

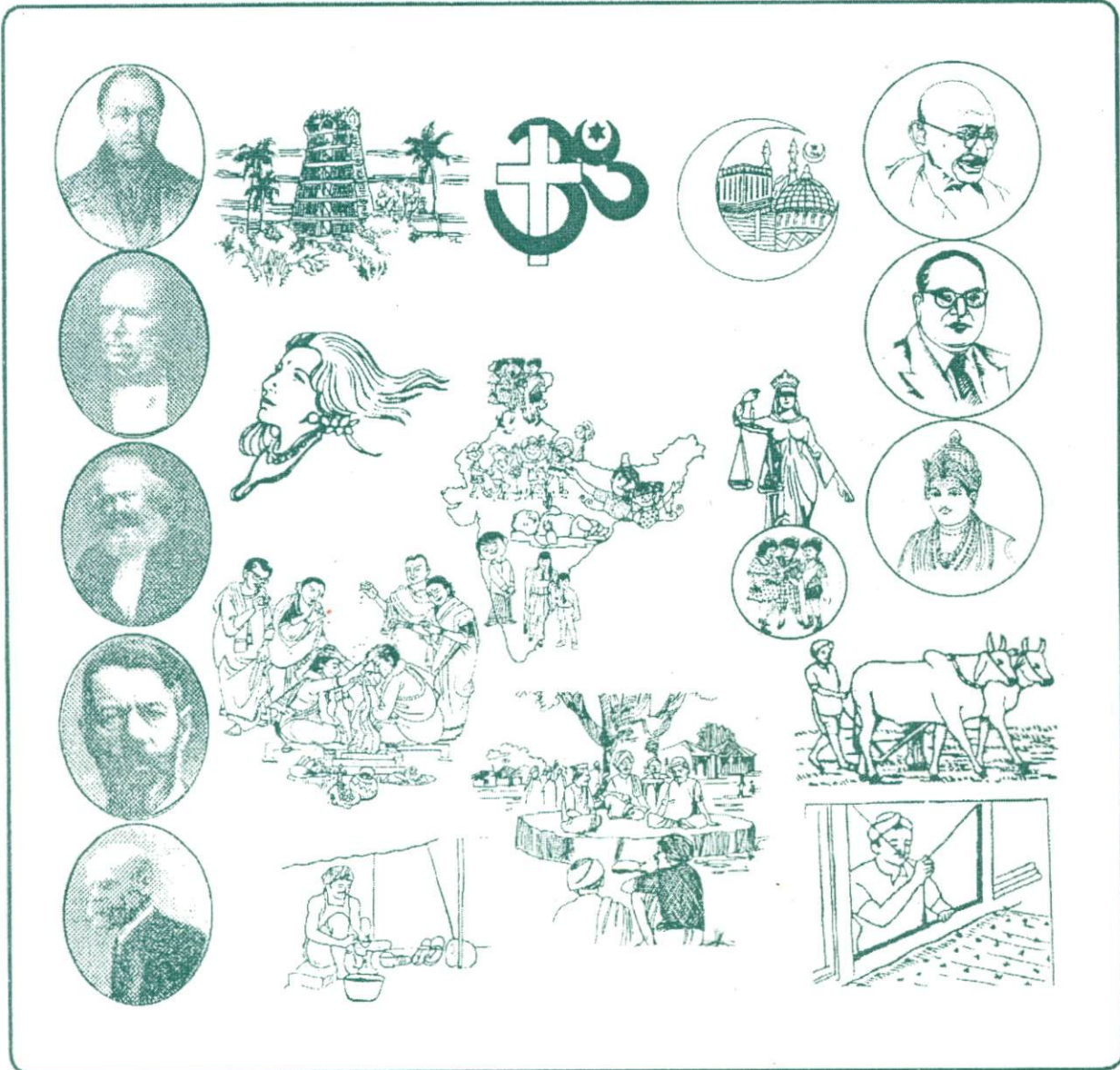


# SOCIOLOGY

MPP

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MASTER PREPARATORY PROGRAMME



**KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY**

MANASAGANGOTRI, MYSORE - 570 006

**BLOCK - 1 : GENERAL SOCIOLOGY**

ಉನ್ನತ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಇರುವ ಅವಕಾಶಗಳನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶಿಕ್ಷಣವನ್ನು ಪ್ರಜಾತಂತ್ರೀಕರಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ನೀತಿ 1986

*The Open University system has been initiated in order to augment opportunities for higher education and as instrument of democratizing education.*

**National Education Policy 1986**

ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯವು ದೂರಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಹುಮಾಧ್ಯಮಗಳನ್ನು ಉಪಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ....ವಿದ್ಯಾಕಾಂಕ್ಷಿಗಳನ್ನು ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಪಾದನೆಗಾಗಿ ಕಲಿಕಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುವ ಬದಲು, ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಪತ್ತನ್ನು ವಿದ್ಯೆ ಕಲಿಯುವವರ ಬಳಿ ಕೊಂಡೊಯ್ಯುವ ವಾಹಕವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಡಾ. ಕುಳಂದೈಸ್ವಾಮಿ

*"The Open University system makes use of Multimedia in distance education system. .... it is vehicle which transports knowledge to the place of learners rather than transport to the place of learning.*

**Dr. Kulandai Swamy**

ಜ್ಞಾನಪೀಠ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ  
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕವಿ ಕುವೆಂಪು ಜನ್ಮ ಶತಮಾನೋತ್ಸವ ವರ್ಷ ೨೦೦೪  
ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ ಸಂದೇಶ

ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಮಗುವು ಹುಟ್ಟುತ್ತಲೇ - ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ. ಬೆಳೆಯುತ್ತಾ ನಾವು ಅದನ್ನು 'ಅಲ್ಪ ಮಾನವ'ನನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ. ಮತ್ತೆ ಅದನ್ನು 'ವಿಶ್ವಮಾನವ'ನನ್ನಾಗಿ ಮಾಡುವುದೇ ವಿದ್ಯೆಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವಾಗಬೇಕು.

ಮನುಜ ಮತ, ವಿಶ್ವ ಪಥ, ಸರ್ವೋದಯ, ಸಮನ್ವಯ, ಪೂರ್ಣದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಈ ಪಂಚಮಂತ್ರ ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಾಗಬೇಕಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಂದರೆ, ನಮಗೆ ಇನ್ನು ಬೇಕಾದುದು ಆ ಮತ ಈ ಮತ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಮನುಜ ಮತ. ಆ ಪಥ ಈ ಪಥ ಅಲ್ಲ; ವಿಶ್ವ ಪಥ. ಆ ಒಬ್ಬರ ಉದಯ ಮಾತ್ರವಲ್ಲ; ಸರ್ವರ ಸರ್ವಸ್ವರದ ಉದಯ. ಪರಸ್ಪರ ವಿಮುಖವಾಗಿ ಸಿಡಿದು ಹೋಗುವುದಲ್ಲ; ಸಮನ್ವಯಗೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಸಂಕುಚಿತ ಮತದ ಅಂಶಿಕ ದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಭೌತಿಕ ಪಾರಮಾರ್ಥಿಕ ಎಂಬ ಭಿನ್ನದೃಷ್ಟಿ ಅಲ್ಲ; ಎಲ್ಲವನ್ನೂ ಭಗವದ್ ದೃಷ್ಟಿಯಿಂದ ಕಾಣುವ ಪೂರ್ಣದೃಷ್ಟಿ.

ಕುವೆಂಪು

**Gnanapeeta Awardee**  
**Kuvempu's Birth Centenary Year - 2004**

**Gospel of Universal Man**

Every Child, at birth, is the universal man. But, as it grows, we turn it into "a petty man". It should be the function of education to turn it again into the enlightened "universal man".

The Religion of Humanity, the Universal Path, the Welfare of All, Reconciliation, the Integral Vision- these *five mantras* should become View of the Future. In other words, what we want henceforth is not this religion or that religion, but the Religion of Humanity ; not this path or that path, but the Universal Path ; not the well-being of this individual or that individual, but the Welfare of All ; not turning away and breaking off from one another, but reconciling and uniting in concord and harmony ; and, above all, not the partial view of a narrow creed, not the dual outlook of the material and the spiritual, but the Integral Vision of seeing all things with the eye of the Divine.

**Kuvempu**

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# MASTER PREPARATORY PROGRAMME

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## BRIDGE COURSE : INTRODUCTION

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**Dear student,**

On behalf of the faculty of the Sociology Department I propose a warm welcome to you to the two-year Post Graduate Course in Sociology leading to Master of Arts Degree Programme of the Karnataka State Open University. Since you do not have the academic training and knowledge that are part of the Pre-University and Degree Courses in Sociology, the Karnataka State Open University has designed the Master Preparatory Programme in Sociology as a **Bridge Course** to sensitise you and prepare you to take up Post Graduate Course in full earnestness. The Master's Preparatory Programme for Sociology comprises Ten Blocks totalling Thirty Units. Experts in Sociology who are the Course Writers under the guidance of Professors of Sociology have prepared fairly simple and easy to understand interactive instructional materials to help you to catch up with what you could have missed in a traditional Under Graduate course. As a structure for Master's Preparatory Programme care has been taken to include major conceptual and theoretical elements of Sociology along with adequate illustrations in brief discussions. However an Master's Preparatory Programme of this kind covers a significant content area of Sociology under the papers i.e., General Sociology, Study of Indian Society, Study of Rural-Urban Communities, Social Disorganisation and Sociological Thought. While the veteran world-renowned thinkers in Sociology are introduced in small measure, it would be useful to forage further to get deep inwardness into the study of Sociology. However, the way in which you read and respond to the Master's Preparatory Programme will determine the manner in which you can pursue the postgraduate Course. You are advised to work through the Units of Master's Preparatory Programme systematically and answer all check your progress questions. If you begin the study of course material after a thorough browsing of the Master's Preparatory Programme Units you will find that the study of M.A. Sociology Self Instructional Material units is as academically interesting as it is intellectually inspiring and fascinating.

