
UNIT 1 BASIC CONCEPTS

Structure

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The term society has been derived from a Latin word 'socius' that means association or companionship. Thus, society means '*A larger group of individuals, who are associative with each other*'. Society is defined as a body of individuals that associate together for religious, charitable, cultural, scientific, political or nationalistic purposes. In simple words, society means an institution or a club formed by a group of people for a particular purpose or activity. The planet on which humans live consist of people where every human is a social animal. Without being broken down into specific societies, beings with a common culture cannot enjoy a shared life based on interdependence. This unit introduces you to the basic concepts in society. Let us now understand the learning objectives the unit in the following paragraph.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

After studying this unit, you should be able to:

- define society;
- explain the types and characteristics of societies;

- describe a community;
- explain association and family;
- describe the social structure, status and role of society; and
- discuss the Indian social system, social structure, and dynamics.

1.2 DEFINITION AND MEANING OF SOCIETY

Society is defined as a body of individuals that associate together for religious, charitable, cultural, scientific, political or nationalistic purposes. In simple words, society means an institution or a club formed by a group of people for a particular purpose or activity. Man is referred to as a Social Animal. Each community or group of individuals share a shared culture and shares cultural memory. Society is also symbolic of interdependence and community living. Let us now learn the types and characteristics of societies.

1.2.1 Types and Characteristics of Societies

- a) **Tribal Society:** Tribal society is a primeval society who usually regard themselves as having a common ancestor that lived in the pre-historic age of mankind but are still found in large number of groups in all countries. Tribal societies are identified by their dependence on natural resources and community living. There are many tribes in the world who have continued to thrive on the same lifestyle prescribed by their ancestors. With industrialization and modernisation, there has been a deep impact on the way of living of tribal societies. Tribal societies can be identified based on the following:
- a) Definite common topography (common place for all tribal members to occupy the region)
 - b) Sense of unity
 - c) Endogamy (do not marry outside their tribe; marriage within tribe is highly appreciated)
 - d) Common dialects
 - e) Blood relationship
 - f) Distinct political organizations
 - f) Homogenous attitudes (most of the tribal reflect a common behavior or way of living)
 - g) Kinship (these form the basis of tribal social organization)
 - h) Egalitarian values (men and women enjoy equal status and freedom)
 - i) Myth beliefs and totems
- b) **Rural Society:** The term "Rural Society" as explained by some sociologists and anthropologists is a small, agrarian society consisting of village folks preserving the traditional moral customs and culture that have been followed since generations. Faith in religion and external forces is found in the life of villages. Farmers worship forces of nature. Their societal strength is defined by joint family system. Family has a

strict control over the administrative powers of an individual. All members of the family share the burden of the family occupation. The village members, in general are required to respect the judgment and obey the orders of their elders and the panchayats (in Indian villages). The main characteristics of a rural Society include the following:

- a) Closeness with nature
 - b) Agriculture governs their livelihood
 - c) Greater homogeneity of population
 - d) Social stratification/ Social differentiation
 - e) Conservativeness
 - f) Social control
 - g) Leadership Pattern
 - h) Social solidarity
 - i) Religiosity.
- c) **Urban Society:** A heterogeneous society typical of modern civilization in cultural attributes that emphasizes secularity and is individualized rather than integrated is defined as an urban society. The social structure of this society is unstable, with migration and geo-political influences. It is often characterized by disorganization, mental illness and anomie as individualism is given more importance than traditional family structures and values. The basic characteristics that define this kind of a society include:
- a) Heterogeneity (owing to its diversity and complexity)
 - b) Domination of secondary relations
 - c) Formal means of social control along with informal means of controlling public behaviour
 - d) Urban society is more mobile and open
 - e) Status is achieved than ascribed
 - e) Specialized occupations and significant presence of service sector
 - f) People are more class-conscious and progressive
 - g) Complex multigroup society
 - h) Culture of mass education is spread throughout the city and formal education is demanded.
- d) **Industrial society:** An industrial society is often recognized as the producer of social life as mass production technologies are used to manufacture vast amount of goods in the factories. Such a society is typically divided into hierarchies of class and display a rigid division of labour among workers and factory owners. A particular social structure is defined to support such functioning. The social structure of such a

