

## 6. Social Structure, Stratification and Processes

### Structure

There is a structure in every physical object in the world, which is composed of many units and elements. These units are systematically interconnected and stability is found in these units. The human body is composed of many parts or entities such as hands, feet, nose, mouth etc. In the same way the society also has a structure. This structure is related to external shape and form. The structure is a complex composite. These units are meaningfully related to each other.

These units are mutually dependent on each other. The relation is permanent and systematic. When all the units are mutually arranged in special order, then they become a complex composite that is the structure itself. If somewhere brick, lime, stone, cement, iron and wood are gathered then it will not be called a house. If this entire material is arranged in order and systematically, the structure of house will be created. Therefore, the way that a body, a house or the structure of a material object exist in the same way, the society also has the structure which we called the social structure. Social structure is composed of various units such as family, institutions, norms, value, belief etc. In the 19th Century, Herbert Spencer first used the term structure in sociology. In sociology, this word was acquired from zoology.

### Meaning and Definition of Social Structure

Sociologists have defined social structure with different perspectives; some of the main definitions are as follows—

According to Radcliffe Brown, the organ or division of the social structure is itself a sequence of humans and those who are engaged in self-structure and are engaged in regular relationships. According to Brown, we can study individual only in the context of the structure. Individuals bound by mutual social relations. This relationship is formed by these relations.

According to Parsons “The specific ordering of status and role taken by the social structure interconnected institutions, agencies and social

pattern, as well as each member of the group, is specific.” The key features in the definition given by Parsons are : (1) the social structure is created by the status, roles, institutions, patterns etc. of many units such as persons. (2) These units have mutually meaningful relationships. (3) Sequence is found in units of social structure and they are systematic. (4) Social structure is an abstract concept because it is created by intangible parts such as social relations, patterns, statuses and roles.

In the words of Coser and Rosenberg, “The composition of the structure is comparatively stable and patterned relations of social units” In this definition it has been clarified that the social structure is created from social units such as groups, institutions, status roles etc. These units are systematic and comparatively stable

### Characteristics of the social structure :

Every society has different social structure. The reason for this is that the units that make up each society or its structural organs are different in nature and form.

The social structure has the following characteristics—

**1. Abstraction—**MacIver and Page and Parsons considered the social structure to be abstract. He believes that the social structures that are united by institutions, agencies, norms, statuses and roles, are all abstract units. So the social structure is also abstract.

**2. Knowledge of external form—**Social structure is formed in a systematic order by different units and committees. Different units that create society also form an outer frame when it is joined sequentially, which is called social structure.

**3. Social structure is not a continuous system—**Social structure is not a continuous system. It is constituted from many units. These units can be individuals, groups, institutions, committees etc. Each structure has several segments, which it produces.

**4. Sequence is found in units of social structure—**In the absence of continuity, construction

of the structure is possible, or that it is not possible to construct the social structure. Just like sewing machine is not sewing machine when all the parts are separated. To call it a sewing machine, it is necessary to connect the parts systematically and sequentially.

**5. Social structure is a permanent and dynamic concept**—Social structure is a relatively permanent concept, that is, the units building social structure are relatively stable. Stability is of two types—First, units are self-sustained and have stability in the mutual relationships, of the second units. MacIver and Page called the society and social structure to be dynamic, but changes occur very slowly. There is little change, there is no effect in the entire social structure.

**6. Creating Social Structure from Substructure**—Social structure is created by various sub-structures such as family, caste, class, educational institution, economic institution, and religious institution etc, those who have their own structure. Thus, many substructures collectively form a social structure that in turn has its own structure.

**7. Social processes are also important in every social structure**—The role of associative and dissociative processes such as cooperation, integration, competition and conflict etc. is also important in the formation of social structure. This social process is the form of social structure.

**8. Social structure is influenced by local characteristics**—Each society has its own distinct characteristics. Differences are found in geographical conditions, culture and political conditions. So, social structures are also different because of those influences.

**9. Each unit has a pre-determined position**—In social structure, the position and place of each unit is determined. By staying at that place, it creates a social structure. By changing the units, the structure of their structure becomes distorted. Therefore, the social structure of state, religion, family, marriage, judiciary, educational institution etc. the location of all is predetermined.

The above mentioned characteristic of social structure makes sense of social structure and becomes clear. In short, we can say that the formation of the social structure is made up of different units or

elements that are mutually interrelated.

As there is the structure of a body or physical object in the same way the society also has a structure which we call social structure.

Johnson has discussed the main elements of social structure—

**1. Different types of sub groups**—Social structure is formed by a variety of subgroups, which are linked by mutual relational norms. In these subgroups holding various roles in the society, they are organized. It has a significant place in social structure.

**2. Different types of roles**—These different types of subgroups have different roles, which are in relation with relative view. The role is more stable than the role holders.

**3. Cultural Value**—In the social structure there are cultural values beside the relative and regulatory norms on that basis the objects are compared. These cultural values are different in each culture. Based on values only feelings, ideas, objectives, relationships, groups, substances and properties are evaluated. According to different aspects and areas of life, values also vary.

**4. Regulatory Pattern**—There is a regulatory pattern for defining, controlling, and directing subgroups and roles. The norms determine the relations of the roles and the procedures of the relations. As a result of these stability and regularity are found in social interaction.

According to Johnson, one of the above four elements can be said as partial structure. The social structure of any society can be studied at two levels. If a particular community, group or village is studied at microlevel, it would be called a micro level study whereas the whole society such as Indian is studied it would be macro level study.

### **Social Stratification**

The system of social stratification is found in all the societies of the world, in many societies it is found in the primary form. Yet it can be recognized. There is no such society in the world that is not divided into different strata. The main reason behind this is that in society, age, gender, economic system, ethnic system, political system, caste system, education, human interest etc. is different from each other. For this

reason no society can provide equal position, status or strata to all its members. The population of all societies is not only divided in many social groups, but we find hierarchy in those groups. In the wild societies, on the basis age, gender, position of the head, etc., the division of the group and the discrimination of the high-low is found. With the development of civilization and culture when there is complexity in social life with the development of civilization and culture, we find social stratification is encouraged in society.

**For example** urban in civilization, capitalist and labor class on economic basis is divided into two parts. Likewise, in a nation like India, on the basis of caste system, India has been divided into four parts since ancient times. That is why the feelings of high-low in Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudras are present. By the way, social stratification system somewhere is beneficial in the society somewhere no beneficial. In this it is not process, they are aspects of the same coin. On the basis of this arrangement, economic production can be increased only in the economic sector. Political Awakening can be created. Proper determination of social status and conflicts can be done through defense alone. It will not be exaggerated if this system is called the pillar of civilization and culture.

### **Meaning of Social Stratification—**

The word social stratification is from English which means Strata, means division. The population of each society is divided into many social classes. Social stratification is a universal phenomenon. It exists in some form in every society. Social stratification means “the entire population of society under the process of division into different positions, groups or strata.

**Definition—**The following are the main definitions of social stratification-

1. According to P. Gisbert, “Social Stratification is the division of society into permanent groups of categories linked with each other by the relationship of superiority and subordination.”

2. According to Burtend and Russell, “Social stratification is the division of individuals in a given society, such as upper class, middle class and lower class”

### **Characteristics of Social Stratification—**

The main characteristics of social stratification are as follows—

**1. Primacy of tasks—**The key feature of social stratification is that the work is given importance in it.

**2. Universality—**In each society there is stratification in some form or the other.

**3. Continuity—**Social stratification is a continuous process.

**4. Hierarchy—**social stratification, which is the division of society, it is considered to be high or low.

**5. Stability—**The division of society occurs only on stratification, in which stability is found.

### **Basis of social stratification—**

**1. Age—**Age is given special importance in providing social status in some societies. Most of the aged people in our country are respected and honoured.

**2. Sex—**Stratification is also found in different societies on the basis of gender bias. This stratification is probably the oldest and a simple stratification. Position and functions are divided on the basis of gender. The status of women in India is considered to be lower than men.