The contents of the syllabus of Master's Preparatory Programme are as follows:

### **BLOCK 1: General Sociology**

- UNIT 1**      Definition, Nature, Scope, importance of Sociology.
- UNIT 2**      Primary Concepts: Role and Status, Social System.
- UNIT 3**      Social Processes: Co-operation – Competition –  
Conflict – Accommodation - Assimilation.

## **BLOCK 2 : General Sociology**

- UNIT 4** Marriage – Meaning – Types - Functions  
Family – Meaning – Types - Functions.
- UNIT 5** Social Stratification – Meaning - Types.
- UNIT 6** Social Change- Definition - Factors.

## **BLOCK 3 : Study of Indian Society**

- UNIT 1** Varnashrama Dharma and Purusharthas.
- UNIT 2** Hindu Joint Family- Features - Merits and Demerits- Changing Trends
- UNIT 3** Caste System- Meaning – Features - Changing Trends.

## **BLOCK 4 : Study of Indian Society**

- UNIT 4** Legislations for the improvement of status of women.
- UNIT 5** Minority Groups- Meaning - Types
- UNIT 6** Social Mobility – Meaning – types – Sanskritization – Westernisation - Modernisation.

## **BLOCK 5 : Study of Rural – Urban Communities**

- UNIT 1** Nature – Scope - Importance of Rural Sociology - Characteristics of Village Community.
- UNIT 2** Land Reforms in India – Critical Appraisal.
- UNIT 3** Panchayat Raj in India – History – Objectives – Structure and Functions – 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitution Amendment Act.

## **BLOCK 6 : Study of Rural – Urban Communities**

- UNIT 4** Nature – Scope - Importance of Urban Sociology  
Characteristics of Urban Community.
- UNIT 5** Theories of City Growth – Concentric Zone and Theories - Sector.
- UNIT 6** Urban Problems – Housing – Slums.

## **BLOCK 7 : Social Disorganization**

- UNIT 1** Social Disorganization – Concept – Causes – Social Disorganization and Social Problems.
- UNIT 2** Juvenile Delinquency – Meaning – Causes - Rehabilitative Measures.
- UNIT 3** Crime – Meaning – Causes - Effects.

## **BLOCK 8 : Social Disorganization**

- UNIT 4** Prostitution – Definition – History of Prostitution in India – Causes – Evil Effects.
- UNIT 5** Alcoholism – Meaning – Causes - Consequences.
- UNIT 6** Population Problem – Causes of Over Population, Consequences of Over Population.

## **BLOCK 9 : Sociological Thought**

- UNIT 1** Introduction to the Development of Social Thought.
- UNIT 2** Auguste Comte – Life Sketch - Main Contributions.
- UNIT 3** Emile Durkhiem – Life Sketch - Main Contributions.

## **BLOCK 10: Sociological Thought**

- UNIT 4** Basav – Life Sketch - Concept of Kayaka - Social Equality.
- UNIT 5** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi- Life Sketch - Concept of Sarvodaya.
- UNIT 6** B. R. Ambedkar – Life - Views on Varna System , Caste System and Achievement .

We wish you an exciting period of academic interaction and high level of intellectual exploration regarding man and society in the world in which you live. Wishing you the best of luck.

Thanking you,

**N.DODDASIDDAIAH**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**Department of Studies and Research in Sociology.**  
**Karnataka State Open University, Manasagangotri, MYSORE-6.**





Karnataka State **SOCIOLOGY**  
Open University **MPP**  
Manasagangotri **BRIDGE COURSE**  
Mysore-570006 **MASTER**  
**PREPARATORY**  
**PROGRAMME**

## **BLOCK**

# **1**

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## **GENERAL SOCIOLOGY**

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### **UNIT 1**

**An Introduction to Sociology** 1-16

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### **UNIT 2**

**Primary Concepts** 17-26

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### **UNIT 3**

**Social Processes** 27-41

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## Course Design and Editorial Committee

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**Prof. K. Sudha Rao**  
Vice Chancellor and Chairman  
Karnataka State Open University

**Prof. Sathya Prema**  
Dean (Academic) and Convenor  
Karnataka State Open University

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Professor of Sociology  
University of Mysore, Mysore-6

**Editor**

**Dr. Satyanarayana**  
Retired Professor of Sociology  
University of Mysore, Mysore-6.

**Editor**

**N.Doddasiddaiah**  
Chairman  
Department of Studies and Research in Sociology  
Karnataka State Open University, Mysore-6

**Subject Co-ordinator**

---

### Course Writers

### Block - 1

**T.Nagaraju**  
Reader in Sociology  
Karnataka State Open University, Mysore-6

**Unit 1**

**N. Doddasiddaiah**  
Lecturer (Selection Grade) in Sociology  
Karnataka State Open University, Mysore-6

**Unit 2**

**M H Krishnappa**  
Lecturer (Selection Grade) in Sociology  
Karnataka State Open University, Mysore-6

**Unit 3**

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## **BLOCK - 1**

### **An Introduction to Sociology – Primary Concepts- Social Processes**

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The Master Preparatory Programme is designed in such a way that equips the distant learner with the necessary knowledge to become eligible to be a distant learner for Post Graduation in Sociology. It includes five themes namely Basics of Sociology, Study of Indian Society, Study of Rural-Urban Communities, Social Disorganization and Sociological Thought.

The first block contains subjects relating to the General Sociology. This block comprises three units dealing with Basics of Sociology, Primary Concepts and Social Processes.

#### **UNIT - 1**

The first unit describes the nature, scope and importance of Sociology.

#### **UNIT - 2**

The second unit analyses Role and Status and Social System as basic concepts.

#### **UNIT - 3**

The third unit clarifies the meaning of five social processes, namely co-operation, competition, conflict, accommodation and assimilation.



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## UNIT 1 : AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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### Structure

- 1.0 Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Definition
- 1.3 Nature
  - 1.3.1 Complexity and variability of social facts
  - 1.3.2 Difficulty in maintaining objectivity
  - 1.3.3 Difficulty in using laboratory facility
  - 1.3.4 Use of concepts
  - 1.3.5 Problem of prediction
- 1.4 Scope
  - 1.4.1 The Specialistic or Formalistic School
  - 1.4.2 The Synthetic School
- 1.5 Importance
  - 1.5.1 Reliable knowledge about society
  - 1.5.2 Information about the specific aspects of society
  - 1.5.3 Sociology – A guiding perspective
  - 1.5.4 Intellectual instruments
  - 1.5.5 Developing self – knowledge and tolerant attitude
  - 1.5.6 Practical value of Sociology
- 1.6 Development of Sociology
- 1.7 Summary
- 1.8 Keywords
- 1.9 Answers to check your progress
- 1.10 Unit – end exercises and answers
- 1.11 Suggested readings

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## 1.0 OBJECTIVES

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After going through this unit, you should be able to:

- To analyse the definitions of sociology
- To understand the scope of sociology and
- Analyse the importance of sociology.

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

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In this unit we introduce you to the meaning, definition, scope and importance of Sociology.

Sociology is the study of human society. It is considered as the youngest social sciences, because only recently it came to be established as a distinct branch of knowledge with its own concepts and methods of enquiry, through its subject matter, that is human society has been a subject for speculation and enquiry since the dawn of civilization. Even centuries ago men were thinking about society and about how it should be organized and holding views on man and his destiny, rise and fall of communities and civilizations. Though sociology is said to be established as a separate discipline due to the efforts of a French philosopher August Comte in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is wrong to think that there existed no social thought before him. Men have always reflected upon societies in which they lived. Similarly in the writings of philosophers, thinkers and lawgivers of various countries one finds ideas that are sociological.

Study of sociology is necessary to understand man as a member of society, as a sharer and participant of culture. Man cannot live and develop without society. Aristotle realized this fact when he defined man as a social animal. To him an individual who could not share a common life would be either a God or a beast.

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## 1.2 DEFINITION

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- The word sociology was first coined by Auguste Comte in the year 1839. The word sociology has arrived from a Latin term "Socius" meaning a companion and Greek word "Logia" or "Logien" which means to speak.
- Etymologically they mean, "to speak to a companion". According to P.Gisbert the root terms of the word sociology are the Latin "Societus" (Society) and the Greek 'Logos' (study or science). So, sociology is the science of society. When Herbert Spencer used the word "Sociology" in the title of his works viz.,

Principles of Sociology, it is to be accepted as the permanent name of this new science. Now let us discuss some definitions of sociology.

- In the words of M.Ginsberg sociology is “the study of human interactions and interrelations, their conditions and consequences”. (Morris Ginsberg: Sociology, Oxford University press, London 1961).
- J.F.Cuber defined Sociology as “a body of scientific knowledge about human relationship”.
- A.W.Green defines sociology as “the synthesizing and generalizing science of man in all his social relationships”. (Arnold W. Green – Sociology – an introduction to the science of society).
- According to MacIver & Page sociology “is the science of society which studies social relationship”. (MacIver & Page – Society- Introductory Analysis. Macmillan Company Ltd. London (1957).

In short, sociology is the science of interlocking systems of action, of which the most important are society, institutions, social relationships and social acts.

Society is a complex system of institutions. As the science of social institutions, sociology describes their features. Structure and functions.

Institutions are a complex system of social relationships. As the study of social relationships, sociology explains common and differentiating characteristics of social relationships, their varieties and frequency, social relationships may be described as “Molecules” of social life.

Social relationships are made up of social acts and interactions. Social actions have reference to the behaviour of individuals directed towards others, while social interactions refer to two or more persons responding to each other and influencing the behaviour of one another. Green defines social interaction as “a mutual influence that individuals and groups have upon one another in their attempts to solve problems and in their striving towards goals”. Social interaction reflects itself in the forms of competition, co-operation. Etc., when individuals interact with one another. Which are called social processes.

Social relationships are established. Social act is an “atom” of social life. Not all acts are social. Sociology studies only such acts, which have a clear and shared meaning for both the person and others with whom he is in contact. For example, when two persons are traveling in the same bus, their relationship is only physical not social. But when they become aware of each other’s presence and greet each other by smiling and lifting their hands, then their acts become social. The word ‘social’ that implies mutual awareness and mutual recognition.

Thus, sociology is the science of society, social institutions, social relationships and social acts. It is "the study of social realities from the view point of the "commonness" or reciprocity involved in them". It deals with the individual as a social being, i.e. "man in relation to his fellows".

