



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
TERM 1: Chapter 2- Terms, concepts & their use in
Sociology
(GRADE XI)
NOTES AND Q&A

Sub topics in this chapter:

- **Introduction**
- **Social Groups and Society**
- **Types of groups**
 - a. Primary & Secondary
 - b. Community, Society or Association
 - c. In group & out-group
 - d. Peer group
 - e. Reference group
- **Social stratification**
 - a. Caste
 - b. Class
- **Status and Role**
- **Society and Social control**



Q1. Why do we need to use special terms and concepts in Sociology?

Ans: As opposed to commonsensical knowledge, sociology like any other science has its own body of concepts and methods of data collection.

As a social science, sociology does need to have certain agreed upon meanings of social realities and processes in studying. Each subject is required to have a standard vocabulary, terminology, language and concepts through which professionals can converse and maintain the different identity of its subject.

It becomes all the more important to discuss sociological terms so as to distinguish what they mean from commonsensical usage which may have varied meanings and connotations.

Q2. What is a social group? State some of its characteristics

Ans: A social groups refers to a collection of continuously interacting persons who share common interests, culture, values and norms within a given society.

Characteristics of social groups are as follows:

1. Persistent interaction to provide continuity
2. A stable pattern of these interactions
3. A sense of belonging
4. Shared interest
5. Acceptance of common norms and values
6. A definable structure

Q3. Define informal group (read only)

Ans: A type of group in which there is complete absence of arrangement and organization. Members of informal groups are attached to each other by friendship, personal relations, emotional bonding and respect for each other.

Q4. Define in-group Ans: The groups having 'we' feeling are called 'in-groups'. Members perceive positive characteristics for each other. The group maintains mutual dependence, trust, solidarity, harmony and sacrifice. Members are cooperative to each other and a lot of communication occurs.

Q5: Define out-group.

Ans: Out groups are 'they' groups. These are stranger groups. Members of 'in-group' perceive them with negative characteristics, competition, hostility, lack of communication. For the Congress Party members, the BJP members are Out-group and vice-versa.

Q6: Define formal group (read only)

Ans: The groups which are arranged and organized. These are large or a part of large organization. Formal groups are always normative & hierarchal structure in which relationship bonds are professional, e.g. university, army etc.

Q7. Reference group

Ans: The term 'Reference group' was coined by Herbert Hyman. Hyman distinguished between a membership group to which people actually belong to and a reference group which is used as a basis for comparison.

A reference group may or may not be a membership group. A type of group in which we do not belong to but we aspire to be like them and therefore we try to emulate their lifestyle, e.g. for many Indian youths, Americans are a reference group. Reference groups are basis for comparison.

Q9. Explain the meaning of Primary groups

Ans: Primary group refers to a small group of people connected by intimate and face- to-face association and co-operation. For e.g. family, village and groups.

Q11. Explain what is a Peer group

Ans: A set of individuals who share certain common characteristics such as age, ethnicity or occupation, perceive themselves and are recognised by others as a distinct social collectivity. The group is seen to have its own culture, symbols, sanctions and rituals, into which the new

members must be socialised according to which those who fail to comply with group norms may be ostracized.

Q12. Explain secondary groups and state its characteristics

Ans: Secondary groups are relatively large in size, maintain formal and impersonal relationships e.g. schools, government offices are examples of secondary groups.

Characteristic of secondary group:

- (1) Large size
- (2) Indirect relationship
- (3) Fulfilment of special interest
- (4) Limited responsibility
- (5) Impersonal relationship

