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Welcome to Rural Sociology and Educational Psychology

Session 2

INDIAN RURAL SOCIETY, SOCIAL GROUP

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Definition of Society

• “Society is a complex of forms or processes each of which is living and growing by interaction with the others, the whole being so unified that what takes place in one part affects all the rest.” -C H Cooley.

• “Society is the union itself, the organisation, the sum of formal relations in which associating individuals are bound together.” -Giddings



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- **Society** is defined as a group of people in more or less **permanent** association who are organized for their **collective** activities and who feel that they **belong** together.





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- Society is the most important concept used in sociology.
- It is the first and foremost social group of human kind.
- It is as old as human being itself.
- The very existence of human beings is tied up with society.



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- When man's collective life is institutionalized society came into existence.
 - Different institutions like family, school develops on the basis of value system.
- All these institutions constitute human society.





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INDIAN RURAL SOCIETY

Need for the Study of the Rural Society:

- Rural life is the principal pivot around which whole Indian social life revolves.
- India is a land of agriculture. Its history, customs and traditions, complex social organization and unity in diversity
- It not only deals with the rural social relationships but also





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- According to A.R Desai rural sociology should be to make a systematic, scientific and comprehensive study of the rural social organization
- study of **rural society** is essential for carrying out a **programme** of rural extension
- **understanding** of the structure of rural society, the way it functions is essential.





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- Rural people are studied in terms of their personal and group relations
- Rural society comprises of all persons residing in administrative unit of village.





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Characteristics of Indian Rural Society:

- **Agriculture** is main economic activity of rural people.
- **Caste** is **dominant** institution of village. It is peculiar type of grouping found in rural India.
- The **religious** and **caste** composition of village largely determines its **character**.
- Each village is **independent**
- Village settlements are governed by certain **traditions**
- The rural society is **self-sufficient**.
- As a territorial, social, economic and religious unit, the village is a **separate** and distinct entity



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- It is common to find out a sense of **attachment** towards own settlement site.
- Village is characterized by **isolation**
- The chief characteristic of rural life is **homogeneity**
- less density of population, less social mobility (Shifting from one occupation to another is difficult as caste is determined by birth), less education, simplicity, traditionalism, fatalism, believing superstitions etc



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Feeling of Solidarity:

common territory,

common customs and traditions

common values,

common history

common cultures,

interdependence on each other obviously causes oneness and we feeling and develops feeling of solidarity among themselves.





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Close Contact with Nature:

- The rural people are in close contact with nature as most of their daily activities revolve around the natural environment.
- This is the reason why a ruralite is more influenced by nature than an urbanite.
- The villagers consider land as their real mother as they depend on it for their food, clothing and shelter.



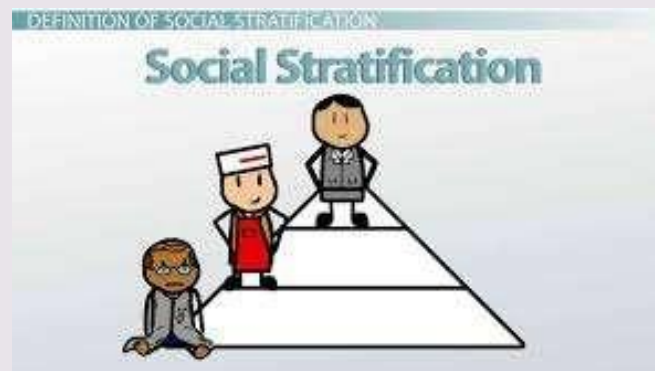
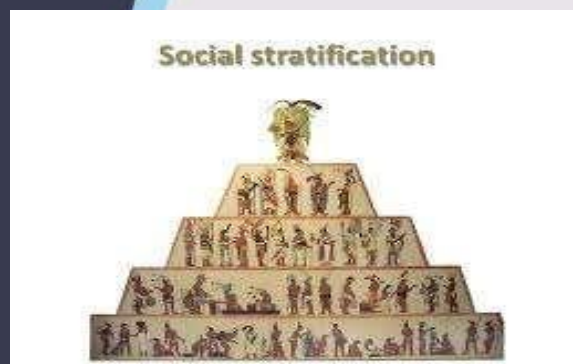


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Social Stratification:

- In rural society, social stratification is a traditional characteristic, based on caste.
- The rural society is divided into various strata on the basis of caste.