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### 1.3 NATURE

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From the above definitions we have learnt that sociology is a science which studies or social relationships. It is a discipline, that seeks to apply the methods of science to the study of man and society, It is based on the assumption that use of scientific method leads to a clear understanding of man's nature, actions and institutions and also to the solution of those practical problems that men encounter in their collective life.

What is science? To understand correctly the nature of sociology as a science, it is necessary to know what science is. Mainly folkways, habits and guesswork guided human action during most part of man's history. Only a few centuries ago man learnt that he should understand the natural and social worlds by systematic observation. He realized that explicitly scientific approach to the study of society might yield useful knowledge about his social life. Generally science means any branch of real knowledge. Many consider science as "an organized way of obtaining knowledge". According to Biesanz & Biesanz, "it is an approach rather than content that is the text of science. Karl Person observed that unity of all science consists in method not in its material. The man, who in applying the scientific method classifies facts of any kind sees their mutual relation and describes their sequences is a man of science.

In short science may be defined in two distinct though related ways (1) Science is a body of reliable knowledge based on scientific generalization or laws. (2) It is a method by which systematic and accurate knowledge about the world is secured.

There has been a controversy about whether sociology can be called a science or just a discipline. Some state that its findings are not worthwhile. Some believe that sociology is not a science as it cannot either verify its hypotheses by controlled experiments, nor cannot measure its subjects and cannot establish broad unifying hypotheses in terms of which a variety of social phenomena can be explained. Some others argue that sociology cannot be a science like "natural science", because social data change too fast and much and are based on subjective values. But all said and done sociology also adopts scientific method in studying social phenomena. Sociology is not cock & bull story. However, sociology cannot claim the status of pure science because of some inherent problems faced by social scientists.

### **1.3.1 Complexity and variability of social facts**

Complexity and variability are the characteristics of the social phenomena. Social facts are so complex that sociologists sometimes find it difficult to know where and how to begin. Similarly social situations are network, in which to change one factor without affecting others is not possible. The complexity and the variability of social phenomena themselves are a lasting challenge to the methodology of sociological research.

### **1.3.2 Difficulty in maintaining objectivity**

Objectivity means “an ability and willingness to study the facts of a given field without prejudice”. A natural scientist can easily maintain objectivity, as he is never a part of the problem he investigates. But a sociologist does not stand such fortunate situation. Instead in some sense he is an inseparable part of the phenomenon he studies. He is both an observer and the observed. For him objectivity is a goal to be achieved, but not a condition given in his scientific investigation. As he is a child of his culture he consciously or unconsciously conforms to it inequitably brings it to his inquiries. In the social phenomena, a body of set ideas and opinions affect his thinking about himself and his society and also colour his conclusions. Thus he must be aware of subjective interpretation and biases inherent in his own culture and also control his own preconceived prejudices.

### **1.3.3. Difficulty in using laboratory facility**

In natural sciences it is possible to conduct laboratory experiments. A physicist can use his laboratory and precision instruments and verify his hypothesis through controlled experiments. But the subjects of a sociologist studies are not external tangible things, which can be directly identified by the senses. He cannot isolate the units of study, like institution in a test-tube in a laboratory and examine them. Similarly he cannot weigh the customs, creeds, mores etc., in a balance, or view the social relationship through a microscope. He cannot treat human being as a guinea pig and give a laboratory analysis of his behaviour. When an individual under study is unwilling to co-operate, the sociologist cannot force him to co-operate. When the person comes to know that he is an experimental subject, he begins to act differently thereby spoiling the experiment. Hence for the most part the sociologist has to observe him under “natural conditions”.

### **1.3.4 Use of concepts**

Many words used in sociology, such as society, community, class and culture are also found in every day

speech of the layman and used in different ways. They mean different things to different individuals. For example during "strike" the word 'Justice' may mean one thing to employees and entirely another thing to their employer.

### **1.3.5 Problem of prediction**

Prediction, to a great extent, is possible in natural sciences. But sociology deals with human behaviour, which is highly unpredictable. There are certain difficulties to scientific investigation in sociology, which prevent sociology from becoming an exact science. But it does not mean the sociology is not a science. There have appeared certain promising sign in the field of sociology, which prove that sociology can become a science. Sociology is adopting scientific method to study social phenomena. Much emphasis is being given to field-work, objectivity and formulation of laws.

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## **1.4 SCOPE**

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Scope of a Science means the range of extent of its subject matter. Every science has its own fields of study. It becomes difficult for any one to study a science systematically unless its boundaries are demarcated and scope, is determined precisely. For, human social life is the matter of Sociology. Which other social science also share.

Unfortunately, there is no uniformity in the part of sociology, with regard to the scope of Sociology. Some Sociologist believe that sociology should study all subjects under the sun, which is too vague a view, being the science of society. Some others stress that Sociology should deal with the whole field of human interaction and interrelations, institutions, systems, knowledge, beliefs, art, morals etc. This is too broad a concept. Some others say that sociology studies the relationship among interactions. This is not acceptable, because both conscious and unconscious elements determine their interactions and interrelations.

However, there are two main schools of thought regarding the scope of Sociology.

- The Specialistic or Formalistic School and
- The Synthetic School.

### **1.4.1 The Specialistic or Formalistic School**

This school is led by George Simmel the German Sociologist and others like, Vierkandt. Maxweber, Small, Von Wies and Tonnies. They are of the opinion that Sociology is a pure and an independent science and it has a limited scope. It deals with certain aspects of human relationship only. Social relationship such as competition, sub-ordination, division of labour etc, are expressed in different fields of social life, such



as economic, political, religious, moral etc. Sociology should disentangle the forms of social relationships and study them in abstraction. Sociology as a formal sociologist can describe, classify and analyse the forms of social relationships.

Vierkandt says that Sociology concerns itself with the ultimate form of mental or psychic relationship, which links men to one another in Society. He maintains that in dealing with culture, Sociology should not concern itself with the actual contents of cultural evolution but it should confine itself to only the discovery of the fundamental forces of change and persistence. It should refrain itself from making a historical study of concrete societies.

Max Weber clearly stated that the aim of sociology is to interpret or understand social behavior. But social behavior does not cover the whole field of human relations. He further said that sociology should make an analysis and classification of types of social relationships.

A.W. Small stressed that sociology has only a limited field. Von Wiese and Tonnies expressed more or less the same opinion.

The views of the formalistic school are widely criticized. Some critical remarks may be noted below.

Firstly, the formalistic school has unreasonably narrowed the field of sociology. It studies not only the general forms of social relationships but also their concrete contents.

Secondly, the distinction between the forms of social relations and their contents is not workable. Social forms cannot be abstracted from the content at all, since social forms keep on changing when the contents change. Sorokin comments, "We may fill a glass with wine, water or sugar without changing its form, but I cannot conceive of a social institution whose form would not change when its members change".

Thirdly, the establishment of pure sociology is impractical. No sociologist has been able to develop a pure sociology so far. No science can be studied in complete isolation from the other sciences. In fact, today more emphasis is laid on inter-disciplinary approach.

Lastly, sociology is intimately related to other social sciences, any one of them cannot develop without the co-operation of other social sciences and without helping them in turn. This makes clear that we cannot accept the views of Simmel and his followers about the scope of sociology.

#### **1.4.2 The Synthetic School**

Eminent thinkers like Durkheim, Hobhouse, Ginsberg and Sorokin have been the chief exponents of this school. The main argument of this school is that all parts of social life are intimately inter-related. The study of one aspect is not sufficient to understand the entire phenomenon. Hence

Sociology should study social life as a whole. This opinion has contributed to the creation of a general and systematic sociology.

According to Durkheim, the scope of sociology consists of three main divisions.

- **Social Morphology**

Which is the study of the geographical or territorial basis of the life of the individuals and its relation to different types of social organization. And it also discusses the problems of population.

- **Social Physiology**

Which comprises such sub-divisions as Sociology of religion, law, morals, economic life and language.

- **General Sociology**

Which seeks to discover the general character of social facts and also the social laws generally expressed in the more specialized social process.

Morris Ginsberg lists the main topics that fall into the scope of sociology under four principle headings.

- **Social Morphology**

Which investigates the quantity and quality of the population and concentrates on the study of social structure.

- **Social Control**

Which deals with law, morals, religions, conventions, fashions and other sustaining and regulating agencies.

- **Social Process**

Which studies various modes of interactions between individuals and groups, including conflict, social differentiation and interaction, co-operation, competition etc.

- **Social Pathology**

Which is primarily interested in the study of social maladjustments and disturbances.

Thus sociology has a wide scope dealing with the broad field of human relationships and social behavior. Sociology is interested in studying structure and functioning of societies, communities, institutions and social groups of modern societies. It sees life as a whole and connects the different activities of a particular society into a coherent pattern. In

addition to giving a broad concept of society, it traces its origin and growth. Sociology studies its gradual development from the primitive forms to the modern civilized forms. Sociology also considers physical, psychic, cultural, social and other forces, which operate, in human society. It covers a wide range of subjects such as social structure, social process, social control, personality, culture, social heritage (i.e., ideas and beliefs handed down from one generation to another), the ways in which the individuals interact, customs and traditions that have grown out of them different institutions and changes that occur in them, the possibilities of directing these changes in the ultimate interest of human well-being, social problems and ameliorative measures etc. Thus, the range of thought encompassed by sociology is comprehensive.

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## **1.5 IMPORTANCE**

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Many doubt the value of sociology saying that it tells only what every body knows its investigations reveal widely held beliefs that are untrue and that it is a foolish and wasting effort and a line of enquiry not worth pursuing. But this is not correct, because sociology, does possess practical value, which can be seen in the following analysis.

### **1.5.1 Reliable knowledge about society**

Undoubtedly the study of sociology yields rich harvest. Looking at social facts with a new perspective it gives a comprehensive view. It seeks to understand the social life as a whole. The new result will be a new point of view, a new orientation and a more reliable understanding for the social environment. The primary purpose of sociology is to provide reliable information about society. Sociology illuminates aspects of social life that otherwise might be ignores or obscurely organized. Its value lies in providing a new approach and a point of view useful in understanding the complex and difficult world in which we live. To know clearly the meaning of society and to control, regulate and guide its activities wisely, it is necessary to understand the laws of human association, interactions and inter relationships, which sociology gives.