Q13. Differentiate between community and society/association

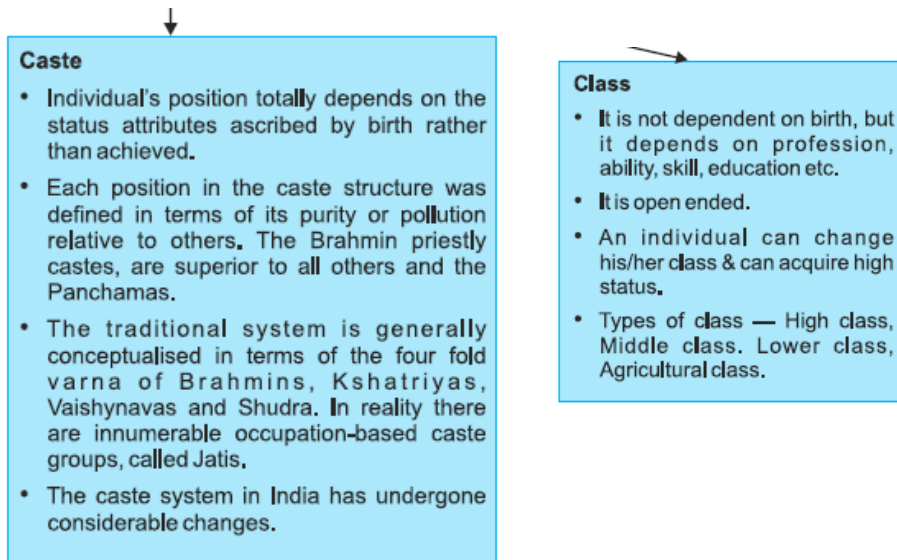
Community and Association:

Community	Society / Association
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to human relationship that are personal, intimate and enduring.• Person's involvement is total and relations are close knit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It refers to human relationship that are impersonal, superficial and transitory.• Person's involvement is rational, calculating & purpose oriented.

Q14. What is social stratification?

Ans: Social stratification refers to division of members of a society into different social categories or strata which are ranked into hierarchy, according to their relative power, prestige and wealth. It is not an individual fact, it is rather a social fact.

Q15. Differentiate between caste and class as a form of social stratification



Q16: How class stratification is different from caste stratification?

Answer: Class stratification is based on one's economic and social status (position) whereas caste stratification is determined by birth. Class stratification is open to all but caste stratification prevents other caste members.

Q17. Explain the meaning of social status and write its two forms

Ans: Social status refers to the position that a person occupies in the social structure, such as a teacher or priest. It is often combined with the notion of social role. In its stranger and more specific meaning it refers to a form of social stratification in which social positions are ranked and organised by legal, political and cultural criteria into status groups.

Status, which an individual gets by birth or due to nominations is known as 'Ascribed Status.' e.g. Brahmins higher status in Hindu society is simply 'ascribed'.

Ascribed status is determined by age, sex, birth, caste, kinship, race, class etc.

The bases of ascribed status is usually fixed and the sources of 'Ascribed Status' are the customs, traditions, values and norms of the society.

An individual acquires 'Achieved Status' because of his intelligence, aptitude, efforts, diligence, skills and personality characterization.

The sources of 'Achieved Status' are individual's own personality traits and his/her ability to make best use of his/her potentials.

Q18. Explain the meaning of status and state two points of difference between ascribed and achieved status.

Status:

- It refers to the position an individual occupies in a group or in society. Each status has certain defined rights and duties assigned to it.
- Examples of status- Doctor, mother, teacher etc.
- Status is of two types: Ascribed Status and Achieved Status

	Achieved Status		Ascribed Status
1	It is achieved by an individual on merit and effort.	1	It is assigned to us on the basis of birth, biological inheritance, parents' status etc.
2	It is based on individual's choice.	2	A person does not choose this status.
3	It can change qualifications, income etc.	3	It is difficult to change status.
4	It plays an important role in modern societies.	4	It plays an important role in traditional societies.
	Eg. Class		Eg. Caste

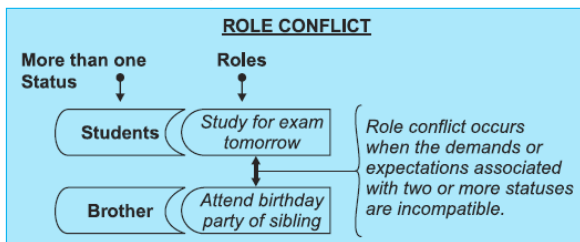
Q19. What do you mean by role?

Ans: A **Role** refers to the expected behaviour of an individual who holds a certain status and it is the status which determines the behaviour pattern, obligations and privileges. Role is the dynamic aspect of status. The functions which an individual performs in society are referred to as 'Role taking' and the functions that he/she is expected to perform are known as 'Role expectations'.

Role Conflict:

- When a person has many role-sets, performance of one role may be in conflict with another role. This situation is called as role conflict.
- When a person has many role-sets and performance of one role may be in conflict with another role.
- It occurs when different expectations arise from two or more roles.

Q20. Explain role conflict with an example



- Example 1. A teacher on invigilation duty might find the son/daughter of a friend cheating OR a middle class working woman who has to manage her role as mother and wife at home and that of a professional.

