

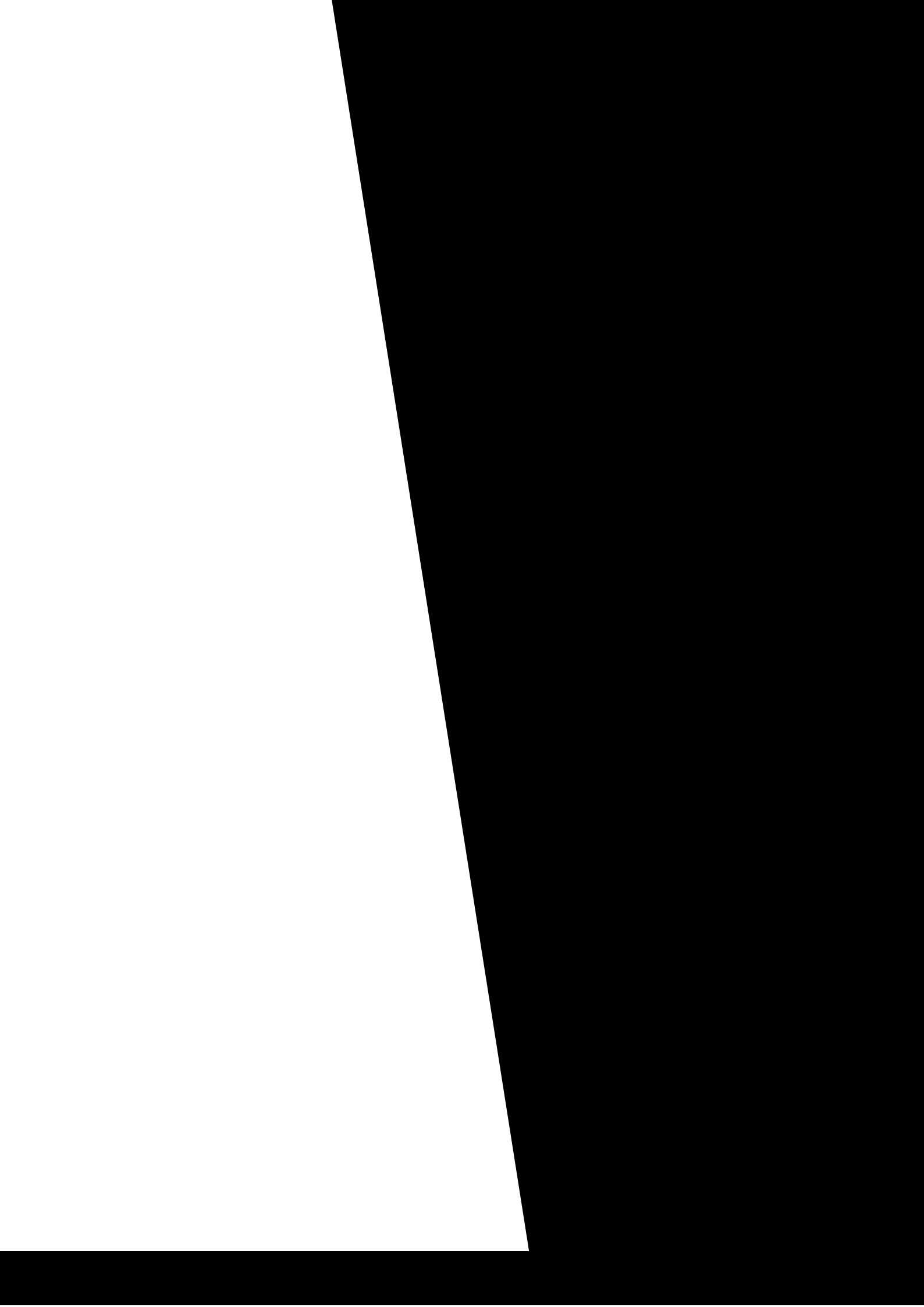


# **PUB 1270**

## **Socio-Political Environment**

**Course Manual**  
**First Year : Semester I (2024)**

**Department of Public Administration**  
**Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce**  
**University of Sri Jayewardenepura**  
**Gangodawila, Nugegoda**  
**Sri Lanka**





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# Message from the Head of the Department

Socio Political Environment is a highly influential aspect in everyone's day to day life. Especially, a manager in any organization is affected by the socio political environment. Changes in the political system and social environment affect decision making. Thus, this course consists of the fundamentals of coping with these changes in an organization. Accordingly, this course comprises of two modules namely, Political Science and Sociology, in order to provide a better foundation for undergraduates in the field of Management.

By learning sociology, undergraduates can understand how human behavior is shaped by social forces. The insight gained from the analysis of social issues is used to the greater understanding of how individuals and groups interact. It would be helpful for managers to understand the thinking patterns of employees and to solve their problems rationally.

The study of political science, explains the relationship between citizens and the state. It should be also noted that government decisions affects private sector activities as well. Simultaneously, the knowledge gained from the module will be helpful in working with diverse communities.

The Department of Public Administration offers this course with the intention of providing the basic knowledge while improving generic skills in the fields of Sociology and Political Science. We envision our undergraduates as Managers, where they will be able to accomplish organizational goals in an effective manner.

I hope the students will get the maximum benefits from this course.

I wish you all the best!

**Dr. R.P.C.K.Jayasinghe**

Head

Department of Public Administration

Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce

University of Sri Jayewardenepura

# Message from the Subject Coordinator

Dear Students,

As the coordinator of the PUB 1270 - Socio-Political Environment course at the Department of Public Administration, I extend a warm welcome to all of you. I am excited to guide you through this enriching journey into the realms of social and political forces shaping our economy.

In today's fast-evolving landscape, understanding the intricate relationship between business, government, and society is paramount. The content of PUB 1270 is meticulously crafted to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the Socio-Political Environment, from the basics to the complexities of our societal structures.

I encourage you to engage actively with the course content, as it forms the basis for developing a nuanced understanding of the socio-political forces at play. This course is designed not only to impart knowledge but also to equip you with the skills needed to critically analyze and respond to the ever-changing socio-political landscape.

I look forward to a rewarding and intellectually stimulating semester with each one of you.

Mr. W.G.T.S.Senanayaka

Subject Coordinator

PUB 1270 - Socio-Political Environment

Department of Public Administration

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# CHAPTER 01

## INTRODUCTION

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### Learning Objectives

- Recognize the importance of socio-political environment
  - Identify the forces in the business environment
- 

### 1.1. Business Environment

Business firms are operating in an open system (Morgan, 1986), which is regularly interacting with the external environment. Businesses utilize resources and inputs obtained from the environment and produces goods and services. This business environment is dynamic and urges the readiness of managers to react and respond to the changes. The success of the business is greatly determined by its capacity to respond the changes in the environment.

The external organizational environment includes all elements existing outside the boundary of the organization that has the potential to affect the organization (Daft, 2010). Certain factors in the external environment directly affect the businesses and other factors are indirectly influence the business activities.

The external environment of organizations can be viewed in two layers including general and task environments (Daft, 2010). The general environment of an organization is the outer layer that includes social, economic, legal/political, international, natural, and technological factors (Daft, 2010; National Institute of Open Schooling, 2015). These different forces influence the organization indirectly and it is beyond the control of the businesses. The task environment is the other layer in the external environment that closer to the organization. It includes competitors, suppliers, customers, and the labor market (Daft, 2010). These sectors are directly influence the operations and performance of organizations on regular basis (Daft, 2010). Also, an organization has an internal environment comprised of current employees, management, and corporate culture (Daft, 2010). Organizations should be able to response to those environmental factors to be success.

## **1.2. Significance of Socio-Political Environment**

The social environment comprises social factors such as customs, traditions, value, beliefs, social classes, demographic characteristics and etc. (Daft, 2010; National Institute of Open Schooling, 2015). The values of the society influence the operations of the business firms. For example, during the New Year festive season demand for selective good and services like new clothes and sweets increase. The changes in the family structure and emergence of nuclear families and their consumption patterns create demand for different products and services such as fast food and daycare centers. Also, the demographic characteristics such as increased aging population have opened up new opportunities as well as pose challenges. Therefore, the changes in the social environment mostly redefine the businesses.

The political environment includes set of institutions involved in making authoritative public decisions (Almond et al., 2006). These decisions may take the forms of government regulations and policies which influence the businesses. These regulations may aim at controlling access of supply such as import tariffs, and restrict access to the market, or else regulate the industry. Also, the stability of the government influences business activities as it sends signals to various interest groups including investors. Therefore, actions of government provide opportunities as well as limit the activities of businesses.

Changes in the socio-political environment shape the overall business environment. Ultimately, it changes the in the relationships between business and societies. Therefore, managers have to pay attention to the changes in the business environment to sustain the adaptive high-performance culture.

## **1.3. Chapter Framework**

The subsequent chapter of this manual introduces the relationships among business, government, and society. Then, you will learn certain important social components and processes including culture and socialization, social institutions and social changes. Finally, this module covers the concept of State, forms of government, essential principles of democracy, decentralization practices and the present constitution of Sri Lanka.

## Review Questions

- 1) List down social factors which affect on business environment.
- 2) Discuss the advantages that a manager can gain through a comprehensive understanding on socio-political environment.

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## CHAPTER 02

### BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY RELATIONSHIP

---

#### Learning Objectives

- Recognize the nature of the BGS field and its' significance
  - Identify the different models of BGS relationship
- 

#### 2.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses several basic concepts of Business-Government-Society (BGS) relationship, emphasizing on the role of business organizations in society. As you already know, the main purpose of every business is to make profit. Thus, their objective function is the profit function. Do business managers have a responsibility beyond earning profit? The answer is definitely “yes”. Every business should be socially responsible in certain situations. For instance, large companies fund worldwide programs to benefit education, community, health, and nature. Some companies fund for infrastructure development like construction of bridges, roads, entertainment parks, and community based electricity and water purification projects. Also, some private organizations allocate funds for enhancing welfare of elderly and children in the country. All these activities are beyond profit maximizing objective of firms.

#### 2.2. Business-Government-Society (BGS) Field and the Related Concepts

Generally, human activities can be broadly divided into three subdivisions. They are economic, political, and social activities. The entities through which these activities are performed are business, government, and society, respectively. In the real world, these entities do not perform as isolated units; instead they perform by interacting each other. This interaction creates an environment in which particularly, business organizations are operating. This environment is called ‘BGS field’ which is considered to be important for business managers to have an understanding about it.

The term ‘business’ covers management, manufacturing, finance, trade, service, investment, and other business-oriented activities. The objective of any business is to make profit by satisfying human needs. Moreover, business firms take their private benefits and private costs into account when they make decisions on various things. According to Peter Drucker, “*business*

*management must always, in every decision and action, put economic performance first. Without profit, business fails in its duty to society and lacks legitimacy”.*

**Table 2.1: How do institutions support markets**

Institution Type	Support
Judicial	Protecting property rights
Financial	Mobilizing capital for savings, borrowings, and lending
Media	Informing the public and stimulating commerce with advertising
Cultural	Imparting values, habits, and norms in family, religious or educational institutions
Political	Making economic policies, collecting taxes, and providing safety nets
Regulatory	Protecting the public and investors from dishonesty, danger, and fraud
Corporations	Combining capital and labor

*Source:* Author

The ‘government’ refers to structures and procedures in society that authoritatively make and apply policies and rules to optimize social welfare function of a society. These rules and policies are expected to correct inefficiencies in the society to ensure a satisfactory level of social welfare.

Finally, ‘society’ refers to a network of human relations that includes ideas, institutions, and material things. As a part of society, ideas are intangible objects of thoughts that include values and ideologies. Values are beliefs about which selections in personal and social life are correct. Ideologies are bundles of values that create a certain world view. Generally, ideas establish the broad goals of life by defining what is considered good, right, true, beautiful, and acceptable. The institutions in a society are shaped by ideas. For instance, democracy, capitalism, and socialism are popular ideologies. In an institution, people’s behavior is formal and they link together through formal patterns of relations to achieve a specific goal. Particularly, in modern societies, institutions are essential to coordinate the work of individuals who have no personal relationship with each other. Also, in modern societies, there is a variety of institutions

supporting markets as depicted by the following table. In one way, material things shape ideas and institutions. On the other way, they are products of ideas and institutions. Generally, they include land, natural resources, infrastructure, and manufactured goods.

### **2.3. Importance of BGS Field to Managers**

It is important for managers to recognize that a business operates not only within markets but within a society. Particularly, a business will be constrained, if the society does not accept the company's actions. Therefore, a social contract exists between the business institutions and society.

