

CHAPTER-19

SOCIOLOGY IN DAILY LIFE



After studying this chapter you learn :

- Understand the importance of social interaction and daily life.
- Understand the role of consciousness.
- Know the importance of body language and conversation in social interaction.

Daily Life

While referring to women, some people may remark that they are not very knowledgeable. This remark reveals their understanding that women are weaker than men and they are to be neglected. But such remarks are just casual talk full of prejudices against women and are not scientific truths. When it concerns knowledge, there is no difference between men and women.

The above example illustrates the fact that though general knowledge is helpful to us in our daily lives, it does not provide us answers to certain important questions. In such situations, sociology is of great help to us. It is possible for sociologists to carry out a study of women, and scientifically prove that they are also as strong and as capable as men. The above explanation proves that sociology provides us with the right information needed for our daily lives. It enables us to study all subjects without any prejudices.

The Individual Body Language And Conversation

We interact with many people in our daily lives. This process is called social interaction. Social interaction involves more than two people communicating among themselves through language and symbols, and influencing one another's behaviour and thoughts.

We cannot lead our daily lives without communication. The language that we speak depends on the area we reside in. We learn the language that is suitable for our environment, or else it will be difficult to lead our lives. Sometimes we use a different kind of communication to satisfy our needs. If we do not know language, we cannot converse with anyone. On such occasions, we express our feelings through body language or facial expressions.

Role Consciousness

You might have noticed doctors and nurses when you visited a hospital. After examining the patient, the doctor suggests necessary medicines and treatment. The nurse gives the medicine to the patient and looks after him according to the instructions of the doctor. In the same manner, as the teacher enters the classroom, he may ask you various questions. Through those questions, he tests whether you have studied at home or not. You also ask questions about the topics you have not understood and get clarifications.

However, you do not go to the hospital and ask questions about your school lessons. Or put questions about your illness to your teacher and ask for medicines. Why do you do so? That is because we expect the doctor to do his duty towards health, the teacher to teach lessons and the nurse to treat us. We do not get confused about these duties. This performance by every person of his role is known as role consciousness.

Even in our family, we perform many roles as brother, sister, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, etc. Every individual adopts many roles according to his age and conditions.

EXERCISES

I Fill in the blanks with suitable words :

- 1 We express our feelings through _____.
- 2 Sociology enables us to study every subject without any _____.
- 3 Social interaction is _____.

II Answer the following questions :

- 4 How does sociology enable us to understand the society in our daily lives?
- 5 Give an example to illustrate the importance of language.
- 6 What is role-consciousness?

III Answer the following in four-five sentences each :

- 7 Describe the relationship between language and society.
- 8 Explain role consciousness with an example.

IV Activity :

- 9 Write an essay on your role in society as brother/sister.

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