

SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND CULTURE

GNS 111/103

CGNS DEPARTMENT

PROF. C. A. ONIFADE

DR. S. N. ATATA



CULTURE

Folkway

- ❑ The word **Folkway** was coined by an American sociologist, **William Graham Sumner**.
- ❑ Folkway is a learned behaviour, shared by a social group that provides a traditional mode of conduct.
- ❑ Folkways are recognized ways of behaviour in a society which arise automatically within a group to meet the problems of social living.

Folkway

- ❑ Folkways are passed on from one generation to another. An individual receives folkways from his ancestors, parents, grandparents.
- ❑ Although folkways are less binding in the society, people are expected to behave according to social standards.
- ❑ Example- girls, ladies, women are expected to sit down with their legs closed, eating etiquette, washing hands before eating etc.

Mores

- ❑ The term **mores** is derived from the Latin word '**mos**' which stands for customs and just as customs cannot be violated by any individual so mores also cannot be violated without incurring severe punishment.
- ❑ They present to us the most accepted and the most standardized ways of doing things. Mores defines when an act is moral or immoral.
- ❑ They are regulative and therefore it is essential for the members of a group to conform to the mores. Example dressing pattern, killing-murder (in many societies, the culprit is sentenced to life imprisonment or death by hanging) etc.

Norms

- ❑ A **norm** is a group-held belief about how members should behave in a given society. Sociologists describe norms as informal understandings that govern individuals' behaviour in a society.
- ❑ Norms are social guidelines that regulate correct behaviour in the society.
- ❑ Norms serve as social guidelines for what is acceptable and what is not within a culture. Social norms range in degree of importance and differ from society to society.

Norms

- ❑ It is usually a non-written law that people obey.
- ❑ For instance, in Nigeria, people greeting a person who is either older or socio-economically above them, collecting something from an older person with the right hand, Christian ladies covering their hair in church etc.
- ❑ It is not a law, it is norm. But anybody who goes contrary to the norms in the society is regarded a deviant.

Values

- ❑ **Values** are set of moral principles that define the traditions and cultural beliefs that offer guidelines to people to conduct themselves in society.
- ❑ Values relate to the norms of a culture, but they are more global and abstract than norms.
- ❑ Values are essential components of non-material culture.

Values

- ❑ Values identify what should be judged as good or evil, wrong or right, while norms provide rules for behaviour in specific situations.
- ❑ For instance, incest taboo, stealing, immorality etc. are values many societies frown at, reciting the national anthem before a football match is a norm, but it reflects the value of patriotism.

Laws

- ❑ **Law** is a system of rules that are enforced through social institutions to govern behaviour.
- ❑ Laws can be made by legislatures through legislation, the executive through decrees and regulations, or judges through binding precedent (normally in common law jurisdictions).
- ❑ Laws are made to govern the behaviour of people in the society.
- ❑ Deviants are usually punished according to the laws in the society to maintain social order .

ANY QUESTION?

