

Q: Define “Status” and “Role”. Explain the Determinants of “Ascribed” and “Achieved” status with examples. (2017 and 2019)

Status and Role

Social Interaction:

- The process by which people act and react in relation to others
- The ways at which societies organize everyday life

Social Status:

- Normally speaking status means a position of an individual in a society.
- Social status refers to the position that an individual occupies in a particular social structure like social group or society in general.
- In the concept of vertical social stratification; an individual is always ranked as per his social status.
- Status is always accompanied by a role which an individual has to follow.

Definition of status:

- A Status is the place in a particular system which a certain individual occupy at a particular time.
- The rank or position of a person in a group, or of group in relation to other groups.
- Status is our relative social position within a group
- Status is position that one holds in a given system

Status set:

- All the statuses a person holds at a given time.
- Status sets change over the life course
- Child-parent
- Student – lawyer
- Joining an organization or finding a job enlarge our status sets
- Over a lifetime - people gain and lose dozens of status

Role:

- Role is the expected behavior of an individual who holds a certain status in the society.
- Role refers to the behavioral patterns, obligations and privileges of an individual in a society.
- Role is the dynamic aspect of the status
- The functions which are expected from an individual who holds certain status are known as **role expectations** and the functions actually performed are known as **role taking**.

- We all play many roles in our social and personal life
- Son>Husband > Father > Grandfather,
- Daughter>Wife > Mother > Grandmother
- Clerk >Manager >General Manager > Director > CEO
- An efficient performance of a role by everyone enables the smooth functioning of a society.
- Roles are the responsibilities and duties which are followed by an individual

Definition of Role:

- A role is a comprehensive pattern of behavior that is socially recognized, providing a means of identifying and placing an individual in a society.
- A role is a set of connected behaviors, rights, obligations, beliefs, and norms as conceptualized by people in a social situation
- The term role is used to designate the sum total of the cultural pattern associated with a particular status
- Social roles refer to the set of behaviors that are expected of individuals within social institutions.

Role and Status	
Status	Roles
• Position that an individual occupies in a particular social structure	• Role refers to the behavioral patterns, obligations and privileges of an individual in a society.
• Status gives an Individual some privileges in Society	• Roles give an individual Responsibilities in society
• Status is Static	• Role is Dynamic
• Status is a set of duties.	• Role is performing upon those duties.
• Status is Held	• Role is Played

Types of Status

- There are two types of social status
 1. Ascribed Status
 2. Achieved Status

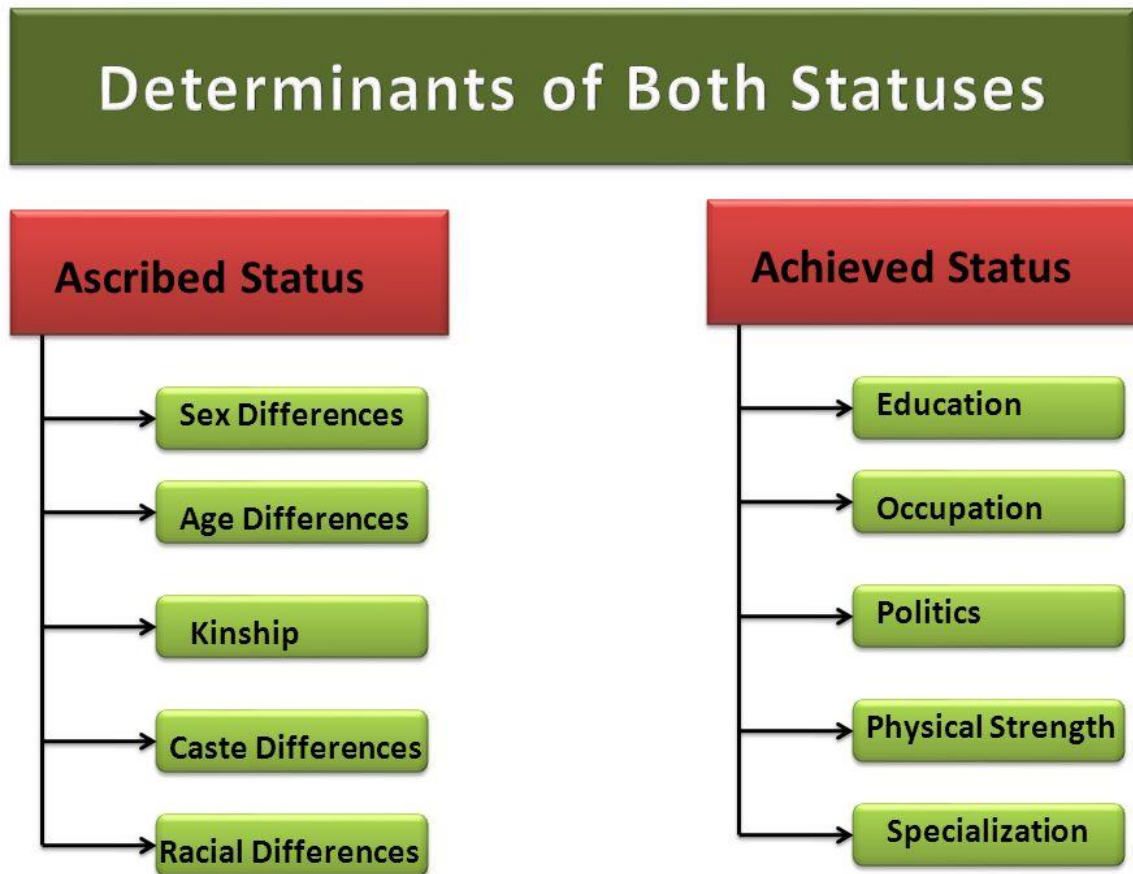
Ascribed Status:

- Status that is assigned involuntarily through their family at birth or latter in life.
- Hereditary in nature.
- Determined by an individual by virtue of birth, sex, race, caste and kinship
- Assigned without regard to person's unique talents and characteristics
- Sources of Ascribed Status: Customs, Traditions, Social Values and Social Norms.
- Negative in nature.
- Permanent
- Begin with life and end with its end
- An individual cannot change or improve his ascribed status.
- Examples: Family, Name of Individual, Caste and Inheritance.

Achieved Status:

- A status which is EARNED by an individual through hard work.
- Acquired through ones own efforts
- Do something to acquire it
- An individual acquires Achieved status by virtue of intelligence, efforts, diligence, skill and personal character.
- Sources of Achieved status: Personality traits of an Individual and His capacity of optimum utilization of his potential.
- Positive in nature.
- Temporary
- Not assigned by birth
- Individual can improve and increase is achieved status.
- Left open for competition and individual efforts
- Examples: Membership in National Assembly of Pakistan and getting degree from university etc.
- People's ascribes status influence the statuses they achieve
- Example: criminal and drug addict, are more easily achieved by people born into poverty.

Determinants of Achieved and Ascribed Status:



Determinant of Ascribed Status

Sex Determination:

- The difference in Sex plays an important role in determination of ascribed status in our society.
- Naturally, men enjoy higher status in society as compare to women that enjoy lower status in society.
- Men is considered superior to women.
- This difference in status is more common in rural areas of Pakistan.

Age Difference:

- Age difference is also major factor through which ascribed status of an individual can be determined.
- It has been observed that aged people are given more respect and honor in our society.
- Mostly families accept the decision of their elders.
- Youth is treated more lovingly and casually in our society.
- The children are also advised to respect their elders and treat with them respectfully.

- So ascribed status of an individual in society is also determined on the bases of age difference.

Kinship:

- Ascribed status of a person is also determined through kinship.
- It is a custom that if a person has higher status in society then automatically his sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and other blood relatives enjoy high status in society. This shows the negative image of ascribed status.

Caste Difference:

- Caste difference is an important element that plays a major role in determination of ascribed status.
- Especially in rural areas of Pakistan, one caste is considered superior to other and status of individual is determined on the bases of caste.
- A person having caste that is considered superior to other enjoys high status in society than the individual having low level caste.
- For example: Caste like Rajput, Watto, and Baloch are considered superior to caste like washer men, cobbler and carpenter etc.

Racial Difference:

- Racial difference like difference in physical traits of individuals also plays a vital role in deciding the status of individual in society.
- Physical color, hair texture and eye color determine the status of a person.
- For example: A person having white colored skin and black shiny hair has status superior to person having black skin and curly hair.

Determinant of Ascribed Status

Education:

- Everyone is aware of the role of education in deciding the status of an individual in Pakistani society.
- Everyone wants to talk and have relation with educated person as compared to illiterate person.
- Parents advise their children to sit in the company of educated persons because they are considered superior to others and enjoy high position in society.
- Their living style, nature and way of talking is loved. So education is necessary for achieving high status in society.

Occupation:

- Occupation is the most important of all factors that decide the status of an individual in society.
- A person having occupation like doctor, engineer, army officer, police officer and District officer etc. is respected, loved and cared by everyone and he has achieved his high status through hard work.
- On the other hand, a person who is cobbler, clerk, peon and cleaner is not respected in modern society and he is considered a low level person.

Politics:

- A person who is politician by profession has high rank, level and status in society. He has authority and rule over the others.
- Everyone has to respect him because of his power. He has achieved his status after a long struggle.

Physical strength:

- A person who is physically strong having strong muscle, slim and smart body composition and Flexibility in his body enjoys higher status in modern society of today than the individual who is physically weak.
- Physical outlook of an individual plays an important role in status determination.

Specialization:

- A person who is specialized in a field is preferred over the person having less experience in that particular field.
- For example: we prefer an experienced doctor when we fall ill and try to consult the person who is master in that particular field.

Conclusion

- To conclude I can say that in all of the many social groups that we as individuals belong to, we have a status and a role to fulfill. Status is our relative social position within a group, while a role is the part our society expects us to play in a given status.

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