

CHAPTER

6

Community & Society

- Elements of community
- common life
 - Group of people
 - locality
 - Community always has a historical name
 - Community Sentiment
 - has a spontaneous growth
 - Permanence
 -

CHAPTER OUTLINE

• Community • Nature & characteristics of community • Association and Community • Types of Communities • Rural Community • Characteristics of Rural Community • Urban Community • Characteristics of Urban Community • Difference between Rural and Urban Communities • Society • Society and Individual • Social Life of Human • Nature & characteristics of Society • Elements of Society • Difference between Society and Community • The Evolution of Human Society • Types of Society • Nomadic Societies • Characteristics of Nomadic society • Sedentary Society • Characteristics of Sedentary Society • Traditional Society • Characteristics of Traditional Society • Modern Society • Characteristics of Modern Society • Rural Society • Characteristics of Rural Society • Urban Society • Characteristics of Urban Society • Social life among animals • Difference between Human and Animal Societies

COMMUNITY → A social group of people sharing an environment and shared expectations with each other.

INTRODUCTION

"The members of any group small or large, live together in such a way that they share, not this or that particular interest, but the basic conditions of a common life, we call that group a community. (Maciver & Page)" The basic condition of the concept is that one can live a whole life within a community, i.e., city, tribe or village. It may be self-sufficient in fulfillment of basic needs. Small communities exist within larger communities, as cities within a district, the districts within a province, the provinces within the whole state, and the state within the whole world.

The basic elements of a community are locality and sentiments which shape a community as an area of people living in social cohesion. As for locality, a community occupies a territorial area permanent or changing. The community sentiment is the social coherence which the people inculcate within themselves. This sense of belonging together and to the residence is the real sentiment of community. A common way of life of people along with its awareness on a common territory is a community.

Definition

Bertrand has defined a community as "a functionally related aggregate of people who live in a particular geographical locality at a particular time, show a common culture, are arranged in a social structure, and exhibit an awareness of

The word community has been derived from two words of Latin namely: 'com' and 'munis'. Community means "to serve together".

their uniqueness and separate identity as a group."

"Community is a social group with some degree of "we feeling" and living in a given area." **Bargardus**

"The smallest testimonial group that can embrace all aspect of social life called community". **Kingsley Davis**

Community is "any circle of people who live together and belong together in such a way that they do and share this or that particular interest but a whole set of interests". **Manheim**

NATURE & CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY

A community can be:

1. A group of people living together in an area fulfilling their needs by mutual cooperation. This group may be so small as a village, hamlet, basti, chak or a mohalla in a town or city. The condition for a group to be a community is that they live together as a territory and fulfill the needs of their social life. It means this group is self-sufficient in basic needs. They have houses to live. They have schools, dispensary or shop of a Hakeem. They have a branch of post office nearby. A mosque with Madrassa and teaching of Quran by the Maulvi Sahib is also important institution. Shops providing things of daily life, a flour mill, Patwar Khana, Agriculture Office, a Veterinary Hospital and a Union Council Office are the major institutions of a rural community in our society.

2. A group of people having a sense of belonging to place of residence creates a sentiment of community. A community has two types of sentiments which are not found in other groups. Firstly, a sense of belonging to its territory, and secondly, a sense of belonging to one another. It means belonging to residence and to one another are the main sentiments of community. This cohesion among themselves is created by close face-to-face social interaction. They all know one another and frequently meet at different occasions. A situation of primary group is mostly created among them. Cooperation and mutual help are the formations of mutual relationship. Similarly, they belong to their locality and have sentimental relationship with it. They are not ready to leave their residence at any cost.

3. Community is a group of people having a common culture. Mostly they have characteristics of a local group. They have their own social norms which are different and more important from the norms of the general society. These local norms are the product of their local social conditions. By mutual interaction, they develop their customs of social life. By intermarriage they form "Biradri" and thus became a close unit which can be called as a social system. And by interdependence upon one another they can be called as an organized group. This organized group of people having social system performs its social functions according to the ways of the community. These ways of the people is called the culture of the community. It can be inferred from this discussion that the institutions of a community interrelated together form social structure. This structure is very simple among rural communities and complex in urban communities.

ASSOCIATION AND COMMUNITY

Association is a "group organized for the pursuit of an interest of group of interests in common."