**3. Property—**Social stratification is also found on the basis of property. The person who has more money receives higher status in society.

**4. Race—**On the basis of race, stratification is found in society.

**5. On the basis of birth—**High and low position is provided on the basis of birth, it is also given the status of high and low, caste system is an example of it.

**6. On the basis of blood relations—**Social stratification is also done on the basis of blood relation. The person who is the child of a person who received his talents in the society, through his own blood relations, received reputation and honor in society. They are considered as replica of their blood relations only in the society and they are given higher status.

**7. Spirituality—**In the society, a person who is elevated spiritually, has a special place. The age, caste and economic status of such persons is also not considered.

### **8. Physical and intellectual qualifications—**

The position of a person in society depends on his physical and intellectual abilities

**9. Religious qualifications—**In primitive societies and in the societies where caste hierarchy is found, religious abilities hold important positions in determining social status.

The above mentioned bases are the important basis of social stratification, but we will mainly study caste, class, species and gender.

### **Caste System**

#### **Meaning and Definitions of caste**

Jati is a Hindi word for the caste of English, which is composed of the Portuguese word *casta*. Which means race, birth or difference, Jati in Hindi is derived from the 'jan' dhatu of Sanskrit language, which means to generate or to produce. The Hindi word of caste was first used in 1563 by Gaspar D. Orta. Different Sociologists used the word caste in different forms. In brief, the following are the definitions of caste—

1. According to MacIver and Page, "When status is wholly pre determined so that their lot without any hope of changing it, then the class takes the form of caste."

2. According to Ketkar, "A caste is a group having two characteristics. First—membership is confined to those who are born out of members and includes all persons so born. Second is the members are forbidden by an inexorable social law to marry outside the group."

3. According to Majumdar and Madan, "Caste is a closed group."

4. According to N.K. Dutta, "Members of one caste cannot get married outside caste and with some other rigid rules related to eating and drinking with other people, and many castes have certain occupations."

There is a hierarchical series in the castes; the decision of caste of a man is based on birth. If a man is not removed from the caste due to violation of rules, it is not possible to change from one caste to another."

It is clear from the above explanation that caste is an important group based on birth, whose membership is based on birth. It imposes certain fixed

restrictions on the marriage, occupation, food etc of its members. In brief, caste is a segmental division of society, which is based on the heredity of its members and restriction imposed on occupation, food and marriage.

#### **Characteristics of caste**

Different scholars have tried to clarify the caste in their own way. In which A.K. Dutta, Kingsley Davis and Ghurye are the main scholars. A.K. Dutta has mentioned the following characteristics of caste—

1. No member of caste can marry outside caste
2. Every caste has restriction regarding food habit.
3. The caste occupation is fixed.
4. In all castes and sub-castes, there is an indeterminate of the high caste in which Brahmins occupy the highest place
5. The membership of the caste is ascribed since birth for the whole life. But in case of violation of the rules of a caste the membership can be terminated.

**Ghurye** in his book "Caste, Class and Occupation" mentioned the following characteristics—

**1. Segmental division of society—**The caste system divides the society into different segments and parts and the segment or part is divided into sub segments or sub parts, the status of the members of each section and subdivision is fixed. By which people's affection, love and sympathy are more in their caste than in other caste. Therefore, it is clear that the entire society is divided into different sections and sub-sections.

**2. Hierarchy—**Under the caste system, there is a hierarchical order. Changes in hierarchy are not possible on the basis of wealth, property or prestige, because caste is the form of a closed class.

**3. Restriction on food and Intercourse—**This is the specific characteristic of caste. It is the rule of every caste that the food prepared by the members of the other caste is restricted.

**4. Civil and Religious disabilities and Restriction—**According to Ghurye, in past the Brahmins were considered so-called in high position, all rights were provided and religious disabilities were imposed on the Dalits.



### **5. Lack of choice in selection of occupation—**

In the caste system, every caste's occupation or profession was predetermined or traditional, and the right to make changes in it was not given to anyone. The society expects its members to do the same occupation or profession prescribed by the system so that no hurdle may occur in the social system.

**6. Restriction regarding marriage—**Every caste is strictly adhered so that its members get married in their own castes. In this form, the caste is represented as an endogamous group. Marriage Restrictions, whether it is high or low is found in all caste.

The above characteristics are the traditional characteristics of caste, because its characteristics are changing due to the system being changed in the present circumstances. It is therefore necessary that sociologists need to re-study and analyze the caste system.

In modern times for example, all citizens of the society, whether they are members of any caste, have equal rights. They can choose their occupation as per their choice and they are doing it too. Persons from the lower caste are employed on high posts today. Similarly, many upper class or caste members have also changed their occupation or profession. The marriage relations are becoming weak. Every year, the number of love marriages increasing and inter-caste marriages make it clear that marriage-related caste restrictions are breaking down. But the characteristics presented by Ghurye are still seen in rural areas but in urban areas the caste system has moved on the path of change.

### **Functions and attributes of caste**

In the present time, the system of caste may be criticized but it organized systematically the Indian society and ensured the position and functions of individual. The caste system has done so many important things for persons and society that it cannot be forgotten.

In nutshell, the functions of caste can be explained in this way—1. Functions of caste in personal life, 2. Functions of caste for the caste community, 3. Function of caste in social life.

### **1. Functions and attributes of caste—**

**1. Determining person's social status—**The social status of a person due to caste system is determined by birth. While reviewing the works of caste, J.H. Hutton wrote that “the caste system provides a certain social status from birth, in which property, wealth and success or failure in the social sector cannot make any changes.”

**2. Determining occupation—**Occupation is determined by the birth of a person because of caste system, by which he does not escape the futility of competition, but remains free from tension. Since birth, he begins to get knowledge related to the paternal occupation, until he attains expertise in occupation.

**3. Mental security—**Because of the system of caste, a person considers himself mentally secured. Stability and in mental security comes when the person's life changes gradually.

Because of the system of caste, everything is planned in the life of a person, so that he does not have to suffer for anything. In case of ups and downs in the life of a person that person cannot be mentally safe but the caste system provides mental security.

**4. Helpful in the selection of life partner—**There are rules of caste system in relation to marriage and these are mandatory for its members and helps a person to choose his life partner.

**5. Social Security—**The caste system provides social security to each person. If a member of the caste is in crisis, then the caste provides the necessary facilities. It also shows the way to recover from the crisis, so that the person is out of the crisis.

**6. Control over the person's behavior—**Due to the caste, the person's behavior is controlled. Each caste has its own rules, the duty of each member to abide by. If a person tries to break these rules, then he is excluded from the caste. Due to which he cannot get that place in the entire society. Similarly, no person violates these rules, due to which his behavior is always governed controlled.

In addition to the above functions, the caste system has done many things in the interest of the society, such as making necessary training and maintained efficiency. Caste system has shaped the imagination of the socialist system.

## **Dysfunction, demerits or defects of the caste system**

Although caste system is a very useful system for the individual, community and society, but with the passage of time and circumstances, there have been many changes in the form of caste system, and many defects faults have been noticed. The major drawbacks are—

**1. Un-democratic—**Caste system is completely un-democratic. This system tries to attack on the feelings of equality and it has given rise to feelings of hierarchy in society. In the democracy, every person has equal rights for his progress, but in the context of caste system, the members are deprived of this right from since long. The caste system that gives importance to inequality is un-democratic.

**2. Obstruction in the mobility of workers—**Caste system emphasizes on traditional occupations and prevents a person from choosing any other occupation. Therefore, a person cannot do occupation other than his caste occupation, whether he has the ability to do occupation or gets usefulness from it.

