

SOCIETY

Topic#2

DEFINING SOCIOLOGY

- ***Sociology* is the systematic study of human society and social interaction.**
- The **society** and the **individual** are inherently connected, and each **depends on the other**.
- Sociologists study this link: **how society affects the individual and how the individual affects society.**

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SOCIETY

- In the simplest sense ,evolution means the slow process of change from a simple to a more complex structure.
- Human societies are essentially adaptive mechanisms .
- In human societies we find the evidence of both continuity and change

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN SOCIETY

- Gerhard Lenski
 - the amount of technology a society had could allow a society to evolve and change.
 - a process of change involving a society's level of innovation, transmissions and technological advances. Types of Societies
 - He has broken the level of societies into five types:
- a) Hunters and gatherers
- b) Horticultural
- c) Pastoral
- d) Agricultural
- e) Industrial

HUNTING & GATHERING

- These societies have been here since the beginning of human life.
- They are nomadic and rely on readily available food and fiber from nature.
- Primarily depend on the hunting of animal and gathering wild plants (Hunting conducted by men, gathering by women).
- Population size limited by availability of food. These are groups of about 25 to 50 women, men, and children who cooperate with each other in the quest for subsistence.
- Hunters and gatherers do not appear to work hard or long. They generally work less than the members of more technologically advanced societies.
- Egalitarian - equal access to resources
- No social stratification
- No individual ownership of resources

PASTORAL SOCIETIES

- Subsistence Strategy :Tend to rely on the domestication and breeding of animals for food.
- Population Size : These societies have hundreds or even thousands of people.
- Geographical Mobility: Nomadic & People live in portable tents or temporary structures and move only when the grazing land ceases to be usable.
- Property: Some individuals can become more powerful than others on the basis of their wealth. *Warfare* is more frequent than in Hunting and Gathering societies. Most fights are over grazing areas.

PASTORAL SOCIETIES

- Social Structure: simple. Besides family, the religious, economic and political institutions began to develop.
- The Family is the major institution. These are very male dominated as males control the food supply.
- Religion is characterized by a God(s) seen as taking active role in human affairs. Christianity, Islam and Judaism are examples of religions developing in Pastoral societies. Note that God in these religion is often likened to a shepherd and humans to domesticated animals (e.g., sheep).
- **Stratification** and social status is based on the size of one's herd.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

- Subsistence Strategy: relying on the cultivation of domesticated plants, they used hand tools to raise crops.
- Slash & burn technology.
- Population Size: Usually consist of several thousand people.
- Geographical Mobility: Raise crops for two to three years and then prefer to move when the soil is exhausted.
- Social Structure: specialized new roles and statuses appear.
- Political and economic institutions become well developed.
- Ownership of Property: Some people become more powerful than others due to the possibility of surplus.(wealth)

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

- Subsistence Strategy: relying on cultivation of crops through the use of plows and draft animals.
- Population Size: Usually consist of several million people.
- Geographical Mobility: Permanent settlement, very low geographical mobility is found.
- Social Structure: specialized new roles and statuses appear. As crop yields are high, it is no longer necessary for every member of the society to engage in some form of farming, so some people begin developing other skills. Job specialization increases.
- Political institution become much more elaborate, power becomes concentrated in the hands of single individual.(monarchy, feudal system)
- Ownership of Property: Social classes appear. The wealth is almost unequally shared.

INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES

- People and goods pass through much longer distances because of innovations in transportation, such as the train and the steamship.
- Rural areas lost population because more and more people were engaged in factory work and had to move to the cities.
- Fewer people were needed in agriculture, and societies became **urbanized**, which means that the majority of the population lived within commuting distance of a major city.

POST- INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES

- Post industrialism to refer to the production of information using computer technology. Production in industrial societies centers on factories and machinery generating material goods; postindustrial production relies on computers and other electronic devices that create, process, store, and apply information.
- Focus on ideas: Tangible goods no longer drive the economy.
- Need for higher education: Factory work does not require advanced training, and the new focus on information and technology means that people must pursue greater education.
- Shift in workplace from cities to homes: New communications technology allows work to be performed from a variety of locations.

A **society** is a large social grouping that **shares the same geographical territory** and is **subject to the same political authority** and **dominant cultural expectations.**



A SOCIETY IS...

- Any group of people who have lived and worked together long enough to get themselves organized and to think of themselves as a social unit with well defined limits (Linton)
- Society refers to people who interact in a defined territory and share a culture. (John J. Macionis).
- Society is the web of social relationships which is ever changing (MacIver and Page)

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY

- **Population** is one of the basic characteristics of society as society is considered to be a largest social group of people living together.
- The demographic properties of a population (size, composition and density) have direct, demonstrable and far reaching consequences for human societies.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- **Subgroups** are the important components of the larger group. Individuals are organized into a variety of units we call groups . These range from small family units to giant corporations.
- Within one society, these different subgroups are classified on the basis of age, profession, sex, religion, literacy and so on.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY

- *Interdependence*; another important characteristic of society. The survival and well being of each member is very much depended on this interdependence. No individual is self sufficient. He has to depend on others for food, shelter and security and for the fulfillment of many of his needs and necessities.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY

- *Social institutions* are the main organs of the society. A social institution is a complex, integrated set of social norms organized around the preservation of a basic societal value.
- The interrelationship among institutions create structure for the society.
- The family, education, economic, political and religion.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- *Culture* is fundamental for the survival of societies. Culture can be said to include all the human phenomena in a society and all learned behaviour.
- Culture is a very board term that includes in itself all walks of life, modes of behaviour, philosophies and ethics, morals and manners, religious, political, economic and other types of activities.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- ***Socialization*** ;a life long process which enables the individual to learn the content of her/his culture and the many behavioural patterns of the group to which s/he belongs.
- The individual learns to become a functioning and participating member of the society or group through the socialization.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- *Permanent Group*; Permanency is another important characteristic of society. It is not a temporary organization of individuals. Society continues to exist even after the death of individual members. Society is a coherent organization.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- *Dynamism is also an important aspect of a society.* No society is static. Every society changes and changes continuously. Old customs, traditions, folkways, mores, values and institutions got changed and new customs and values takes place.

CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIETY...

- ***Rural-Urban Composition***; Human societies have at least two aspects
- Rural; sparsely residing group of people with simple culture.
- Urban; people living in clusters with complex culture.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITY

RURAL

1. Density of Population:

- Rural areas are Sparsely populated. Most of the people live in their own farms called 'Farmstead Settlement'.
- Open Settlement

URBAN

1. Density of Population:

- Urban areas are thickly populated. Houses are constructed contiguous to each other.
- Dense settlement pattern.

Nature of Relations

RURAL

- Informal interaction is more frequent, deep, face-to-face intimate relations.
- Emile Durkeim used the term Mechanical Solidarity for such areas on the basis of their relations.

URBAN

- Indirect and impersonal social interaction can be found more frequently.
- Emile Durkeim used the term Organic Solidarity for such areas on the basis of their relations.

Occupation

RURAL

- In rural areas majority of the people earn through agricultural activities.
- Very few or no choice of occupation.

URBAN

- The urban areas have a large number of professional activities due to diverse social conditions.
- Different nature of jobs available according to skills and qualifications.

Cost of living

RURAL

- While incomes tend to be lower in rural areas, the cost of living is also proportionally lower.
- Simple life style and the fact that majority live in their own houses.
- Individuals share their resources with each other.

URBAN

- Cost and standard of living is high as compare to rural areas.
- Housing rents are higher in urban areas and food staples cost more.
- Safe and decent housing is more expensive

The cost of living is the amount of money needed to sustain a certain standard of living by affording basic expenses such as housing, food, taxes, and healthcare. The cost of living is often used to compare how expensive it is to live in one city versus village.

Availability of Services/Facilities

RURAL

- Less or very few services both in terms of quality and quantity.
- Rural people often have a hard time finding medical care, education, electricity etc.

URBAN

- Adequate and better quality of services.
- More facilities available to the residents of urban areas especially living in big cities.

Social Control

RURAL

- Informal social control is more effective .
- The family and the religious institutions have a key role.
- Norms, values and mores are important.

URBAN

- Formal mode of social control is more effective.
- Effective role of Police, law and courts.
- Written laws are more important.

Social Change

RURAL

- Rural culture tends to be conservative.
- Very slow and selective mode of social change take place.
- Reasons: Lack of adaptability due to illiteracy, traditionalism, etc.

URBAN

- People appreciate social change and are prone to adapt it readily, little resistance against the new trends is shown by them.
- High rate of change.
- Reasons: Fast means of communication, education, cultural diversity.

Social Stratification And Social Mobility

RURAL

- The rural community is divided into various strata on the basis of caste.
- Social mobility is rigid as all the occupations are based on caste.
- Shifting from one occupation to another is difficult as caste is determined by birth.
- Ascribed status is more important

URBAN

- On the other hand, social stratification in urban areas is based on (socio-economic) class.
- Social mobility is found faster in these areas.
- Vertical--- upward and downward
- Horizontal---An alteration of profession
- Achieved status is more important

Anonymity

RURAL

- As interaction in rural areas is more frequent and direct so everyone is connected to other person in the community.
- Everyone is known to others by his/her own name or family .
- Strangers are easily recognized.

URBAN

- Anonymity is a condition in which a large number of urban people are strangers to each other.
- Nobody is fully aware about the neighbourhood.
- This condition may leads to security issues as well.

Recreational Facilities

RURAL

- The popular recreations of the rural people are traditional games Hide-and-seek, marbles, kite flying, gullidanda (a stick game played by boys), and kabaddi, wrestling, dog fighting etc.
- Beside these, fairs are arranged at different occasions.

URBAN

- Modern facilities available to the people of urban areas and the cricket, hockey, soccer, tennis, badminton, table tennis, squash etc, are some of the prominent games that are played by the urban youth.

Characteristics of Rural Areas

- Origin: from Latin ruralis, from rus, rur- country.
- Village, countryside, small towns & farms etc.
- Dispersed farmstead
- Low cost of living
- Slower-paced life; Minimum social change
- Homogeneous population
- Sense of belongingness
- Ascribed status is more important
- Less or lack of facilities
- Greater kinship network connections
- Traditional games Hide-and-seek, marbles, kite flying, gulli-danda (a stick game played by boys), and kabaddi, wrestling, dog fighting etc.
- Slow means of communication, roads and transport etc
- Gemeinschaft

Characteristics of Urban Areas

- Origin: from Latin urbanus, from urbs, urb- city.
- Cities, developed areas
- Densely populated, overcrowded
- High cost of living in big cities
- Fast paced ; Faster social change
- Heterogeneous population
- Impersonal relations
- Individualism
- Achieved status is more important
- Modern sports and games are played like cricket, hockey, soccer, tennis, badminton, and table tennis, squash etc.
- Rapid means of transport and a wide network of communications
- Gesselschaft