

Role and Status

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- ▶ Social Structure -the network of interrelated statuses and roles that;
- ▶ guide human interaction,
- ▶ give society its enduring characteristics and make patterns of human interaction predictable.

STATUS

- ▶ The position or the situation that a person occupies in society is called status.
- ▶ Statuses are ways of defining where individuals fit in society and how they relate to others
- ▶ ascribed status – assigned according to qualities beyond a person's control
- ▶ achieved status – acquired through individuals own direct efforts
- ▶ master status – one status tends to out-rank others, plays the greatest role in one's life and determining social identity

ROLE


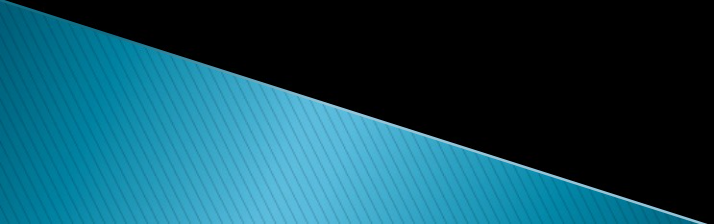

- A role is the behavior expected of someone with a given status in a group or society.
- The sum total of the cultural pattern associated with a particular status.
- One occupies a status, but plays a role.
- There is sometimes a difference between the society's standards and the way people play that role. The **role expectation**, society's definition of the way a role ought to be played, does not always match **role performance**, the way a person actually

STATUS SET & ROLE SET

- ▶ A person occupies several positions/ statuses at the same time, for example, mother, daughter, student, etc all of these statuses together form status set.
- ▶ Each status is composed of several sets of expected behaviors or roles, for example a student is expected to attend the classes regularly, to work hard for Examination and to participate in co-curricular activities.
- ▶ Role set is a cluster of roles attached to a single status.

ROLE CONFLICT

- ▶ If opposing demands are made on a person by two or more roles, the situation is called **role conflict**. Incompatible expectations arising from two or more social positions held by the same person , e.g: working women experience role conflict due to their frequent absence from home, whereas being mother and a wife requires considerable time at home.

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- ▶ Incompatible role demands are placed on a person in a single status.
 - ▶ Sometimes, opposing demands are built in into a single role; the personal stress caused by such opposing demands of a single role is called **role strain**. For example, expectations associated with the role of parent are often ambiguous. In trying to be a good father, a man maybe torn between earning a living to support his family and pending time with his children. Both are expectations of a good father, and both may be impossible to uphold.
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ROLE CONFLICT & ROLE STRAIN