**3. Obstructions in social progress—**Caste practices have always been a hindrance in social progress; members of the caste are always scared of boycott. Therefore, they do not abandon their traditional approach nor do any appreciation of accepting the goodness of a given society. Apart from this, work of all the society stabilizes due to the work decided by birth. The idea of a kind of social or material invention does not arise in the mind. In fact, conservatism and stability are the result of casteism. In such a situation, the idea of any kind of change cannot flourish. It is useless to hope for progress without change.

**4. Hurdle in cultural development—**Caste acts as an obstacle in cultural development. There is lack of cultural unity due to the feeling of hierarchy in it. Due to discrimination each group stays away from each other and does not create a sense of cultural progress. Apart from this, each caste acts as a separate caste group. Therefore its members are associated with their customary cultural traditions and do not like changes in them.

**5. Obstacle in personal development—**Physical-mental abilities of all individuals are not equal. Therefore, the interest of the society lies in the fact that the work should be divided on the basis of personal capacity. This principle is completely neglected in caste system. It involves not only the occupation on the basis of once capability of sharing of responsibilities and rights, but, this is on the basis of birth. The person does not get any opportunity to independently develop his abilities.

**6. Hindering social development—**Caste system has hurt the sentiment of social equality by bringing the so-called upper and lower levels of caste system between man and man.

**7. Obstacle in economic development—**Caste system allowed every person to do only his own traditional occupation. In such a situation, the person is deprived of a better occupation. On the other some special caste members get without merit and ineligibility. This type of division does not only reduce the dignity but also reduces the efficiency of the person. Gradually distribution of property becomes unequal. The caste system has narrowed the area of purity even the use of chemical fertilizers also considered as impure in agriculture.

**8. Obstacles in national unity—**Caste system contributes in the unity of small communities on one side at the same time it is not helpful in national unity. When the question of the unity of the whole country arises, then people think about the interests of their respective caste communities as paramount. Thus, these small communities get different environments and caste members limit their duty to these small communities. This approach of individuals gives rise to many misleading things and problems in the nation. That leads the nation into disorganization in place of unity. The truth is that the social distance found in different caste and sub-castes fails to develop a sense of equality in the whole nation. As a result, the issue of national unity remains the same.

**9. Religion conversion—**In India, due to the rigidity of the Hindu religion the promoters of Christianity and Islam, encouraged to millions of Hindu men and women to change religion.

**10. Limited area of marriage—**Caste is an

endogamous group. Hence, caste limited the area of marriage for its members. The members are not allowed to get married outside the caste. As a result, problems of child marriage, unmatched marriage, widow marriage, elite marriage and dowry have created. At present, many castes have adopted other than their ancestral occupation.

We have learned the merits and demerits of the human caste system, now the question is, if the practice is beneficial then it should sustain and if the caste is harmful then it should be abolished. Many sociologists and anthropologists believe that this is useful, so it should sustain. This practice should eliminate the harmful practices and not the whole system. Poisonous finger should be cut and not the whole hand. This poison has spread to the entire society and therefore it should be done, the way with work of this institution should be replaced by another institution.

### **Changing pattern of caste system**

In modern India the following factors have made many changes—

**1. Importance of efficiency—**The position of an individual in caste system is determined on the basis of caste. In the society the status was high of high caste people, and low caste people had low status. But today the caste structure is changing. Today, the person's ability, skill, capability is determined on the basis of his efficiency.

**2. Change in occupation—**Since ancient times, members of one caste used to practice traditional occupation of their caste, but due to industrialization today people of rural communities are doing various types of occupations by going to cities or industrial centers.

**3. Changes in determination of position—**The status of so called Brahmins in the caste system of India was considered supreme. But now the importance of the person's efficiency and skill are superior to the caste distinction.

**4. Abolition of Untouchability—**Untouchables discrimination-untouchability, was the back bone of caste but today the attitude of the rural community has expanded due to western culture and education. Therefore, all the demerits of the lower castes have been abolished.

**5. Changes in the field of marriage—**In some caste, child marriage was in practice and the views of boys and girls were not considered at the time of marriage. But today there have been changes in the field of marriage. In the place of child marriage, delay in marriage has started. At the time of marriage, the age of the boy is 21 years and the girl's age is 18 years. Opinion of boy and girl are considered the time of marriage, in addition to this, love marriage or court marriage has also started. Parental opinion is also not sought.

**6. Deterioration of food habit restrictions—**In the past caste system, a high caste person could not take food, food and drink from and lower with caste member. But the situation has changed in these days. Today, due to industrialization, people of all castes sit together and dine in the factories. In trains, aeroplane and buses people of all castes sit together. Now we eat meals in hotels. Now all the patterns of caste are becoming loose.

**7. Changes in Education—**Present education have an important hand in making caste system weak. Today's Indian education emphasizes the sense of freedom, equality and fraternity. The education eliminates the feeling of untouchability and hierarchy. In addition, Indian education is an indication of the prevailing scientific thoughts in Western countries. Due to which the conservativeness is discarded by Indian public. In this way, all these factors have weakened the practice.

**8. Industrialization—**The caste system is also weakening due to Industrialization. In the age of industrialization; eating, drinking and conversation have been possible in hotels, shops, cinema and other places and in the factories. And it has a seriously influenced the untouchables and caste system.

**9. Social reform movement—**In this regard, the effect of the social reform movement was also not less. Due to modern education, there has been a flood of social reforms movement in the country, which gradually eradicated the caste system.

**10. Increase in the importance of wealth—**Today money is becoming the basis of social prestige instead of caste. Anyone who is wealthy is respected in the society. The basis of occupation today is not



the individual caste rather individuals eligibility is the basis of occupation.

**11. Impact of the means of transportation—**

Due to the means of transportation, the person can conveniently move from one place to another and they lay stress to solve their problems collectively. It has started influencing the views of each other's thoughts, traditions and other social systems. Because of that the link of discrimination with different caste in the society is breaking today.

**12. New law—**In India, the democratic Government has enacted many laws. On the basis of law none is upper or lower rather the state and society cannot favor any one on the basis of caste.

**13. Political movement—**The influence of the political movement also attacked the caste system. Gandhi under his leadership called all the castes, Varna and classes of the country to come forward shoulder to shoulder. On his call every child of the country followed him and broke the centuries shackles and cut them into pieces. And the democratic government was established in India. There is no place for discrimination (at least in principle)

**14. The rise of new social classes—**In Indian society too many classes have been formed today and it would have continued in future. Such as business class and teacher class etc. No attention has been given to caste system in these classes. In this way, these new classes are a breach of the caste system.

**15. Freedom of India—**India's independence also contributed significantly in this matter; because discrimination policy came to an end after independence. And both the government and the society are trying to eradicate the system so that people can live a life of equality.

**Conclusion—**We have given such an argument against the caste system, but it does not mean that the caste system will be totally eradicated from India. It could be said that the effect of the system will be reduced, but it is becoming difficult to completely eradicate it.

### **Class**

The class is accepted as the main basis for social stratification. At present, in every society there

is a class system in some or the other form. Since ancient times man has been divided into classes on the basis of age, gender, occupation, religion, income etc. Classes of women and men, educated-illiterate, rich-poor, weak-strong, teacher, businessman, youth, adult and old are found in the society that could be in the modern and present era. It is therefore clear that the class is such a group with specific relationships. In general, the class is a group of such persons, whose members have the same social status.

### **Meaning and Definition of Class :**

The synonym of class is division. In general, the class means a group of individuals with similar status in which individuals are directly or indirectly related to each other. For example, labour class business class, teacher class, student class, working class, bidi workers, etc. Various social scientists have given definitions of class are—

**MacIver and Page** says “A social class is that part of group which could be separated from other people on the basis of social status”.

**Karl Marx**, while presenting the concept of class on economic basis, said that "the class is such a fact of any society in which the means of property and production represents the basis of social stratification"

**According to Max Weber** “socio-economic systems are not common. Economic system is merely that method where there is distribution, consumption of material items and services. This process formulates the class”.