society has its basis in the advent of the Industrial Revolution. An entrepreneur, an individual capitalist entered and took over some operations. He was an intelligent, gluttonous man and setup a factory. He secured raw materials, evaluated the markets and hired workers to produce things in his factory. In this process, the worker community was separated from the means of production; Factory production, fixed capital and free labour were all characteristics of this revolution. As a result of this economic revolution, several important changes occurred in the social structure and the Industrial society was born. An industrial society is characterized by the following features:

- a) Modern family trends: Family is not an institution but a foundation of companionship. Both men and women hold equal rights.
 - b) Economic institutions: Marked by new styles of production, distribution and exchange.
 - c) Occupational sub-cultures: Extreme division of labour. Both production and management of factory are divided occupations as per their skills and specialization.
 - d) Segmentalized roles.
 - e) Impersonality of relationships
 - f) Status is appointed by contracts: Most people work for big companies based on contracts for status allotment.
 - g) Position of women: Few economic horizons open for women. Mostly confined to household management.
- e) **Post Industrial Society:** A post industrial society is regarded as the type of a society where the economy progresses from producing and distributing goods to one that mainly offers services. In other words, technology, information and services are more important than manufacturing tangible goods. Postindustrial society emerged at the time when goods were mass-produced using machinery. In a post-industrial society, a distinction is always made between workers in the manufacturing sector and workers belonging to the service sector. The society is said to be classified as Post-industrial based on following factors:
- a) Decline in production of goods and rise in production of services.
 - b) Manual labour jobs are replaced with jobs requiring technical and professional knowledge.
 - c) More emphasis is laid on theoretical knowledge as it involves creation of new, inventive solutions.
 - d) Focus is more in new technologies and how to utilize and protect them.
 - e) More college graduates with advanced knowledge to help develop and bring about technological change.

1.3 COMMUNITY

Both community and society are complementary to each other. Community means a group of people living together, having some characteristics in common. Society means the number of people living in a region, by honoring its laws and customs. Community is formed when a group of people coming together to share their values and interests with one another a definite geographical area is essential for a community. Communities play a major role in the developments of societies and nations on the whole. They provide a platform for people to come and exchange various ideas and experiences, which could foster mutual growth and holistic development of the society. Communities vary according to their intrinsic theme of establishment such as politics, sports, welfare, knowledge, entertainment, philosophy, etc. Of late, virtual communities on the internet have become a rage among the young and old alike. You can relate to your own community and society in which you have understood socialization processes like interacting with elders making friends etc.

1.3.1 Distinction between Society and a Community

Society is wider; there can be more than one community in a society. Community is usually smaller than society. There cannot be more than one society in a community. Society is abstract. It is a network of social relationships, which cannot be seen or touched. On the other hand, community is concrete. It is a group of people living in a particular area. We can see this group and locate its existence.

1.4 ASSOCIATION

Association is an organization of people coming together with a common purpose and intention and forming a formal structure or we can understand it as a group of people forming a formal organization and which has as a stated purpose some charitable or benevolent purpose either in regards to the public at-large or in regards to the common interests of the members, and which operates as nearly as possible at cost. Association is a part of Society. We can understand this better by understanding the points of difference between society and associations.

- 1) Society is a system of social relationships whereas an association is a group of people.
- 2) Society is abstract. It cannot be seen or touched. But association is concrete.
- 3) Society is natural, but associations are artificial. It is deliberately formed by the people for achievements of some definite interests.
- 4) Society may be organized or unorganized, but association must be organised.

