of which is the object of investigation’. —Auguste Comte
- ‘Sociology... is a science which attempts the interpretative understanding of social action in order thereby to arrive at a causal explanation of its course and effects.’ —Max Weber
- ‘In the broadest sense, sociology is the study of human interactions and interrelations, their conditions and consequences.’ —Morris Ginsberg
- ‘Sociology is the study of man and his human environment in their relations to each other.’ —Henry Fairchild



IMPORTANCE OF SOCIOLOGY

- Sociology makes a scientific study of society
- Sociology throws more light on the social nature of man
- Sociology improves our understanding of society and increases the power of social action
- Sociology has contributed generously to enhance the value of human culture
- Sociology studies the role of institutions in the development of the individual
- Sociological knowledge is indispensable for understanding and planning of the society
- The need for sociology in underdeveloped countries
- Study of society has helped several governments to promote the welfare of tribal people



BASIC CONCEPTS

- **Society:** *A society is a collection of people who are linked to one another, either directly or indirectly, through social interaction...The term society can be applied to the total human community, encompassing all of humanity. Alternatively, we may speak of American or Canadian society, or we may restrict ourselves to even smaller geographical or social groupings.*
Michael Howard and Patrick McKim (1983)
Contemporary Cultural Anthropology
- **Social contract theory:** According to this theory, all men were born free and equal, and individuals made a mutual agreement and created a society.
- The criticisms of social contract theory are as follows:
 1. The theory is not historical because history has not supported the existence of the state of nature anywhere.
 2. This theory is considered illogical.
 3. The theory seems to assume that man existed before society, but such an assumption is erroneous.
 4. This theory suppresses the sociable character of individuals.
 5. Society emerged gradually; thus, this theory does not offer a valid explanation of the origin of society.



TYPES OF SOCIETIES

- Pre-Industrial Societies
- Industrial societies
- Post Industrial societies



COMMUNITIES

- 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 interests'.
–Karl Mannheim
- Integral elements of community sentiments
We-feeling, Role-feeling, Dependence-feeling
- Characteristics of Community
(Sociological construct, Blurred boundaries, Communities within communities, Movement of communities, Urban Communities)



INSTITUTIONS

- Institutions have been defined by MacIver as 'established forms or conditions of procedure characteristic of group activity'. So, it can be said that social institutions are the social structures and machinery, through which the society organizes, directs and executes multiple activities that are required to fulfil human needs. An institution is an organized system of social relationships which embodies certain common values and procedures and meets certain basic needs of the society (Horton and Hunt, 1984)



INSTITUTIONS

- Features of Social Institutions
- Institutions emerge as largely unplanned products of social living. People struggle to search for practical ways of meeting their needs
- Institutions are means of controlling individuals
- Institutionalized role behaviour is guided by expectations of the role and not by personal preferences.
- Institutions have some proceedings, which are formed on the basis of certain customs
- Institutions have certain cultural symbols.
- Institutions have certain codes of behaviour.
- Every institution is based on certain ideological principles.
- Institutions are formed to satisfy the primary needs of the members of the society and they have social recognition.
- **families, sports teams, religions, hospitals, and healthcare systems**



ASSOCIATION, GROUPS, CULTURE

- G. D. H. Cole says, 'By an association, I mean any group of persons pursuing a common purpose by a course of correlative action extending beyond a single act, and for this purpose, agreeing together upon certain methods of procedure, and laying down, in however, rudimentary a form, rule for common action.'
- A social group comprises two or more people who interact with each other and identify themselves as a well-defined social unit. Although this definition is simple, it has important implications. Regular interactions among people allow them to share values and beliefs. This similarity and interaction also allow them to identify with one another.
- 'Culture is that complex entirety which includes knowledge, belief, Basic Concepts art, morals, law, customs and other capabilities and habits, that are acquired by man, as a member of society.' One can define culture as that factor, which is absorbed by society. It is a trait that is adopted collectively and practiced by all members of a society. An individual inherits culture as part of social legacy. This inherited legacy is altered and restructured with slight changes and modifications, before it is again inherited by the future generations.



CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE

- Culture is man-made.
- Culture is learned.
- Culture is transmitted.
- Every society has its own culture.
- Culture is social, not individualistic.
- Culture is an ideal for a group.
- Culture satisfies human need.
- Culture has adaptability.
- Culture has integrative quality.
- Culture shapes human personality.
- Culture is both super-individual and super-organic.



TYPES OF CULTURE

- **Ethnocentrism** is the way humans respond in every society, group and walk of life. It is a part of the growth of every individual. It is reflected in the possessive nature of a child, who learns the difference between the toys which belong to him and which do not belong to him. He exhibits a superiority complex when he feels that his toys are better than those of other children, unless corrected by his parents or elders
- **Acculturation** is an expression that explains the manner in which different cultures interact with each other. It also defines the customs of such interactions. These interactive processes between cultures may either be socially interactive in a direct way or through media, or other forms of communication.
- Other concepts: Cultural lag



SOCIALIZATION

- According to well-known sociologist Robert Morrison MacIver, 'Socialization is the process by which social beings establish wider and profounder relationships with one another, in which they come closer to each other and build a complex structure of association.'
- Importance of socialization
- Processes of Socialization
- The fundamental process of socialization is the emergence and gradual development of the 'self'. It is in terms of the self that a personality takes shape and the mind begins to function. The notion of self begins to arise as a child learns about the feeling of sensation. According to eminent sociologist Harry M. Johnson, the 'self might be regarded as the internalized object representing ones own personality'. Self is an internalized object that includes ones own conception of ones abilities and characteristics, and an evaluation of both.



SOCIALIZATION

- Theories of Socialization
- Charles Horton Cooley
- t the construction of self and society are twin born, and that we know one as immediately as we know the other. He further says that 'the notion of a separate and independent ego is an illusion'. He reiterates that self consciousness can arise only in a society and it is inseparable from social consciousness. According him, the self is social. The basic idea of the conception is, 'the way we imagine ourselves to appear to another person is an essential element in our conception of ourselves.'
- These steps are as follows: (i) Our perception of how we look to others (ii) Our perception of their judgement of how we look (iii) Our feeling about these judgements



SOCIALIZATION

- Theories of Socialization
- Sigmund Freud
- He believed that self is the product of the ways in which basic human motives and impulses are denied and repressed by the society. Freud believed that the rational portion of human motivation was like the visible part of an iceberg. The larger part of human motivation that rests within the unseen forces has a powerful affect on human conduct.
- He divided the self into three parts: (a) The Id (b) The ego (c) The super ego



TYPES OF SOCIALIZATION

- Primary socialization is the most fundamental and essential type of socialization. It takes place in early childhood. In this stage, a child internalizes norms and learns language and cognitive skills
- Anticipatory socialization is where human beings learn the culture of a group of which they are immediate members. They also learn the culture of a group Self-Instructional Material 79 Socialization NOTES with the anticipation of joining that group. This is referred to by American sociologist R. K. Merton as 'anticipatory socialization'.
- Developmental socialization is the kind of socialization that is based on the achievement of primary socialization. It builds on already acquired skills and knowledge as the adult progresses through new situations, such as marriage or new jobs. These require new expectations, obligations and roles. New learning is added to and blended with old in a relatively smooth and continuous process of development
- Re-socialization takes place mostly when a social role radically changes. An individual not only changes roles within a group but also changes groups.



TYPES OF SOCIALIZATION

- Primary socialization is the most fundamental and essential type of socialization. It takes place in early childhood. In this stage, a child internalizes norms and learns language and cognitive skills
- Anticipatory socialization is where human beings learn the culture of a group of which they are immediate members. They also learn the culture of a group Self-Instructional Material 79 Socialization NOTES with the anticipation of joining that group. This is referred to by American sociologist R. K. Merton as 'anticipatory socialization'.
- Developmental socialization is the kind of socialization that is based on the achievement of primary socialization. It builds on already acquired skills and knowledge as the adult progresses through new situations, such as marriage or new jobs. These require new expectations, obligations and roles. New learning is added to and blended with old in a relatively smooth and continuous process of development
- Re-socialization takes place mostly when a social role radically changes. An individual not only changes roles within a group but also changes groups.