It is evident from the above explanation that various social scientists have tried to explain the social class on various bases such as social, cultural, economic, etc. Similarly, the UK and USA contemporary social scientists presented the concept of class by assuming the occupation of class while the other scholars have tried to clarify the the class on the basis of stratification, religion and luxury. In short, it can be said that class is the form of an open system of stratification whose basis may be social status economic status, cultural status, cultural stability, educational status, qualification etc. It is that part of the society whose members have similar social conditions, on the basis of which they get social awareness and separate from other sections of the society.



## Key Features of Class

**1. Social Hierarchy**—Social classes are generally found in hierarchy, strata, or divisions. In which the highest class is the higher sequence and the lower class is the lower sequence. Thus, there is a systematic hierarchical arrangement of the society. Marxist thinkers accept the existence of bourgeois class and poor classes in the capitalist society.

**2. Inclusion of class consciousness**—Consciousness is found in different classes in the society and they understand that their status and prestige are higher or lower than the other classes. This class consciousness plays a significant role in determining the behavior of the members.

**3. Higher-lower feeling**—There is a feeling of high or low among the members of different classes. For example, the capitalist class enjoys higher and better than their poor classes. Similarly, seeing the poor class bourgeoisie, they consider themselves inferior and weak in front of bourgeoisie.

**4. Class free system**—This is an important feature of the class. The class system is open and free system means the person can merge with any class according to position and circumstances. For example, a labour is a member of the lower class, but due to his lottery he may be shifted to upper class. Hence it is clear that the class system is an open system that can be changed by an individual at any time.

**5. No importance of birth in class**—There is no importance of birth In the class system, the birth of a person rather the social, economic, cultural and educational status of a person is considered to be subservient to the members of the class. For example, a person is born in an uneducated family but he can take education and subscribe to the educated class that means birth in class has no importance.

**6. Unstable conception of class system**—This is also an important feature of the class that its perception is unstable, that the changes in the basis of the class occur. In addition to this, there is a change in the class system as well. The person who is illiterate and ignorant today, after some years he can be educated and become knowledgeable. So it is clear that the base of the class is unstable, because of this the class system is also unstable.

**7. Social distance in different classes**—Members of each class keep intimate and close relations with members of their class and keep a sense of affection, support and sympathy towards their class, and keep the relationship among the class and maintain formal distance from other class. Members of one class invite the members of their own class on various occasions like; festivals, ceremony and marriage. In brief there is a social gap between different classes.

**8. Based on achieved status**—The class arrangement is based on the achieved status. The status that a person achieves from his eligibility and that situation provides him a special membership in a particular class.

**9. Interdependence**—All the classes found in the society whether they have been created on any basis, depend on each other. It is necessary to run the social system smoothly that they have mutual dependence. If these classes become completely independent, then the social order will be finished. For example, relationship of an educated class happen to other class such as bourgeoisie the uneducated category, labor class, the business class, the peasant class and it depends on all other classes. In brief, an important feature of the class is reciprocal dependence.

**10. Creation of subclasses**—In the class system, too many sub classes are formed within each class. In other words, many sub-classes are found in each class. We may give some examples such as; the class of bidi workers the class of agarbati workers, the labor class working in factories. These classes are sub-classes of the labour class.

## Major basis for class

There are enough determinants to ensure a class. Some scholars consider social and economic elements to determine classification, and some scholars consider the cultural aspect as the main basis. In reality, class can be constructed on various bases, such as education, occupation, sex, caste, religion, property, income, political power, place of residence etc. The main bases are discussed as under—

**1. Economic Position**—The basis of classification in the modern capitalist economy is the

economic condition. Economic condition assists an individual in providing a special social status. The economic condition either provide him a life of heaven or worse than hell. On the basis of economic status, the upper class, middle class and lower classes have emerged in society. Karl Marx and Max Weber presented a very beautiful interpretation about how financial conditions form the basis for determining the class.

**2. Nature of Occupation**—The nature of the occupation is also an important basis in the determination of class, in Indian society, since ancient times, occupation has been recognized as the basis for the stratification of society. On the basis of the nature of the occupation, different classes emerged and on the basis of occupational similarity there have been different classes in the modern era. For example, the teacher's profession is definitely higher and different from the person who is a labor. The nature of the occupation itself gives rise to the feeling of lower and upper among the people and gives birth to the feeling of love, sympathy, cooperation and affinity towards members related to their profession. Thus, the basis of the nature of occupation is the basis of determination of class.

**3. Basis of Residence**—The place of residence is also important in class determination. Each city and village is divided into different parts, which are known as mohalla, wards and various areas. The members of the society have a particular kind of view towards these areas and on that basis the residence is recognized. For example, civil lines, bullion markets, main markets etc. They give a sense of economic solidarity and the residents of these areas are regarded as economically high class. Similarly labor colony, slum area Chamrola, Basuriya are those areas in which the occupants are mainly of the lower class or the poor. Therefore, according to their condition, people select the area.. The base of the residence also determines the class.

**4. Education**—Education has been considered as an important base of social prestige since ancient times. According to a thinker, “Knowledge (education) is the third eye of man.” Education is the important medium that develops the natural qualities of a person, be able to behave. Therefore, it is clear

that classes are created on the basis of capability or incompetence of education and become members of a class with a similar approach. For example a class of literate or illiterate.

**5. Religion**—Religion in Indian society remained a subject of social significance from time immemorial and remained the basis of various classes, during the rule of East India Company; the entire Indian society was divided into Hindu, Muslim and British class. After independence, the principle of universal nature was accepted, but even today, the society is divided into the form of Hindu class, Muslim class, Sikh and Christian class.

**6. Caste**—Caste has also been a mainstay of class determination, on the basis of which various caste groups can be seen in present times, contains a sense of high and low in caste. Thus, caste is an important basis for class determination.

It is clear from the above explanation that there are different basis for determining the class, which divide the society into different strata or parts. Robert Bierstadt explained the classification in the following seven ways : 1. Property, wealth, capital, or income. 2. Family or blood group. 3. Location of residence, 4. Duration of residence, 5. Profession 6. Education. 7. Religion While Thorsten Veblen divided the society into four main categories—(a) parasitic or unproductive luxury class, (b) the old nobleman or the Nawab (wealthy class), (c) the neo wealthy or gambler (D) the productive working class. Veblen says that every class makes use more attractive and luxurious objects to reach in higher class. In brief, it can be said that a single basis cannot be accepted in the determination of class, rather there are different bases of class determination.

### **New class system (or) new dimensions of class system**

The main basis for the stratification of the Indian social system is the class system. In modern society, increasing industrialization, urbanization, education and various political and other movements have led to a change in the traditional class system. Many new classes were born and the disappearance of the old classes. The major new classes and their role in the present society can be understood as follows—

**1. Intellectual Class**—With the influence of Western education, culture and the new ideology, the emergence of new material classes based on prudential's, democracy, science, has arisen. Raja Ram Mohan Ray and the intellectual class founder of Brahma Samaj pioneer with expansion of modern education and scientific knowledge in this country the sense of the intellectual class grew. As a result, a huge intellectual class of teachers, social thinkers, philosophers, scientists, researchers, journalists etc. can be seen in this country. This intellectual has made a significant contribution in the formation of healthy Indian society. Remembering all the social reforms, and religious reform, even the political national movements in this country were started by this intellectual class.

**2. Ruling Class**—Under the ruling class, the people of ruling political parties are included. These govern the government system while holding the various positions in the governance system. In the democratic system, people of this class often change. Sometimes the people of the political party come into the governance category, and sometimes in other party. The main task of this class is to contribute to the economic and social development of the country. This class is also engaged in fulfilling its purpose, and in many ways it has got success too. At present, the decline of country's politics, nepotism, corruption, dishonesty and the lust of power and greed have tarnished the image of this class.

**3. Labor or Working Class**—About One-third of the total population of India is covered under this class. The working class is the class of proletariat people, who have nothing besides their labor to earn a living. That is why the members of this class work together in the factories, mines and tea gardens, working in the fields, pulling rickshaws, taxi driving or buses. In India financially, their condition is very poor. They neither get a proper diet nor proper clothing nor proper development.