Hence an association is not a community but an organization within it. For example, a sports club within a city, a Union Council within a village. All Pakistan Women Association (APWA) in Pakistani society are the associations. An association is formed on the basis of a specific interest like the Pakistan Sociological Association having development and propagation of sociological knowledge and research as its specific interest. While a community is a broader concept to conceive one or more associations within it.

TYPES OF COMMUNITIES

Communities have been classified into Rural and Urban communities due to different social conditions in both areas. Here both the communities have been elaborated with reference to Pakistani society.

RURAL COMMUNITY

Rural community is a natural phenomenon. It is present in almost every society of the world having distinct culture and pattern of social life. It is actually a product of natural free will of the people having extreme similarity in their objectives and ambitions of living. Agriculture is the main identity of this kind of community. People of this community mostly have face-to-face interaction with high degree of homogeneity in their identities. Basic urban facilities like school, hospital, market, municipal office, police station etc are usually missing in this community.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL COMMUNITY

It is that community which has mostly the following characteristics:

- (i) **Small population:** The population generally is small, living in hamlets, chak, basti and villages of not more than 5,000 individuals.
- (ii) **Lack in administrative organization:** This population has no administrative organization like Municipality, Civil Lines or Town Committee.
- (iii) **Lack of modern facilities:** This population has no modern facilities of gas, water and rail.
- (iv) **Absence of big social institutions:** The facilities of big institutions like hospital, college, industry, hotels and telephone are usually missing.
- (v) **Agrarian in nature:** Usually the agriculture profession is dominant and simple technicians support the cultivator.
- (vi) **Scattered housing pattern:** Houses are mostly away from one another in their respective farms called farmstead settlement and most of the houses are katcha.
- (vii) **Equal division of labor:** The male and the female, the old and the young, all work in the same farm without distinction in roles on the basis of age and sex categories.
- (viii) **Informal interaction:** The interaction patterns are mostly informal. "Hukka" is an important institution of recreation among the rural people of Pakistan.
- (ix) **Slow interaction and social change:** The rate of interaction among the villagers is slow.

Moreover, the interaction of villagers with urban people is also rare and infrequent. By these facts, social change in their life is mostly invisible. Again due to slow rate in interaction among themselves and with the urbanites, the rate of social mobility is slow.

(x) **Celebration of events:** The traditions, customs, rituals and ceremonies celebrated at the occasions of happiness and sadness also show little change within decades.

(xi) **Homogeneity:** The language patterns, the styles of dresses, the type of food and other ways of living are homogeneous which create mechanical solidarity, according to Durkheim. In such conditions, social solidarity exists and the degree of collective conscience is noted higher.

(xii) **Traditional recreations:** Fairs, drum-beating, horse racing, dog fight, wrestling, kabaddi, telling fairy tales, radio and singing lovely songs and dancing on drum beating are the popular recreations of the rural people.

(xiii) **Endogamy:** Marriages take place only within the same Biradri. It means endogamy is popular.

URBAN COMMUNITY

Urban community is the opposite of rural community. In this type, people are highly impersonal with each other along high degree of complexity and heterogeneity in their living style and identities. It is actually a product of rational choice. A complex division of labour with specialization in their jobs is the identity of urban community. Modern civic facilities are usually available in this type of community.

CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN COMMUNITY

(i) **Large population with administrative organization:** It is the population which lives together at a place with 5,000 or more in number. There exists some administrative organization like Municipal Committee.

(ii) **Presence of modern facilities:** The facilities of modern social life like college, hospital, transport, industry, telephone, business centers, water, electricity, road transport, bank and pucca residence are available.

(iii) **Modern recreation:** Radio, television, newspaper, exhibitions, fair, national celebrations, theatre, circus, drama, pictures, zoo, museum, games and sports activities are the popular recreations of urban areas.

(iv) **Expanding social institutions:** The social institutions are expanding in cities due to expansion in education, technology and industry.

(v) **Division of labor and specialization:** A variety of professions is found in such areas. Specially business and trade, commercial activities, technical and non-technical labor, service in Government. Semi-Government and private agencies, industrial and transport engagements are the major professions. Specialization in professions is an important factor in division of labor.

(vi) **Heterogeneity:** The population is heterogeneous due to diversity in professions, caste, class, education, residence, language, race, religion and sect and biradri. These differences in social life create organic solidarity according to Durkheim. It means social solidarity in such conditions is not strong. The forces of collective conscience are also weak due to difference in social conditions.