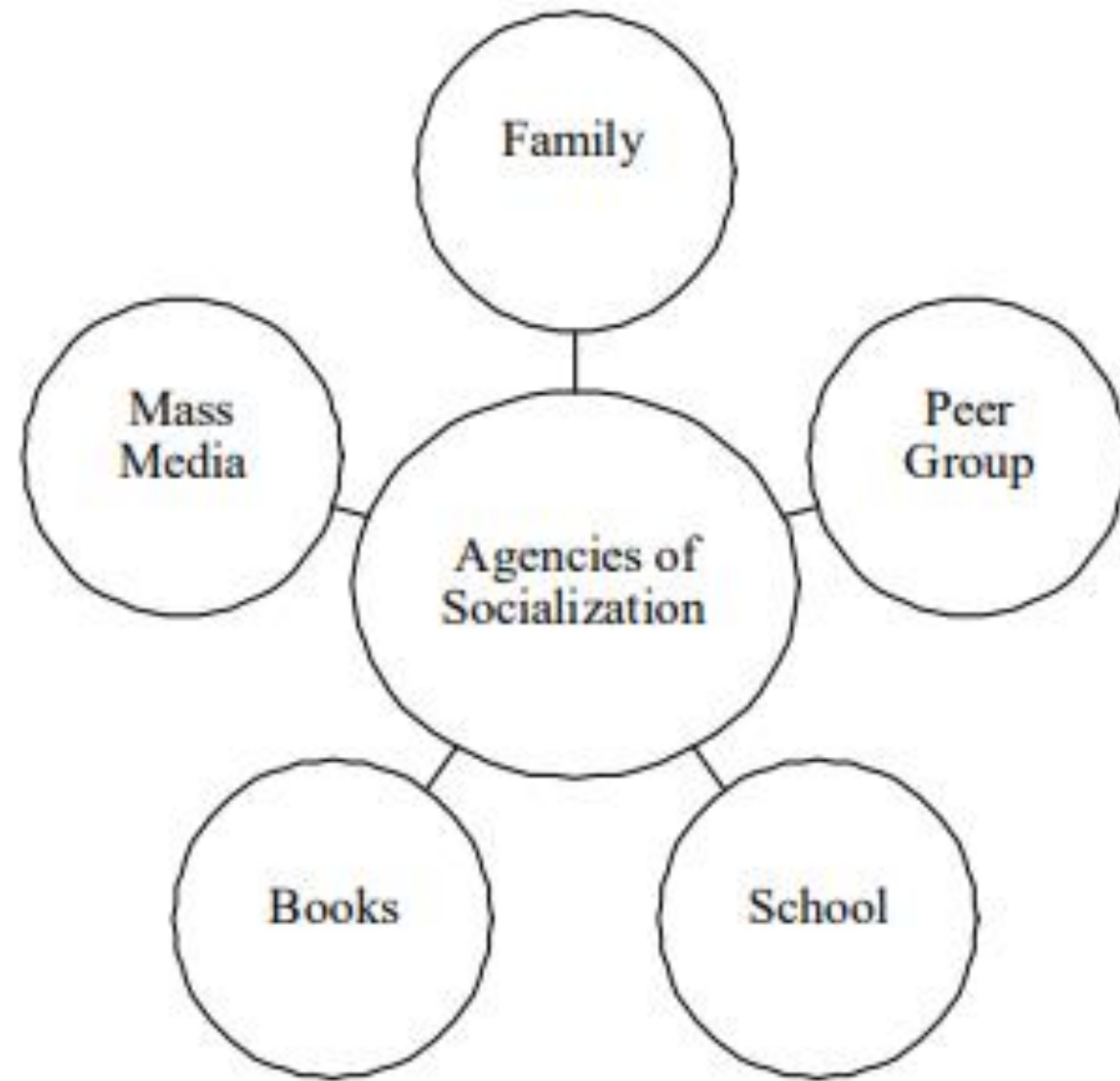


Fig. 4.1 Agencies of Socialization