**4. Peasant class**—Generally, the peasant class can also be considered as a sub-section of the labor class, yet it should be mentioned separately in the context of Indian society because, India is an agriculture dominated country and about 75 percent of the population live in the villages and about 65

percent of the country's total labor or labor force are farmers. Farming is the main occupation of the members of this class. This class existed in past even today, but in modern India a considerable change has occurred in its nature and form. In other words, the impact of mechanization, modernization, secularization and politicization have impacted the members of this class in rural communities. However, this class is the life line of the Indian economy.

**5. Bourgeoisie**—Under this category we may include, owners of big industries, factories, mines and business houses. Karl Marx has described this class as an exploiter class. This class keeps the key of the entire country's economy in its fist and, therefore, it has full control over the country's economic activities, production, distribution, and even the direction of the government's economic policies are suggested by it. Due to its huge economic power, this class has the ability to put pressure on the government. This is a luxurious class also enjoys a luxuries life. This class gives a huge amount of money in the election fund for self-interest and this class also escapes from income taxes and property tax for of billions of rupees. The present process of industrialization is actually given by this class in India. It mainly involves large wholesalers who work as a link between the production of goods and the consumer. This class can do anything to protect its economic interest. They are involved in activities like; hoarding, profiteering and black marketing. This class is helpful in changing the interest, choices and fashion of the people through promotional or commercial advertisements, and helps people to become updated by giving them information about new products in the country and abroad. This class has proved to be helpful in bringing new changes by discovering new ways of business.

**6. Elite class engaged in independent professions**—Under this class, doctors, lawyers, artists are included. They perform their duties independently without working as a servant of any body. This class is engaged in some way or the other public service, but the impact of the general moral decline of the country could also be observed in this class and most of these members make money in a cheap and easy way. Socially it is more significant because it is only part of the intellectual class and can



be helpful in bringing many social changes on the basis of its knowledge and logic. A typical class of smugglers engaged in independent business, which bring the hidden gold, cloth, foreign currency, film and bring innumerable things from abroad to the country and export it abroad. The organization of this class is very strong, well organized and confidential. They deal in billions and their top leader is not less than a king. It is said that this class runs a parallel economy to the government and their business continues on an international basis. It is a class of smugglers, the biggest enemy of the country because it impedes the country from the healthy direction of change.

**7. Bureaucratic class**—The bureaucratic class is a kind of organization whose main purpose is to coordinate rationally in the work of many individuals and experts in order to conduct administrative tasks on a large scale. Employees of the Government Secretariat or collector at the district level, etc. members of the bureaucracy. This class creates a sense in those organized employees, who continues to do acts related to governance as a permanent organ of the government and there is no change even in case of change of the government. In India, this class has an important contribution in running the administrative work.

#### **The difference between caste and class**

It is clear from the earlier discussion regarding caste and class that there are uneven variations in the caste and class, which can be understood by mobility, occupation, marriage, reciprocal relation. Describing the difference between the caste and the class, Majumdar and Madan made it clear in a nutshell that "Caste is a closed class, whereas the class is an open caste" and the main basis of social stratification is both caste and class.

Rajanikanth Shastri wrote that "Castes are natural, but class is artificial, caste is based on birth while class but depends on individual character and virtue. In short, following differences are there in between caste and class—

1. In caste the social status of individuals is ascribed on the basis of birth. Caste is an indicator of the state of birth. While the position of persons in the class is determined by their

personal qualities, economic merits, etc. Therefore, it is clear that the position of caste and class is an indicator of the status obtained by virtue.

2. As the membership of caste is ascribed and its members might be skilled or eligible but cannot acquire the upper caste. Hence there is no mobility in caste. While contrary to it individual merit is significant for the membership of class and its membership is achieved. Therefore the basis of class is whether ancestral or achieved by self are helpful for a changing a person totally. Means class is mobile.
3. The occupation of each caste under caste system is predetermined, and caste members are expected to do traditional occupation, but there is no such rule in the class. And its members can do different occupation or profession. Therefore, it can be said that there is a lack of occupational mobility in the caste, whereas occupational mobility is found in class.
4. Caste exercises strong control over its members in the marriage outside caste and there is a provision for penalties for those who break the norm. In this way Caste is an endogamous group. While there are no such rules in the class, the members of a class give special attention to the social status, financial status and personal qualities of both sides (bride and groom) before marriage. Members of the class are free to establish marriage relations in any caste or religion.
5. Caste prohibits the behavior and actions of its members by different means, but the class does not have any control over its members in this regarding.
6. The mutual relationships among members of a caste have love, sympathy, affinity and cooperation as it functions directly for the interests and benefits of its members. But among the members of the class the relations are showy based on self-interest and mutual competition and tendency of greed is found.
7. Various strata are found in the caste system. Also, one caste is divided into different sections or sub-castes. Brahmin castes, for example,



are divided into sub-castes like Kanyakubj, Maithili, Sanadhya and Zhizhotia and Kshatriya caste is divided in Rajput, Tomar, Rathore, Chauhan and Thakur. Similarly, there are various strata in class, such as upper class, middle class and lower class. Ruling classes and governing classes.

8. Because the caste system is a closed class and its members have various kinds of control, so they cannot avail these opportunities and neither do they have the permission to do so. But the class is an open caste in which members have complete right to avail and take advantage of opportunities.

It is clear from the above discussion that class and caste are separate concepts, that the caste is capable to show a traditional condition, while the class may be said to be given by modern age. In brief, as Majumdar and Madan say that “Caste is a closed class and Class one open caste.”

### Race

The problem related to the race has become aggressive many times in the world. The great persons of the world had to suffer in their life because of this racism. US President Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy were victims of this racism. The struggle between black-whites still exists in aggressive form in US due to the apartheid policy of South Africa; it has been included in the world countries where people are surrounded by the malpractices of apartheid. All that struggle is due to the wrong view towards the meaning of race.

### Misconception regarding Race

There are many misconceptions related to the race. These misconceptions have given rise to racial conflict. These misconceptions include the following

**1. Race and nation**—Many times the meaning of race is used for a nation. Under the name of the nation the races are addressed like; Indian race, American race, Pakistani race, etc. In fact, race has no relation with nation. Many racial elements are found in the same nation. Races have no relation with the geographical area, whereas the geographical area of the nation remains fixed.

**2. Race and religion**—Many times the term race is used in the sense of religion. Races are

addressed as religious groups. Like Hindu race, Christian race, Islam race etc. Actually there is no relation between religion and race. People of the same race can follow different religions. Similarly, people of different races may believe in one religion. Religion is a cultural conception while the race is a biological conception.

**3. Race and languages**—Some people understand the races in linguistic sense like the Hindi race, Christian race. Islam race, etc. Actually there is no relation between language and race. People of the same race can use different languages. Similarly, the same language can be used by people of different races. Language is related to culture, while races do not belong to culture.

**4. Race and culture**—Some people think of the races in cultural terms. But the concept of race is related to inheritance. So its relation is with biology, while culture is a social heritage. Therefore, it is related with social customs and traditions.

**5. The real meaning of the race**—The race is a biological conception. It is decided on the basis of specific hereditary physical features. Race is a group of people with physical traits, called as the race. These physical features are transmitted through the process of inheritance in human group.

### Definitions of Race

Many scholars and writers defined race as under—

1. According to **Kroeber**, “Race is a biological conception.. This is a group which is informed by the inheritance racial traits or sub-caste.”

2. According to **Hoebel**, “The race is a biological group that holds a specific sum of physical symptoms. These symptoms are found in pure form from one generation to the other.”

3. According to **Raymond Firth**, “Races are such groups of such people that have some hereditary common physiological characters.”