Q21. What is social control?

Ans: Social control refers to the social process, techniques and strategies by which the behaviours of individual or a group are regulated. It refers both to the use of force to regulate the behaviour of the individual and groups and also refers to the enforcing of values and patterns for maintaining order in society.

Q22. Importance of Social Control

The term 'social control' refers to the social process by which the behaviour of individuals or group is regulated. Society is a harmonious organization of human beings and expected to perform their functions accordingly. In order to exist and progress society has to exercise certain control over its members, such controls are termed as social control. Consequently, social control is pervasive feature of any society.

Social control helps to restrain the unwanted behaviour of the individuals and the groups. It is an influence, exercised by society for promoting the welfare of the group as a whole.

Q23. Explain the types of social control with examples

Types of Social Control:

(1) **Formal Social Control:**

It includes control by state, law, police, bureaucracy, army, Political power, education etc. The state exercises legal power to control the individual and group behaviour. It should be codified and systematic.

(2) **Informal Social Control:**

It includes control by religion, custom, tradition, mores, convention etc.

Extra Notes:

Multiple Status and Status Progression

- In a modern complex society such as ours, an individual may occupy multiple statuses during the course of his/her life.
- This is sociologically termed as status set. For example, you as a school student may be a student to your teacher, a customer to your grocer, a passenger to the bus driver, a brother or sister to your sibling and a patient to the doctor.
- Individuals also acquire different status at various stages of life. This is called a status sequence for it refers to the status, which is attained in succession or sequence at various stages of life. For example, a son becomes a father, a grandfather, and then great grandfather and so on.

Status and Prestige

- Status and prestige are interconnected terms.
- Every status is accorded certain rights and values.
- Values are attached to the social position, rather than to the person who occupies it or to his/her performance or to his/her actions.
- The kind of value attached to the status or to the office is called prestige.

Role and Role Playing

- A role is the dynamic or the behavioural aspect of status. People perform their roles according to social expectations associated with the status that he/she occupies. This is referred to as role taking or role playing.
- Thus, roles are played in accordance with the status. For example, a child learns to behave in accordance with how her behaviour will be seen and judged by others.

Role Conflict

When there is incompatibility among roles corresponding to multiple statuses, it is referred to as role conflict. It occurs when contrary expectations arise from two or more roles to be performed.

Social Control

Social control refers to the various means used by a society to bring its recalcitrant or unruly members back into line.

- It is the social process, techniques, and strategies by which the behaviours of individuals or a group are regulated.
- It can be the use of force to regulate the behaviour of the individuals or enforcement of values in the individual to maintain order in society.

Means Of Social Control

Social control may be informal or formal.

Formal Means

When the codified, systematic and other formal mechanism of control is used, it is known as formal social control. There are agencies and mechanism of formal social control, for example, law and the state. In a modern society formal mechanisms and agencies of social control are emphasised.

Informal Means

In every society there is another type of social control that is known as informal social control. It is personal, unofficial and uncoded. They include smiles, making faces, body language, frowns, criticism, ridicule, laughter etc. There can be great variations in their use within the same society. In day- to-day life they are quite effective. However, in some cases informal methods of social control may not be adequate in enforcing conformity or obedience. There are various agencies of informal social control such as family, religion, kinship, etc.

Impact of Social Control

- Social control can be both positive and negative through sanctions.
- A sanction is a mode of reward or punishment that reinforces socially expected forms of behaviour.
- Members of societies can be rewarded for good and expected behaviour.
- On the other hand, negative sanctions are also used to enforce rules and to restrain deviance.

Deviance

- Deviance refers to modes of action, which do not conform to the norms or values held by most of the members of a group or society.
- What is regarded as 'deviant' is as widely variable as the norms and values that distinguish different cultures and subcultures.
- Likewise, ideas of deviance are challenged and change from one period to another.
- For example, a woman choosing to become an astronaut may be considered deviant at one time, and be applauded at another time even in the same society.

NCERT EXTRA QUESTIONS:

Qs- As a member of society, you must be interacting with and in different groups. How do you see these groups from a sociological perspective?

