

## **Society, Community, Association & Institutions**

<b>Lesson No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Activity</b>
5	Society, Community, Association & Institutions	Prepare a report by asking your grandparents/any elder member in the locality how rituals/cultural practices have changed in your locality in last 2-3 decades

### **Society**

- Society is a mental construct, which is realized in everyday life.
- Society is not just a collection of several individuals, rather, it is the network of relationships between them.
- An individual is related to others through his of kinship, marriage, neighborhood, caste, class, religions and others i.e., through multiple relationships occurring simultaneously.
- These relationships formed through interaction of its members
  
- **Attributes of society; -**
  - a) Likeness and Differentiation;
  - b) Inter-dependence; and
  - c) Cooperation and Conflict.

### **Community**

- A community is a group of individuals who live in a common territory, share the same conditions of living and physical environment. For ex. – neighborhood, village etc.
- Members of a community share a sense of belonging or ‘we’ feeling i.e., community sentiments.
- A community evolves gradually over a period of time in a locality.
- It usually has a specific name.
- It has a relatively greater permanence than those groups formed for specific purpose (for ex. – association). Hence, community is a concrete, identifiable entity.

## ASSOCIATION

- An association is a group of people, who are organized for the fulfillment of specific goals. For ex. – RWA (Resident Welfare Association) in urban areas; voluntary association NGO's).
- Most association function through written rules and regulations for the conduct of its activities.
- The activities of the association are to attained specific goals of the association.

## INSTITUTIONS

- Institutions are 'ways of doing things. They are the basic constituents of all societies.
- An institution is a set of rules and procedures, which provide guidelines for activities in a group.
- Individuals unconsciously imbibe codes of conduct of society, which provides the dos and don'ts for their behavior.
- Every organization has two components: -
  - a) Usages, rules and procedures; and
  - b) People or groups of individuals.

These rules and usages regulate the relations between individuals and groups. According to the definitions mentioned above, if rules and procedures are called institutions, then the individuals belong to association.

- For example – a school is both an association and an institution. School comes into existence with specific goals, like an association. But, the function of school is to teach she young students the dos and don'ts of society. Hence, if is also an institution.

## Evaluate Yourself

1. Relationships also have an element of conflict. Explain the statement with examples.
2. Do you think that traditional community structures have weakened under the impact of British rule? Explain the arguments in favour or against of it.
3. Why do institutions are essential for the human beings?