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• **Social Interaction:**

Frequency of social interaction in rural areas is comparatively lower than in urban areas.

the interaction level possesses more stability and continuity

The relationships are intimate

Family, introduces the members to the customs, traditions and culture of the society



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Social Mobility:

- Mobility is rigid as all the occupations are based on caste.
- Shifting from one occupation to another is difficult as caste is determined by birth



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Social Solidarity

greater in villages as compared to urban areas

Joint Family

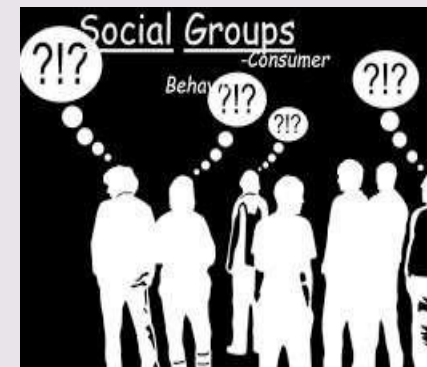
- Another characteristic feature of the rural society is the joint family system



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Social Groups

- Social structure is composed of **groups**.
- Organizations, institutions, community etc, are the forms of human associations.
- Society functions through different forms of human beings to fulfill needs and purposes.





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- Man functions in society through different forms of groups.
- Man is born as a **social group** and his first association is with his mother.





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- Tendency to unite in groups is one of the important characteristics of human beings.
- **Social groups** are the units out of which society is constructed.





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- Study of group is of primary important in the study of society
- **Group** is a medium through which we learn **culture**. The process of socialization takes place in groups





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- A **social group** is a collection of people who interact with each other and share similar characteristics and a sense of unity.

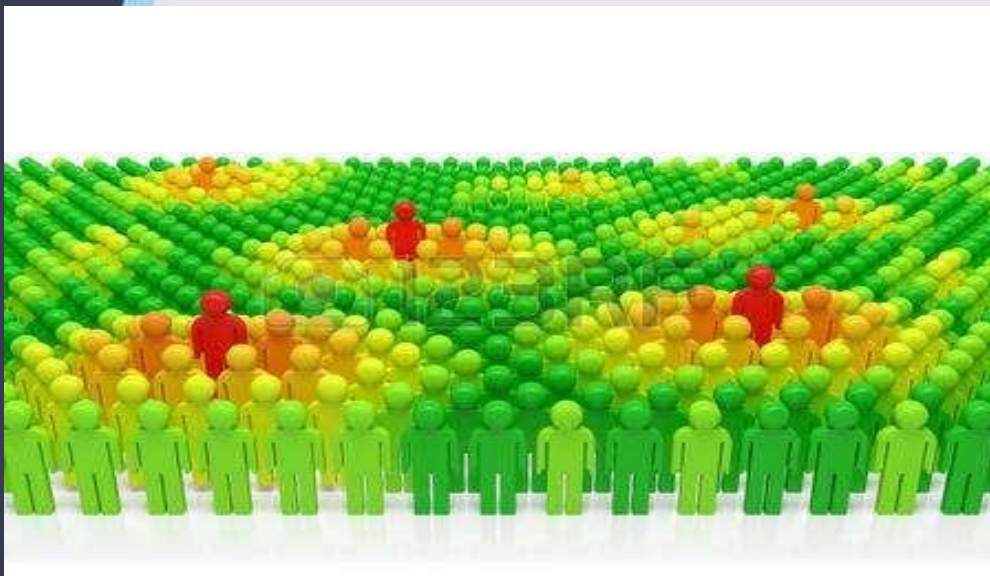




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- A **social category** is a collection of people who do not interact but who share similar characteristics.
- For example, women, men, the elderly, and high school students all constitute social categories.





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- A social category can become a social group when the members in the category interact with each other and identify themselves as members of the group.
- In contrast, a social **aggregate** is a collection of people who are in the same place, but who do not interact or share characteristics.



Definitions of Group:

- A social group consists of two or more people who interact with one another
- Frequent interaction leads people to share values and beliefs.
- Identification and attachment, in turn, stimulate more frequent and intense interaction.
- According to **Chitambar**, a **social group** is a unit of two or more people in reciprocal (to and fro) interaction and in communication with each other
- **Maclever** defined **social group** as a collection of human beings who enter into distinctive social relationships with one another





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Elements of Social Group:

• Social unit

- Psychological interactions and reciprocal roles
- Durable contacts
- Distinctive pattern of collective behaviour
- Sharing of norms and interests
- Pattern of leadership and follower ship



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Stages of Group Formation

- Forming
- Storming
- Norming
- Performing
- Re-forming



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Classification of Social Groups - According to the Degree of Organization

Formal Groups.

Informal Groups.

Formal Groups: These groups have more rules and regulations to govern their functioning.

The relationship of the members is governed by these rules.





