

Basic Concept Of sociology: Society, community, Association, Institution, Status and Role (chapter-3), Intermediate

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Community:

The word community has been derived from two words of Latin namely 'com' and munis. In English 'com' means together and 'munis' means to serve. Thus, community means to serve together. It means, the community is an organisation of human beings framed for the purpose of serving together. Community is a people living within a geographical area in common interdependence. It exists within the society. It is bound by the territorial units. It is a specific group while society is abstract. "Community living is natural to man.

He is born in it and grows in the community ways. It is his small world. Men, we have seen began with group life. Over the time, they occupied a habitat and while in permanent occupation of it; they developed likeness, common habits, folkways and mores, interdependence and acquired a name.

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Osborne and Neumeyer write, "Community is a group of people living in a contiguous geographic area, having common centres of interests and activities, and functioning together in the chief concerns of life."

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Mannheim describes community as "any circle of people who live together and belong together in such a way that they do not share this or that particular interest only but a whole set of interest.

BASIC ELEMENTS OF COMMUNITY:

According to Maclver and Page, there are two main bases or essential elements on the basis of which community is formed.

(i) Locality:

Locality implies a particular or territorial area unless a group of people live in a particular locality; they cannot establish relations and generate the we-feeling among themselves. Living together facilities people to develop social contacts, give protection, safety and security. Locality continues to be a basic factor of community life. Maclver says, though due to the extending facilities of communication in the modern world the territorial bond has been broken, yet “the basic character of locality as a social classifier has never been transcended.

(ii) Community Sentiment:

Community can be formed on the basis of community sentiment. It is extremely essential. It implies ‘a feeling of belonging together.’ It is a ‘we-feeling’ among the members of a community. People living in a community lead a common life, speak the same language, conform to the same mores, feel almost the same sentiment and therefore, they develop a feeling of unity among themselves.

In other words, it can be said that community feeling has the four important aspects such as we-feeling, interdependence, participation and community control. The community sentiments are developed by we-feeling. The members of community develop we-feeling by their mutual interdependence. They contribute to the progress of the community by participating in its activities. Community controls the behaviour of its members. The obedience to community rules brings uniformity among the members.