- 5) Membership of society is compulsory. Man cannot live without society. On the other hand, membership of an association is voluntary. Man many live without being a member of any association at all.
- 6) Society is marked by both co-operation and conflict whereas association is based on co-operation alone.
- 7) Society is almost permanent. It will exist as long as man exists. But association may be transitory.
- 8) Society comprehends all conscious and unconscious relations. But the basis of association consists of conscious feeling and thought.
- 9) The aim of society is general. It comes into existence for the general well being of the individuals. But the aim of association is particular. An association is formed for the pursuit of some particular purpose or purposes.
- 10) Society is older than association. It comes to existence since men appeared on the earth. But association arose of a later stage when people learnt to organize themselves for the pursuit of some particular purpose.
- 11) Society is an end in itself. Association, on the other hand, is merely a means to an end.

Check Your Progress 1

Note: a) Write you answer in 50 words.

b) You can check your answers given at the end of the unit.

- 1) What is the definition and meaning of society? Describe some fundamental differences in a tribal and a post-industrial society.

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- 2) What are the characteristics of a Society and a Community?

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Family is a group of individuals who share a common genetic bond, blood bond and legal bond. A child who takes birth is automatically a representative of that family and is accepted by the family. This child is now connected to relations such as father, mother, grandparents, uncle, aunts, nephews, and cousins. Around the globe, you will be surprised to know that there are different kinds of families. Families share moments and celebrate good times collectively. Families also support each other in times of grief and sorrow. Values, ethics, tradition, and culture of a family is passed from one generation to next generation. Let us learn about the types of families in the following paragraph.

Types of Families:

- Nuclear Family
- Joint Family or Extended Family
- Step Family
- Traditional Family
- Adopted Family
- Foster Family

To understand better let us focus on the types of families and their attributes in the following paragraphs.

1) Nuclear Family

The nuclear family which in current times seems like a traditional type of family structure was a offshoot of the joint family system. The nuclear family type consists of two parents and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults.

2) Joint Family or Extended family

The joint family system is a system where all resources and power lie with the most senior member of the family usually a male member. The system has the positive attributes of sharing and care in terms of socializing at a very young age for the children. This family system may not be conducive for young adults who feel the desire for unrestricted freedom from social norms. The extended family structure consists of two or more adults who are related, either by blood or marriage, living in the same home. This family includes many relatives living together and working toward common goals, such as raising the children and keeping up with the household duties. Many extended families include cousins, aunts or uncles and grandparents living together. This type of family structure allows care for older members who are unable to care for themselves alone.

3) Single Parent Family

The single parent family consists of one parent raising one or more children on his own. Often, a single parent family is a mother with her children, although there are single fathers as well. The single parent family is the biggest change society has seen in terms of the changes in family structures. Single parent families are generally close and find ways to work together to solve problems, such as dividing up household chores.

4) Childless Family

While most people think of family as including children, there are couples who either cannot or choose not to have children. The childless family is sometimes the "forgotten family," as it does not meet the traditional standards set by society. Childless families consist of a husband and wife living and working together. Many childless families take on the responsibility of pet ownership or have extensive contact with their nieces and nephews as a substitute for having their own children.

5) Stepfamily

Marriages may end in divorce, and many of these individuals choose to get married. This creates the stepfamily which involves two separate families merging into one new unit. It consists of a new husband and wife and their children from previous marriages or relationships. Stepfamilies are about as common as the nuclear family, although they tend to have more problems, such as adjustment periods and discipline issues. Stepfamilies need to learn to work together and also work with their exes to ensure these family units run smoothly.

6) Grandparent Family

Many grandparents today are raising their grandchildren for a variety of reason. A child is raised by his grandparents, and the parents are not present in the child's life. This could be due to parents' death, addiction, abandonment or being unfit parents. Many grandparents need to go back to work or find additional sources of income to help raise their grandchildren.

Indian Family Bonding follows certain values and beliefs.