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- These groups are generally large in size and the members have many restrictions e.g. College, Government Departments, Army etc.





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• **Informal Groups:** In those types of groups there are no much formalities, rules and regulations.





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- The degree of organization is less in the sense that the members need not undergo confinements and strict limitations for behaviour and actions.





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- The members have many liberties and very less control as exists in Friendship group. Gossip group and family group etc.





According to the Nature of the Interaction

• **Primary Group:**

a group of individuals living in close, intimate, and personal relationship.





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Like family and friendship the relationship is direct and face to face.

Generally such groups are small in size. Their relations are always personal.





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• Secondary Group:

a group of people with whom one's contacts are detached and impersonal.





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In secondary groups the relationship is indirect and such groups are bigger in size and they are formal in nature

Government departments, Industrial organizations, Labour unions, political parties





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- Group Size and Relationships
- Dyad-Group composed of two people-One relationship
- Triad-Group composed of three people



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According to the Nature of Membership

• Voluntary Groups:

- In these type of groups, the membership is voluntary and members have no compulsion to participate in the activity of the group.





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- The withdrawal from such groups is also on voluntary basis.
- E.g. Gossip groups friendship group, youth organization



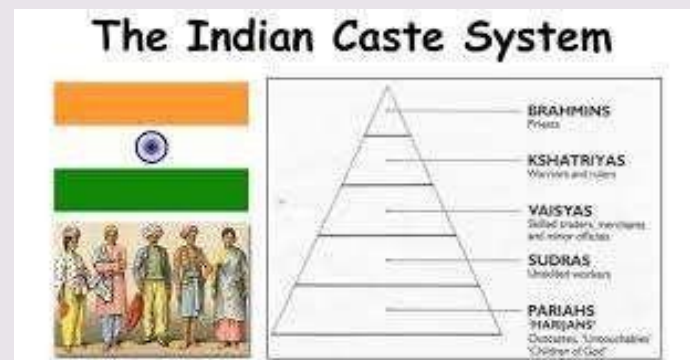


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• Non-voluntary Groups:

- In these types of groups membership is compulsory and members have no choice.
- Social conversions and traditions rather than personal choice determine the relationship as observed in a family.

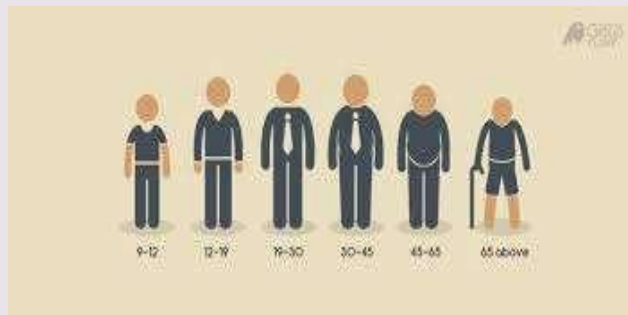




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- Every one borne in a family has to function as a member of a family by compulsion
- E.g. Caste group, National group, Religion group, Age groups etc





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According to the Size of the Group

- **Small Groups:** Member in this type is considerably less.
- Each member can identify each other and can establish close or direct relationship.





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- In such groups feeling of co-operation and sympathy can be achieved individually.
- Size is limited e.g. family, Sport Club, Bhajani Mandal etc.





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- Big Groups:
- This type of group is bigger in size. Number of members in a group is considerably large e.g. University, Army etc. In larger group relationship is not direct.





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- According to the Territorial Limitations
- Natural Territorial Group:
- These are the groups where territorial limits have been fixed by nature.

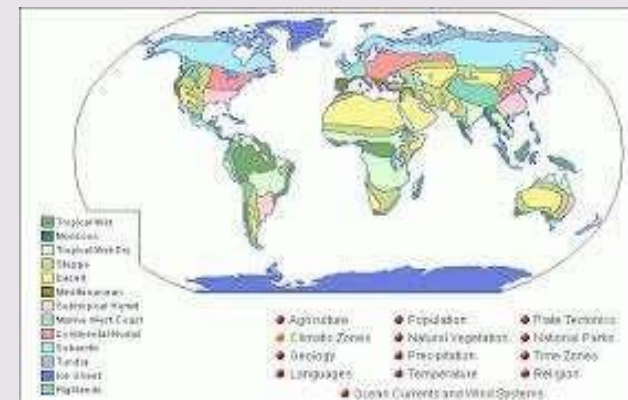
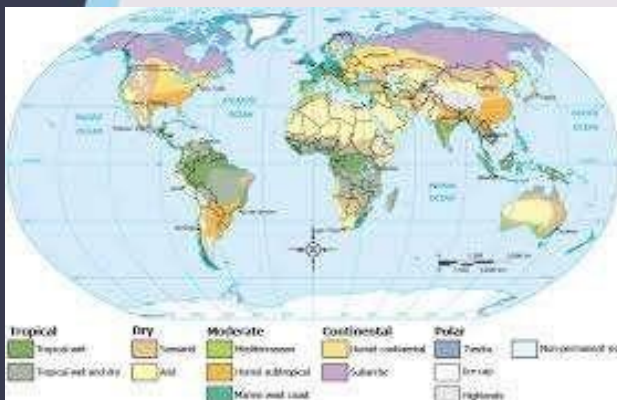