### **1.5.2 Information about the specific aspects of society**

Sociology provides specific information about different aspects of social life; it helps us to study topics as race relations, family, school, population social changes, heredity and environment. It explains clearly how individuals live in groups, how groups influence them and how the persons, in-turn, seek to modify the groups according to their requirements, Sociology also throws light on the processes by which relationships among persons, between one group and another,

between a person and a group are established and developed. Sociology points out that since the institutions are merely social mechanisms to serve the individuals, they must be constantly mended and improved in the way mechanical instruments are repaired and improved. In order to satisfy the needs of men, these institutions should not become hard and fixed and then fail to respond to changing circumstances. They should be flexible and dynamic. The application of sociological studies of such institutions, social structure, function has resulted in the development of new fields of studies such as industry, labour relations, business, medicine, law, military organization etc. These new fields of sociological investigation have not been explored previously and hence they contribute to general sociological knowledge.

### **1.5.3 Sociology – A guiding perspective**

Sociological knowledge is very useful in understanding the nature of the individual. It offers a guiding perspective, which is really valuable. It draws attention to the inseparable relationship between the individual and society and also to the intrinsic worth and dignity of the individual's personality. The fact is that the individual is mainly a social product convinces that without society he cannot survive. He seeks to satisfy his needs in socially approved ways. What and how often he eats and drinks, whether he has single partner or many, which are his likes, dislikes, hopes, ambitions etc, are derived from the social world to which he belongs. The individual cannot be summed up in his social relations. For he has a personality of his own. He possesses the ability to innovate from the established ways and through his actions he can significantly influence and change his society and culture.

Thus, sociology helps us to know the real nature of man and stresses the importance of giving every individual an opportunity to develop his abilities fully and effectively.

### **1.5.4 Intellectual instruments**

To facilitate for a clear understanding of society and the individual, Sociology has been developing its concepts and enriching our vocabulary. Unlike sciences, which utilize a mathematical terminology, sociology has developed a vocabulary of precisely defined concepts like, culture, society, group, role, status, functions authority etc, which are currently in popular usage. Besides, sociology has also introduced new concepts like folkways, mores, ethnocentrism, anthropocentric etc, which have increased its knowledge.

### **1.5.5 Developing self - knowledge and tolerant attitude**

Sociology assists us in gaining a better knowledge about ourselves, our society and our culture. Man has been remarkably successful in modifying the nature to suit his needs.

But he is not so successful in knowing his social environment and social phenomena. Through out the ages wise men have repeatedly felt that man has gained more knowledge about things other than himself. Now he has been gaining reliable knowledge about himself through the use of sociological knowledge.

Sociology also helps us to understand others, whose societies and cultures are different from ours. In order to understand the others, it is essential to know their social systems and cultural patterns. Sociology supplies reliable knowledge about the other societies, which helps us to develop respect for the cultural values of the others. Many customs that we respect may be values for other societies. What is good for us may be bad for others. Our beliefs and values are right for us, just as beliefs and values of others are right for them. Thus, sociology is helping us to develop a tolerant outlook towards other societies and others points of view.

Through scientific studies of our own societies and through comparative studies of other societies. Sociology enables us to sweep away the cobwebs of biases and narrow notions. Sociology provides a new linkage point which we can look at our own society in a more detached way, develops an objective and critical outlook and analyze in such way as to be able to see ourselves more clearly in relation to the world in which we live. Thus, we can develop universal outlook and scientific attitude and also train ourselves for effective and socially responsible citizenship not only on our own society, but in the world community too.

### **1.5.6 Practical value of sociology**

The value of sociology lies in the fact that it contributes to the goal of gaining scientific control over our society and using such control for the benefit of entire humanity. Practical application of sociology can be sought in the promotion of welfare of all through scientific investigation into social ills and their causes and trying to remedy them in the light of scientific principles. On such ills as crime, delinquency, drug addiction, sex offences, racial discrimination etc. Sociology has supplied scientific knowledge. Thus sociology is both a theoretical and an applied science.

Every social policy contains certain assumption about present and future structure of society. One of the greatest services any scholar can render is to show to society which policies are effective in achieving its objectives. If a society is full of tensions, he can indicate ways in which they can be effectively eliminated. He can help to build a just and progressive social order, which can bring true happiness to mankind, and in which inherent capacities of the human race will have full opportunities for higher development.

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## 1.6 DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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Since the dawn of civilization, society has been a subject for speculation and inquiry along with other phenomena, which have agitated the restless and inquisitive mind of man. Even centuries ago men were thinking about society and its organization and held views on man and his destiny, the rise and fall of civilizations. Though they were thinking about the subject matter of they were, called philosophers historians, thinkers, lawgivers and the like. Thus, broadly it may be said that, "Sociology has had a four fold origin, in political philosophy, the philosophy of history, biological theories of evolution and the movements for social and political reforms..."

In India, the most ancient social thought can be seen in the Vedas, the Puranas, the Upanishads, the laws of Manu and Arthashastra of Kautilya which clearly reflect the social ideas of the Hindus.

In Ain-i-Akbari (or institutes of Akbar) of Abul Fazal, one can see a complete picture of society during the time of Akbar, the great Mogul. All these works show that the subject of sociology is an old one though as a scientific discipline sociology is not that old.

Sociology was introduced to India an academic discipline only after World War I. Since then being closely allied with social philosophy and anthropology, it emerged as an independent social science in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The sociological thinking has gained some momentum in Bombay with its mouthpiece "sociological bulletin" and in Agra with its organ "Journal of social sciences". In the year 1919, sociology was first introduced in Bombay University. Later in the year 1950, sociology was introduced in Mysore / Madras and Delhi universities. Some prominent sociologists of our country like G.S.Ghurye, S.C.Dube, K.M.Kapadia, M.N.Srinivas, Iravathi Karve, A.R.Desai, P.N.Prabhu, K.N.Venkatarayappa, C.Parvathamma and many others have contributed their might to the enrichment of the discipline.

Sociology is now taught in many universities as one of the major disciplines. It has become more and more popular at the level of students also.

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## 1.7 SUMMARY

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Sociology as a science and particularly as a separate field of study is of recent origin. To be more exact it was in 1839 that Auguste Comte, the French philosopher and sociologist had coined the term 'sociology'. The word

'Sociology' is composed of two words: i.e., Latin word 'Socius' – meaning, 'companion' or 'society' and Greek word –logy- meaning 'science' or 'study'. The etymologically meaning of sociology is thus the science of society. Auguste Comte is, for this reason traditionally considered to be the 'father of sociology'. After Auguste Comte, Herbert Spencer, Durkheim, Max-Weber are called the founding fathers of sociology.

Sociology was introduced to India an academic discipline only after World War I. Since then being closely allied with social philosophy and Anthropology, emerged as an independent social science in the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Actually, it is the youngest social science.

In the year 1919, Sociology was first introduced in Bombay University. Later in the year 1950, it was introduced in Mysore \ Madras and Delhi universities. Sociology is now taught in many universities. It is become more and more popular at the level of students also. Scope of a science means the range or extent of its subject matter. Every science has its own fields of study. However there are two main schools, they are the specialistic or formalistic school and the synthetic school.

The specialistic school is led by George Simmel and others like Vierkandt, Maxweber, Small, Vonwiese and Tonnies.

Durkheim, Hobhouse, Ginsberg and Sorokin have been the chief exponents of the synthetic school.

The study of sociology is very useful. Because it attempts to analyze the evolution of human society, i.e., it's historical development and the various stages of development.

Sociology also provides valuable information about society and its underlying principles and formulates the laws. Such knowledge is necessary to control and guide the individual and groups.

Sociology provides reliable knowledge about the historical development of the various institutions of society, their functions and the interrelationships among these institutions.

Sociology has given rational approach to our religion, customs, mores, institutions, values, ideologies etc. It has made us to become more objective, rational and dispassionate.

The study of different societies has made people to become more broad-minded. The study of society is of importance in solving social problems. The social problems like poverty, beggary, crime, juvenile delinquency, gambling, alcoholism, youth unrest, prostitution, our population, unemployment etc. So, sociology explains the diseases of society and suggests suitable remedies for them.

Sociological knowledge is necessary for understanding and planning of society. It plays an important role in the reconstruction of society.

Sociology study not only civilized societies, but even the tribal societies. These tribal societies are faced with several socio-economic and cultural problems. The study of society has helped several governments to undertaking various measures to promote the welfare of the tribal people.

- **Check your progress**

1. Who coined the term 'Sociology'?
2. Give any two definitions of Sociology.
3. Explain the scope of sociology.
4. Mention one or two uses of Sociology.

- **Mark true or false**

5. Sociology is the study of animal society.  
True  False
6. Auguste comte, is considered as the father of Sociology.  
True  False
7. Laboratory methods are much use in Sociology.  
True  False
8. Simmel is the proponent of synthetic school.  
True  False

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## 1.8 KEY WORDS

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- **Definition** : It is proposition about the essential nature of a given phenomenon.
- **Scope** : Subject matter or boundary of the study.
- **Objectives** : Good purpose to be achieved.
- **Concept** : A word or set of words that express a general idea consigning the nature of a phenomenon.
- **Culture** : The way of life of a social group.



- **Ethnocentrism:** An attitude of regarding one's own culture or group as inherently superior.
- **Structure :** A relatively stable pattern of relationship between inter dependent elements.
- **Function :** The analysis of social and cultural phenomena in terms of their functions.

## 1.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

- |    |                |    |       |    |     |
|----|----------------|----|-------|----|-----|
| 1) | 1.2            | 2) | 1.2   | 3) | 1.4 |
| 4) | 1.5.1 to 1.5.6 | 5) | 1.1   |    |     |
| 6) | 1.2            | 7) | 1.3.3 | 8) | 1.4 |

## 1.10 UNIT – END EXERCISES AND ANSWERS

1. Define Sociology
2. What is Science? Examine whether Sociology is a Science.
3. Explain the scope of Sociology.
4. Write a note on the usefulness of the study of Sociology.