### Characteristics of Race

1. Race is a biological concept.
2. The basis of the race is hereditary specific common physical characters.
3. On the basis of those common physical traits one race can be separated from the other.
4. The physical characters should normally be

found in a large human group, and then it can be called as race. No one family can be called as race though it may consist of common physical traits.

### Traits of Race

It is clear from the above definitions, races is decided on the basis of specific physical traits found in any human group; these physical traits are hereditary and are transferred from one generation to the next generation. Being transmitted to this type of traits is called inheritance. These physical traits are obtained from inheritance can be divided into two parts.

- (A) Definite Physical Trait
- (B) Indefinite Physical Trait

#### (A) Definite Physical Trait

Certain physical traits mean those physical traits that can be measured and are less influenced by the environment. Such traits include following physical traits-

**1. Cephalic Index**—In the fixed physical characteristics, prominently the cephalic index are given more importance by the anthropologists, because the shape of the head remains more stable than all others. The head is minutely affected by environment. The measurement of the cephalic index is done on the length and breadth of the head. The length of the head is determined by measuring the back of the head from a small pit located in the nose line above the bone of the forehead. The width of the head is measured from the ear. The following formula is used to get the fore head :

$$\frac{\text{Breadth of head}}{\text{Length of head}} \times 100$$

According to this measure of the cephalic the structure of the head can be divided into three parts.

**(i) Long cephalic index**—Those who have index less than 75. The head of Negros are included in this category.

**(ii) Middle cephalic index**—The index is in between 75 to 80. The whites have this type of index.

**(iii) Wide cephalic index**—Those who have more than the index of 80. The Mongolian are of this category.

**2. Nasal Index**—Nasal index is calculated on

the basis of the length and breadth of nose. The following is the formula to calculate nasal index—

$$\frac{\text{Breadth of nose}}{\text{Length of nose}} \times 100$$

On the basis of index nose can be divided into three types—

**(i) Wide nose**—Those who have nose index is more than 85, like Negros.

**(ii) Mid nose or flat nose**—The nose index is in between 70 to 84.99, like the people of the Mongolian.

**(iii) Thin or long nose**—The nasal index is less than the 70, like the whites.

**(iv) Density of skull**—It can be measured only after human death. It is measured in the human skull by filling soil or mustard. Its measurement is very difficult. The highest density was found in white people. The lowest density was found in the Negros.

**3. Height of Body**—Measurement of height is the simplest measurement. Variety of stature is found in each race. Height is effected by the heredity and the environment. According to the measurement of height, Topinard divided the stature as follows—

**(i) Long height**—Those who have more than 2 meter 30 cm.

**(ii) More than an average**—Those who have 1 meter 65 cm to 2 meter.

**(iii) Average height**—Those who have height between 5ft to 5ft. 5 inch.

**(iv) Short stature**—Whose height is less than 5 feet. The lowest was found in Bushman in Africa, ranging from 4 feet to 4 feet 6 inches.

### Blood Group

The blood group found in the human body is divided into four parts—

A, B, AB, and O there are elements A and B in the red blood cells. Although in every race there are people with four type of blood groups, but the quantity can be more or less of each group. Someone has high amount of blood A group. In somebody's B. Thus, blood group is also given importance in race determination.

#### (B) Indefinite Physical characters

Indefinite physical characters mean that character which cannot be measured. At the same

time, the effect of the environment is also high. The following characters are included in indefinite physical characters—

### 1. Colour of skin

The color of the skin can be easily identified. Charles Darwin considers all the characteristics of the human group on the basis of the color of the skin. Depending on the color of the skin, the human body is divided into three major parts—

- (i) People with white colour
- (ii) People with yellow colour
- (iii) People with black colour

### 2. Hair texture

The hair texture is the second uncertain physical trait, by which the race is determined. Hair can be divided into three types according to the texture of the hair.

(i) **Straight soft hair**—The hair that is straight to the lower side and tilted towards the lower side, it is adorned with soft hair. The hair of the people of Chinese and other people with yellow colour.

(ii) **Smooth curly hair**—The hair are smooth, curly and little hard. The hair of the people of West Asia, Europe, India and Australia are of that kind.

(iii) **Thick Woolen Hair**—These are thick like those of sheep. Negro race have this type of hair.

### 3. Colour of hair

Hair color is also found in indefinite physical character. According to colour hair can be divided into three types—

(i) **Brown hair**—People of Europe, especially Britain and the people of America are with grey hair.

(ii) **Black hair**—The people of India and the rest of Europe are having black hair.

(iii) **The red hair**—The hair of the inhabitants of Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Finland, and the Jews are red in color.

### 4. Structure of Eyes

Structure of eyes can be divided into three parts based on the appearance of the eyes.

(i) **Straight eye**—This type of eye is commonly found in all species.

(ii) **Counter peek almond-shaped eyes**—This type of eye is found in Mongolians.

(iii) **Round eyes**—Some people are found in all races with this type of eyes.

In addition, on the basis of structure eyes can be divided into two more parts—

(a) Small eyes; (b) big eyes.

### 5. Colour of eyes

Depending on the color, eyes can be divided into 4 parts—

(i) **White eyes**—In India all have such type of eyes.

(ii) **Blue**—The color of Europeans and America's eyes is blue.

(iii) **Yellow**—Mongolian people's eyes are yellowish.

(iv) **Black**—In all races this type of eyes is found.

### 6. Lips

Lips are not so important in the determination of the race, however this is a trait, which is used sometimes to determine the race. Normally the lips are divided into two parts—

(i) **Thin lip**—Aryans and the American people have thin lips.

(ii) **Thick lips**—Lips of the Negros are thick.

The race is decided on the basis of these fixed and uncertain physical characters. But it should be kept in mind that the decision of the races cannot be determined on the basis of any single physical trait. The race is decided on the basis of the combination of all the characters. The family cannot be given the name of the race due to the normal physical character found in one family. A large group can only be called a race when it has specific physical characters.

### Races of the World

The race is a biological conception. Races are classified on the basis of physical character. Various scholars have given classification of races. Main classification is as follows—

#### (A) Classification of Kroeber

Kroeber has classified races into three parts. Again these three divided into different subdivisions. The classification of the Kroeber is as follows—

1. Caucasian—(i) Nordic (ii) Alpine (iii) Mediterranean (iv) Hindu.

2. Mongol Race—(i) Mongolian (ii) Malaysian (iii) American Indian

3. Negroid—(i) Negro (ii) Malaysian (iii) Pygmy Black (iv) Bushman.

### **(B) Classification of Beals and Hyzer**

They have classified races in three main and 9 sub divisions as follows :

1. Caucasian—(i) Alpine (ii) Arminied (iii) Mediterranean (iv) Nordic

2. Mangoloid—(i) Asiatic Mongoloid (ii) Indonesian Malay(iii) American Indian

3. Nigroid—(i) Farest Nigro (ii) Nigrito

### **(C) Haksly's Classification**

He described five major types of races and did not describe any sub caste. According to him all human beings can be divided into the following five races—

1. Australoid
2. Negroid
3. Mongoloid
4. Canthraciac
5. Melanacriac

## **Gender**

In general speech the meaning of gender is taken in the context of differentiation of physical structure, which is found between the male and the female. From the study point view of gender is a biological structure and is the result of genes in a broader sense. What is the result of gender inequality of man and woman? There is considerable variation about this. Many scholars believe that men and women are complement to each other, many scholars said that behavior differences found between men and women, that is found in all cultures in some form and some scholars have different types of explanations for the division of labor between men and women. Following are the different kinds of explanations :

**Sociological Perspective**—Sociologists are of the opinion that human behavior is determined and directed by culture. Norms, values and rules are determined by culture and controlled by society. In this regard Levi Strauss believed that during the process of formulation of society, men gained supremacy. The woman took the position of subjection. The culture was developed with mutual cooperation of man and woman, by which family bonds were strengthened and society was formed.

Margaret Mead studied different tribes to understand the close relationship between mental qualities and the biological factors or sex. He studied - Tenambuli, Mundgumer and Araapace .