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- Those groups are formulated by their natural similarities and boundaries.
- Their boundaries and limits are fixed by geographic and climatic situations. E.g. Region.





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• **Artificial Territorial Group:**

- Here the territory is fixed artificially by man on functional basis e.g. Village, Taluka, District, State etc.



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• **Non- Territorial Groups:**

- Here the natural and artificial territorial limit do not play any part. This group has a common functioning in all most all parts of the world



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- and they do not take into consideration any limitation of other types e.g. UNO, FAO, Red Cross, International Trade Unions etc.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations





- According to the Profession of Occupation
- These groups are formulated on the basis of the professional or the occupations of the members e.g. Religious, Educational Groups, Political Groups, Artisans etc.

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- According to Duration

- The stabilized and relatively unorganized or short duration group can be of two types:
- 1. **Permanent and**
- 2. **Temporary**



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• 1. Permanent:

- The members remain together for great length of time
- and aware of the objective of the group.



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- There are formalities and defined roles to play. The members are tied together by potential ties and formulates.



- permanent existence e.g. Family, Government Department etc.

• 2. Temporary:

- Temporary groups are the mere collections of physical bodies and congregate in casual way on the street or on

the stations



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- The size of such group is indefinite and they are unorganized. They do not remain together for great length of time.



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- It has no division of labour.
- The participants are all on one level
- because their attention is focused on one thing and interaction is uncontrolled.
- The individual as a member of the group is more aware of himself and his own interests and less aware of the group interests e.g. Crowd, Audience, and Mob.
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- Based on Social Class

- People carry on their group relations with others influenced by class structure. Accordingly groups are classified into two types:



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• **Horizontal Groups**

- **2. Vertical Groups.**
- **1. Horizontal Groups:**
 - . The persons are alike in the status or position in the class system of society. Farmers, Blacksmith, Carpenter would be the members of their respective occupations belong to a horizontal group.
- **2. Vertical Groups:**
 - Vertical groups are those groups that are composed of members from different social strata. e.g. political parties.



- Based on Personal Feeling of Belonging
 - According to this criteria the group has been classified into
- 1. In-group and**
- **2. Out-group.**
- 1. In-group:**
- In group is a group either primary or secondary towards which persons have a solidarity, loyalty, friendliness and co-operation.
 - Such groups are characterized by the expressions “We belong, we believe, we feel, we act or my family, my neighbourhood, my club, my association. In-group attitude contains some elements of sympathy and sense of attachment or obligation to the other members of group.



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• 2. Out-group:

- An out group is defined by the individual with relation to the in-group usually expressed in the contrast between them and us.
- Every group is conscious that other groups are those to which we do not belong or not with us.
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- We are democrats. They are Communist,
- we are Hindus, They are Muslims,
- we are Brahmins, and they are Harijans.
- A person has no sense of loyalty, sympathy, co-operation while they have sense of indifference even antagonism to the members of out-groups.



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Locality Group:

- This classification considers **locality** as one bond for holding groups together or it is based on the territory or locality occupied by the members. E.g. neighbourhoods, communities or villages, towns etc



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- **Reference group** is the group which the individual refers for advises on different aspects. An individual may have different reference groups for different purposes.
- A reference group may be any group for E.g. Primary group, horizontal group etc. Reference group like friendship group may influence a farmer to accept or reject the adoption of an improved farming practice



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- Similar to the concepts of Primary and Secondary Groups, are the concepts of Gemeinschaft and Gesellschaft.
- These are German terms used to represent community and society.
- These concepts are developed by German Sociologist Ferdinand Tonnies to differentiate between urban and rural life.



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Gemeinschaft

- Social relation whatever function characterised by relative smallness, cohesion, Long duration, emotional intensity
- Social control in Gemeinschaft is maintained through moral persuasion, gossip, gestures



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Gesellschaft

- Characteristics of modern urban life
- Individualism, mobility, self interest, emphasis on progress rather than tradition.

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