- **Answer: See**

- 1) 1.2
- 2) 1.3
- 3) 1.4
- 4) 1.5

## 1.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

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- **T.NAGARAJU, Reader, Department of Studies and Research in Sociology, Karnataka State Open University, Manasagangotri, Mysore-570006.**
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## **UNIT 2: PRIMARY CONCEPTS**

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### **Structure**

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Role
- 2.3 Status
- 2.4 Types
- 2.5 Social System
- 2.6 Characteristics
- 2.7 Relationship between Social Structure and Social System
- 2.8 Summary
- 2.9 Key words
- 2.10 Answers to check your progress
- 2.11 Unit-end exercises and answers
- 2.12 Suggested readings

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## **2.0 OBJECTIVES**

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After going through this unit you will be able to

- distinction between social role and social status
- clarify the meaning and characteristics of social system and explain the relationship between social system and social structure

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## **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

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Having studied the relationship between sociology and other social sciences in the last unit, you will be going to study the basic concepts like social role, social status, and social system from this unit.

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## **2.2 ROLE : MEANING**

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In sociological literature, for that matter in social sciences in general some concepts and terms are either not clearly understood or misunderstood. When students of these disciplines try to capture the meaning of social and human phenomenon, which are highly complex and characterized by several psychological factors, such misunderstanding of the concepts is natural. The concept of social role is one such improperly understood concept, which needs to be defined & redefined until it is properly understood.

Roles are prescribed by the conventions and morals of a group. Role is an independent set of activities which are carried out by the occupant of a position in question and which are normatively established. For example, in a group of people on stage each one is given a part or role. Similarly in a group, each member is assigned a particular position (role) as required by the rules of the game. If it is cricket, each one of the players must be designated. In the above examples what is common is that, individuals subordinate their personality to the requirements of their roles in group. Sociologists have taken the view that it is useful to regard the behaviour of people in their social group as similar to that of actors or players. Sociologists use the term role to refer to situations where interactions between individuals repeat themselves on a regular way over a period of time. Accordingly in everyday life we all play roles as son or daughter, brother or sister, student or teacher, employer or employee, colleague, club member, friend etc.

Here a concept of a person and the concept of a role are different things, though both are conceptualization based on a common body of behaviour a data. Actually these two concepts cut across one another. Each one of us performs many roles in every day life, changing them many times in a day. In the morning it may be a role of a family member, during the day it may be a role of an employee, boss, salesman, or customer. We behave differently in each of these roles. As husband, one has to be affectionate, but as an employee such emotion has no place. The conduct prescribed for one role is forbidden for another. The affection prescribed for one's wife is forbidden towards one's secretary. A role thus cannot be referred to the complete person, but to selected aspects of his behaviour.

In every society people have certain ideas as to how a good father, mother, son, boss, teacher, doctor, ought to behave. Otherwise he may create all sorts of tensions in his profession. Very often roles co-exist in the same person, may be a teacher, a father, uncle, a member of a political party, a chairman of a local bank, etc. Besides we find a degree of congruence between the roles or role expectations. In simple or tribal society, the phenomenon is more marked than in the modern societies. A young man in simple society is expected to become a father and husband, a hunter, a dancer in the festival but not to assume the charge of elders.

Since a role consists of a set of expectations, it is impossible to define one without taking in to consideration of the others. We cannot think of a parent without a child or an employer without an employee. Thus roles are but a series of rights and duties, which represent certain reciprocal relations among individuals. In familial life, the interplay of identifications of parent and child is considered by obligations to provide on the part of parents and duties of obedience on the part of the children. The same congruence can be found in the operation of the state. Among these reciprocates some operate independently of others. Many rights and duties associated with familial and religious institutions have very little to do with the outside world.

As people play many roles, the possibility of getting involved in role conflicts always exists. For example, working woman faces role conflict. Today's husband, while expecting his wife to earn money, also expects her to look after the household fully. Obviously, when the woman finds it difficult to full fill both the expectations, she finds reasons for landing in problems.

The cause is not in hers but to her society. There are various methods of resolving role conflicts which need not detain us here. Thus the married working woman in our example, is likely to look after her husband and children first and to let her career take the second place.

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## 2.3 STATUS

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Social status is the complementary concept of social role. To Ralph Linton, Status may be defined simply as a collection of rights and duties. Ralph Linton, Culture background of personality, Kuguan paul, London, 1947. It means the location of individual within the group and his place in the social network of reciprocal obligations and privileges, duties and rights. In ordinary sense status means rank or prestige, social prominence or a degree of authority. Sociologically speaking status is characteristic of any individual in society regardless of his formal rank in an institution. Whenever we speak of a position without regard to the individual who occupies it, then we are said to be talking about a status.

Every person in a society occupies many statuses at the same time. A person may be a citizen of India, a Professor in an University, a male, a husband. Each one of the above is associated with a role. To each one of these roles, he brings his personality, which determines some patterns of behaviour. The degrees of prestige earned by a formal status (social position) can be affected by his performance.

Social discipline is maintained by inculcating reinforcing the view that every man has proper place within the social situations and also defines the limits of his aspirations. However, paradoxically the quest for social status and efforts of status are current features of every day life. Even today, the status remains as a device of getting respect. Man's desire for the respect has become an instinct by itself.

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## 2.4 TYPES

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Sociologists have recognized two types of statuses. They are,

- Ascribed status and
- Achieved status

In the case of ascribed status, an individual occupies certain positions through inheritance. Here the status is to based on ability of the individual. For example, in rural India a male born into a Patel's or Chief's family acquires special status in the community. The future existence of the individual here is largely determined by birth. People behave with respect regardless of his individual characteristics. Here status is a part of fixed system of social heritage, as people are established in a specific position from birth. The area covered in both these status differ from one society to another and over time. For example, in modern society, people speak of achievement – oriented society. Many occupational rewards of status in society are more on the capacity of the individuals than on his

inheritance. The individuals may move any where they wish in social structure, limited only by their own efforts, ability and luck. In modern civilized society, tendency towards commerce, division of labour, urban conditions of life, and rapid social change seem to emphasize on achieved status rather than the ascribed one.

In India with that most state of social structure caste system, we can see people belonging to lower strata occupying important statuses. The characteristic of modern industrial society is the unprecedented institutional and legitimization of certain new forms of achievement and upward social mobility.

The channels for movement up or down the status ladder are open in some societies like the American society, where class system of stratification exists. In such system the individual may have ability to achieve the status to which he aspires. Aspiring individuals perform the roles of their present status as satisfactory as their ability allows so as to deserve promotion. While those already occupying desired positions, use their abilities to retain or improve their positions. The governorship of a state in India does not compete with the presidentship of the Indian Union, However, one may aspire for a governorship proving his fitness for the higher status.

Both ascription and achievement are found in every society. Each, though opposite in principle, is complimentary in function and therefore, essential to society. Ascribed status coming first in the individual life places much importance on the transmission of cultural heritage. The individual primarily thinks of the family, in which he is born and he thinks of the group to which he belongs, as these have ascribed him a position in society. It is this status which gives the individual a feeling of security which the achieved status does not give. But still within the framework of authority and security the ascribed status gives the opportunity for achievements. The value of achieved status places the right person in the right place. A person born in a family of chieftain may not automatically occupy the high status in society through ascription, as duties connected with status are often onerous and existing and this cannot be accomplished without hard work and training. For example, a king who rules by divine will learn something about the behaviour required of the king. While ascribed status gives a feeling of security, achieved positions do not. The individual always does not like to be thrown open to competition. Community does not like easy divorce, frequent change in religious beliefs or rapid change of citizenship. The achieved status not only places right person in right place but also stimulates the person to improve.

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## 2.5 SOCIAL SYSTEM : MEANING

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The concept of social system is closely related to the concept of social structure. A social system is an orderly and systematic arrangement of social interactions. It is the network of interactive relationships. It may be defined as plurality of individuals, interacting with each other according to shared cultural norms and meanings. The constituent parts of social systems are individuals, each having a role to play. He participates in interactive relationships. The various groups do not act in an independent and isolated manner. They act in accordance with social norms. On the basis of their interactions and inter relationships they create a pattern, which is called social system.

Social system resembles an organization since it is orderly and systematic in the arrangement of parts. But unlike an organization it lays emphasis on interaction and functional interrelationship of the parts. Within the social system there are various sub systems like political system, religious system, educational system, economic system etc. In all these systems each of the interacting individuals has a function to perform.

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## 2.6 CHARACTERISTICS

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- Social system is based on the social interaction of plurality of individuals. When a number of individuals act and interact, their interactions produce a system, which is called social system. Therefore, social system cannot be created by the action of one individual. To create it we require the interactions of a number of individuals.
- The interaction should be meaningful. Social system is an organization of meaningful interactions. Aimless interactions do not produce social system. The human interactions, which create social relationships, find expression in traditions, customs, mores, laws, procedures, institutions, etc., Several system is thus an orderly arrangement of the various expressions of social relationships.
- Social system brings unity. Any arrangement of non-universal parts like institutions, groups, procedures and laws does not constitute a social system. Social system is a state or condition where the various parts are arranged in an integrated manner showing some order among the interacting units.
- The parts of social system are related on the basis of functional relationship. In a social system, each part has



assigned role and it performs it in accordance with the established norms. The different parts are united in each other on the basis of functional relationship. It is this feature of functional relationship, which is the most emphasized in the concept of social system.

- Social system is related with cultural system. Culture not only determines the nature and scope of interactions and interactions of the members of society but also maintains a balance and harmonious relationship.
- Social system has an environmental aspect: A social system is related to a particular age, a definite territory and a particular society. It means that social system territory and a particular society. It means that social system is not the same in all ages, territories and societies. In other words, social system changes with the changes in times and place. It is dynamic, and not static. But this change does not mean that social equilibrium is lost. It may of course, be disturbed for sometime. In spite of social changes, social system continues to exist. There have come about several changes in the roles of husband and wife. Norms have changed yet family system has not come to an end. Social system has the quality of self-adjustment.