A social contract is defined as an underlying agreement between business and society on basic duties and responsibilities that business must carry out to retain public support. These duties and responsibilities are partly expressed in law, but they also reside in social values.

However, the social contract that exists between business and society is complex and ambiguous. For instance, the public believes that business has social responsibilities beyond making profit and obeying regulations. In such a situation, if the business does not meet them, it may suffer. Due to this ambiguity, every business manager has to address the following questions with regard to their social responsibility;

- What are social responsibilities?
- To what extent must a business comply with ethical values not written?
- There is a conflict between meeting social responsibilities and maximizing profit. So, what is the priority? What is the proper combination?
- How is corporate performance measured?

In sum, to succeed in meeting its objectives, a business must be responsive to both its economic and non-economic environment.

### **2.4. Models of BGS Relationship**

Interactions among business, government, and society are complex, ambiguous, and infinite. There is no definite way of explaining such interactions, and many people use simple mental models to give meaning to what they observe. Our discussion on such models is based on four models namely;



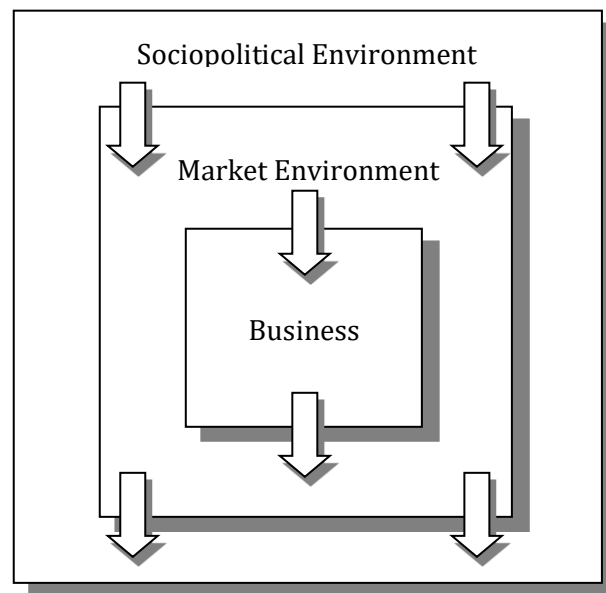
- Market Capitalism Model
- Dominance Model
- Stakeholder Model
- Countervailing Forces Model

Each model illustrates differently about the scope of business power in society, criteria for managerial decisions, the extent of corporate responsibility, the ethical duties of managers, and the need for regulation.

#### 2.4.1. The Market Capitalism Model

According to this model, business organizations operate within a market environment, directly responding to powerful economic forces. Therefore, market is considered as a buffer between business and socio-political environment. In this model, the government involvement is slight and, it is called 'laissez-faire'. The individuals are free to own property and make risky investments. Therefore, business managers focus solely on profit and efficiency.

**Figure 2.1: The Market Capitalism Model**



*Source: John & George, 2011*

This model assumes that free market converts selfish competition into broad social benefits. The market capitalism model depicts the relationship as a set of arrangements in accord with the assumptions of classical capitalism. It is assumed that social responsibility is measured primarily as economic performance that enhances social welfare.

However, the fact that whether capitalism is the best means to fulfill human needs is still being debated. Though, capitalism has created material progress, yet there are trade-offs. Generally, it is argued that capitalism creates prosperity only at the cost of rising inequality. Karl Marx believed that owners of capital exploited workers and used imperialist foreign policies to spread markets.

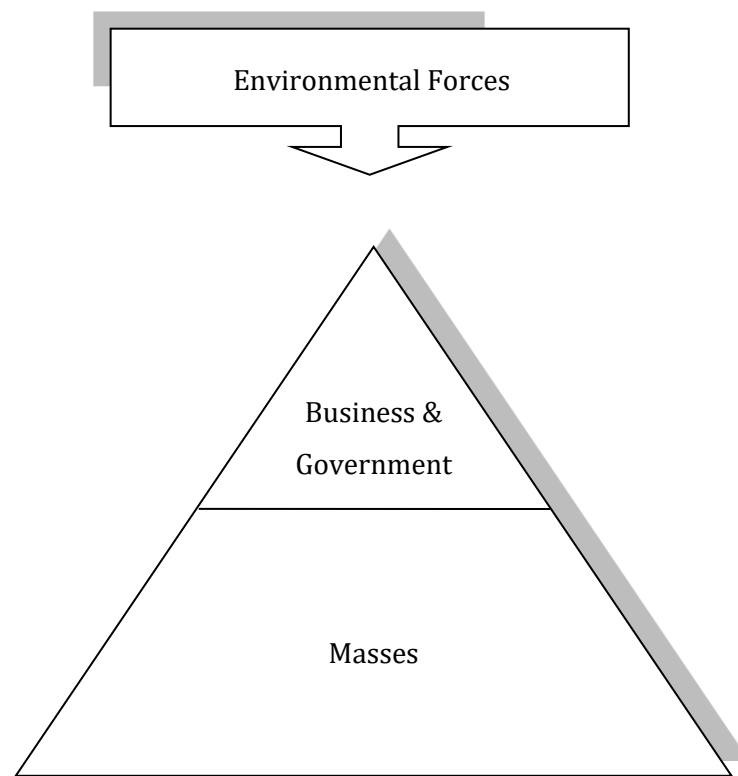
Also, the profit motive has led business organizations to pollute the environment. Degeneration of the environment due to production processes is an external cost or a negative third party impact. These types of external costs are not taken into account by business organizations in deciding their optimal level of output. Thus, their optimal output may not be socially efficient. Further, markets are failing to provide pure public goods like national defense and due to information asymmetry between parties. Thus, the government involvement is needed in such instances to correct market failure by ensuring social welfare.

#### **2.4.2. The Dominance Model**

The dominance model is a second alternative way of explaining BGS relationship. According to this model, business elites and government control the majority of population. This model does not completely rely on market forces and believes that market forces are not adequate to ensure ethical management. Therefore, the model assumes that ethical management can be ensured by controlling the system by business elites and government. In sum, the dominance model represents society as a pyramid. On the top of it, business and government dominate.

This is the model of business critics. It suggests that business has too much unchecked power. Concentrating wealth and power in the hands of a few enriches a few at the expense of the many. That kind of a system is undemocratic, because in democratic theory, government represents interests expressed by the people, - who are sovereign. According to this model, the system creates a large oppressed or disadvantaged group, including less paid farmers, workers, laborers, and miners. Later, they may feel that they are disadvantaged and seek to take power from ruling elites. This political pattern is called 'populism'. The objective of populist movements is to convert BGS relationship to a democratic model. Industrialized countries like the USA and Japan had populist movements of this kind in their histories.

**Figure 2.2: The Dominance Model**



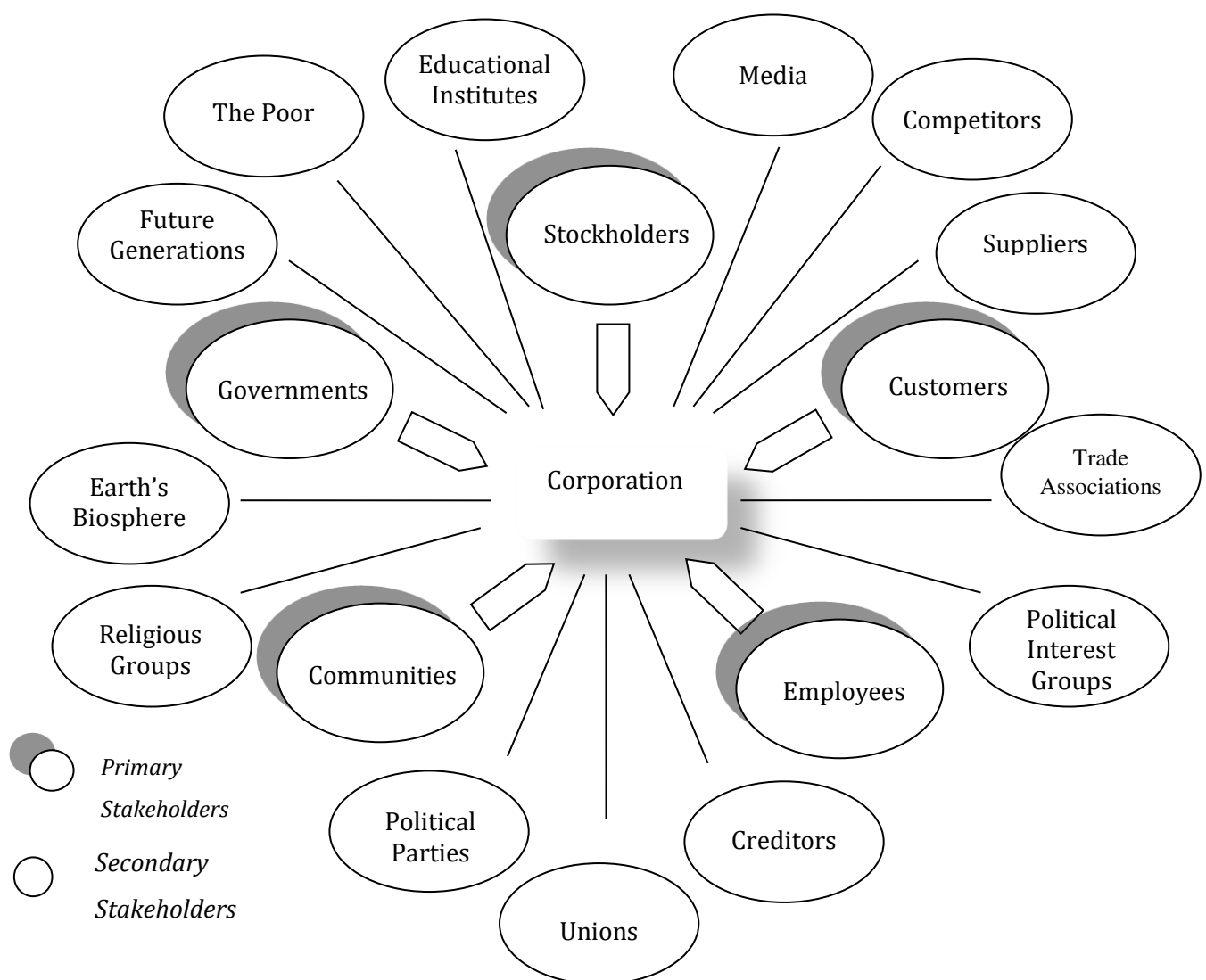
*Source: John & George, 2011*

### **2.4.3. The Stakeholder Model**

An entity that is benefitted or burdened by the actions of a business or whose actions may benefit or burden the business is considered to be a stakeholder. A large business may have a large number of stakeholders. Depending on the nature of relationships between business and stakeholders, stakeholders are two types namely, primary and secondary. Primary stakeholders include a limited range of constituents whose relationship with business is immediate, continuous, and powerful while the relationship with secondary stakeholders involves less mutual immediacy, benefit, burden, and power to influence. The main theme of this model is that business must raise its gaze beyond making profit in order to see and respond to a spectrum of other values by considering each stakeholder. In sum, the stakeholder model sets the corporation at the center of a set of mutual relationships with persons and groups. It promotes the idea that firms have ethical duties and social responsibilities toward a wide range of stakeholders due to their impacts on them.

However, there are also criticisms against this model. First, there is no single, clear, and objective measure to evaluate the combined ethical plus economic performance of a business. Since stakeholders' interests so vary, there are conflicts between such interests. Thus, it is problematic for business managers to balance competing demands among a range of stakeholders. However, in spite of those critics, in practice, many large business organizations have adopted methods and processes to analyze their stakeholders.

