

QUESTION NO 20:

DEFINE STATUS AND ROLE. EXPLAIN ITS KINDS?

1. PREFACE:

The social structure of human society demands status of individuals in a society and the nature of their relations should be according to the accepted status of the society. The word status is used about the wealth or fame of an individual but, in sociology, it means somewhat different from its general meanings. This is actually the position of an individual in the structure of a society. To get membership of National Assembly (MNA) in Pakistan, one has to qualify certain preliminary conditions of nationality and candidature and win elections of the corresponding constituency. This is an example of achieved status.

2. CONOTATION OF TERM:

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary

"A position or rank in relation to others."

3. DEFINITION OF TERM:

According to Harton and Hunt:

"That place or position that societies give to individuals in their group life."

4. KINDS OF STATUS:

It has two kinds according to sociologist:

I. Ascribed status.

II. Achieved Status.

5. ASCRIBED STATUS:

"An ascribed status is assigned to a person by society without regard for the person's unique talent or characteristics." (C.H. Persell)

Ascribed status is assigned generally with the birth of an individual. Just as sex age, social background and caste etc. ascribed status cannot be changed. However, its collective status can change the social structure just as a caste or social background gets

some importance. For instance, in Africa, black were considered inferior and most of their rights were taken away from them. When they got their rights and they became first class citizens.

6. **ACHIEVED STATUS:**

"An achieved status is attained by a person largely through his her own efforts or talent." Though this status is determined with reference to social structure but the individual's own mental or physical ability is kept in view and one's effort is great importance. For example, professorship, athlete and dacoity are achieved status but in the social status, determination, mental ability (Professorship), physical strength for that athlete and effort for dacoity have importance. In social structure the goodness, approval and standard determination is present.

7. **MASTER STATUS:**

A sociologist, Hevertt Hughes, observed that in all societies, a few status had more importance than other status and have a central role in determining the position of an individual. These are called master status. According to him the definition of master status is as follows:

"A master status is a status that dominates others and thereby determines a person's position within a society." For instance, an individual has a status of Imam Masjid in a village society. This is his master status and this will determine his general position in home, market and masjid and his other status of father, of husband in home, friend and customer have no special importance so far as that his ascribed status of sex, age and caste cannot decrease his master status and its respect and regard.

8. **CONCEPT OF ROLE:**

A role is the function of a status. The individual in a society has been assigned certain rights and duties constituting status. These rights and duties when performed is said to have performed roles or the corresponding status. Role and status are inseparable from each other.

I. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary

"A character assigned or assumed."

II. According to R.T. Schaefer:

"A social role is a set of expectations of people who occupy a given social position or status."  
 Role is always related to status or there are expectations related to status. These examples are given below:

III. Status	Role
Son	Obedience of parents
Husband	Rights of wife
Father	Bringing up of children
Doctor	Treatment of patients
President of Professor Association	Safety of Rights of Professors

#### IV. For Example

- He being a teacher in college,
- Is husband of his wife,
- A father of several children,
- An active member of the Pakistan Sociological Association, a member of his caste and
- The president of college tennis club, etc.

V. As Robert Linton (1936) observed, you occupy a status but you play a role.  
 Roles are the culturally defined rules for proper behavior that are associated with every status. Roles may be thought of as collections of rights and obligations.

VI. A status may include a number of roles, and each role will be appropriate to a specific social context.

VII. For example, the president of the United States must be a host at diplomatic dinners, a leader at cabinet sessions, and a policy setter for his staff. Sociologists use the concept of role sets to explain this phenomenon.

#### 9. ROLE SET:

Role set is the term used to describe the variety of roles and relationships you have as a result of your status in society.



- I. For instance, a high school student interacts with a variety of different people as he goes through the school year, including teachers guidance counselors, the principal and administration, and his peers. His role set includes the different behaviors, or roles, he uses to meet the demands of this one social status of student.
- II. Roles are the way that statuses get expressed. For instance, a person whose status in society is 'high school student' will behave in particular ways. This behavior is the 'role' the student is playing.
- III. All the roles attached to a single status are known collectively as a role set.
- IV. For example, as a college student you behave one way toward other students another way towards professors. Similarly, professors behave one way toward other professors, another way toward students, and yet a third way towards deans. So the role behavior we expect in any situation depends on the pairs of statuses occupy by the interacting individuals. This means that role behavior really is defined by the rights and obligations that are assigned to statuses when they are paired with one another.