- A young person should always touch the feet of his elders.
- Younger should never speak in a high or rude tone to those who are older to them.
- He should always give respect to elders and refer to them as 'Aap'.
- He should not consume alcohol and tobacco or smoke cigarettes.
- He should respect women in fact wife of elder brother is considered equal to mother and is specially called a "Bhabhi Maa".
- He should always speak truth and try to engage in non-violent behavior.
- Most of the values that the parents impart to their children in India, as a part of the family value system, are similar in nature.

1.6.1 Status and Role

Status describes the position a person occupies in a setting. We all occupy several statuses and play the roles that may be associated with them. A role is the set of norms, values, behaviors, and personality characteristics attached to a status. An individual may occupy the statuses of student, employee, and RWA member and play one or more roles with each one. 'Status' is the position that an individual is expected to hold in a group or a community; and the behaviour that we expect from the person holding such a person is his 'role'. Society itself works out into an orderly division of labour by giving different persons different positions in it and assigning to each such position of behaviour that would generally be expected of such person. Further classifying status can be mainly of two types: 'ascribed' or inherited and 'achieved' or acquired. If an individual's status is determined at his birth, it would be regarded as an ascribed status. Birth determines the sex and age of the child finally and conclusively, as also his ethnic and family background. While age is a changing factor in life, the others remain unchanged; and in the United States a baby born into a black family will have certain limitations which the white baby will not suffer from. Status implies the position or the rank one holds in a social group, and, Role refers to the specific functions that one is expected to perform in that social group. Every status holder is a role performer. Status and Role, is inter-connected. In a social group, every member has a status role position.

Essential Elements and Characteristics of Status

As the definitions have pointed out the term status has physical as well as a psychological situation. This situation forms certain element and characteristics. These elements and characteristics of status may be enumerated as below.

- 1) The status is determined by the cultural situation of the particular society.
- 2) The status is determined only in relevance of the other members of the society.
- 3) Every individual must play certain role in accordance with the status.
- 4) Status is only a part of the society as a whole.
- 5) As a result of status the society is divided into various groups.
- 6) Every status carries with it some prestige.
- 7) According to status people may be divided into various categories. These categories or statuses are not imposed from above. Some of these statuses are earned or achieved while others are ascribed.

Types of Status

A status may be divided into two types: ascribed status and achieved or earned status.

1) Ascribed Status:

The status which is given to an individual on the basis of the situation in the society or by other members of the society is called ascribed status. Such a status may be given by birth or by placement in a social group. For example, a person may enjoy a particular status because of the sex or age of birth in a rich family. An infant gets a family status which includes family name and prestige, share in social standing and the right of heritage.

Basis of the ascribed status:

These two kinds of statuses are based on factors that are not common. For example the ascribed status is based on age, sex, kinship race, family etc. In almost every society particularly the patriarchal system of the society, it is the elder men who are respected but in matriarchal system of society elder women are respected.

2) Achieved Status:

The status or the position that a person has earned out of his own personal efforts is called achieved status. This status is given by the ability, capacity and the efforts of the individuals. Some persons achieve a particular status because of the facilities available to them but some have to achieve that status as against the odds and difficulties.

Basis of Achieved status:

The achieved status is based on the personal ability, education, earned wealth etc. A person who is able to display his ability in the field of social service, sports, education etc. is given higher and better status.

Distinction between the Ascribed status and Achieved status:

The distinction and relationship between the two may be discussed as under.

Ascribed Status:

- Ascribed status is the gift from the society of the individual members and to make know the effort to get it.
- For an achieved status certain conditions are namely ability, efficiency, economic status etc. are necessary.
- Generally ascribed status is based on age, race, caste, kinship, etc.
- Ascribed status is more stable and more rigid. Its basis does not change easily.
- Ascribed status occupies a place of respect in a traditional society.
- In regard to the ascribed status the role of the authority and actions that flow from them are unpredictable.
- In ascribed status there is a co-relationship between the status and role.