**Figure 2.3: The Stakeholder Model**

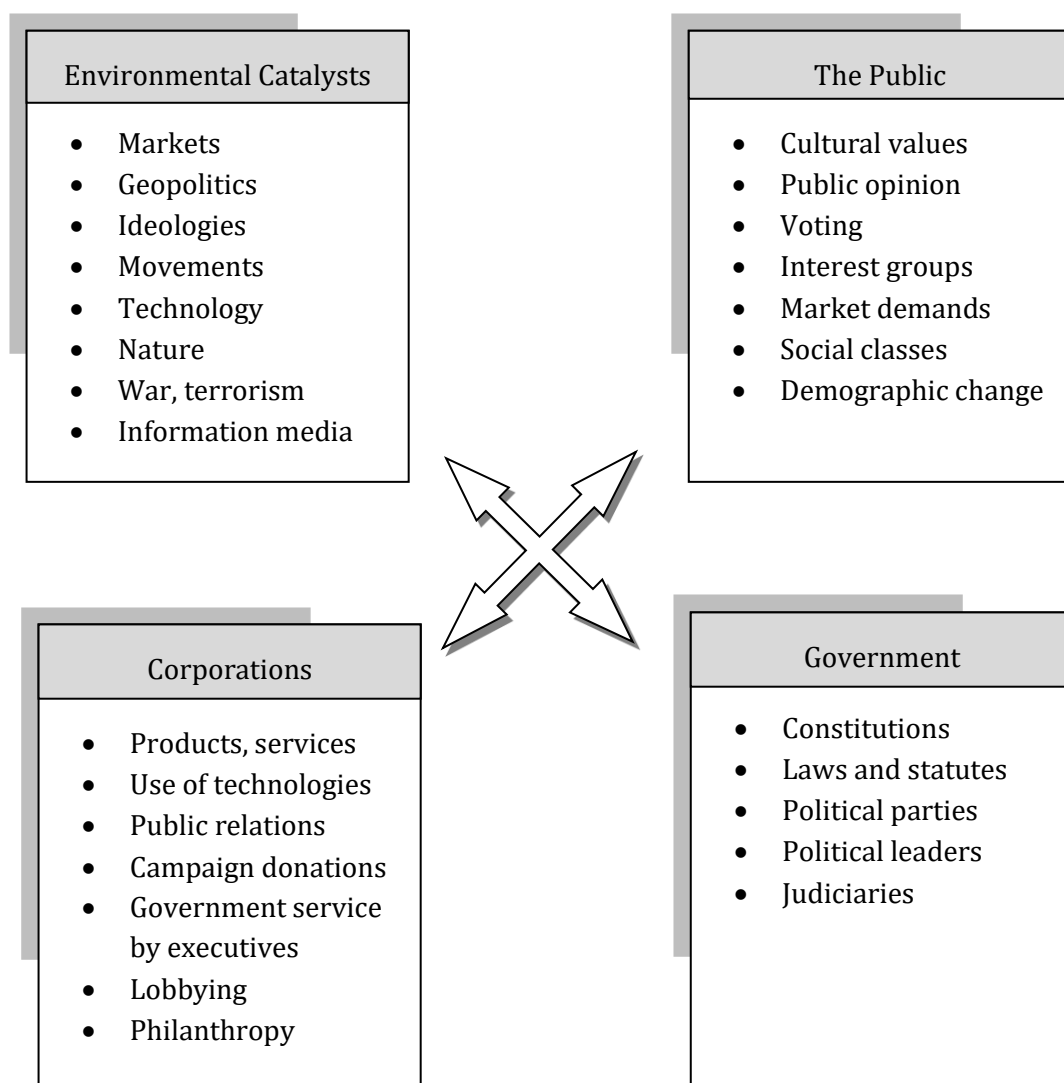


Source: John & George, 2011

#### 2.4.4. The Countervailing Forces Model

This model says that BGS relationship is a flow of interactions among the major elements of society neither of which is dominant. The countervailing forces model varies from the market capitalism model because; it shows business as exposed directly to the influence of non-market forces. The countervailing forces model shows flows of power and influence among environmental factors, the public, government, and corporations. It represents a pluralist vision in which the power of business is checked and controlled.

**Figure 2. 4: The Countervailing Forces Model**



Source: John & George, 2011

The following conclusions can be drawn from the countervailing forces model;

- Business is deeply integrated into an open society. Therefore, business should respond to a variety of economic and non-economic forces. So, it is a part of sociopolitical environment and not dominant always.
- Business is a major agent of change in society. This change is possible for business through its interactions with government, its production, service provision, and marketing processes, and through applying new technology in its business processes.
- Business can gain large public support by adjusting to social, economic, and political environment. Incorrect adjustment leads to failure.
- This social, political, and economic environment is subject to change. BGS relationship continuously evolves by responding to these changes.

### **Review Questions**

- 1) Explain the importance of understanding the BGS relationships for a manager.
- 2) Briefly explain how business managers are guided in relation to social contact under each of following model;
  - a. Market Capitalism model
  - b. Dominance model
  - c. Countervailing forces model
  - d. Stakeholder model

### **Reference**

John, F. S. & George, A. S. (2011). *Business, Government and Society: A Managerial Perspective, Text and Cases* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

## CHAPTER 03

### CULTURE AND SOCIALIZATION

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#### Learning Objectives

- Define culture and socialization
  - Identify components, types and characteristics of culture
  - Identify types and agents of socialization
  - Discuss how culture affects on business organizations
- 

#### 3.1. Introduction

This chapter consists of two sections; culture and socialization. First part of the chapter discusses the term culture, its definitions, components, types and characteristics of culture and its practical aspects. The second section focuses on the term, socialization and also discusses the relationships between socialization and culture, types of socialization and the agents of socialization. After completion of the chapter students will be able to accrue knowledge on culture and socialization with practical examples.

#### 3.2. Culture

##### 3.2.1. Meaning and Definitions

Culture is one of the most important components of the society because the culture and society go hand in hand and are inseparable. Culture is the way of living and it differs from one society to another. Culture is a unique possession of man. It is one of the main traits of the human society.

The study of human society is incomplete without a proper study of the culture. It cannot be identified when exactly the human culture emerged. But a striking parallel can be found between the biological evolution and the development of culture.

Various scholars have defined the term culture in different ways. As stated by Rao (2007) several definitions related to the term can be presented as follows.

*“Culture is a complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.”*

Tylor

*"Culture is an accumulation of thoughts, values and objects, it is the social heritage acquired by us from preceding generations through learning, as distinguished from the biological heritage which is passed on to us automatically through the genes."*

Graham Wallas

*"Culture is the handiwork of man and the medium through which he achieves his ends."*

Malinowski

*"The body of thoughts and knowledge, both theoretical and practical, which only man can possesses."*

Roberty

These definitions on culture express various ideas. Therefore, it is difficult to derive a common definition on culture. Based on these definitions one could define culture as learned norms, values, knowledge, artifacts, language and symbols that are constantly communicated among people who share a common way of life, in any given society.

### **3.2.2. Components of Culture**

According to the literature, all cultures have four main components in common. They can be identified as follows.

#### ***Symbols***

Symbol is one component of culture. As per Kendall (2006) symbol is anything that meaningfully represents something else. Accordingly, symbols are objects, signs, gestures sounds or images that represent something other than themselves. For an example, the lion which exhibits in the national flag of Sri Lanka symbolizes the bravery of the Sri Lankan nation. In different cultures, different symbols are used to represent the same concept. For an example, different cultures use different colours to symbolize sadness such as white and black.

#### ***Language***

Another component of culture is the language. Calhoun et al. (1997) define language as a system of verbal and, in many cases, written symbols with rules about how those symbols can be strung together to convey more complex meanings. As per Kendall (2006) language is a set of symbols that express ideas and enables the people to think and communicate with one another. Different



countries have different languages. English is perceived by many people as the universal language.

### ***Values***

Values are another component of culture. According to Williams (1970, cited by Kendall 2006) values are collective ideas of what is right or wrong, good or bad, and desirable and undesirable in a particular culture. According to the author, values provide criteria by which the society evaluates people, objects and events. Typically values come in pairs as positive and negative values such as laziness and hardworking. For an example, the Americans value the individualism while the Japanese people value the collectivism.

### ***Norms***

Final component of culture is norms. Kendall (2006) describes norms as established rules of behaviour or standards of conduct. Calhoun et al. (1997) identified the norm as a specific guideline for action. Norms say how people should behave in different situations. Norms have specific behavioural expectations, but more often norms are unspoken customs that people implicitly know and follow. As per the authors, when the national anthem is sung, a man removes his hat and stands quietly. This reflects a norm of the society. For an example, if the Sri Lankan society is concerned, people clap after speeches but they never clap after a Buddhist sermon. Apart from customs, law also can be considered as a norm.

### **3.2.3. Types of Culture**

In literature there are several types of culture as described below.

#### ***Material and Non- Material Culture***

According to Kendall (2006) material culture consists of the physical or tangible creations that the members of the society make, use and share. Natural objects are not parts of material culture, but how people see and use them is shaped by culture. People use material culture to satisfy human needs.

Kendall (2006) describes the non-material culture as the abstract or intangible human creations of society that influence people's behaviour. Accordingly, it can be identified, that as language, beliefs, values, rules of behaviour, family patterns and political systems are parts of the non-material culture in a society.

### ***Dominant Culture and Sub Culture***

As per Calhoun et al. (1997) Dominant culture represents the group whose values, norms and outlooks are imposed on the society as a whole. In sociological literature, this is called as the 'National Culture' as well.

According to Fine (as cited by Calhoun et al., 1997) sub culture can be described as a set of distinctive norms, beliefs, values knowledge artifacts language and symbols that a particular group in society uses to distinguish itself from the dominant culture.

### **3.2.4. Characteristics of Culture**

Rao (2007) identifies some characteristics of culture as follows.

- *Culture is learned*- That means culture is not inherited biologically but learns socially by man.
- *Culture is social and shared*- It is not an individual phenomenon but a product of the society which is shared by all.
- *Culture is transmissive*- It is transmitted from generation to generation.
- *Culture is continuous and cumulative*- It is growing and a continuous process
- *Culture is dynamic and adaptive*- It is relatively stable but slowly changing.

### **3.2.5. Practical Aspects Related to the Culture**

Several practical aspects related with the term culture as found in the literature are as follows;

#### ***Cultural Conflict***

Rao (2007) noted that cultural conflict is a clash between one culture and another. It occurs when different values and beliefs confront with each other. Contrasting views practices and beliefs between the cultures lead to cultural conflicts. According to Rao (2007) 'Sati Pooja' was a cultural practice in the traditional culture in India, but with the introduction of English law to India this was considered as a crime by the law, thus leads to a cultural conflict.

### ***Cultural Diffusion***

Rao (2007) describes diffusion as borrowing of cultural elements, both material and non-material artifacts and ideas from one culture to another. George Murdock as cited by Rao (2007) has estimated that about 90% of the content of every culture acquired from other societies. Kroeber, an anthropologist, considers cultural diffusion is one of the main sources of cultural and social change (as cited by Rao, 2007).

### ***Cultural Shock***

The term 'cultural shock', was first used by Alvin Toffler. Kendall (2006) defined cultural shock as the disorientation that people feel when they encounter cultures that are radically different from their own views and beliefs. For an example when people travel to a place where a society exists with different beliefs, they may not know how to respond to that setting which creates a cultural shock for the particular traveller.

### ***Cultural Lag***

William Ogburn (cited by Kendall, 2006) defines cultural lag as a gap between the technical development of a society (material culture) and its moral and legal institutions (non-material culture). Kendall (2006) states that cultural lag occurs when some components of the culture change faster than the other components. For an example when the technical developments of a society change faster than its moral and legal institutions, a gap between the two components is created.

## **3.3. Socialization**

Socialization is a learning process of every society to give a social training to its members. And it is also known as the culture learning process.

According to College of Canyons (2012) socialization makes a newly born infant responsive to the society and this refers to the process of inducting the individual in to the social world. The main responsibility of every society is to create a responsible member out of each child born in to it. So Socialization process is important for a newly born child to acquire the values, beliefs and norms of the society which plays a vital role in creating a responsible member to the

society. As per Rao (2007) socialization process helps to mold and shape the personality of the human infant.

### **3.3.1. Meaning and Definitions**

Various scholars have defined the term socialization in various ways. As stated by Rao (2007), several definitions could be quoted as follows.

*“Socialization is the process of transmission of culture, the process whereby men learn the rules and practices of social groups”*

Peter Worsley

*“Socialization is the learning that enables the learner to perform social roles. It is a Process by which individuals acquire the already existing culture of groups they come in to.”*

Harry M. Johnson

*“Socialization consists of the complex process of interaction through which the individual learns the habits, skills, beliefs and standard of judgments that is necessary for his effective participation in social groups and communities.”*

Lundberg

Accordingly, one could define socialization as a lifelong process which helps an individual to learn the existing norms, values and beliefs of his culture that are necessary to perform his/her social role as a responsible member of that society.

### **3.3.2. Socialization and Culture**

Socialization has to be discussed with the term culture. Without the term culture we cannot discuss socialization which can be recognized in every society. As stated by Rao (2007) since every society is inherited with its own culture, the nature of socialization process is varying from a society to society.

### **3.3.3. Types of Socialization**

The process of socialization starts during childhood and it continues until the death of a man. As socialization is a lifelong process, socialization of adults differs from childhood socialization.

Various scholars in literature have identified different types of socialization. However, main types of socialization are presented as follows.