Sir Henry Mann wrote about the social status of a man and the status of the woman, that the universal form of social organization was in a form where power was patriarchal.

Initially the family was the unit of society. Men always did the work of governance. Exceptionally, the maternal power also existed in human society temporarily.

As an outcome, anthropological perspective emphasizes that cultures are primarily responsible for the unequal distribution of the roles of women and men in any human society.

According to the biological perspective, because all the work done by the woman, are less dynamic and residential, the woman was handed over domestic work, while the man took the work of hunting, agriculture and the pastoral due to his physical abilities and achieved higher place in society.

Even today, in the society, it is believed that domestic functions such as the kitchen, flourmill, taking care of the children, are supposed to be performed by women and men take care of the outside functions. Talcott Parsons also portrayed the role of father in the family as emotional leadership. Murdock found gender-based division of labour in all the studies in all societies.

Angels has been against the opinion that the women had been made weak by the God. He tried to prove with the example of history, that since the beginning, the woman was an equal participant member in a free and independent production. Further, she came under the men as a dependent companion. In ancient time's division of labour of the man and woman was done in such a manner that both men and women were treated equal and they became two new classes—Men were found to the suitable for hunting and fishing and the women for domestic work.

It is known from the observation of various theories that in the society there are many factors responsible for the lower status of a woman in



comparison to the male, it would be a determination that is not acceptable even with sociological point of view.

### **Social Processes**

Culture and society is indeed the product of social processes. These processes only make society systematic at all times social by determining the nature of the relations of the group. The reality is that every person in the society establishes a relation on the mental basis with some individuals. These relationships are sometimes direct, then some time their purpose is to directly influence the behavior and views of other people. Because of relationships, the person also influences others, as well as influenced by them. In sociology it is called as the state of interaction. Such interaction sometimes connects or separates the person from other person or the group. Such happenings occur in society, in fact, these interactions are called social processes.

Gillin and Gillin wrote in his book “Cultural Sociology”, while defining the social process that, “The way we interact with. Meaning of social process is that observed during the relation between groups and individuals or create hurdles in changing the prevailing way of life”.

According to MacIver and Page” Social process is the manner in which the relations of the members of a group once brought together acquire a distinctive character.”

According to Lundberg, ”The process refers to the apprehended result of a specific and predicted outcome and related events.”

It is clear from the aforementioned definition that social interaction is a necessary element for the social process that is how the kind of social process that is born out of two or more people interacting with each other.

### **Characteristics of Social process**

1. Social Process is related with social change.
2. The social process is the result of human interaction that affects one another.
3. There are many forms of social process, such as cooperation, competition, conflict, accommodation, assimilation, etc.
4. There is a quality of continuity in the social process.

5. There are internal and external reasons for the occurrence of social process.
6. There are definite sequence categories of social processes.
7. Different types of social processes are related and dependent on each other.
8. The nature of social process is social.
9. Social processes are dependent on structure and functions of different institutions.
10. Social process is relative to time and place.

### **Cooperation**

Cooperation is a associative process. This is one of the most important processes of human society. The society without cooperation cannot even move for a moment. Cooperation is essential to achieve the objectives of the society. Cooperation mobilizes the society and binds individuals in the form of unity. The process of cooperation in the present complex societies functions at every level.

Defining cooperation, Davis writes, “A cooperative group is that group that strives to achieve such a goal that everyone wants.”

According to Green, “Cooperation is the continuous and common endeavor of two or more to perform a task or to reach a goal that is commonly cherished.”

According to the Dictionary of Sociology, “Cooperation is an action by which many individuals or groups associate their efforts more collectively in order to achieve common goals.”

On the basis of above definitions, we can say that it is the nature of social interaction in which two or more people work together to achieve any common goal, and are influenced by in the reality of this consciousness, that they are all one and this feeling is known as cooperation.

### **Characteristics of cooperation**

1. Cooperation is a social process and just opposite to conflict.
2. With the help of cooperation a common man wants to achieve the goal in the society.
3. Members are co-ordinated with cooperation.
4. Cooperation organizes the members in society.
5. Cooperation is a continuous process.
6. Cooperation is not an individual's effort but collective effort.

7. Cooperation is found in all the societies though the forms are different.
8. Cooperation increases the integration in society.

### Forms

Sociologists explained different types of cooperation, they are as follows—

#### (A) MacIver and Page explained two types of cooperation—

1. **Direct cooperation**—When many people or groups work together by having a face-to-face relationship, then such cooperation is called direct cooperation. As many farmers work together in agriculture that is called as direct cooperation.
2. **Indirect cooperation**—When the purpose, of the people cooperating, is common, but such tasks are accomplished by those unequal works, such cooperation is called indirect cooperation. Division of labour is the best example of such cooperation. In which to achieve any goal, its functions are divided into different individuals.

#### (B) Ogburn and Nimkoff have classified cooperation into three types—

1. **Common Cooperation**—When some people work together to achieve the goals of society, then it is called common cooperation. Example—We celebrate Indian festivals collectively.
2. **Friendly Cooperation**—When we cooperate with each other for achieving particular happiness, such cooperation is called friendly cooperation, for example, travelling, singing songs jointly.
3. **Associative Cooperation**—In this kind of cooperation, there is a sense of mutual cooperation when there is a sense of mutual cooperation in some difficult situations when we help anyone in a difficult situation so this kind of support is called associative cooperation. For example, if there is any earthquake, and we help the victims, then such cooperation is called cooperative cooperation.

#### (C) Green explained three types of cooperation—

1. **Primary cooperation**—The primary cooperation relates to primary groups. There is no difference in the interests of individuals and groups. Each person celebrates welfare of the group. As a result, the cooperation found among primary groups is called primary cooperation, such as family, friendship.
2. **Secondary cooperation**—Secondary cooperation is found in modern complex societies. That cooperation is made by a person to achieve specific objectives for himself or his group. The person supports the other only that much so that he can fulfill his interests such as political parties, educational institutions etc.
3. **Tertiary cooperation**—When cooperating for adjustments in society, such cooperation is called tertiary cooperation. This cooperation is totally opportunistic.

**Competition**—Competition is a dissociative social process that encourages the person to fulfill his personal interests by defeating the objectives of the other. Competition in creating social classes in modern times is the most important factor. Due to jealousy, hatred and sometimes of exploitation in the competition, it is usually included under the process of isolation but in the process of competition, not only individuals rather it has motivated to develop societies also.

According to Lundberg “In order to achieve the goal, together with two or more individuals or groups, in such situation, the purpose or achievement of any individual or group is to be opposed to other’s aim or achievement, called competition.”

According to Bogardus, “Competition is to get the thing which is not in that much quantity to satisfy demand.”

In the Sociological dictionary, competition is considered “a struggle for the use or possession of a limited thing.”

It is clear from the above definitions that competition is a form of opposition while achieving the limited goals.

### Characteristics

1. Two or more than two persons or groups are essential for competition.

2. In competition the quality of continuity exists.
3. Competition is a universal element.
4. Competition is for limited goals.
5. Competition has partially unconscious.
6. Competition is impersonal.

**Types**—Competition is found in every field in the life of a person and Gilin and Gilin explained the following types—

1. **Economic competition**—In the modern age, the competition found in the field of consumption, production, exchange and distribution is called economic competition. Every producer tries to achieve this interests through cut-throat competition. For example, there are many types of bath soaps in the market which have increased competition through advertisements.
2. **Cultural competition**—This type of competition begins with the contact of two cultures, consequently; both the cultural groups compete with each other to spread their cultural characteristics more and more. For example, eating, living dancing, etc. of various territories.
3. **Status and Role's related competition**—At present, the status and role related competition can be seen intensely. Every person wants to get constitutionally high and high position in the society because respect is associated with higher rank in society. That is, the person who is in high a position as his respect or prestige is also high in the society. In doing so, the person does not care for the interests of others. For example, a person in the administrative service competes with others to get the administrative post.
4. **Racial competition**—Racial competition means the competition is made on the basis of color, appearance, texture etc. of a person. Though no race is high or low on the basis of physical appearance, but still there is stratification in the society on the basis of race. In this stratification, people with white skin consider them-self superior to black skin, and on this basis they compete.