- The ascribed status has a, vital relationship with the internal aspects of the personality. It provides satisfaction to sentiments, emotions and feelings etc.
- Ascribed status can be helpful to a person for achieving certain thing or acquiring the achieved status.
- Ascribed status has greater relationships with the customs, traditions, and other existing factors of the society. In other words, ascribed status is more traditional.
- Ascribed status is helpful in removing the difficulties and disabilities of the achieved status.

Achieved status:

- There are no precondition for getting the ascribed status for example; the elder in the family is bound to be respected. There are no qualification required.
- The achieved status is based on characteristics like capacities and abilities etc.
- Achieved status has an unstable basis and so it is itself changeable.
- In open and modern societies, it is achieved status which is given importance because in this respect, it is the personal qualities and achievements that matter.
- Regarding achieved status the role or the action is more or less predictable because it is based reason.
- In relevance to the achieved status, it cannot be said that there shall be co- relationship between the achieved status and the role.
- Achieved status is the gift of one's personal accomplishments and personal characteristics.
- Achieved status is helpful in acquiring the ascribed status.
- Achieved status is the result of the personal accomplishments and is acquired as result of competition. It has no relationship with the customs and traditions.

Role conflicts

A member of a non industrialized society generally has just a few statuses, such as spouse, parent, and villager. A typical middle-class modern woman, meanwhile, probably has many statuses, and therefore many roles. She may be a mother, wife, neighbour, member of the community, employee, boss, and part-time student. Because people in modernized societies have so many roles, they are more likely than people in nonindustrialized societies to experience role conflict.

1.6.2 Norms & Values

Meaning of Values

Sociology is concerned with social values. Social values are cultural standards that indicate the general good deemed desirable for organised social life. These are assumptions of what is right and important for society. They provide the ultimate meaning and legitimacy for social arrangements and social behaviour. They are the abstract sentiments or ideals. An example of an important social value is, “equality of opportunity”. It is widely considered to be a desirable end in itself.

The importance of such a value in social life can hardly be exaggerated. A social value differs from individual value. An individual value is enjoyed or sought by the individual which a man seeks for himself. Even though these values are commonly shared, they do not become social values. As distinct from individual values, a social value contains a concern for others’ welfare. Social values are organised within the personality of the individuals.

Values and norms are evaluative beliefs that synthesize affective and cognitive elements to orient people to the world in which they live. The concept of a value must be differentiated from other concepts that appear to be similar. One of those concepts is a preference. *A value may be thought of as a type of preference, but not all preferences are values.* The distinctive characteristic of a value is that it is based on a belief about what is desirable rather than on mere liking.

The culture of any nation is transmitted through its existing systems. Three systems play a key role in the transmission of cultural norms - government, education and family. Typically, government sets forth an ideology or set of beliefs. These beliefs, and the behaviors that support them, are then taught by the dominant education system. The beliefs are often referred to as values, and the behaviors that support these values are referred to as norms.

The values, beliefs, ways of life, aesthetic and symbolic standards and forms of the society constitute its tradition, which maintains continuity with the past. It is this element of continuity, which characterizes a social or cultural attribute or value in a society as being traditional. The passage from traditional to modern stage of society initiates major social and cultural transformation.

1.7 INDIAN SOCIAL SYSTEM

The term ‘system’ implies an orderly arrangement, an interrelationship of parts. In the arrangement, every part has a fixed place and definite role to play. The parts are bound by interaction. To understand the functioning of a system, it is important to understand how various subsystems, Society can be viewed as a system of interrelated mutually dependent parts which cooperate to preserve a recognizable whole. Social system may be described as an arrangement of social interactions based on shared norms and values. Individuals have a place and function to perform within it.

In this arrangement of subparts of a social system, every part has a fixed place and definite role to play. The parts are bound by interaction. System signifies, thus, patterned relationship among constituent parts of a structure which is based on functional relations and which makes these parts active and binds them into reality.