Ans: Social groups can be defined as an organised structure of two or more persons who interact with one another, have shared goals, are interdependent, and consider themselves as members of a group.-

Groups have the following salient characteristics:

- A social unit consisting of two or more individuals who perceive themselves as belonging to the group. This characteristic of the group helps in distinguishing one group from the other and gives the group its unique identity.
- A collection of individuals who have common motives and goals. Groups function either working towards a given goal or away from certain threats facing the group.
- Persistent interaction to provide continuity.
- A stable pattern of interaction.
- Acceptance of common norms and structures.
- A collection of individuals who are interdependent on what one is doing may have consequences for others.
- There is an organised structure by a set of roles, norms, status and cohesiveness.

Sociologists, Anthropologists and Social Psychologists categorised groups into different types: Primary and Secondary groups

1. Primary groups are pre-existing formations which are usually given to the individual whereas secondary groups are those which the individual joins' by choice, e.g., family, caste and religion are primary groups, whereas membership of a political party is an example of secondary group.

- In a primary group, there is face to face interaction, members have close physical proximity and they share warm emotional bonds.
- Primary groups are central to individual functioning and have a major role in developing values and ideals of the individual during the early stages of development.
- Secondary groups are those where relationships among members are more impersonal, indirect and less frequent.
- In the primary group, boundaries are less permeable i.e. members do not have the option to choose membership as compared to secondary groups where it is easy to leave and choose another group.
- Primary groups have a sense of belongingness whereas secondary groups are relatively large in size, maintain formal and impersonal relationships e.g. schools, offices, hospitals etc.

2. Formal and informal groups

The functions of the group are stated explicitly and formally in formal groups
The formation of formal groups is based on specific rules or laws and members have definite roles.

Formal groups differ to informal groups on the basis of structure.

Informal groups are more flexible and members have close relationship.

3. In group – Out group:

The term In-group refers to one's own group and Out-group refers to another group. For In-group members, we use the word 'we' while for Out-group members the word 'they' is used.

Persons in the In-group are generally supposed to be similar and viewed favourably and have desirable traits.

Members of this group are viewed differently and are often perceived negatively in comparison to the In-group members.

- We all have a world of our dreams and desires. In sociological perspective, we all live in a social world. We get fascinated and attracted towards a group which might appear to be leading a more fulfilling life. When we look up to other people or groups, we secretly aspire to be like them. We start identifying with them, we internalise their traits, behavioural patterns and actions so that we may like them. Thus, we do not belong to our reference groups, we only identify them.
- Reference Groups:

Newcomb (social psychologist) used reference groups to help explain the changing values and attitudes of students of a liberal women's college. Many of the women who came from politically conservative background developed increasingly liberal attitudes over the course of their college careers, as they came to identify more with the college faculty and less with their family of origin. The girls who changed most were those characterised by independence from their parents, a sense of personal adequacy in social relations in achieving their goals.

For example, many a time school and college girls and boys who are basically members of students group admire, appreciate and identify with the stars of Bollywood e.g. Sadhna, Rajesh Khanna etc. and develop desire to become like them secretly. They initiate their life style, hair style, talking style, clothes etc. Basically, their membership group is students' group but they get fascinated with the film stars group which for them is the reference groups.

From sociological perspective if a society has strong healthy role models related to politics, religion, profession etc. as reference group then young generation do get influenced with them accordingly.

Qs. What are social groups? Discuss various types of groups

Answer: A number of individuals, defined by formal and informal criteria of membership, who share a feeling of unity or are bound together in relatively stable pattern of interaction are called social groups.

Sociology is primarily concerned with social relations and how these relations develop as a result of social interaction. When some people establish social relations with one another, their gathering is called a group. Direct or indirect relations between two or more people is the fundamental basis of a social group. A collection of human beings may be called a group only when it has a permanent set of patterns. The members need to influence one another by their internal activities. When members establish relationships on the basis of common characteristics and goals and influence each other, it is called a group.

Social groups differ in size, ranging from intimate associations, like a family to large collectivities such as a political party. Groups are organised system of two or more individuals. People join groups because they provide security, status, self-esteem, satisfaction of one's psychological and social needs, goal achievement, knowledge and information. Group formation is a natural process of society. Proximity, similarity and common motives and goals facilitate group formation. Groups are of different types i.e. primary and secondary, formal and informal and 'in-group' and 'out-group'.

Primary groups are preexisting formations in which face to face interaction is possible and relationship bonds are based on personal relationship. In primary groups a person knows one another well and they establish close relationship among them, boundaries are more permeable. Secondary groups are those where relationship among members are more impersonal, indirect and less frequent. In this group it is easy to leave and join another group. Secondary groups provide experience lacking in intimacy.