### ***Primary Socialization***

Primary socialization takes place in the family. This refers to the socialization of an infant in the first few years of his life. (Rao C. , 2007). Family is the main source in the socialization process. So the infant learns language, skills, values, beliefs, norms and habits from the family and he starts to learn the norms of the society on right and wrong through his family. Primary socialization process helps a child to build up and develop his personality.

### ***Secondary Socialization***

Secondary Socialization refers to the social training received by the child in institutional or formal settings and continues throughout the rest of his life (College of Canyons, 2012). Secondary socialization happens outside the immediate family which includes preschools, schools, and universities. In addition to that in secondary socialization peer groups are very much important. Peer groups help children to share cultural knowledge. In this learning process child acquires both subject and social knowledge.

### ***Developmental Socialization***

According to Rao (2007) this kind of learning is based on the achievements of primary socialization. Socialization process of a man does not end when an individual reaches the adulthood. Developmental socialization continues when an individual undertakes new responsibilities in his life as an employee, husband, wife and a parent.

These social roles require new expectations, obligations and roles and this new learning is added to and blended with old in a relatively smooth and continuous process of development (Ian Robertson as cited by Rao 2007).

### ***Anticipatory Socialization***

Anticipatory Socialization refers to a process by which man learns the culture of a group with the expectation of joining that group in future. Rao (2007) describes that not only people have to learn their own culture but the cultures that they are expected to be belonged to. The author clearly explains this with an example of a person who intends to join the army in future. He may start doing physical exercises to toughen his body and learning the manners of army personnel to become one with them later.

### **3.3.4. Agents of Socialization**

In a society there exist a number of agents to socialize a child. To facilitate socialization different agents play important roles. These agents are however interrelated. The main agents of socialization are as follows.

- Family
- Education
- Peer Groups
- Mass media
- Religion

This topic will be discussed in detail in the next chapter.

### **Review Questions**

- 1) How the elements in a culture affect business organizations? Explain with examples.
- 2) Sub cultures of multinational business organizations should not supersede the dominant culture of the society. Comment.
- 3) Discuss the importance of socializing employess in a business organization.

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## CHAPTER 04

### SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

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#### Learning Objectives

- 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
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#### 4.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the social institutions and the evolution of such institutions. Further, it elaborates the different forms of social institutions. The importance of social institutions has been explained in different perspectives.

#### 4.2. Meaning and Definitions

Society is a system that has been formed by a set of social units. Herbert Spencer (1898) viewed the society as a system which is similar to a human body, as the various organs in the body work together to functions and control, the various parts of the society work together to keep the entire society functioning and regulated. These organs of the society are identified as social institutions.

Various interpretations have been given to the term 'social institution'. Generally, social institutions identified as the established units in the society which were formed to attain certain social and biological needs. H.E. Barnes (1938) describes, "*Social institutions are the machinery*

*through which society organizes, directs and executes the multifarious activities required to satisfy human needs".* These institutions demonstrate comparatively a stable pattern of behaviour which is also subjected to changes in the other institutions in society. Accordingly, Ellwood perceives social institutions as *"the habitual ways of living together which have been sanctioned, systematized and established by the authority of communities"*. Therefore, social institutions form an interrelated system which is organized to satisfy an important social need or social function.

Roland Verwiebe emphasizes social institutions as important structural components of modern societies that address one or more fundamental activity and/or specific function. Further, he visualized the society into an array of institutions that play countless specific roles to facilitate human social life.

Turner (1997) defines, *"social institution as a complex of positions, roles, norms and values lodged in particular types of social structures 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"*.

Karl Marx assumed society's mode of production determines the social institutions. According to Max Weber social institutions are interdependent but no single institution determines the rest. Further, he believed the causes and consequences of social institutions cannot be assumed in advance.

In essence, social institutions are established patterns of relationships prevail in the society, which are important for the overall functioning and the stability of the society.

#### **4.3. Evolution of Social Institutions**

Social institutions are universal because their fundamental nature and the purpose of existence are remaining similar (Rao, 2006). However, social institutions evolve over the time. Structure of social institutions transformed along the advancement of human needs. Origin of new institutions and restructuring of existing institutions were recorded in the history. The evolution of social institutions can be described in two phases;

- a) Pre-industrial era
- b) Post-industrial era

This division is based on the perspective of the western society where the industrial revolution (1760-1830) caused greater impact and widespread its implications internationally. Amarasekara (1992) identifies, family, religion and education are the prominent social



institutions in the pre-industrial era. Although, these institutions are remaining in the modern society, the characteristics of these institutions have been changed with time and space. Blood relationships laid the foundation for the earliest stage of social institutions. Later, engagement in economic activities and production in feudalistic era, the interrelationships and the structure of social institutions were developed. Then, governing the people and properties gained prominence. The structure of the society expanded from primitive relationships based on family and marriage to the complex inter-depending relationships such as ruler-followers, land lord- labourers, trader- consumer.

The industrial revolution caused remarkable changes in the western society. Origin of bureaucracy is significant in this era. It redefined the relationship patterns in the modern social institutions such as industries, offices and service organizations.

Doda (2005) pointed out, *“Social institutions are resistant to change; they tend to persist. However, once a change occurs in a particular social institution, it tends to affect the other institutions as well”*. Therefore, changes in the social institutions take place gradually rather than rapidly.

#### **4.4. Types of Social Institutions**

Sociology literature identifies five important social institutions in complex societies namely, the family, economy, government, education and religion.

##### **4.4.1. Family**

The family is the most simplest and elementary form of society. It is a socially defined set of relationships between at least two people related by blood, marriage or adoption, and residing together in a household (US Census Bureau, 2010). The famous American anthropologist G.P. Murdock is the prominent scholar who writes about this institution after studying families in 250 different societies. He defined family as a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. Murdock says that the family is a universal social institution. But Family as a social institution gets vary across different societies, historical periods, classes, and ethnic groups. According to him there are three types of families in the society called, nuclear, polygamous and extended.

There is very wonderful but informal structure of distributing the authority, resources, and works within the families. According to the functionalists, the functions of family include socializing children, regulating sexual behavior, reproduction; distributing resources and

providing social and economic support. Also functionalists like Robert Merton mention about the dysfunctions of family like increasing number of divorces, domestic violence, single parenting issues etc.

#### **4.4.2. Economic Institutions**

The economy plays an important role among the other social institutions. It is indispensable for the survival of social life (Perera, 2009). Sociologists understand the economy as the set of arrangements, by which a society produces, distributes, and consumer goods and services, and other resources. According to Marx, economic organization determines the major features of any society. Functionalists identify the main functions of economic institutions as production and distribution of goods, investment, innovations, assignment of individuals to different social roles like occupations. There are various economic systems in different societies such as, capitalism, socialism, feudalism etc. Though there were diverse economic patterns in primitive societies with the emergence of industrial revolution this has been a more formalized, active social institution among others. In tribal and other traditional societies, the economy was highly substantive. But today with the emergence of concepts like individualism, profit, competition and entrepreneurships, the motives of economic institutions have been changed. The market, exchange, money and supportive services are the prominent features in current economy. Due to the globalization and modernization the economy in all over the world, has been heavily reformed and become more complex and comprehensive than in the past.

#### **4.4.3. Political Institutions – State and Government**

Among various social institutions the government is being highly discussed as the major political institution. With the emergence of the social sciences, these political institutions are subjected to scrutiny and discussion. The power and authority in various political institutions have led to control, shape and regulate the behaviors in the society. According to the functionalists, the functions of political institutions include regulating the activities of other social institutions, formulating the policies rules and regulations, providing social welfare, protection against various dangers, maintaining diplomatic relationships, defining social goals, resolving group conflicts and forming group identities. The evolution of political institution goes back to the Greek civilization. With the formation of civilized society the government has been emerged as a highly formalized social institution. And with the contribution of various social, political philosophers the political institution considered today as the very powerful and complex social institution than others. Therefore, a comprehensive subject area has to be

discussed under this institution. The next chapters of the course module will discuss the political concepts in detail.

#### **4.4.4. Education**

Education is one of the basic human activities in all societies. Durkheim defines education as the socialization of the younger generation. Simply it is the process by which knowledge, skills, and values are systematically transmitted from one group to another. Sociologists attempt to understand the education as another social institution. It says that the education starts with the emergence of human society itself. A wide range of informal and non-formal education systems have been evolved although the past. However, at present education is a highly formalized and institutionalized social institution. Also the purpose of education has been changed with the passage of time. The ancient education system was highly embedded with the religion and the prime purpose was to build highly virtuous, moral personalities to the society (Perera, 2009). But after the industrial revolution the focus has been directed to the economic motives. There is a close relationship between the expertise of knowledge and economic strength of a country in modern society. According to the functionalists the functions of education include transmitting specific knowledge and skills, transmitting shared values and beliefs, socialization, occupational placement, and establishing social control etc. Sociologists appreciated the education which made possible the upward social mobility between various social classes (Cristina and Lindsay, 2005). Indeed in today's context there is a revolt of education in all around the world and it has led to create a huge social transformation in terms of many aspects of people's lives.

#### **4.4.5. Religious Institutions**

Man is not merely a social animal but also a religious or spiritual being (Rao, 2012). There is a long history for religion as a social institution, but its emergence is unknown. Religion is recognized as a universal social institution. It is found in all societies, past and present. Rao (2012) says that many societies have wide range of institutions connected with religion with forms of worship, ceremonies, sacred objects, tithes, and pilgrimages. Anyhow, a consensus regarding the nature of religion is yet to be found. Durkheim (1912) defines *"Religion as a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, that is to say, things set apart and forbidden"*. Maclver and Page defined *"Religion as we understood the term implies a relationship not merely between man and man, but also between man and some higher power"*. These institutions help to create worthy characters to the society by enhancing their self

understanding. According to functionalists like Thomas F.O' Dea, Davis and Green the functions of religion are known as social control, social cohesion, peace in mind, enhancing self-importance, promoting welfare, reinforcing social norms and strengthening social bonds, emotional support, reinforce social norms etc. Some sociologists mention that the primary society expected material benefits such as good health, long life, victory of war, rich harvest, good rebirth etc. from religious rituals. Anyway, these religious institutions fulfill a prodigious service to create worthy characters to the society clearing their spiritual egos. Also it is important to mention that today people are increasingly talking about dysfunctions of the religion like revolts among religious extremists.

#### **4.5. Importance of Social Institutions**

Social institutions have formed to attain certain common goals of the society and it is responsible for important functions. Doda (2005) categorizes the common purpose of these institutions into three domains:

- a) Perpetuation of the welfare of society
- b) Preservation and maintenance of the form of society
- c) Meeting the major needs of the members of the society

Parsons (1951) stated that social institutions define roles for people and socialization is about learning these roles and the expectations surrounding them. Several sociologists argue that social issues should understand in the social institutional context. In reality, social issues may cause by failures in the social institutions. For instance, when a social institution fails to perform its core function, the basic needs of people will not be addressed and social issues emerged: e.g. absence of care for the kids in a family may induce crimes such as begging and drug addiction.

Generally, social institutions are important to satisfy basic social needs, to define social values, to establish pattern of social behavior, to assign different roles for individuals and to support each other institutions.

#### **Review Questions**

- 01) Discuss the functions of different social institutions.

02) 'Social Institutions are usually interdependent. However, in practice some institutions dominate others'. Discuss this statement with examples.

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## CHAPTER 05

### SOCIAL CHANGE

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#### Learning Objectives

- Define the term 'social change'
  - Elaborate the theories of social change
  - Assess how 'social change' influences over the business environment
- 

#### 5.1. Introduction

Society is not static, but it is dynamic. In this chapter, it is expected to introduce this changing nature of society. Firstly, it discusses the meaning of social change. Then, it identifies the main causes for social change. Finally, it discusses as to why people do oppose social changes and reasons for this kind of resistance over social change.

#### 5.2. Meaning of Social Change

Any alteration, difference or modification that takes place in a situation or in an object through time can be called change (Shankar Rao, 2006). Change is the Law of Nature and it is universal. No society remains static or stable. In other words, society is not at all a static, but it is a dynamic entity. Thus, every society is subjected to the principle of eternal change. Sri Lanka today is different from the Sri Lanka of yesterday; what will happen tomorrow is hence, difficult to predict. The speed of change also varies from society to society.

Society is a 'web of social relationships' and hence 'social change' means a change in the system of social relationships. Thus, social change includes alterations in the structure and functions of the society. The followings are some definitions of social changes given by some famous scholars in the field.