Society is a system of usages, authority and mutuality based on “We” feeling and likeness. Interdependence and cooperation are its basis. Differences and dissent are part and parcel of social systems. It consists in mutual interaction and interrelation of individuals and of the structure formed by their relations. It is different from an aggregate of people and community. According to Lapierre, “The term society refers not to group of people, but to the complex pattern of the norms of interaction that arises among and between them. In the process, one influences the other; groups are formed and they gain influence, numerous subgroup come into existence. They function as a whole. Neither individual, nor the group can function in isolation. They are bound in oneness, by norms and values, culture and shared behaviour. Social system is a comprehensive arrangement. It includes all the diverse subsystems such as the economic, political, and religious and others. Social systems are bound by environment such as geography. And this differentiates one system from another.

1.8 INDIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND DYNAMICS

India is one of the most diverse countries in the world. The culture is a reflection of the various kinds of people inhabiting this country and their diverse customs and traditions. Perhaps more than in any other part of the world, India is a country where people have come to acquire multiple identities based on region (e.g. North India, North East India, Deccan and South India), language (e.g. Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu), religion (e.g. Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Jain, and Sikh), etc. Each set of these and other identities corresponding to a distinct set of social relations, i.e., a distinct social structure. Therefore understanding Indian social structure is necessary because it explains our relations with each other in society. It tells us what kind of social institutions exist in society and how they got modified over a period of time.

Religious beliefs and traditions

- Hindu 79.8%, Muslim 14.2%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.7%, other and unspecified 2% (2011 est.) along with Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism.
- Religious practices are an integral part of daily life.
- Hinduism has established roots in India dating from 2000-1500 B.C.E.
- In Hinduism there is no single founder, specific theological system, or central religious structure. Vedas and Upanishads are the holy books of Hinduism.
- Hinduism teaches meditation, yoga and ascetic practices to cultivate self-discipline and unity.

Language

As India is one of the world's oldest cultures it has been subjected to a plethora of language influences. The primary ones are; Hindi 41%, Bengali 8.1%, Telugu 7.2%, Marathi 7%, Tamil 5.9%, Urdu 5%, Gujarati 4.5%, Kannada 3.7%, Malayalam 3.2%, Oriya 3.2%, Punjabi 2.8%, Assamese 1.3%, Maithili 1.2%, other 5.9%. English is used primarily in business, and for economic and political purposes. Language is regional and dialects play a role in the variety of languages spoken throughout India, with some sources suggesting that there are possibly 1,652 different languages or dialects.

Gender Roles

- Mothers, grandmothers, and older siblings care for infants.
- Patriarchal families are the norm.
- Women are considered to hold secondary positions within the home and workplace. But are increasingly occupying places of position due to focus on girl child education.
- 82.14% of males and 65.46% of females are literate (2011 census).
- Divorce and inheritance laws are usually male dominated.

Socialization

- Until the child is two, the mother or grandmother is primary caregiver.
- Once the child is two, older sisters are the primary caregivers.
- Sons are generally given better opportunities and receive a superior education.
- Gender specific roles are encouraged within the family unit and in wider society.

The Family

- Family values are highly respected throughout India and are fundamental in daily life.
- The structure of the family is patriarchal; a woman must obey her father, her husband and her son.
- Arranged marriages and love marriages both are in practice and divorce is looked at as a social taboo.
- The urban middle class population of India have more instances of moving away from arranged marriages.
- Families often live with three or four generations in the same household.

However, there may be some variations too, depending upon different families. For instance, in some houses, girls can wear only traditional wear such as sari or salwar kameez with duppata. However, there are variations from family to family. Even these variations are quite trivial, as the basic essence behind them remains, more or less, the same. Sometimes the values that the Indian parents believe in imparting to their children do not appeal to the outside world.

Indian values that are part of India's cultural heritage are:

- Living peacefully and respecting each other's rights.
- Never ever compromising on integrity for the purpose of prosperity.
- Maintain strong bonds with the family members as well as relatives.
- Being hospitable to everyone who comes to your home, irrespective of his caste, creed, financial position or status.
- Treating guest as God i.e. 'Atithi Devo Bhava'.
- Indulging in yoga and meditation.
- Always taking the advice of elders in case of any important decision.
- The Indian family is usually considered well knit strong, stable, close, resilient, and enduring.

