

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

RAPID REVISION



IN 20 MINUTES





@THESAVVYHUMANITIESOFFICIAL



@SAVVY.MAAM

Social Institutions

Social institutions are systems of rules, values, and norms established by society to fulfill social needs and regulate behaviour. They guide individuals and help maintain social order.

Formal and Informal Institutions

Formal institutions are officially organized and regulated institutions such as education, law, politics, and economy.

Informal institutions develop through customs and traditions such as family, marriage, kinship, and religion.

Functionalist and Conflict Perspective

According to the Functionalist Perspective, institutions fulfill social needs and maintain stability and social order in society.

According to the Conflict Perspective, institutions often work in the interest of dominant groups and may create inequality and exploitation based on class, caste, and gender.

Family as a Social Institution

Family is the most basic and universal institution. It is a group united by marriage, blood relations, or adoption and performs important functions like socialization, emotional support, reproduction, and care of children.

FORMS OF FAMILY

On the basis of Size

Nuclear Family – Includes husband, wife, and unmarried children.

Joint Family – Two or more generations live together and share responsibilities.

Extended Family – Includes relatives beyond parents and children.

On the basis of Descent

Patrilineal Family – Descent and inheritance follow the father's side.

Matrilineal Family – Descent and inheritance follow the mother's side.

On the basis of Authority

Patriarchal Family – Authority lies mainly with men.

Matriarchal Family – Authority lies mainly with women.

Female Headed Households

Female-headed households may arise due to male migration, widowhood, abandonment, or other social conditions.

How Gendered is Family?

Family can create gender inequality through practices such as:

Son preference

Female foeticide

Unequal treatment of girls

Declining sex ratio

Marriage

Marriage is a socially approved relationship between two adults that regulates sexual relations, gives legitimacy to children, and creates kinship relations.

Forms of Marriage

Monogamy – One husband and one wife.

Polygamy – Marriage involving more than one spouse.

Types of Polygamy:

Polygyny – One husband with multiple wives.

Polyandry – One wife with multiple husbands

Rules of Marriage

Endogamy means marriage within one's own group such as caste or religion.

Exogamy means marriage outside one's own group such as village exogamy.

Kinship

Kinship refers to social relationships based on blood and marriage.

Types of Kinship

Consanguineous Kinship – Relations through blood.

Examples: parents and siblings.

Affinal Kinship – Relations through marriage.

Examples: husband, wife, and in-laws.

Work and Economic Life

Work includes both paid and unpaid activities involving physical and mental effort for producing goods and services.

Features of Modern Work

Division of labour

Specialization

Economic interdependence

Wage system

Managerial supervision

Transformation of Work

Mass Production – Large-scale production of goods.

Assembly Line – Production divided into small tasks.

Mechanization – Use of machines in production.

Flexible Production – Production according to changing demand.

Globalization – Increased international economic connections.

Politics

Politics is concerned with the distribution and use of power in society.

Power

Power is the ability to carry out one's will even against opposition.

Example: parents, principals, political leaders.

Authority

Authority is legitimate power accepted by people as right and proper.

State

State is a political organization that controls a particular territory and is supported by laws and legitimate force.

Features of Modern State

Sovereignty

Citizenship

Nationalism

Citizenship

Citizenship refers to the rights and duties given to members of a state.

Citizenship Rights

Civil Rights – Freedom of speech and equality before law.

Political Rights – Right to vote and contest elections.

Social Rights – Health services, welfare, and education.

Nationalism

Nationalism creates a feeling of unity and belonging among people of a nation.

Religion as a Social Institution

Religion is a system of beliefs and practices related to sacred things.

It includes:

Rituals

Symbols

Values

Beliefs

Durkheim

Durkheim divided religion into:

Sacred – Holy and special things.

Profane – Ordinary everyday things.

Religion creates social solidarity and collective consciousness.

Max Weber

Weber explained that religion influences economic life. According to him, values like hard work and discipline promoted the development of capitalism.

Education

- Education is a lifelong process of learning and acquiring knowledge and values.
- Education in Simple Society
- Learning happens informally through family, customs, and traditions.
- Education in Complex Society
- Learning happens formally through schools and institutions.

Durkheim on Education

Education helps in:

- ☐ Social survival
- ☐ Discipline
- ☐ Value transmission
- ☐ Preparation for occupation

Education and Social Stratification

Education can work as both:

Equalizing force

Stratifying force

Social inequality in education may be based on:

Class

Caste

Gender

Region

Which form of marriage involves one wife and more than one husband?

- a) Monogamy
- b) Polygyny
- c) Polyandry
- d) Endogamy

According to Emile Durkheim, religion creates:

- a) Economic development
- b) Social solidarity
- c) Political power
- d) Industrialization

UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

RAPID REVISION



IN 20 MINUTES