*'Social change refers to a process responsive to many types of changes;*

- *Changes in the manmade conditions of life;*
- *Changes in the attitudes and beliefs of men; and*
- *Changes that go beyond the human control to the biological and the physical nature of things".*

MacIver and Page

*“Social change refers to a change in the human relationships”.*

Maclver

*“Social change is a term used to describe variations in, or modifications of, any aspect of social processes, social patterns, social interaction or social organization”.*

Jones

### **5.3 Theories of Social Change**

Philosophers have proposed many general theories on social change. Rao (2006) categorized those all theories in to four main categories as below.

#### **5.3.1 Evolutionary theories**

Evolutionary theories are based on the assumption that the societies gradually change from simple beginning to more complex forms. According to early sociologists, this evolutionary process would necessarily reach new and higher levels of human civilization (Rao, 2006). Social change happens always towards the better way until perfection is achieved. This evolutionary view of social change was highly influenced by Charles Darwin’s evolutionary theory.

#### **5.3.2 Cyclical Theories**

The proponents of cyclical theories on social change refuses the argument of evolutionary theory which suggests a steady and gradual change of the society always towards a better position. Instead, they argue that the change usually takes a cyclic form. Societies may grow, reach peak stage of development, may stagnate and finally collapse, with the potential for rising again.

#### **5.3.3 Functionalists theories**

Functionalists view the ‘social change’ as a result of the changes of institutions and their functions. Change disrupts the orderly functioning of the system, thus, the existing social order will collapse and it will be stabilized in a new equilibrium (Rao, 2006). According to Merton social change is a result of strains, tensions and contradictions between different social structures in the society.

#### **5.3.4 Conflict theories**

Conflict theories focus on the forces that produces instability, struggles and disorganization in the society (Rao, 2012). The most famous conflict theorist is Karl Marx. According to him, social changes are the results of class conflicts in the social system. As Rao mentioned, German Sociologist, George Simmel has said that the continuous conflicts keep the society dynamic and ever changing.



#### **5.4. Causes of Social Change**

Society is influenced by many forces and factors that cause changes as no single cause creates a single effect in the social world. Moreover, it is very difficult to identify clearly the cause and effect relationship in social phenomena. Sociologists have no firm idea about the question of the sources of social change. One group of sociologists argues that social change takes place due to cultural diffusion. Diffusion refers to the introduction of a behaviour modification from another culture. Every society borrows the cultural elements of another society for its progress directly or indirectly. As a result of such cultural diffusion, social changes can be taken place. Another group of sociologists argues that social change takes place due to the inherent capacity of people to make inventions. Inventions whether material or non-material, have led to significant social changes. However, both views cannot be completely accepted or rejected.

The following are some causes for social changes.

- Conflicts
- Social problems
- Cultural changes
- Changes in the social and non-social environment
- Revolutions

#### **5.5. Resistance to Social Change**

Though social change is universal, societies and cultures are relatively permanent. The social and cultural functions do not change 'overnight'. However, a certain resistance to change is there everywhere. In no society, all the changes are welcomed by the people without questioning and resistance. According to Shankar Rao (2006), the following are the main reasons for the opposition to social change.

##### ***Lack of interest in inventions and intellectual laziness***

If the people do not have a strong interest in new things, naturally they may oppose changes. Additionally, any society will accept new things while giving up the old ideas if the people in that society possess some amount of creativity, dynamism and rationality. However, some societies

do not possess these qualities due to intellectual laziness. In such a situation, these people may not welcome social changes.

### ***Imperfections of new inventions***

At the beginning, inventions are subject to imperfection such as inadequate performance. As a result, people tend to oppose new inventions.

### ***Fear towards new things***

Naturally, man has fear towards new ideas, inventions etc. Due to the unpredictability of effect of social changes, people may not accept the new. When people suspect that a given change is harmful, anti-social or irreligious, they resist it.

### ***Traditional attitudes and habits***

Traditional attitudes and habits of the people may not allow them to accept new changes as they are sentimentally and emotionally bound by their traditions. Misconception and misunderstandings influence the attitudes of people against any change.

### ***Ignorance***

Due to ignorance, people are not ready to accept new social changes.

### ***Economic disparity and difficulty***

Especially poor people are economically incapable of accepting new changes as their economic problems may not allow them to prepare for accepting social changes.

***When self-interests are endangered*** Whenever the self-interests of society or a group of people are threatened, they are not prepared to accept new social changes.

However, all social changes cannot be welcomed as worthwhile and beneficial. In other words, all social resistances are not harmful.

### **Review Questions**

- 03) Explain how 'social change' creates opportunities and challenges for business organizations in Sri Lanka.
- 04) Eventhough social change creates new avenues for business world, some organizations are reluctant to change. Discuss reasons for such resistance.

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## CHAPTER 06

### THE STATE AND GOVERNMENT

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#### Learning Objectives

- Define the concept of State
  - Identify the elements of the State
  - Distinguish the State from the government
  - Discuss various forms of government
  - Discuss the impact of government decisions on business
- 

#### 6.1. An Introduction to State

The main concern of Political science is the State, the greatest of all human associations. There is so great diversity of the word “State” in its usage. However, in political science, the word ‘State’ means a *“Politically organied people of a definite territory”*. The Greek used the word ‘Polis’ which corresponds most nearly to the English term “State”. The Greek used the word “Polis” for ‘City States’. The term was appropriate because at that time there were city states in Greece. The modern term ‘State’ is derived from the word ‘Status’ which was earlier used by the Teutons. Niccolo Machiavelli was the one who first introduced the term ‘State’ in the modern literature of Political Science.

#### 6.2. Definitions of State

The term ‘State’ has been defined by many political thinkers. Among them few popular definitions on “State” are given below.

*“A union of families and villages having for its end a perfect and self-sufficing life by which we mean a happy and honorable life”.*

Aristotle

*“The State is a politically organized people of a definite territory”.*

Bluntschli

*“The people organized for law within a definite territory”.*

Woodrow Wilson

*“A territorial society divided into government and subjects claiming within its allotted physical area, a supremacy over all other institutions”.*

Laski

According to Marxist/Socialist opinion, “The State emerged as a result of the division of society into antagonistic classes for the purpose of suppressing the exploited majority in the interest of the exploiting minority. The State is the political organization of the ruling class, which uses it for the purpose of suppressing the resistance of its class enemies. It is an organization for the maintenance of the rule of one class over the other class. To achieve this, State possesses such instruments of power such as an army, courts and a police force, etc.

### **6.3. Essential Elements of the State**

A thorough study and a close analysis of the definitions given above reveal the fact that the modern State is constituted of the following four constituent elements.

- Population or the number of people
- Fixed territory or a definite place of residence
- Government or an organization for uniting the people
- Sovereignty or supremacy in internal matters and independence of external control

Out of these four constituent elements of the modern State, the first two elements are physical elements; the third is a political element and the fourth is a spiritual element.

#### **6.3.1. Population**

There is no denying the fact that the State is a human institution and is the highest of all human associations. There can be no State without human beings. A population of some kind is necessary for the existence of the State. No State can exist in an uninhabited land nor can a definite piece of land without human habitation can be called as State. This does not mean that the State must consist of a certain number of human beings nor there a State if there is no population other than a single family. It's true that a family may be the center around which the State grows but the State cannot exist in the absence of a number of families and at the same time it is impossible to fix a definite number of people for a State. The number neither is too small to be self-sufficient nor too large to be well governed. The modern State gives preference to big size of population because, a bigger size of population creates a greater man power for the country. (E.g.: China, India)

Aristotle has rightly remarked that a good citizen makes a good State and a bad citizen makes a bad State. Good citizens are the health of the State. No particular figure can be fixed for the size of population of an ideal State. The only suggestion that can be made is that the size of the population of a State should be matched with its resources.

### **6.3.2. Territory**

The second essential constituent is the territory, which is an important and essential constituent of the State as any other. The word territory covers the surface of the land within well-defined boundaries, the subsoil, lakes and rivers and also air space above the land. Bluntschli believed that *“as the State has its personal basis in the people, so it has its material basis in the land. The people do not become a State until they have acquired territory”*. As with the population, State varies in the size of their territory. The small states have advantages as well as disadvantages. The advantage of having a small State is that they remain solid and well governed but at the same time they are at a great disadvantage as in matters of defence and natural resources. But no principle can be laid down for determining the size of a State. The size of a State is not an index of greatness. (E.g.: Singapore)

### **6.3.3. Government**

Government is an indispensable element of the State because no State can exist in the absence of government. Government is the political organization through which the collective will of the people is formulated, expressed and executed. As a matter of fact the State operates through the governmental machinery. It is the agency through which the society is politically organized, common policies are determined and by which common affairs regulated and common interests are promoted. In the absence of the government, an aggregation of people permanently settled in a fixed territory, would be incoherent, unorganized, anarchic mass with no means of collective action.

### **6.3.4. Sovereignty**

Sovereignty is regarded as the life and the soul of the State. There can be no State in the absence of sovereignty. The term sovereignty has been derived from the Latin word ‘Superanus’ which means ‘Supreme’. Sovereignty therefore is the supreme element of the Statehood. It is the power which differentiates the State from all other social organizations. Broadly speaking, sovereignty

means the supremacy of the State. The State rules supreme in the internal and the external matters. The sovereignty of the State is expressed through the government which rules supreme in internal and external matters.

*“A government which exercises de facto administrative control over a country and is not subordinate to any other country is a foreign sovereign State.”*

Arantzazu Mendi (1939), Strouds Judicial Dictionary

Internal sovereignty means that the State is supreme in all the internal matters. Every government rules supreme in its State and all the institutions of the State and all people living in its State have to obey the commands of the government.

Every State must have its population, a fixed territory, a duly established government and its sovereignty. In the absence of any of these elements, it will fail to claim the status of Statehood.

#### **6.4. An Introduction to Government**

The government is the active unit within the State. The government functions through its three branches namely executive, legislature and the judiciary. The legislature passes the law over the country the executive rules over the country and judiciary enforces laws passed by the legislature. Many States can be differentiated based on the form of government that it has adopted. Some of the popular forms of government are given below;

##### **6.4.1. Monarchy**

Monarchy is a product of history and this was a popular form till the 19th century. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century monarchical form of government was abolished in many countries. Monarchy can be divided into hereditary and elective. Based on the nature of monarchy, it can be divided into absolute and constitutional monarchy.

##### **6.4.2. Aristocracy**

Aristocracy is the form of government which is conducted by a small section of society. They are the best men of the community and they are encouraged by the most virtuous principles. ‘Aristos’ in Greek means ‘The Best’ and ‘Kratos’ means ‘Power’. According to Greek philosophers, Aristocracy is a form of government par excellence. According to Aristotle, this is

a form of government ruled by superior persons of the society. According to Dr. Garner Aristocracy is the form of government in which political power is exercised by a few.

#### **6.4.3. Dictatorship**

According to Ford, Dictatorship is the assumption of extra legal authority by the head of the State. According to Alfred, dictatorship is the government of one man who has not obtained his position by inheritance but either by force or by consent or combination of both. The main features of dictatorship are,

- One man's rule
- Based on force or consent or a mixture of both
- The dictator is not responsible for any other authority
- Enjoys unlimited power
- Runs the administration authoritatively but not according to law
- Tenure is not fixed

#### **6.4.4. Democracy**

Democracy is a form of government of the people by the people and for the people. The term democracy is derived from the Greek word 'Demos' which means 'the people' and 'Kratos', which means 'power'. Therefore democracy means 'Power of the people'. This is a popular form of government in modern days. (Next chapter will discuss Democracy in detail).

#### **6.4.5. Unitary and Federal Government**

Modern governments are classified as unitary governments and federal governments on the basis of distribution of power and on the relations between the central and the local authorities.

According to Dr. Garner *"where the whole power of government is conferred by the constitution upon a single central organ or organs from which the local governments derive whatever authority or autonomy they possess and indeed their very existence, we have a system of unitary government"*. According to this definition, it is clear that in a unitary government the powers are not distributed between the center and the States through the Constitution. Now a day's unitary governments are seen in England, Japan, Sri Lanka, France, Belgium etc.



Federal Government is one form of government where there is a division of power between the center and the States. The word federalism has a root in the Latin word 'Feuds' which means 'Treaty' or 'Agreement'. According to Professor Strong, *"a federal State is one in which a number of co-ordinate States unite for certain common purpose in it"*. The powers of the central or federal authority are limited by certain powers secured to the units which have united for a common purpose. This being the case there must be some authority which determines this distribution. This authority is embodied in the Constitution itself. Federal Governments can be seen in the United States of America, Canada, India, Russia etc.