Indian Economy

- The Indian economy is one of the fastest growing in the world.
- Indian labour force is estimated at 509.3 million.
- 60% are employed in agriculture or related industries.
- India has established Special Economic Zones to encourage and support business.
- India's long-term growth is considered moderately positive due to a young population and corresponding low dependency ratio, healthy savings and investment rate.

Indian Food

- Food in India is often served on a 'thali' – a tray or plate that can hold several dishes.
- 'Curry' is a European term to describe the spicy dishes found in India.
- In India meals are eaten with rice or flat breads (roti). Food is spicy and usage of spices such as cumin, turmeric, black pepper, cardamom, cloves and coriander is common in households across region, status and caste.

Arts, Humanities & Popular Culture

- The Indian culture has absorbed and amalgamated many different customs and ideas throughout its long history which has led to a rich tradition and folk culture.
- The most popular musical instrument in India is the sitar, an instrument similar to a guitar.
- India is well regarded for its rugs, craft, metalwork, bronzes, stone carving, pottery, woodwork, and jewellery since ancient times.
- Traditional sports include camel racing and cock fighting.
- Folk dances are regional and often celebrated during festivals.

- ‘Bollywood’ is the informal name given to the popular Mumbai-based film industry. It has the largest output in the world in terms of number of films produced and, possibly, number of tickets sold.

Check Your Progress 2

Note: a) Write your answer in 50 words.

b) You can check your answers given at the end of the unit.

3) Describe some types of family structures and their advantages.

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4) Explain certain characteristics of Associations.

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5) Write some distinct features of Indian social structure and its dynamics.

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1.9 LET US SUM UP

This unit introduces the learner to some basic concepts in society and community. Each person is born in a society which includes communities and certain social values and norms. As the human civilization invents, discovers, and interacts with each other a given society changes and assimilates some new elements and discards others. There are many different types of societies and each society has its own set of norms and values. The structure of families can be of different types. Modernisation and industrial influences have changed the formation of the family unit.

1.10 KEYWORDS

Society: It is defined as a body of individuals that associate together for religious, charitable, cultural, scientific, political, or nationalistic purposes. In simple words, society means an institution, or a club formed by a group of people for a particular purpose or activity.

Status: It is the position that an individual is expected to hold in a group or a community; and the behaviour that we expect from the person holding such a person is his 'role'.

1.11 REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED FURTHER READINGS

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1.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Answers to Check Your Progress 1

Your answers should include the following points:

- 1) Society is defined as a body of individuals that associate together for religious, charitable, cultural, scientific, political, or nationalistic purposes. In simple words, society means an institution, or a club formed by a group of people for a particular purpose or activity. Man is referred to as a Social Animal. Each community or group of individuals share a shared culture and shares cultural memory. Society is also symbolic of interdependence and community living. Describe tribal Society and post-industrial society.
- 2) Society is wider; there can be more than one community in a society. Community is usually smaller than society. There cannot be more than one society in a community. Society is abstract. It is a network of social relationships, which cannot see or touched. On the other hand, community is concrete. It is a group of people living in a area. We can see this group and locate its existence.

Answers to Check Your Progress 2

Your answers should include the following points:

- 3) Family is a group of individuals who share a common genetic bond, blood bond and legal bond. A child who takes birth is automatically a representative of that family and is accepted by the family. This child is now connected to relations such as father, mother, grandparents, Uncle, Aunts, nephews and cousins. Around the globe, you will be surprised to know that there are different kinds of families. Families share moments and celebrate good times collectively; families also stick to each other in grief and offer support. Values, ethics, tradition, and culture of family is passed from one generation to generation next. We can say family comes in a package; your family is pre-decided and formed. Write on types of families.
- 4) You can find the answer under section 1.4.
- 5) You can find the answer under section 1.7.



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