Formal groups differ in degree to which the functions of the group are stated explicitly and formally. The functions of a formal group are explicitly stated as in the case of an office organisation. The roles to be performed by group members are stated in the explicit manner. The formal and informal groups differ on the basis of structure. The formations of formal groups is based on same specific rules or laws and members have definite roles.

There are a set of norms which help in establishing order.

On the other hand, the formation of informal groups is not based on rules or laws and there is close relationship among members. Formal groups are groups that are arranged and organized e.g. university. Formal groups tend to be large or a part of large organization having a normative hierarchical structure. Informal groups are typically small and casually or spontaneously formed and function without formal rules, goals or leaders.

The term in-group refers to one's own group, and out-group refers to another group. For in-group members, we use the word 'we' group while for out-group members the word 'they' group is used. By using the word 'they' and 'we', one is categorizing people on similar or different basis. It has been found that persons in the in-group are generally supposed to be similar, are viewed favourably, and have desirable traits. Members of the out-group are viewed differently and are often perceived negatively in comparison to the in-group members.

Perceptions of in-group and out-group affect our social lives. Co-operation and proximity are common features of in-group members. Hostile and aggressive relationship leading to conflict and competition is common feature towards out-group members. In-group members maintain mutual dependence, solidarity, faithfulness, friendship, cooperation and communication for members whereas out-groups are known as stranger group.

Qs. What have you observed about the stratification system existing in your society? How are individual lives affected by stratification?

Answer: The term 'stratification' in sociology is usually applied to studies of structured social inequality i.e. studies of any systematic inequalities between groups of people, which arise as the unintended consequence of social processes and relationships. When we ask why there is poverty, why Dalits and women in India are disadvantaged, we are posing questions about social stratification.

Social stratification is the core issue of macro sociology, the study of whole society. Social stratification is concerned in different ways with the issues of class and status – group formation as the key to understanding social integration, that is, the extent to which social relationships are cohesive (togetherness) or divisive which in consequence determines social order.

I have observed that stratification system in our society denotes existence of structured inequalities between different groups of Indian society. Indian society consists of a strata in hierarchy i.e. most favoured people at the top and least privileged people at the bottom of the society. Economic disparity leading to class system, caste system, etc. play significant role in stratification in Indian society.

- In Indian caste stratification system, individual's status is ascribed by birth rather than individual's achievements and his/her contribution or his/her psychological attributes.
- Against this stratification of Indian society there is a ray of hope. Due to economic growth, constitutional provision, urbanization, industrialization, education, easy communication and enlightened media our society is gradually changing towards betterment.
- Stratification is a natural process of any society. As we know, society is a group. And group is an organized structure in which members have a status role.
- Social stratification gets evolved to ensure that the most important position should be occupied by qualified people.
- The roles refer to expectations which is dynamic and behavioural aspect of status. Status refers to position of each member in the society. The status of any member has an institutionalized role. The role becomes regularized, standardized and formalized in the society.
- Social stratification begins from general assumption or based on the belief of functionalism that no society is classless or without stratification. The only thing required is coordination, balance, integration and development of everyone should be the objective of any healthy society.

Qs. What is social control? Do you think the modes of social control in different spheres of society are different? Discuss.

Answer: The term 'social control' refers to the social process by which the behaviour of individuals or group is regulated. Society is a harmonious organization of human beings and expected to perform their functions accordingly. In order to exist and progress society has to exercise certain control over its members, such controls are termed as social control.

Consequently, social control is pervasive feature of any society.

Social control helps to restrain the unwanted behaviour of the individuals and the groups. It is an influence, exercised by society for promoting the welfare of the group as a whole.

Social control varies from one society to another because each society has its own rules and norms. Different types of societies like individualistic society or collectivistic societies have different expectations (roles) from their members.

Indian cultural values and general standards of life are different from western individualistic society. Therefore both the societies have different patterns of social control. We emphasize on socialization whereas technologically advanced western society focuses on individual liberty.

Social control considers customs, traditions, rituals, rules and sub rules according to the social demands. Accordingly in that particular society, family system, marriage system, positive and negative conventions, religion and education systems develop. Members of that particular society should conform these systems. Society develops an appropriate social control for that particular society.