

## Social Institutions



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# Learning Outcomes

- Explain the concept of social institutions
- Identify the key social institutions
- Compare and contrast the role of different social institutions
- Discuss inter-relationships between different social institutions and business organizations

# Introduction

- In society, there is a **patterned way of living**.
- This patterned way of living is reflected through **social relationships**
- Social relationships are organized in various ways to attain certain **social needs of the society**.
- Thus, the institutions which fulfill various social needs are known as **social institutions**.
- Social institutions **work together** to regulate and keep the entire society functioning properly.

# Introduction cont'd.

McIntyre (2006) has explained the nature of social institutions;

- They are generally unplanned; they developed gradually.
- They are inherently conservative, they change, but slowly
- They are interdependent.

# Definitions

Social institutions refer to arrangements involving large number of people whose behavior is guided by norms and roles.

**(Jary & Jary, 2000)**

It is a complex of,

positions, roles, norms and values

lodged in particular type of social structure

and organizing relatively stable patterns of human activity

with respect to fundamental problems in producing life-sustaining resources, in reproducing individuals, and

in sustaining viable societal structures within a given environment.

**(Turner,1997)**



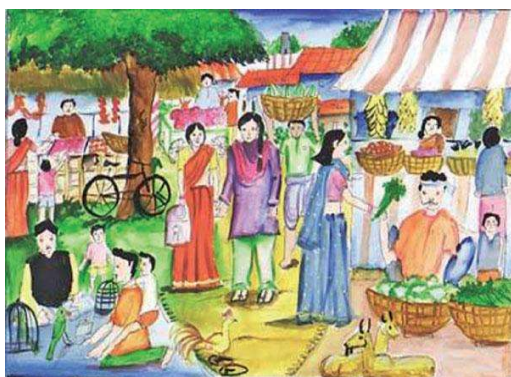
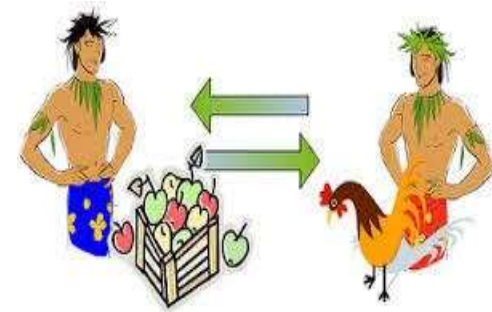
# Evolution of Social Institutions

Structure of social institutions transformed along the advancement of human needs.

Based on Western perspective, evolution of social institutions can be described in two phases;

- Pre-industrial era
- Post-industrial era

**E.g.  
Changes in the  
'Economy' as a  
social  
Institution**



# Main Social Institutions

1. Family

2. Educational Institutions

3. Religious Institutions

4. Economy

5. Political Institutions





# 1. Family



- A family is a group of people who are related by marriage, blood, or adoption and who often live together and share economic resources.
- The family is the most **universal** social institution, but what constitutes a “family” varies across cultures.
- There is an informal structure of distributing the authority, resources, and works within families.
- Functions of the family as a social institution are,
  - *Regulating sexual behaviour*
  - *Reproduction*
  - *Socialization*
  - *Economic and emotional security*



## 2. Educational Institutions



- A system that ensures the **transmission of knowledge, values, and patterns of behavior** from one generation to the next.
- Though there was a wide range of informal and non-formal education systems throughout the past, today it has been highly **formalized and institutionalized**.
- The purpose of education has changed with the passage of time
- Functions of education as a social institution are;
  - *Transmission of knowledge*
  - *Enhancing Skills*
  - *Occupational placement*
  - *Attitudinal changes*
  - *Personality development*
  - *Transmitting shared belief and values*

# 3. Religious Institutions



- A religion is a unified system of beliefs and practices pertaining to the supernatural and to norms about the right way to live, that are shared by a group of believers.
- These institutions help to create worthy characters to the society by enhancing their self understanding
- Functions of religion as a social institution are,
  - *Social cohesion*
  - *Social control*
  - *Emotional support*
  - *Reinforce social norms*

# 4. Economy



- The economy is a set of arrangements by which a society produces, distributes, and consumes goods and services.
- There are **various economic systems** in different societies such as capitalism, socialism, mixed economy and feudalism.
- Though the early economy was highly subsistence, today, with the rapid competition it is **complex and comprehensive**.
- Functions of economy as a social institution are,
  - *Production and distribution of goods*
  - *Assignment of individuals to different social roles*

# 5. Political Institutions

(State / Government)



- The power and authority in various political institutions led to **control, shape and regulate** the behaviors in the society.
- With the formation of civilized society, the government has emerged as a **more formalized** social institution.
- Functions of politics/government as a social institution are
  - *to regulate the activities of other social institutions,*
  - *to formulate of policies, rules and regulations,*
  - *to provide social welfare,*
  - *to protect against various dangers (disasters, terrorism, social conflicts),*
  - *to maintain diplomatic relationships, and*
  - *to define social goals.*

# Inter-relationships between different social institutions and Business organizations