#### **6.4.6. Parliamentary and Presidential Government**

The relationship between the Legislature and Executive is the only way to differentiate the Parliamentary form of government from Presidential form of government. If the real executive is responsible to the legislature or the Parliament, the form of government is Parliamentary. A parliamentary government is also called 'Responsible or Cabinet' form of government because in this kind of situation cabinet enjoys the real powers of the government and it is under the control of parliament.

The main features of the parliamentary form of government are as follows,

- Head of the State enjoys a nominal power
- Clear and stable majority
- Collective Responsibility
- Individual Responsibility
- Membership of the Parliament
- Leadership of the Prime Minister
- Political Homogeneity
- Secrecy
- Mutual toleration between political parties
- Right of the executive to dissolve the legislature

According to Dr. Garner 'Presidential Government' is a system in which the executive (including head of the State and his ministers) is constitutionally independent of the legislature with respect to the duration of his or their tenure and irresponsible to the legislature for his or their political policies. In this system President enjoys real powers of the government.

The main features of the Presidential form of government are as follows,

- Separation of power
- President is the Head of the State and Head of the government
- President enjoys the real power
- President and his secretaries are not responsible for the legislature
- President is elected for a fixed tenure

At present Presidential form of governments can be seen in the United States of America, Brazil and in some countries in South America.

### 6.5 Impact of government decisions on business

The society operates through the governmental machinery. It is the agency through which the society is politically organized, common policies are determined and implemented. Business entities operate within the society and they should adhere to the rules and regulation of that certain society. Hence government decisions may influence on the business operations. That influence may be either positive or negative. This impact on business activities can be varied depending on the nature of the government.

### Review Questions

1. Explain the elements of the State.
2. Why the government is identified as the service agent of the State? Explain.
3. Differentiate the parliamentary form of government from presidential form of government.

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## CHAPTER 07

### NATURE OF DEMOCRATIC ENVIRONMENT

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#### Learning Objectives

- Define democracy
  - Identify the types of democracy
  - Describe the basic principles of democracy
  - Define “Rights” and “Duties” in a democratic environment
  - Identify the types of Rights
  - Identify the types of Duties
- 

#### 7.1. Democracy

Democracy is one of the popular forms of government and most of the contemporary states embrace it as their political system. The term democracy is derived from the Greek word ‘*demos*’ that refers to people. The term ‘*Kratos*’, stands for power. Thus, democracy represents ‘the power of the people’. It is a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in its people. A democratic political system allows citizens to express their political preferences and guarantees of civil rights.

The memorable phrase of 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America, Abraham Lincoln was, *“the democracy is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people”*. Accordingly, democracy can be viewed as the government in which people rule themselves.

Garner defined, *“Democracy is that form of government in which the mass of the population possesses the right to share in the exercise of sovereign power”*. Therefore, one of the main characteristics of democracy is the ‘majority rule’.

#### 7.2. Direct versus Indirect Democracy

Direct or pure democracy was practiced in ancient Greek city-states, where citizens were personally involving in the decision-making process. With the gradual evolution of the societies and increased complexity, the direct democracy assumed in the forms of referendum, initiative, plebiscite and recall. At present, the direct popular assembly is practiced in some cantons of Switzerland. Alternatively, indirect or representative democracy is widely practiced in modern states. In these democracies, the will of the state is formulated and expressed indirectly by the

people through their representatives. People delegate the power of deliberation and decision-making to their representatives. Few examples are Sri Lanka, Japan, Canada, Australia, the United States of America and Singapore.

### **7.3. Basic Principles of Democracy**

Democracy is relying on the common values and cultures of societies. Also, several guiding principles act as the foundation of democracy. Although the practices of democracy vary across states, the fundamental principles are uniform. Citizens are responsible to uphold and support these principles.

The following fundamental principles are recognized in the 'Universal Declaration on Democracy' in 1997.

- Liberty
- Equality
- Human rights
- Multi-party system (pluralistic system)
- Free and fair elections
- Political tolerance
- Citizen participation
- Independence of judiciary
- Rule of law
- Control over abuse of power
- Accountability and transparency

*Source:* Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1997

### **7.4. Democratic Environment**

Today, more than half the world's population live in a democracy (Roser, 2013). The old democracies, specifically the countries which democratized first are achieved economic growth. In a democratic environment, human rights and fundamental freedoms are being respected, and people exercise the free expression of their will. Further, people are free from discrimination. Therefore, it preserves the dignity of the individual, promotes social justice, fosters the economic and social development of the community. Moreover, it strengthens the cohesion of society and ensures a peaceful life for all.

The subsequent section further elaborates the selected principles of democracy.

## 7.5. Liberty

From the very beginning, both man and the state have been making efforts for achieving freedom. Freedom is a very precious condition without which neither the State nor the individual can make any progress.

The term liberty has been derived from the Latin word '*liber*'. It denotes the absence of all restraints. It means one can do whatever he likes, regardless of all conditions. But in practice, liberty does not permit a person to do whatever he/she likes. An adage speaks of "*Your freedom to swing your arm stops at my nose.*"

In a civilized society, no one can be permitted to act without restraints. Mckechnie describes liberty as, "*Freedom is not the absence of all restraints, but rather the substitution of rational ones for the irrational*". In reality, liberty is conditioned by several factors including law and societal specific practices.

According to Burns, liberty supports a person to grow and develop his/her abilities. It is further confirmed by Gettell as, "*Liberty is the positive power of doing and enjoying those things which are worthy of enjoyment and work*". Thus, liberty ensures adequate opportunities for all to develop themselves.

Liberty can be in different forms such as natural liberty, civil liberty, personal liberty, political liberty, economic liberty, national liberty, etc.

## 7.6. Equality

In general, the term equality means that all human beings are equal. However, their physical features and mental abilities are different. Therefore, equality does not mean absolute equal treatment. Equality means equal development opportunities.

Laski has clearly explained the concept of equality. Accordingly, "*Equality does not mean the identity of treatment or the sameness of reward. If a bricklayer gets the same reward as a mathematician or a scientist, the purpose of society will be defeated. Equality, therefore, means, first of all, the absence of social privilege. In the second place, it means that adequate opportunities are laid open to all*". Thus, equality stands for non-discrimination.

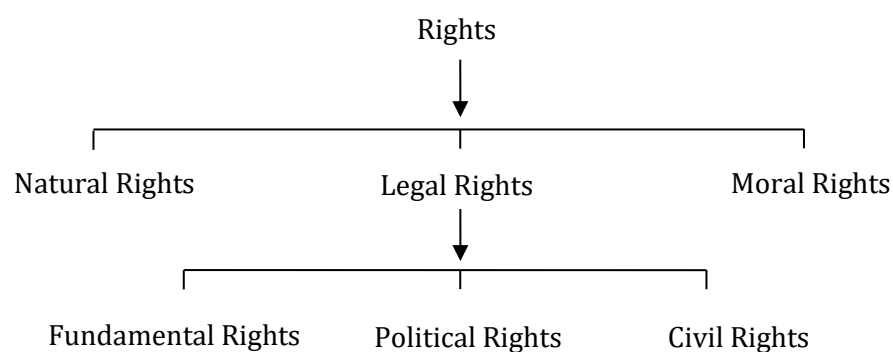
Equality as a leveling process assumes that all are politically equal. Hence, all citizens should be able to equally engage in political life. Also, it affirms that individuals should be equal before the law. The general law shall not confer special privileges on particular individuals or groups. Equality is also categorized into several dimensions as social equality, civil equality, political equality, economic equality, etc.

## 7.7. Rights and Duties

The core purpose of democratic governments is the protection and promotion of peoples' rights, interests, and welfare. Specifically, right is an entitlement or justified claim. Laski describes, *"A state is known by the rights that it maintains"*. The state ought to guarantee its individuals the enjoyment of certain basic human rights which are essential for a good life.

Hobbes views the rights as, *"what we may expect from others, and others from us "*. Further, all genuine rights are the conditions of social welfare. According to Laski, *"Rights are those conditions of social life without which no man can seek to be himself at his best"*.

The types of rights are demonstrated in figure 7.1.



**Figure 7.1:** Types of Rights

Individuals as a member of society a person must behave in a way which is good for all and which helps promote welfare of society. Thus, individuals have to follow certain norms. These are obligations or in other words, those are duties.

Rights and duties are related to each other. They are the two sides of the same coin. They are the same conditions seen from different angles. Rights are assured and enabled by society. People have to perform their duties and it ultimately enables others to enjoy their rights. There are different types of duties; namely, moral duties, legal duties and fundamental duties.

In conclusion, democracy is the political system that offers opportunities for its citizens to conduct a peaceful and content life. Thus, economic, social and cultural developments are viewed as the fruits of democracy.

## Review Questions

- 1) Discuss how democracy is functioning as 'the government of people' by highlighting its fundamental principles.
- 2) 'Direct democracy is impracticable in modern world' Comment.
- 3) 'Rights and duties are the two sides of the same coin'. Comment .

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## CHAPTER 08

### DECENTRALIZATION

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#### **Learning Objectives**

- Explain the meaning of decentralization
  - Distinguish the various forms of decentralization
  - Explain the reasons for both decentralization and centralization
  - Examine how decentralization is practiced in practice in Sri Lanka
- 

#### **8.1. Introduction**

This chapter is divided into four main parts. The first part is set aside to discuss the meaning of decentralization including the different forms and degrees of decentralization, particularly the difference between deconcentration (administrative decentralization) and political decentralization or devolution. The second part is assigned to focus the reasons for decentralization and the importance of decentralization for developing countries. However, most developing countries including Sri Lanka have retained a centralized system of government despite efforts to achieve decentralization. Therefore, the third part explains the main reasons for centralization in many developing countries. Finally, this chapter briefly discusses on how Sri Lanka is practicing decentralization.

#### **8.2. The Meaning of Decentralization**

Decentralization is a popular concept in almost all developing countries. The term decentralization is, however, a very complex one. It means different things to different people, organizations and countries. In a general sense, the term is used to describe the transfer of power or functions from a higher level to a local level, as from the national to the local level of government.

As Subramanian (1978) explains, *“Decentralization is often taken to mean the distribution of power and control geographically all over the country in several centers while centralization means the concentration of power and control in one capital city”*.

Also, there is a tendency to broaden the interpretation of decentralization to embrace not only territorial dispersion of State authority, but also delegation of State power to parastatal bodies like corporations and non-government organizations.

### **8.3. Forms of Decentralization**

A variety of terms are used to describe different types of decentralization. Rondinelli (1981) and UNDP (1997) have identified four types of decentralization as Deconcentration, Devolution, Delegation and Privatization. Further, World Bank (2001) identified types of decentralization as Administrative Decentralization, Political Decentralization, Fiscal Decentralization, and Economic/ Market Decentralization. However, in most literature two main forms are highlighted. They are,

- Deconcentration or Administrative Decentralization
- Devolution or Political Decentralization

The distinction between devolution and deconcentration is that, devolution is the legal transfer of power to a locally elected political body, whereas deconcentration is the transfer of powers by administrative means to local representatives of the central government (Commonwealth Secretariat).

#### **8.3.1. Deconcentration or Administrative Decentralization**

Administrative decentralization seeks to redistribute authority, responsibility and resources to provide public services among different levels of government. It means that government ministries and departments delegate some functions to their respective local district or regional administrative units.

*“Deconcentration refers to the transfer of administrative authority from central to more local administrative units. It implies extending the reach of government machinery deeper into the countryside both at urban and rural levels”.*

Tepper (1989)

It is important to note that the final decision making power is with the central government machinery, not with the local administrators.

### **8.3.2. Devolution or Political Decentralization**

Political decentralization aims to give citizens or their elected representatives more power in public decision making. It is broader than administrative decentralization. It means the establishment of local self-government units with legislative power and financial independence from the center. Devolution requires that local government be given autonomy and independence and be clearly perceived of as a separate level or not under direct control. Political decentralization often requires constitutional or statutory reforms. Local government should be given clear and legally recognized geographical boundaries over which they exercise authority, and within which they perform public functions (Rondinell & McCullough, 1989).

*“Devolution refers to the transfer of government authority from a central agency to local bodies”.*

Tepper (1976)

He further defines decentralization as a term that *“combines the other two terms (deconcentration and devolution). It implies a mixture of the two forms of authority, transferred to levels closer to the general population. It means both local government and rural administration.”*

Although decentralization measures have had a long history, it is only since the early 1970's that both the governments of developing countries and international aid agencies have made decentralization strategies a priority of development and administration.

### **8.4. Important Aspects in Decentralization**

The most important aspect of decentralization is the amount of power transferred or delegated to the local level. A second important aspect of decentralization is the legitimacy of the transfer of power to the local level. That is, the power that was granted or transferred to the local authorities must be legitimized within the Constitution of the central government. Third consideration is the local level to which power or functions are transferred. Finally, it is important to understand who the power holders are, whether they are elected officials or not.