Such a community shows disorganized activities from time to time. In organic solidarity, the people in a community depend upon one another for the satisfaction of their needs. They have an interdependent living.

(vii) **Fast interaction:** The interaction rate among the people is very fast which brings them close together and the group activities in the form of associations develop rapidly. Telephone, mobile, computer and road transport help interaction rate fast.

(viii) **Changing behavior pattern:** By the fast interaction rate, the patterns of behavior, the customs, conventions and rituals of social life change rapidly. The people adopt new fashions, fads, styles and novel ways of living in their daily life.

(ix) **Rapid social change:** The attitude of people goes on changing in such population. They adopt themselves according to the new social conditions rapidly. Little resistance against the new trends is shown by them. Electronic media and education play important role in this event. *Social Media*

(x) **Frequent social mobility:** The social mobility is found faster in this area. Territorial, horizontal and vertical mobilities bring about social changes in the life of the people.

(xi) **Least importance of caste:** Caste is not important factor in determining social stratification in this area.

(xii) **Religious belief as a part of social life:** Attitude and belief toward religious values is accepting little changes here as happened in the urban life of Western societies. Religious beliefs and practices are a part of social life even in urban people of Pakistan.

(xiii) **Anonymity:** Anonymity is a condition in which a large number of urban people are strangers to the local residents. This condition provides protection to those strangers who commit crime in other areas and hide in these areas.

(xiv) **Exogamy:** The bonds of old Biradri system based on cast is changing. Marriages among people of different castes are being held and in this way new Biradris are coming into being. It means exogamy is growing popular.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN COMMUNITIES

The rural and urban Communities are much different from each other on the following grounds:

i. **Division of labor:** In a rural community, the dominant profession is agriculture. The number of professions is limited in this community due to similarity in social conditions.

The urban community has a large number of professional activities due to diverse social conditions.

ii. **Density of Population:** The population in rural areas is sparse. The people live in their own farms called "Farmstead Settlement". Even the villages and hamlets (basti or chak) have small population.

The urban areas are thickly populated. In a city of a few square miles millions of people live. The houses are joined together.

iii. **Nature of relations:** The relations in rural areas are informal and based of sincerity and mutual help. In urban areas the relations are formal and reciprocal.

iv. **Environment:** In rural areas, the environment is almost natural. The people live in nature, work in nature and die in nature. The animals, trees, plants, crops, water channels, sunrise, sunset, moonlit night, starry night, clouds and rain are the companions of their life.

In urban areas, the social life is based on industrial relations. The needs are satisfied by the production of industrial goods. Even the social relations have industrial means of communication.

v. **Social mobility:** Among the rural people, the social changes are seldom found. Mostly the people are satisfied with their social conditions. Very rarely they change their place of residence and profession. The change in their classes occur infrequently due to little changes in income. It means the rate of social mobility is insignificant among them.

The urban life is ever-changing due to expansion of education, technology and industry. The people change their professions, residences and classes for adjustment with the new social conditions. This type of adjustment in society is called social mobility. The rate of this mobility is higher in this area.

vi. **Social stratification:** In rural areas, the significant elements of social stratification are caste, profession, and the economic resources. While in urban areas, the economic resources and education standard are its important elements.

vii. **Size of population:** The rural population lives in smaller groups separately and in villages. The population in urban areas is clustered in millions. It means the size of population is larger in cities than in villages.

viii. **Social differentiation:** The social life in rural areas is simple and based on similar social conditions. In urban areas, the people of diverse nature live together. The people of different races, sects, castes, professions, classes and political parties live together.

ix. **Social interaction:** In rural areas, the social interaction is informal, slow and under necessary conditions. In urban life, it is formal, reciprocal and fast.

x. **Solidarity:** On the basis of similarity in social life, solidarity exists in rural areas. People live an organized social life. In urban areas, due to different social conditions the life is seldom organized due to which loose social solidarity is found. Seldom the people are satisfied with their present conditions. They make changes rapidly by which the bonds of old systems break and solidarity weakens in urban communities.

SOCIETY

Definition

Group of people which have defined Territory and common culture.

According to Linton, 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." A gathering of people in a kabaddi match, volleyball contest, or in public meeting is an aggregate and not a society.

Bertrand considers society, "that group within which men share a total common life."

✓ Maciver and Page conceive society as "a system of usages and procedures, of authority and mutual aid, of many groupings and divisions, of contests, of human