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## **2.7 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND SOCIAL SYSTEM**

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The concepts of social structure and social system are closely related to each other. Social system relates to the functional aspect of social structure. Both social structure and social system go together. Social structure is the means through which social system functions. The value of any structure depends upon the manner in which it accomplishes its functions. When a social structure does not function properly, we try to modify it. In the place of polygamous family, we may have monogamous family. The educational system may be modified, if it fails to accomplish the purposes of education. Structures is useless without function and function is only accomplished through some structure. In short, social structure and social system go together. There is another aspect of the relationship between social structure and social system, the nature of functions to be carried out influences the form of structure. And the form of structure will influence the function it can perform. Thus if we want our social systems to function in a democratic way, the parts of social structure will have to be organized on a democratic basis. The state cannot function democratically unless its structure is democratic. To put it in other words, if our state is dictatorial in its structure, it will function in a dictatorial manner. Hence there is a change in the

structure of family in modern times. A rigid social structure may fail to meet the needs of a changing society. While norms are necessary to regulate the social system, it is also equally necessary that the parts of social structure should be allowed to use their creative capacity.

- **Check your progress**

1. What is meant by role?
2. What are the characteristics of social system?

- **Mark true or false**

3. Social roles are formed on the basis of traditions and morals.

True  False

4. We do not find both ascribed and achieved status in every society.

True  False

5. Roles are prescribed by the conventions.

True  False

6. Social system brings unity.

True  False

7. A social system is an orderly arrangement of social interactions.

True  False

8. Social system is not related with cultural system.

True  False

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## 2.8 SUMMARY

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- Man plays different roles depending upon situations in a given society
- Social system is a plurality of individuals interacting with each other in a given situation

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## 2.9 KEY WORDS

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- **Role** : refers to situations where interactions between individuals repeat themselves in a regular way over a period of time.
- **Status** : Social status is the set of rights and obligations possessed by an individual in the form of work of the society.

- **Ascribed Status:** An individual occupies certain positions through inheritance.

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## 2.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Write a note on Role.
2. What is meant by Status?
3. Distinguish between ascribed and achieved status.
4. What are the characteristics of Social System.
5. Bring out the relationship between Social Structure and Social System.

### Answers:

1. 2.2
2. 2.3
3. 2.4
4. 2.6
5. 2.7

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## 2.10 UNIT-END EXERCISES AND ANSWERS

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5. What is meant by Role?
6. Give the meaning of Status.
7. Explain the different forms of Social Status.
8. What are the characteristics of Social System?
9. Bring out the relationship between Social Structure and Social System.

- **Answers : See**

- |    |     |    |     |    |     |
|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 1) | 2.2 | 2) | 2.3 | 3) | 2.4 |
| 4) | 2.6 | 5) | 2.7 |    |     |

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## 2.12 SUGGESTED READINGS

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**N.DODDASIDDAIAH, Lecturer (Selection Grade), Department of Studies and Research in Sociology, Karnataka State Open University, Manasagotri, Mysore-570006.**

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## UNIT 3 : SOCIAL PROCESSES

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### Structure

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Co-operation
  - 3.2.1 Forms of co-operation
- 3.3 Competition
  - 3.3.1 Forms of competition
- 3.4 Conflict
  - 3.4.1 Types of conflict
  - 3.4.2 Importance of conflict
- 3.5 Accommodation
  - 3.5.1 Methods of accommodation
- 3.6 Assimilation
  - 3.6.1 Differences between accommodation and assimilation
  - 3.6.2 Factors promoting assimilation
  - 3.6.3 Factors hindering assimilation
- 3.7 Summary
- 3.8 Key words
- 3.9 Answers to check your progress
- 3.10 Unit-end exercises and answers
- 3.11 Suggested readings

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### 3.0 OBJECTIVES

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After going through this unit you should be able to:

- explain the meaning of social interaction.
- provide the meaning of social process.
- explain how individuals reach common goal through the process of cooperation.
- know how competition is the basic form of struggle in human life.
- define the process of conflict and its forms.
- understand the meaning and methods of accommodation.
- examine assimilation and factors responsible for promoting or hindering assimilation.

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### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

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In your study of earlier unit, you have acquired knowledge about some of the primary concepts of sociology. This unit will give you the forms of social processes. Before knowing what is social process you should understand the meaning of social interaction.

All the constituents of society are engaged in solving problems and attaining some predetermined ends. In the process of performing both these functions they also influence each other. This social interaction can be applied to all those actions that either serve to establish some social relationships or to introduce some change and modification in the existing social relationships. The reciprocal contact between two or more individuals is called interaction.

Hence social interaction is the general process in which two or more persons enter into meaningful contacts, develops enduring relationships and as a result, their behaviour gets modified. Social interaction is the very essence of human life. Society exists and continues only as long as there is interaction.

Coming to the definition of social process the term 'social process' refers to the general forms of interaction. The word 'process' stands for the sequence of occurrences and activities which becomes responsible for the change from one condition to another. For example, a sequence of steps and a group of related activities by means of which transition takes place from one social condition to another. The forms of social interaction like co-operation, competition, conflict, accommodation and assimilation are called social processes.

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## 3.2 CO-OPERATION

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**Meaning:** Co-operation is universal. It is that form of social process in which two or more persons or groups act jointly in the pursuit of a common objective. It is the most pervasive, continuous and effective of all the social processes. Co-operation denotes reciprocal relation and integrating activity. According to Arnold .W. Green “the continuous, common and friendly endeavor of two or more persons in the performance of a task and in realizing a common goal”. [Arnold.W.Green; Sociology; Analysis of life in modern society; New York; Mcgraw Hill; 1956]. For instance, all the players in a football team must co-operate in the game, to win the match. Similarly, the government of a state runs successfully only when the administrators and the administrated mutually co-operate. Thus the process of co-operation involves two elements, a common end and an organized effort.

### 3.2.1 Forms of co-operation

There are several forms of co-operation. They are:

- **Direct co-operation**

Here individuals perform similar functions like moving a pile of stones or pushing a motor car out of mud, playing together, tilling the fields together, worshipping together etc. They can do such works individually, but they prefer to work together, because they get social satisfaction.

- **Indirect co-operation**

In this case some people work individually for the attainment of a common end. For example, carpenters, plumbers and masons co-operate to build a house. That means the individuals perform unlike functions to realize a common end and each has his own specialized functions. The principle of division of labour is the basis of such co-operation. In modern industrial society, which is based on specialization, indirect co-operation plays a greater role than direct co-operation.

- **Primary co-operation**

This is found in primary groups such as the family. Here members have identical interests. Every member works for the betterment of the other members. Their relationships are personal. Virtues such as affection, sympathy are the foundations of such co-operation.

- **Secondary co-operation**

This can be seen in secondary groups. One can see co-operation among economic, political, social and religious groups, etc. because of common interests.

- **Antagonistic co-operation**

Often, co-operation is needed to achieve greater values. This is known as antagonistic co-operation. Giving up temporarily the antagonism to achieve a greater interest is common in all society. When a group is faced with threats like war, earthquake or drought, party differences and personal rivalries are ignored and people join together to face the common threat. It happens during wars when there develops "we feeling" among the citizens. Cohesion and strength are attained through emphasizing their own destiny as against the rival nations. Petty squabbles and internal bickering are forgotten and internal harmony prevails.

Co-operation is essential for the very existence of beings. Crompton emphasized upon mutual aid and said that the survival and development of human groups depend upon co-operation. Without this it is not possible for them to satisfy their innumerable needs. Co-operation in the human society is both a psychological and a social necessity.

### 3.3 COMPETITION

**Meaning:** It is a natural reflection or result of the universal struggle for existence. It is a force that compels the individuals to act against each other. It is a social process in which two or more persons or groups struggle to attain the same objective. For instance competition for jobs. Competition is found not only for bread but also for power, social position, fame, luxuries and such other things not easily available. It is an effort to defeat another competitor in achieving some mutually desired goal. It does not involve coercion.

Human community is based upon and functions through competition. Park and Burgess remarked, "Competition is interaction without social contact". (Robert.E.Park and Earnest.W.Burgess. Introduction to the science of Sociology; Chicago, Unipress, 1936). In other words, it is an inter-individual struggle that is impersonal. Competition is an unconscious action. It is concerned with the subject, not the individuals. Individuals must compete to gain their objective, but they are unaware of the competitive character of their activities.



### 3.3.1 Forms of competition

The most important form of competition is the economic one. Primitive men were struggling for securing the bare necessities of life, whereas modern men are struggling for a higher standard of life. Economic competition is found in many forms. There is competition for jobs, positions, customers, clients etc. Thus competition goes on between individuals and groups in commercial and industrial establishments.

The second competition is Cultural one Competition is found among different cultures. If we turn the pages of history of any country, we can find that there has always been a great difference in the culture of the natives and that of the invaders. For example, when the Britishers came to India, they imposed their culture on the Indians and they thought that their culture was superior. Competition of this kind developed between East and West between Catholicism and Protestantism.

The third form of competition is the social one. To get a high status in society, everybody participates in competitive activities. In other words, competition for role or status arises from the desire of individuals and groups for self-esteem, recognition by others etc.

The fourth form of competition is racial. Racial competition consists of a contest between nations and between nationalities. In South Africa, there is an intense competition between the black and the white races.

The fifth is political competition. In all the countries, competition is quite obvious between the members of different political parties, particularly during the election time. Similarly at the international level, there is a keen competition between nations.

In addition, two other forms of competition are found in society. They are classified as personal and impersonal/ When individuals compete with each other for work, for social prestige, for leadership or for business and when their attention is concentrated on the goals to be realized their competition becomes personal. On the other hand when individuals compete with each other not on personal level but as members of groups such as social or cultural organization, nations, political parties etc., the competition is called impersonal. While co-operation helps to do a thing competition assures that they will be done well. Social status and competition are very closely associated. Competition has an important hand in facilitating a rapid development in individual and society. The Division of labour and the economic organization in Contemporary society are the product of competition. Ogburn and Nimkoff observe that competition provides the individuals better opportunities to satisfy their desires for new experiences and recognition. [W.F.Ogburn and M.E.Nimkoff: A Handbook of sociology: London: Routledge: 19553]

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## 3.4 CONFLICT

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**Meaning:** Conflict is another form of struggle between individuals or groups. It is an ever-present process in human relations. It is a modified form of struggle. It differs from competition in that it involves contact, it takes place on a conscious level, it is personal and it involves violence or at least the threat of violence. Conflict comprehends attempt to oppose, resist or coerce the will of the successful candidate.