#### 10. **ROLE CONFLICT:**

When two or more than two different roles happen to occur in a social situation it is called role conflict. It means different roles happen to come across at one social situation and the actor is to act one role and reject the other. Conflict in role is the situation produced in modern societies.

- I. In advanced society, the people have different social conditions and different roles which seldom adjust with one another.
- II. Role conflict increases as the number of roles increases. This happens mostly with high class businessmen, high official diplomats of high rank and generally those who keep themselves busy in their activities.

#### III. **Reasons / Causes of Role of Conflict:**

General causes of role of conflict are given below:

- i. **Extra busy life Due:** Busy life in thought and action is full of part of role conflict. He is required everywhere and by every man, but unable to do all roles at the same time.
- ii. **Incomplete or weak socialization:** Weak socialization is also one of the important cause of it.
- iii. **New social values:** With the advancement of industry, social change and modernization, new social values are taking place that cause conflict for individual whether to follow sold or new,

- iv. **Material desire:** Accumulation of wealth and other economic resources forced man to involve more in work, hence caused role conflict.
- v. **Violation of religious values:** Violating values is also one of the main reason of it.

#### IV. Consequences of role conflict:

Following are the consequences of role conflict:

- i. **Tension and worry:** He becomes worried all the time. Tension develops when all roles are more less equally important and require simultaneously.
- ii. **Poor decision perform:** The decisive power of the individual becomes weak. He cannot differentiate between useful and useless matters.
- iii. **Sleeplessness:** Thinking habit develops which, creates sleeplessness or sleeping late at night. Such persons sometimes take narcotics drugs for sleep.
- iv. **Short temperament:** Such persons become short of temper and get angry or happy very soon.
- v. **Ill health:** Such people facing acute condition of role conflict may face high blood pressure and heart problem.
- vi. **Neurosis:** Such persons may face neurosis a mental problem and psychological disorder, and other health related problems.
- vii. **Social problems:** Social problems are increasing day by day related to individual and group life.

#### Solution of Role Conflict:

Following are the steps to get out the problem of role conflict.

- i. **Simple life:** for the solution of role conflict and its problems, one is directed to adopt simple life while living in advanced society.
- ii. **Socialization:** process and methods of socialization must be changes and in this respect, parents should be given training regarding socialization methods.
- iii. **Training of role performance:** people should be given training of role performance so that they may adjust different roles in different social situations.
- iv. **Division of labor:** Roles can be reduced by proper division of labor among groups and all the jobs not to be taken by selected persons.



- v. **Social planning:** Rate of role conflict can be reduced by planning role performance according to situation called social planning.

#### 11. **ROLE STRAIN:**

Role strain in sociology is when a particular role a person needs to fulfill is strained due to excessive obligations or multiple demands on time, energy or available resources.

An example of this is the role of a single parent who fulfills the obligations of being a breadwinner, providing child care, house keeping, vehicle maintenance, home work assistance, wellness and other related aspects of parenting. The parents role is strained by the demands of fulfilling the numerous obligations adequately. Role strain is often confused with role conflict, which is a similar term but with an important distinction. Role conflict typically indicates that there are contradictions with other separate roles that the individual occupies.

#### 12. **ROLE EXIT:**

In sociology, the role exists refers to the process of disengaging from a role that is true to one's self-identity, in order to take up a new role and identity.

A role in sociology is defined as a set of behaviors expected of individuals who hold a particular position or status. For instance, teachers are not just expected to deliver lectures and assign, but also to be honest, concerned, dedicated and responsible. Role exit is commonly associated with any of two different factors: social characteristics or role-set factors. Social characteristics refer to conditions such as a persons marital status, sex and age. Role-set factors refer to elements linked with a person's performance within the role. For instance, individuals unable to participate in two or more exclusive roles may need to exit one.

#### 13. **CONCLUSION:**

To conclude that social structure relationship among institutions is called social structure. This is the relationship among various institutions. A few sets of social relations among institutions are given below Family, Education, On the other hand, the educational institutions help the family in providing education to their children.