### **8.5. Reasons for Decentralization**

It was argued that centralization works against the poorer and less privileged sections of society, those sections that comprise the majority in developing countries.

- The primary objective of the strategy of decentralization is to accelerate rural development and thereby to promote national development. In other words, it has been

argued that decentralization strategies will provide better opportunities for the rural poor to improve their quality of life through their participation in the decision making process at the grass roots level, according to their own needs.

As B. C. Smith (1985) explains, *“decentralization has been seen as particularly relevant to meeting the needs of the poor. It is argued that if development is to mean the eradication of poverty, inequality and material deprivation it must engage the involvement and mobilization of the poor”*.

- Decentralization will lead to greater development in rural areas and finally to national development. It is believed that decentralization strategies will generate increased production and employment and improve the quality of life in rural areas by enlisting the participation of the local people in the planning and implementation of the development of their own locality.
- Decentralization allows greater flexibility in planning and implementation. The rationale behind the decentralization strategies is to provide more of what Smith (1985) calls ‘accountability to the people’; this accountability *“brings government closer to the people to provide better service to client groups (and thus) it promotes liberty, equality and welfare”*. The ultimate objective of decentralization strategies is rural/regional or local development.
- The primary and underlying objective of decentralization is to improve the quality of life for the rural poor, those who have been left out of the process of development. The main argument used by the proponents of decentralization is, therefore, as follows: programmes for the development of the rural community can yield better results if political and administrative institutions are decentralized so that substantial power is given to local decision-makers. Such institutions, it is argued, will be able to make faster, more effective decisions and act in response to the needs of the community.

However, administrative decentralization has been the most common form of decentralization in developing countries. Most governments of developing countries have failed to politically decentralize (devolve) State power to local councils. Also, the various forms of decentralization for more than three decades have not resulted in benefits to the rural poor. In other words, decentralization strategies, in particular those intended to improve the quality of life of the rural

poor by increasing their participation in decision making and promoting their liberty, equality and welfare, have failed to achieve their projected objectives. Instead, local and central powerful groups have gained from the decentralization.

## **8.6. The Reasons for Centralization**

It is important to understand the rationale behind centralization tendencies in the developing countries.

- During the colonial rule, a highly centralized system of government was established because such a system favoured the colonialist economic and political objectives. It was easier to maintain law and order and to promote their own economic interests with a central system of control. As a result of the colonial legacy, many developing countries inherited centralized forms of government.
- The development policies of independent governments further reinforced centralization tendencies, thereby creating an even more centralized system of rule than that of the colonial rulers. Immediately after independence, the national governments assumed a greater role in economic development.
  - That is, the State became more involved in the development of infrastructures and other activities in order to promote economic growth. Because of the weakness of the private sector, the State was forced to become involved in the promotion of economic activities usually through investment in public corporations.
  - A centralized planning system was considered to be the best arrangement in this regard. Moreover, in the 1950s and 1960s industrialization and urban growth strategies were implemented to encourage overall economic growth.
  - A centralized form of government was essential to implement these programmes as well. Therefore, these two factors build strong independent governments and the provision of a strong foundation for economic development and reinforce the centralization tendencies created by colonial rulers.
- Many of the developing countries have several or many ethnic communities. The fear of emerging nationalism in different parts of a country and the fear of disintegration promoted a further trend toward centralization.

- The uneven distribution of limited natural resources within the countries led to the creation of a centralized planning system to ensure that resources would be used efficiently and effectively.
- The lack of skilled manpower in the rural areas also contributed to centralization. Trained, qualified and skilled personnel from the urban centers are often reluctant to relocate to the remote backward rural areas. In other words, the lack of qualified administration in rural backward areas and the inefficiency and incapacity of the local bureaucracy encouraged centralization tendencies in the developing countries.
- Development of organizational concepts such as hierarchy, division of labor and co-ordination, new communication and information facilities and the specialization and technical nature of knowledge all these were made possible and promoted centralization.
- International aid agencies and transnational capital also encouraged a strong centralized government in order to protect their investment in developing countries.
- Influence of left oriented political parties encouraged a centralized system of authority particularly through nationalization policies, mainly because centralization would be favourable for equitable growth where regional income inequalities exist. All these factors exist one way or the other has contributed to reinforce the centralization tendencies in developing countries like Sri Lanka.

### **8.7. Decentralized Administration in Sri Lanka**

In relation to Sri Lanka, the concept of decentralization has been debated since independence not exclusively to respond to ethnic factor, but in recognition of the need of participatory development and as against to highly centralized structure. However, ethnic factor also had an impact on decentralization (Leitan, 1990).

Sri Lanka is divided into four administrative layers namely, National Level, District Level, Divisional Level and Village Level. Ministries are operating at the national level, while District Secretariats are functioning at the district level headed by the District Secretary. Divisional Secretariats are operating at the divisional Level headed by the Divisional Secretary, and Grama Niladari Officers are functioning at the village level.

On the contrary, the political division of the country consists of three tiers: Central Level, Provincial Level, and Local Government Level.

Devolution of power to the Provincial Council was initiated under the Indo- Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987. It is functioning under the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution and the Provincial Councils Act No. 42 of 1987, and Act No. 12 of 1989. Each provincial council is elected by the voters of the province for a 5 year term on the basis of the proportional representation and functions through a governor and a board of ministers consisting of a chief minister and 4 ministers. Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and, Pradeshiya Sabhas are the institutions operating under local government level.

Although there is a strong need and demand for decentralization in developing countries including Sri Lanka, the economic and political factors, together with centralizing tendencies have not facilitated decentralization in reality.

### **Review Questions**

- 1) Differentiate the 'Political Decentralization' from 'Administrative Decentralization'.
- 2) Though 'Decentralization' involves lots of benefits, some countries are in favor of 'Centralization'. Why?

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## **CHAPTER 09**

### **THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA**

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#### **Learning Objectives**

- Gain basic understanding about the present constitution in Sri Lanka
  - Identify the nature and the role of Executive, Legislative and Judicial system in Sri Lanka
- 

#### **9.1. Introduction**

Sri Lankan constitution has evolved over a period of time. In early periods it was a monarchical system. But it was defeated with the invasion of colonial masters. Sri Lanka was granted the Dominion Status in 1948 and became a Republic under the new Republican Constitution of 1972. Thereafter, a new Constitution was passed in 1978. This chapter focuses on the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 1978.

#### **9.2. The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka of 1978**

The Constitution embodies a Presidential form of government, being an amalgamated form of the American and French model.

#### **9.3. The Executive**

##### **9.3.1. President of the Republic**

##### ***Election***

President is the Head of the State, the Head of the Executive and of the Government and also the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The president is elected by the people and holds office for a term of five years. Any citizen who is qualified to be elected to the office of President may be nominated as a candidate for such office: (a) by a recognized political party or (b) if he is or had been an elected member of the legislature, by any other political party or by an elector. After the 20<sup>th</sup> amendment, the minimum age requirement of a qualified elector for the



presidential election has been reduced up to 30 years. And the dual citizens are also allowed to become qualified electors at a presidential election.

Earlier any person who had been twice elected to the office of President was not qualified for re-election. However, under the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution that condition was revised and the two term limit was removed. That meant there would no longer be a limit on the number of times an individual could be elected to the office of the President.

However, the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution was reinforced this limitation. It says that *“no person who has been twice elected to the office of President by the People, shall be qualified thereafter to be elected to such office by the people”*.

Simply it means that under the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment it has been prevented a President from running for office more than twice.

### ***Powers and Functions***

The President has the right at any time to attend, address and send messages to Parliament. In the exercise of this right, he is entitled to all the privileges amenities and powers, except right to vote, of a Member of Parliament. In addition to the powers and functions conferred on or assigned to him by the Constitution, the President has the power:

- (a) to make the Statement of Government Policy in Parliament at the commencement of each session of Parliament;
- (b) to preside at ceremonial sittings of Parliament;
- (c) to ensure the creation of proper conditions for the conduct of free and fair elections, at the request of the Election Commission;
- (d) to receive and recognize and to appoint and accredit Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Plenipotentiaries and other diplomatic agents;
- (e) to appoint as President's Counsel, attorneys-at law who have reached eminence in the profession and have maintained high standards of conduct and professional rectitude.
- (f) to keep the Public Seal of the Republic, and to make and execute under the Public Seal the acts of appointment of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Chief Justice and other Judges of the Supreme Court, the President and other Judges of the Court of Appeal and such grants and dispositions of lands and immovable property

vested in the Republic as he is by law required or empowered to do, and to use the Public Seal for sealing all things whatsoever that shall pass that Seal;

(g) to declare war and peace; and

(h) to do all such acts and things, not being inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution or written law, as by international law, custom or usage he is required or authorized to do.

### ***Vacation of His Office***

The office of President becomes vacant

(a) Upon his death;

(b) If he resigns his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Speaker;

(c) If he ceases to be a citizen of Sri Lanka;

(d) If the person elected as President willfully fails to assume office within [two weeks] from the date of commencement of his term of office;

(e) If the Supreme Court in the exercise of its powers and determines that his election as President was void and does not determine that any other person was duly elected as President;

(f) Any Member of Parliament may, by a writing addressed to the Speaker, give notice of a resolution alleging that the President is permanently incapable of discharging the functions of his office by reason of mental or physical infirmity or that the President has been guilty of –

(i) Intentional violation of the Constitution,

(ii) Treason,

(iii) Bribery,

(iv) Misconduct or corruption involving the abuse of the powers of his office, or

(v) any offence under any law, involving moral turpitude and setting out full particulars of the allegation or allegations made and seeking an inquiry and report thereon by the Supreme Court.

### **9.3.2. The Cabinet of Ministers**

### ***Appointment of Ministers***

Cabinet of Ministers charged with the direction and control of the Government of the Republic. They are collectively responsible and answerable to Parliament. The President is a member as well as the Head of the Cabinet provided that when the Cabinet is dissolved, the President shall continue in office. The President shall, in consultation with the Prime Minister, where he considers such consultation to be necessary, determine the number of Ministers of the Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministries and the assignment of subjects and functions to such Ministers. The total number of Ministers of the Cabinet of Ministers shall not exceed thirty.

### ***Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers***

There shall be a Secretary to the Cabinet who is appointed by the President. Subject to the direction of the President, he has charged of the Cabinet office.

## **9.4. The Legislature**

### ***Composition and Term***

The Constitution has provided for a unicameral legislature, called Parliament. It consists of 225 members. Its term is 05 years from the date appointed for its first meeting. It may be dissolved sooner but its term cannot be extended.

### ***Electors***

A person is qualified to be an elector at the election of the members of parliament provided that his name is entered in the appropriate register. But no person is qualified to be an elector, if he is subject to any of the following disqualifications (a) if he is not a citizen of Sri Lanka (b) if he has not attained the age of 18 years (c) if he is under any law found or declared to be unsound mind (d) if he is serving or has during the period of seven years immediately preceding completed serving of a sentence of imprisonment (by whatever name called) for a term not less than six months imposed after conviction by any court for an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than two years or is under sentence of death or is serving or has during the period of seven years immediately preceding completed the serving of a sentence of imprisonment for a term not less than six months awarded in lieu of execution of such sentence: provided that if any disqualified person is granted a free pardon such disqualification ceases from the date of pardon. However, after the 20<sup>th</sup> amendment, having a dual citizenship will not disqualify a person from being an elector.

### ***Proportional Representation***

The Delimitation Commission has the power to divide Sri Lanka into not less than twenty and not more than twenty-five Electoral Districts and shall assign names thereto.

Any recognized political party or any group of persons contesting as independent candidates may submit one nomination paper setting out the names, in order of priority, of such number of candidates as is equivalent to the number of members to be elected for that electoral district, increased by three. Each elector is entitled to only one vote, even if his name appears in the electoral register in more than one electoral district. The recognized political party or independent group which polls the highest number of votes in any electoral district shall be entitled to have the candidate nominated by it, who has secured the highest number of preferences, declared elected. The one hundred and ninety six members shall be declared elected at a General Election of Members of Parliament.

### ***Organization of Parliament***

#### ***Speaker and Others***

The Parliament, at its first sitting after a General Election, elects three members as the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees and the Deputy Chairman of Committees thereof.

#### ***Secretary-General of Parliament***

There is a Secretary General of Parliament, who is appointed by the President and subject to the approval of the Constitutional Council, holds office during good behavior.