If there is no deliberate intent to oppose, resist or coerce then it cannot be called a conflict situation. In other words, conflict is a competition in its more occasional, personal, in its higher forms it becomes an impersonal struggle to establish and preserve rules of justice and moral ideas.

Conflict, like cooperation is a fundamental human and social trait. The functions of a person or a group of persons are hindered due to conflict. Gumplowicz regarded conflict as the basis of social evolution and progress. Simmel maintained that a completely conflict-free harmonious group is practically an impossibility. It arises primarily from a clash of interests within groups and societies and between groups and societies. Conflict arises where there is a change in the social norms and the individuals go against it.

Conflict is a conscious action. Here the competitors try to defeat each other consciously. Conflict is a personal activity. It is raised with a view to defeat the opponent. It is not a continuous process, occurs intermittently. It is universal and found in each and every part of the human society.

### 3.4.1 Types of conflict

Simmel distinguished four types of conflict (1) War (2) feud or factional strife (3) litigation and (4) conflict of impersonal ideals. Prior to the development of inter territorial trade, war provoked the only means of contact between alien groups. In this case, war though dissociative in character has a definitely associative effect. Simmel attributed war to a deep-seated antagonistic impulse in man.

Feud is an intra-group form of war, which may arise because of injustice, alleged to have been done by one group to another.

The third type of conflict is litigation which assumes a judicial form. It is a struggle waged by an individual or groups, to protect its rights to possession.

Finally, the conflict of impersonal ideals is carried on by the individual not for themselves but for an ideal. In such a case each party attempts to justify the truth of its own ideals.

Also conflict has been classified as: -

**Personal conflict:** - Personal conflict arises between different ideas and aims. For example, two individuals in a cricket team contest to become captain or two persons contest for a seat in election.

**Class conflict:** It arises between classes having different interests. For example, conflict between working class and capitalists.

**Caste conflict:** Hierarchy of status has caused conflict between different castes in India. For example twice born castes are considered as superior and others as inferior.

**Racial conflict:** Some ethnic groups claim superiority over others. For example, the whites claim superiority over the coloured. Because of Racial conflicts many leaders in the west were killed.

**Group conflict:** The different groups having different interests and motives try to fulfill their own interests and this leads to conflicts. For instance political parties.

**International conflict:** Sometimes there occurs international conflict when a nation tries to suppress another to fulfill some particular objective.

### 3.4.2 Importance of conflict

There is no society in which some individuals or groups have not come into conflict. Conflict is important for both the individuals and society. It needs struggle to solve social as well as personal problems. Every person must strive hard to raise the high standard of life. People have to struggle for the better working of the family to increase production and to protect the freedom of the nation. Political conflicts, racial conflicts, family conflicts. Religious conflicts, business conflicts etc., are quite common today. Conflicts should be controlled in order to preserve peace and brotherhood of mankind. Co-existence and active co-operation are needed to check conflicts.

#### • **Check your progress – 1**

1. What is Co-operation?

#### • **Mark true or false**

2. Conflict is not a continuous process, occurs intermittently.

True

False

- **Pick the correct answer**

3. Competition is interaction without social contact. "This is said by \_\_\_\_\_
- a) Park and Burgess                      b) Maclver and Page  
c) Ogburn and Nimkoff                  d) None of the above

### 3.5 ACCOMMODATION

**Meaning:** As explained co-operation and conflict are Social processes. Co-operation is possible when individuals realize the need to shoulder together the responsibility for achieving certain ends. However, conflict and competition may lead to the break down of all social relationships. Life cannot endure if groups are engaged in conflicts. This is where accommodation comes. It leads to some kind of adjustment between individuals and groups so that tension between them is reduced. In other words, accommodation is resolution of conflicts, which generally means adjusting oneself to the new environment. Adjustments may be in physical or social environment.

Adaptation means adjustment through organic or structural modification transmitted by heredity. On the other hand accommodation is an adjustment of an individual to the new way of life. Animals adjust themselves through adaptation. Individual does the same through accommodation. This is due to the fact that man lives in social environment, which demands adjustment to it. Every individual in his early years of life tries to adjust himself to his social environment.

Accommodation is the first step from conflict to reconciliation and co-operation. People cannot always quarrel with their fellowmen in society. If we fail to agree with them, we have to tolerate them or suffer with them. One has to learn to live in this world. One has to come to some sort of understanding with the process of living. Without it, it is impossible to live in society. Coming to an understanding or agreement is accommodation. Accommodation is the art of living harmoniously. Man possesses the ability of accommodation in the highest degree. The process of accommodation is to be seen in every sphere of human life. It is a condition of mental and social understanding. Every individual is born in a certain type of environment, which may be good or bad. In brief, accommodation consists in avoiding and delaying of conflict with disagreeable circumstance. In this process there is neither complete conformity with the circumstances nor any conflict with them. The contending

forces are adjusted to balance. In its absence society cannot maintain its balance.

Park and Burgess distinguished two major types of accommodation. The first involves coming to terms with a new climate, type of soil etc., and is often referred to as acclimatization. The second includes adjustment to a new social situation, i.e., new folkways, mores and institutions and is usually called naturalization. Thus in acclimatization, the person has to change more or less physiologically and in naturalization he has to undergo changes in attitude and behaviour which fundamentally involve psychological modifications [Robert.E.Park and Ernest, W. Burgess; **Introduction to the science of sociology**: Chicago; unipress:1936]

### 3.5.1 Methods of accommodation

According to Park and Burgess in accommodation the antagonism between conflicting elements is temporarily regulated. Therefore, Sumner referred to accommodation as 'antagonistic co-operation'. Accommodation may be brought about in many ways and the most important of them are the following.

- **Yielding to coercion**

When forced by the physical or other power, most individuals or groups yield and accommodate. For example in a war the weaker party yields, because it is overpowered by the other party. A criminal obeys the policeman, because he is unable to suffer the blows.

- **Compromise**

Two groups with equal strength cannot prevail over each other and hence come to an agreement by compromise. In other words the groups or individuals who wield equal power are persuaded to sacrifice some of their interest and co-exist in peace in order to avoid conflict. We have many examples in History.

- **Arbitration and conciliation**

Accommodation is achieved by means of arbitration and conciliation which involves attempts on the part to end conflict between the two contending parties. The labour management conflicts, are resolved through the intervention of an arbitrator in whom both the parties have full confidence. Arbitration differ from conciliation. In arbitration the third party gives some decisions, it is binding on both the parties. But in the case of conciliation accepting suggestions or decisions is left to the parties concerned.

- **Toleration**

It is the method of accommodation in which two contesting parties view the stand of the other party with sympathy and try to understand the others view point and patiently overcome the differences that exist between them. This is one of the important methods of accommodation. For instance toleration of different religious groups and the co-existence of states with different economic and social system, such as capitalists and communists.

- **Rationalisation**

Finally accommodation through rationalization involves plausible excuses or explanations for one's behaviour instead of acknowledging the real defect in one's own self. Thus an individual who makes a mistake may blame others instead of himself. By ascribing his failures to discrimination against him, instead of admitting lack of ability, he can retain self-esteem. For example, the student who fails in the examination finds fault with the examiner's evaluation of his performance rather than with his own effort. Not only individuals but groups try to justify their action on purely imaginary grounds.

Accommodation is important in modern society. Various organizations and cultural relations; organizations for mutual exchange between various castes, races, nations, religions etc., law courts, police, state, organizational committees, social workers, psychiatrists and psycho-analysisists all play important parts in the process of accommodation. Accommodations checks conflicts and enables persons and groups to maintain co-operation. Moreover, it enables the individuals to adjust themselves to changed conditions.

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### 3.6 ASSIMILATION

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**Meaning:** Assimilation is yet another process of interaction. Here, individual and groups begin to absorb gradually to new circumstances in which they find themselves. It results in the modification of social attitudes. The process of assimilation has become more comprehensive after the development of transport and communications. When different cultures come into contact, originally it is the sentiment of mutual conflict that is most prominent, but when they gradually assimilate elements from each other, they develop a more tolerant approach towards each other. This is the process of assimilation. It is the process where by persons and groups acquired the culture of another group, in which they come to live, by adopting its attitudes and values, its patterns of thinking and behaving; in short, its way of life. Park and Burgess stated "Assimilation is a process of interpenetration and fusion in which persons and groups acquire the memories, sentiments, attitudes of other persons or groups and by sharing their

experiences and history are incorporated with them in a cultural life". [Robert. E. Park and Ernest. W. Burgess; Introduction to the science of sociology; Chicago; Unipress; 1936.] It is a process by which attitudes of many persons are united to form a united group. Assimilation is a social and psychological process, which results in the promotion of cultural unity. It is not limited to a single field.

Acculturation is the first step to assimilation. Acculturation is involved when one cultural group which is in contact with another appropriates or borrows from it certain cultural elements and incorporates them into his own culture. Contact between two groups inevitably affects both, it is but natural that the culturally weaker group would do more of the borrowing from and would give very little to the culturally stronger group.

### **3.6.1 Differences between accommodation and assimilation**

Assimilation is a natural process. The social processes aim at the adjustment of individual or group differences. Assimilation is a form of accommodation and is a constant method of adjusting inter group differences. But in accommodation, differences among groups are not resolved.

Assimilation is a gradual process, whereas accommodation is a sudden and sometimes a radical process. A non-dominant group which exists in the middle of a dominant group is assimilated gradually. The process has to be slow. On the other hand, accommodation may take place suddenly and involve radical changes.

In accommodation the person or group is usually conscious of the process, as for instance settling a management and labour dispute. But in assimilation, the groups are as a rule unconscious of what is occurring and gets itself incorporated into another culture before becoming aware of it.

### **3.6.2 Factors promoting assimilation**

**Factors which promote assimilation are:**

- **Toleration**

Without toleration it is impossible to establish close social relationships. One who believes in one culture is prepared to tolerate the other cultures. So toleration is essential for promoting assimilation.

- **Intimate social relationships**

Intimate social relationships help promotion of assimilation.

- **Amalgamation**

Assimilation is encouraged by amalgamation, since amalgamation leads to the creation of blood relationships. These relationships are more intimate and strong and wield their influence upon people by making them impress each other, thus accelerating the process of assimilation.