In addition to the above mentioned types of competitions, there have been many competitions in the present time, such as political competition, international competition.

**Conflict**—Conflict is the most important process among the dissociative processes in society. As cooperation is found in all societies similarly the conflict is also found in all societies. When the competition is focused on those who compete with the goal, then it takes the form of a conflict. That is when the competition becomes uncontrolled, and then it takes the form of conflict. In this situation, the person or the group is in a hurry to fulfill their interests. In such a situation, the means of control in society remains to be showy only.

Conflict is a meaningful attempt by a person or group that puts others in the action of others or group through force, violence, resistance or opposition. The conflict also involves not only the spirit of anger and hatred but also elements of violence, aggression and cruelty.

According to Gillin and Gillin "Conflict is the social process in which individuals or groups seek their ends by directly challenging the antagonist by violence or threat of violence."

According to Green, "Conflict is the deliberate attempt to oppose, resist or coerce the will of another or others."

According to Kingley Davis, the changing form of competition is called struggle. According to him, "there is only the difference of quantity in competition and conflict."

It is clear from the aforementioned definitions, that the conflict of the individual or the group attempts to prevent another person or group from appearing to act of violence to achieve their goals.

### **Characteristics**

1. Conflict is the effort between two individuals or groups, in which each party attempts to destroy the thoughts or goals of another by violence, opposition, aggression, harassment or hatred.
2. Conflict occurs in that situation when the interests and thoughts of a person or group are totally different and sometimes opposed to another person or group.

3. The conflict is always a conscious process, which is made in view of all the other activities of the other party
4. Conflict is relative to time and place.
5. There is a property of instability in the conflict that means that it does not continue.
6. Conflicts depend on opportunism.
7. The conflict is universal, that is, it is found more or less in all societies.

### Types of conflict

1. **Personal conflict**—Personal conflict is that conflict when there is hatred between the individuals in conflict and harm others physically for their own interests. In such a conflict, people are ready to end each other.
2. **Racial conflict**—When a person categorizes individuals due to physical differences, then it is called racial conflict. This conflict is group-bound conflict such as the black and the white people.
3. **Class conflict**—Karl Marx made his interpretation about such a class conflict. According to him, there are two classes in every era of society and this class has always been struggling. These are created on the basis of the ownership of the means of production. On this basis we have, discussed the bourgeoisie and proletariat classes, which are in conflict for their interests.
4. **Political conflict**—This kind of conflict can be divided into two parts—

(i) **Intra-state conflict**—When one country struggles with another country, then such conflict is called inland conflict. For example conflicts between India and Pakistan.

(ii) **Inter-State Political Conflicts**—When different political parties in one country oppose other political party to gain power or oppose the logic of the other party to show its power. This protest is called the inter-state political conflict. Conflicts in Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, Samajwadi Party, Communist Parties in India are examples.

It is clear from the above analysis that in order to maintain the social order, many types of social processes continue to run in society. In these

processes, the cooperative process function to integrate society and through competition and conflict new inventions and new social systems are created in society. In short, we can say that the conflict is within the cooperation in society,

### Important Points

- The literal meaning of structure is the outer form..
- Social structure is created by units, social institutions, agencies, pattern, status and roles adopted by individuals. These units are systematic and they are stable. All of these are abstract. All these organs have stable mutual relation.
- The way in which the structure of body is formed by the combination of nervous system, muscles, digestive system, breathing system, arms and legs, similarly social structure is formed by family, relationship, group, caste, class and various institutions.
- Caste is a social system based on innate difference.
- The caste system is studied in three perspectives, religious perspectives, culture approaches, and sociological approaches.
- Caste is a closed class and based on birth, whose membership is ascribed and occupation is fixed, while the class is open system and is based on the quality that the membership is achieved and there is no fixed occupation.
- Caste is a segmental division of society.
- Class is an important open system of social stratification.
- Class involves the feeling of higher and lower.
- The importance of birth in a class is not important.
- Class is based on achieved status.
- There is mutual dependence in each of the classes.
- Race is a biological concept.
- The basis of the race is hereditary specific general biological characters.
- Differentiation in the behavior of men and women is also based on gender.



- The process of separation in society is cooperation, competition and conflict.
- Competition contributes to the well-being of the individual and the group.
- Cooperation is a continuous process.
- Cooperation also works as an acceptance process.
- Working together for different purposes by different individuals or groups for a common purpose is cooperation.
- Conflict opposes the will of others or others' desire to resist or forcefully stop the effort.
- Different forms of conflict are there such as; personal, racial, class, political class, and international conflict.
- Cooperation is considered to be better than achieving goals rather than conflict.

### Questions for Practice

#### Multiple Choice Questions :

- Which of these is not the element of social structure?  
(A) Belief (B) Emotions  
(C) Standard (D) Requirements
- "The man is the unit of social structure." Whose statement is this?  
(A) Malinowski (B) Nadel  
(C) Red Cliff Brown (D) Parsons
- Which of the following is not the characteristic of caste system?  
(A) The uncertain occupation  
(B) Caste is determined by birth  
(C) Members of caste marriages in their castes  
(D) There is a hierarchy of high-low.
- Which of the following is not a caste?  
(A) Bhil (B) Brahmin  
(C) Vaishya (D) Kshatriya
- "Caste is a closed class" Who said this statement?  
(A) Cooley  
(B) M. N. Srinivas  
(B) G.S. Ghurye  
(D) Majumdar and Madan
- Major types of Gender—  
(A) Woman (B) Man  
(C) Impotent (D) all of these
- Which of the following is not a social process.  
(A) Cooperation (B) Competition  
(C) Conflict (D) Caste
- The match of cricket is a form of—  
(A) Caste (B) Class  
(C) Competition (D) Kinship
- Who has given the concept of class-conflict?  
(A) August Comte (B) Durkheim  
(C) Karl Marx  
(D) Radha Kamal Mukharjee

#### Very Short Answer Type Questions :

- What do you mean by structure?
- Define social structure.
- Describe the essential elements of social structure.
- What does caste mean?
- How caste is determined?
- What do you mean by class?
- Explain the meaning of Race.
- Race is determined by which characteristics?
- What do you mean by Gender?
- What is gender inequality or gender differentiation?
- What do you mean by cooperation?
- Define competition.
- Explain the types of competition.
- What is conflict?

#### Short Answer Type Questions :

- Explain social structure with examples.
- Explain two characteristics of social structure.
- Explain main characteristics of caste.
- Differentiate between caste and class.
- Explain the main demerit of caste system
- Explain the meaning of class.
- Describe the common characteristics of class.
- Which are the world's main races?
- What is racism?
- Explain the meaning of inequality.
- Explain the inequality in the social field.
- Explain cooperation with examples.
- Give two examples of competition.
- Explain two forms of conflict.

15. Differentiate between competition and conflict.

**Essay Type Questions :**

1. Define social structure and explain its main characteristics.
2. Discuss the elements of social structure.
3. Discuss the main characteristics of caste system.
4. What is caste? Discuss changes in caste system.
5. Describe the meaning of class. Explain the characteristics of class.
6. Define class and differentiate caste from class.
7. Describing the meanings of the race , explain the difference between caste and race

8. Explain the consequences of racism.
9. Write an essay on gender inequality in India.
10. Define cooperation. Explain the characteristics of associative process.
11. Explain the different forms of cooperation.
12. Defining competition explain the functions of competition.
13. Explain different forms of competition.
14. What is the conflict? Explain its forms and functions.

**Answer Key :**

1. (D) 2. (C) 3. (A) 4. (A) 5. (D) 6. (D)  
7. (D) 8. (C) 9. (C)