### ***Vacation of Seats***

The seat of a Member of Parliament becomes vacant

- (a) Upon his death;
- (b) If, by writing under his hand addressed to the Secretary-General of Parliament, he resigns his seat;
- (c) Upon his assuming the office of President Consequent to his election to such office, either by the People or by Parliament;
- (d) If he becomes subject to any disqualification specified in Article 89 or 91;
- (e) if he becomes a member of the Public Service or an employee of a public corporation or, being a member of the Public Service or an employee of a public corporation, does not cease

to be a member of such Service or an employee of such corporation, before he sits in Parliament ;

- (f) If, without the leave of Parliament first obtained, he absents himself from the sittings of Parliament during a continuous period of three months;
- (g) If his election as a Member is declared void under the law in force for the time being;
- (h) Upon the dissolution of Parliament; or
- (i) Upon a resolution for his expulsion being passed in terms of Article 81.

### ***Powers and Functions of Parliament***

#### **Legislative Power**

Parliament has power to make laws including laws having retrospective effect and repealing or amending any provision of the Constitution or adding any provision to the Constitution provided that it cannot make any law (a) suspending the operation of the Constitution or any part thereof or (b) repealing the Constitution as a whole unless such law also enacts a new Constitution to replace it.

#### **Financial Power**

Parliament has full control over public finance. No tax, rate or any other levy can be imposed by any local authority or any other public authority, except by or under the authority of a law passed by Parliament. No warrant for withdrawal of any amount from the Consolidated Fund, under the hand of the Minister in charge of Finance, can be issued unless the sum had by resolution of Parliament or by any law been granted for specified public services for the financial year during which the withdrawal is to take place or is otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund.

#### **Control of the Executive**

Another most important role of the legislature is control of the political executive in representative democratic government system with people's sovereignty. President, Prime Minister and Cabinet are the political executive body in Sri Lanka. Though President was not directly responsible to the parliament, all his activities should be done after the approval of the legislature. Prime Minister and Cabinet are selected from the Parliament and they are directly responsible to the Parliament. If the policy statement or budget statement of the government

was rejected, they should resign. Parliament has the power to propose the No confidence motion or impeachment against the part of political executive body. Questioning period of the parliament is another opportunity to control the executive. There are numerous provisions for controlling the executive by the legislature but its validity is minimized and it is decided according to the behavior of political party system and the nature of political culture.

## **9.5. The Judiciary**

### ***Establishment of Courts***

Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the institutions for the administration of justice which protect, vindicate and enforce the rights of the people; (a) the Supreme Court (SC), (b) the Court of Appeal (CA) and (c) the High Court (HC) and such other Courts of First Instance, tribunals or such institutions as Parliament may from time to time ordain and establish.

### **9.5.1. The Supreme Court**

#### ***Composition***

It consists of the Chief Justice and of not less than six and not more than ten judges, who are appointed by the President. The SC has power to act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership, and no act or proceeding of the court can be deemed to be invalid by reason only of any such vacancy or any defect in the appointment of a Judge.

#### ***Jurisdiction***

It is the highest and final superior court of record. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution, it exercises (a) jurisdiction in respect of constitutional matters; (b) jurisdiction for the protection of fundamental rights ;(c) final appellate jurisdiction; (d) consultative jurisdiction; (e) jurisdiction in election petitions; (f) jurisdiction in respect of any breach of the privileges of Parliament; and (g) jurisdiction in respect of such other matters which Parliament may be law vest or ordain.

### **9.5.2. The Court of Appeal:**

#### ***Composition***

It consists of the President of the Court and between six and eleven other Judges appointed by the President of the Republic.

### ***Jurisdiction***

The court has an exercises, subject to the provisions of the Constitution or of any law, an appellate jurisdiction for the correction of all errors in fact or in law which are committed by any court of first instance, tribunal or other institution and sole and exclusive cognizance, by way of appeal, revision and *restitutio in integrum*, of all causes, suits, actions, prosecutions, matters and things of which such court of first instance, tribunal or other institution may have taken cognizance : provided that no judgment, decree or order of any court can be reversed or varied on account of any error, defect or irregularity, which has not prejudiced the substantial rights of the parties or occasioned a failure of justice.

### **9.5.3. High Court**

A High Court shall be designated for each Province. It is the highest court of first instance exercising criminal jurisdiction in respect of offences committed within the Province. Also, it exercises appellate and revisionary jurisdiction in respect of convictions, sentences and orders entered or imposed by Magistrates Courts and Primary Courts within the Province, Further, it exercises other jurisdiction and powers as Parliament may, by law, provide. Its judges are appointed by the President and are removable as well as subject to the disciplinary control of the President on the recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission. Parliament may by law provide for matters relating to the retirement of these judges.

### **Review Questions**

- 1) 'The general understanding regarding the Constitution of the country will be useful for every citizen in that society'. Discuss.
- 2) Describe the powers and functions of ;
  - a. Executive,
  - b. Legislature, and
  - c. Judicial system in Sri Lanka

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## GLOSSARY

Accountability	- j.ùu
Administrative Decentralization/ Deconcentration	- mrsmd, k úuOH.; lrKh
Administrative Theory	- mrsmd, k kHdh
Analyzing Problems	- .eg`: úYaf, aIKh
Anarchy	- wrdcsL
Antagonistic	- m%; súfrdaë
Aristocracy	- m%N+; ka;%jdoh
Autonomy	- iajdëk; ajh\$ iajrdcHh
Belief	- úYajdi
Centralization	- uOH.; lrKh\$ uOH.; lsrSu
Ceylon National Congress	- ,xld cd;sl ix.uh
Ceylon Reform League	- ,xld m%;sixialrK ix.uh
City States	- k.r rdcH
Collective Behavior	- iduqysl p%hdj
Collective Responsibility	- iduqysl j.lSu
Colonial Legacy	- hg;a úcs; Wreuh
Communal Representation	- cd;suQ, l ksfhdackh
Communism	- fldñhqksIaÜjdoh
Comparative Governments	- ;=, kd;aul wdKavql%u
Conservatism	- .;dkq.;sljdoh
Constitutional	- jHjia:duh
Countervailing Forces Model	- m%%;sfmdaIK idOl udos,sh
Cultural Conflict	- ixialD;sl .egqu
Cultural Diffusion	- ixialD;sl úirKh
Cultural Integration	- ixialD;sl wkql, kh
Cultural Lag	- ixialD;sl ,e.au \$miqneiau
Cultural Shock	- ixialD;sl lĩmkh\$ ;e;s.ekau
Culture	- ixialD;sh

Decentralization	- úuOH.;lrKh\$úuOH.; lsrSu
Declaration of Atlantic	- w;a,dka;sla m%ldYkh
Defect	- fodaIh
Delegation	- mejrSu
Devolution	- n,h fnodyerSu
Dictatorship	- taldêm;sjdoh
Direct Democracy	- iDcq m%cd;ka;%jdoh
Dis-socialization	- ýIaiudcdkqfhdackh
Dissolve	- úiqrejdyerSu
Divisional Secretariat	- m%dfoaYSh f,alï ld¾hd,h
Dominance Model	- wdêm;H wdlD;sh
Dominant Culture	- fmdý\$m%n,\$m%uqL ixialD;sh
Duties	- hq;=lï
Equality	- iudkd;au;djh
Executive	- úOdhlh
Federal Government	- ikaëh wdKqvql%u
Formulation	- ilia lsrSu
Fraternity	- ifydaor;ajh
Fundamental Human Rights	- uQ,sl ñksia whs;sjdislï
Hereditary Monarchy	- mdrïmrsl rdcdKavql%u
High Court	- uydêlrKh
Homogeneity	- icd;Sh;ajh
Ideal Culture	- mrudo¾YS ixialD;sh
Ideas	- woyia
Implementation	- l%shd;aul lsrSu
Independence	- iajdëk;ajh
Industrial Revolution	- ld¾ñl úma,jh
Industrialism	- ld¾ólrKh
Initiative	- m%drïNkh
Institutions	- wdh;k
Intellectual Freedom	- nqoaêuh ksoyi
Interrelationship	- wka;¾ iïnkao;d
Issue Filtration	- .eg`: mú;%lrKh
Issue Search	- .eg`: fiùu
Judicial	- wêlrK
Judiciary	- wêlrKh
Jurisdiction	- hqla;sh mis ,Su
Legislative	- jHjia:dodhl
Legislature	- jHjia:dodhlh
Liberalism	- ,snr,ajdoh
Liberty	- kssoyi
Local Government	- m,d;a md,kh
Manifesto	- m%ldYkh

Market Capitalism Model	- fj< fmd< OkjdoS udos,sh
Material culture	- fN!;sl ixialD;sh
Medieval	- uOHld,Sk
Mercantilism	- jdKsscjdoh
Monarchy	- rdcKavqj
Moral	- iodpdrh
Municipal Council	- uy k.r iNd
National Development	- cd;sl ixj¼Okh
Nationalism	- cd;sljdoh
Nationalization	- cki;= lsrSu\$cki;=lrKh
Nominal Powers	- kdñl n,,
Norms	- m%;sudk \$ O¾u;d
Obligations	- ne Sisàu
Ordain	- kshulrk ,o
Policy Succession	- m%;sm;a;s wkqm%dma; lsrSu
Political Decentralization	- foaYmd,k úuOH.;lrKh
Political Goals	- foaYmd,k b,lal ^wruqKq&
Political Process	- foaYmd,k l%shdj,sh
Positivism	- h:dkqN+;jdoh
Pressure Groups	- n,mEï lKavdhï
Private Administration	- fm!oa.,sl mrsmd,kh
Procedure	- mámdáh
Proportional Representation	- iudkqmd;sl ksfhdackh
Provincial Council	- m<d;a iNd
Public Administration	- rdch mrsmd,kh
Public Corporation	- rdch ixia:d
Public Enterprises	- rdch jHjidh
Public Finance	- rdch uQ,Hh
Public Policy	- rdch m%;sm;a;s
Public Service	- rdch fiajh
Quorum	- .kmQ¾Kh
Re socialization	- mqk¾ iudcdkqfhdackh
Realism	- h:d¾:jdoh
Reality Culture	- h:d¾: ixialD;sh
Recall	- m%;Hdkhkh
Referendum	- cku; úpdrkh
Representative Democracy	- ksfhdack m%cd;ka;%jdoh
Representative System	- ksfhdack l%uh
Republic	- ckrch
Republican Constitution	- ckrc jHjia:dj
Resulting Number	- iim%hqla; ixLHdj
Revolt	- le/,a,
Rigid	- wkuH

Role	- N+ñldj\$ld%hNdrh
Secular State	- f,!lsl rdcHh
Separation of power	- n,h fnoSu
Signs	- i<l=Kq\$ ix{d
Social Action	- iudc l%shd
Social cohesion	- iudc ixila;sh
Social dynamic	- iudc .;sl;ajh
Social functions	- iudc lD;Hhka
Social heritage	- iudc Wreuh
Social Institutions	- iudc ixia:d
Social interaction	- iudc wka;¾ l%shd
Social interrelations	- iudc wka;¾ iïnka0;d
Social phenomenon	- iudc m%mxp\$ iudc ixisoaê
Social process	- iudc l%shdj,sh
Social Relations	- iudc iïnka0;d
Social Solidarity	- iudc taldna0;djh
Social Static	- iudc ia:s;sl;ajh
Social Stratification	- iudc ia:drdhKh
Social Structure	- iudc jHqjyh
Social System	- iudc moa0;sh ^l%uh&
Socialism	- iudcjдох
Socialization	- iudcdkqfhdackh
Society	- iudch
Socioeconomic Condition	- iudcSh wd¾:sl ;;a;ajh
Sovereignty	- iajdêm;H
Spiritualism	- wOH;añljdoshd - Wkkaÿjla olajk md¾Yjhkaf.a - udos,sh
Stakeholder Model	- ;;a;ajh
Status	- Wm ixialD;sh
Sub Culture	- jdia;úl
Substantial	- le jkakd
Summon	- W;a;rS;r
Superiority	- hgm;a lsrSu
Suppressing	- fY%aIaG;ajh
Supremacy	- fY%aIaGdêlrKh
Supreme Court	- ixfla;
Symbols	- N+ñm%foaYh
Territory	- wkau;hkag .re lsrSu
Toleration	- ixialD;sh mjrdoSu
Transmission of culture	- ckY+kH
Uninhabited	- talSh wdKqvql%uh
Unitary Government	- i¾jck Pkao
Universal Suffrage	

Urban Council  
Value Culture  
Values  
Virtuous

- k.r iNd
- idr0%u ixialD;sh
- jákdli\$ w.kdli
- 0%ñIaG