- **Cultural similarity**

Where two cultures resemble each other in some vital respects intimacy and toleration between the members for each other is of a higher order. This encourages assimilation.

- **Equal opportunities for economic progress**

Economic inequality leads to jealousy, hatred and conflict. If people get the same opportunity for economic progress as their neighbours, social intimacy increases and assimilation progresses.

### 3.6.3 Factors hindering assimilation

The following factors counteract assimilation.

- **Strong feeling of superiority and inferiority**

If the people have strong feelings of superiority or inferiority, they develop hatred and jealousy. They may refuse to establish relationship between themselves. This results naturally in the hindrance of assimilation.

- **Isolation**

Living in isolation prevents the formation of social contacts and relations. If an individual or group is isolated there is no scope for assimilation.

- **Differences of psychological-characteristics**

People distinguish between themselves on the basis of physical characteristics. There is difference between the whites and the Blacks. Similarly Caste system checks the growth of assimilation.

- **Cultural differences**

Just as cultural similarity promotes assimilation, cultural dissimilarity tends to hinder the process of assimilation.

- **Domination and subordination**

If one group dominates over the other, that group thinks itself superior to the other group. It may refuse to establish social contact with that group.



- **Social persecution**

Social persecution, exploitation and injustice lead to increased conflict between the exploiters and the exploited. Consequently it prevents the growth of social intimacy and the process of assimilation.

- **Check your progress – 2**

1. What is Assimilation?

- **Mark true or false**

2. Accommodation is resolution of conflicts which generally means adjusting to the new environment.

True

False

- **Pick the correct answer**

3. Assimilation is a \_\_\_\_\_ process.

a) Social

b) Historical

c) Political

d) Economic

### 3.7 SUMMARY

As a form of interaction the term social process stands for the sequence of occurrences and activities which becomes responsible for the change from one condition to another. Co-operation, being one of the social processes refers to two or more persons acting jointly for realizing the common goal. Competition is a process of striving of two or more persons to succeed in achieving a goal which is difficult. As an antithesis of co-operation conflict is a deliberate protest. Accommodation is resolution of conflicts which generally means adjusting oneself to the new environment. Assimilation is primarily a social and cultural process in which different groups through the influence of contact acquire the cultural traits of one another, which in turn lessen conflicts and develop tolerant approach. In this manner different processes promote meaningful human relationship in various ways to enable human beings to live in cohesion, understanding and appreciating one another.

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### 3.8 KEY WORDS

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- **Process** : Stands for the sequence of occurrences and activities which becomes responsible for the change from one condition to another.
- **Interaction** : Any reciprocal contacts between two or more individuals.
- **Co-operation** : is a form of social process in which two or more persons or groups act jointly in the pursuit of a common objective.
- **Competition** : is a social process in which two or more persons or groups struggle to attain the same objective.
- **Accommodation** : is adjustment of an individual to the new way of life.
- **Assimilation** : The process where by persons and groups acquire the culture of another group, in which they come to live, by adapting and behaving.

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### 3.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- **Check your progress – 1**

1. 3.2
2. True
3. Park And Burgess

- **Check your progress – 2**

1. 3.6
2. True
3. Social

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### 3.10 UNIT-END EXERCISES AND ANSWERS

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1. Explain different forms of Co-operation.
2. "How Competition is a social process" Explain.
3. What is Conflict? Discuss its importance.
4. Analyse the different methods of Accommodation.
5. Mention the factors, which promote and hinder Assimilation process.

• **Answers: See**

1. 3.2.1
2. 3.3 and 3.3.1
3. 3.4, 3.4.1 and 3.4.2
4. 3.5.1
5. 3.6.2 and 3.6.3

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### 3.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

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1. P Gisbert: *Fundamentals of Sociology*, New Delhi, Orient Longmans Ltd., 1957.
2. Maclver R M and Charles H Page: *Society an Introductory Analysis*, Delhi, Macmillan, 1850.
3. R.N.Sharma: *Principles of Sociology*, Bombay, Media Promoters and Publishers, 1993.
4. K.E.Vergheese: *General Sociology*, New Delhi, MacMillan India, 1992.
5. Vidya Bhushan and Sachdeva: *An Introduction to Sociology*, Allahabad, Kitab Mahal, 1998.

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**M.H. KRISHNAPPA, Lecturer (Selection Grade)  
Department of Studies and Research in Sociology,  
Karnataka State Open University,  
Manasagangotri, MYSORE-6.**

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# WAY TO KSOU CAMPUS



Bus route

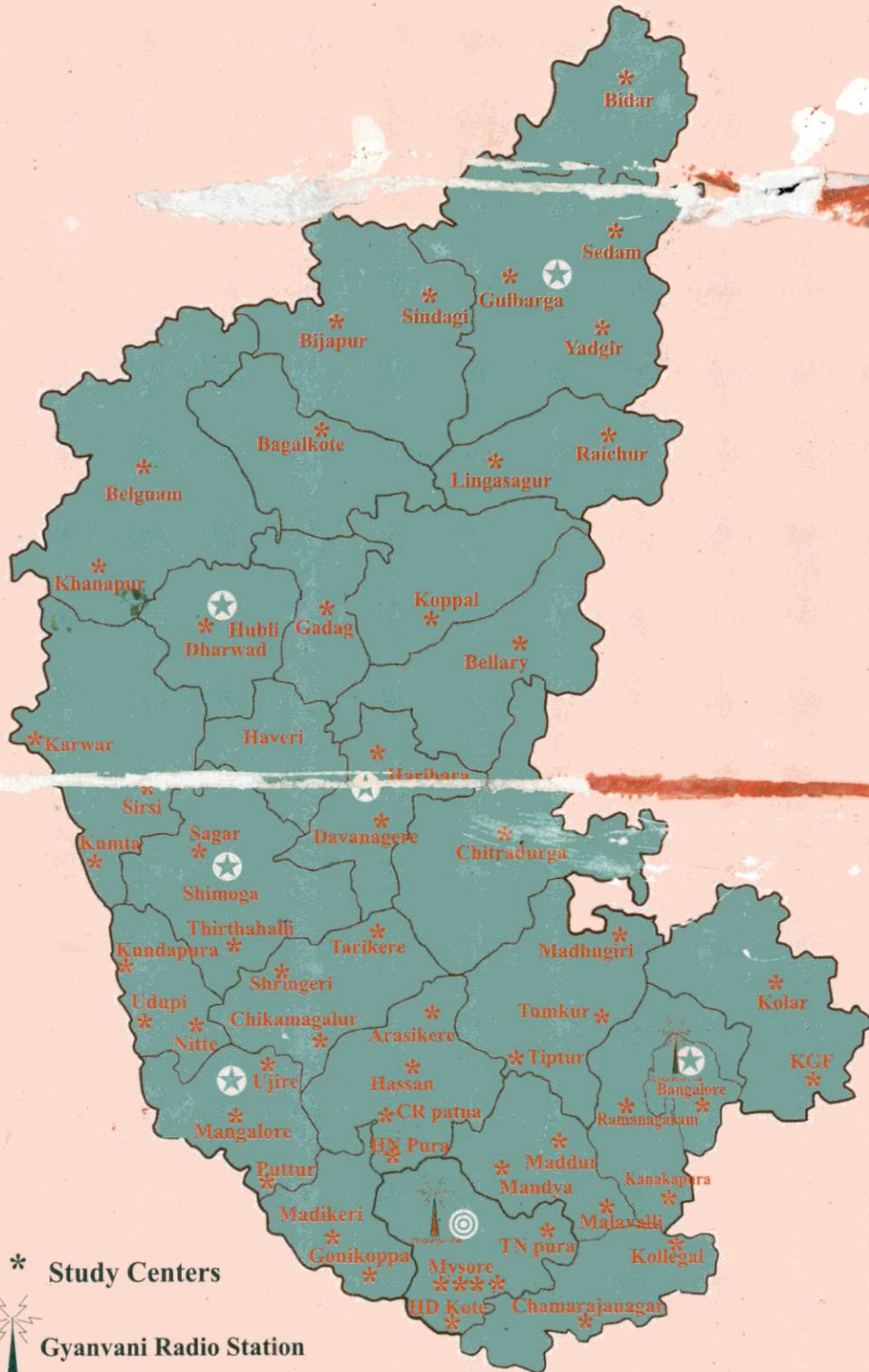
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|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Suburban Bus Stand     | 8. Metropole Circle   | 15. Sayyaji Rao Road       | 22. Apollo Hospital       |
| 2. City Bus Stand         | 9. DC Office          | 16. Chamaraja Double Rd    | 23. Akashvani Circle      |
| 3. Railway Station        | 10. Kukkarahalli Tank | 17. University Guest House | 24. Kalamandira           |
| 4. St. Joseph's School    | 11. Ramaswamy Circle  | 18. Medical College        | 25. Maharani's College    |
| 5. Manasagangotri Canteen | 12. Mysore Palace     | 19. K.R. Hospital          | 26. Hardinge Circle       |
| 6. Crowford Hall          | 13. Town Hall         | 20. KRS Road               | 27. Railway Track         |
| 7. K.S.O.U                | 14. K.R. Hospital     | 21. Law Courts             | 28. Saraswatipura 14 Main |


From	To	City Bus Number
1. Suburban Bus Stand (SBS)	7. KSOU	130, 136, 266, 267, 268
2. City Bus Stand (CBS)	7. KSOU	129, 130, 136, 267, 268
3. Railway Station (Rail. Stn)	7. KSOU	130, 136, 266, 267, 268
7. KSOU / 4. St. Joseph's School	1. SBS / 2. CBS / 3. Rail. Stn	129, 266, 267, 268, 270
7. KSOU / 5. Manasagangotri Canteen	1. SBS / 2. CBS / 3. Rail. Stn	129
7. KSOU / 5. Manasagangotri Canteen	2. City Bus Stop	129, 130,

To reach KSOU by bus no. 129 & 130 alight at Manasagangothri canteen stop. By all other buses, alight at St Joseph's School. Prepaid auto: From SBS - Rs. 25/- From Rail Stn: Rs. 20/- .

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 ಮುಖಪುಟ 170 ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ., ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಆರ್ಟ್ ಕಾರ್ಡ್

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