

"COMMUNITY"

* Introduction:-

A community is a social group with some degree of "we" feeling and living in a specific area. Community plays an important role in life of an individual. A community is a total organised social life of a locality. One cannot live wholly within a business organization or church, one cannot live wholly within a tribe or a city. Hence, in a community all of one's social relationships may be found within it. Some communities are inclusive and dependent on others. There are few primitive communities which are isolated such as 'Yurok' of California. Modern communities are dependent on each other and have big populations.

* Definition:-

"A community is a local grouping within which people carry out a full round of life activities."

(Horton & Hunt)

"The smallest testimonial group that can embrace all aspects of social life is called community"

(Kingly Davis)

*Personal text w/o Mutual consent Consider harassment.

* Meaning:-

A community includes a grouping of people within a geographical area where they share the basic conditions of life. The basic elements of community are locality and sentiments. This implies that community occupies a territorial area permanent or changing and a social coherence which the people inculcate within themselves.

"CHARACTERISTICS OF A COMMUNITY"

(i) A group:-

A community is a group of people who live together in an area fulfilling their needs by mutual cooperation. A group may be so small as village, Basti, Chowk, Mohallah, town or a city.

(ii) Self Sufficient:-

The group living together is self sufficient in basic needs. They have houses, schools, dispensaries, post office, shops etc where they can fulfill their need of social life.

(iii) Institutes in a community:-

Schools, madrasas, dispensaries, post offices, mosques, agricultural institutes, hospitals, union councils are major institutes of ruler community.

(iv) Sentiments of Community:-

A community has two types of sentiments which are not found in any other group. First, sense of belonging to its territory. Second, sense of belonging to one another.

(v) Mutual relationship:-

Mutual cooperation is one of the defining characteristics of any community. This mutual cooperation can either be direct or can be created through system of interdependence.

(vi) Common Culture:-

These groups have their own social norms which are different and more important than the social norms of general society. These social norms are the product of their social conditions.

* "TYPES OF COMMUNITY"

Community has been traditionally divided into two broad categories which are; rural and urban community.

(1) Rural Community:-

Bogardas: Human Society has been cradled in the rural group.

It is a natural phenomenon. Rural Community is present in almost every society of the world having distinct culture and pattern of social life. The village is the oldest permanent community of a man. All early communities were basically rural in nature. They consist of people living in a limited physical area with common interests and common ways of satisfying. The social interaction of people and their institution is in local area. The relationship is primary that is of intimate nature. Basic urban facilities like markets, hospitals, municipal office and police station are usually missing.

* "CHARACTERISTICS OF RURAL COMMUNITY"

(i) Social Homogeneity:-

Rural community is largely homogeneous. Rural social life is simple and smooth going. Unity and uniformity are largely visible. Agreement of consensus among people with regard to habits, customs, morals, values, dress, religious beliefs etc.

(ii) Dominance of Primary relations:-

A village community is often regarded as primary group. Hence the rural community is characterized by primary relations. There exist face to face interaction. Everyone knows every other and hence everyone is interested in welfare of all. As they are small in size, frequent contact is maintained. Rural relations are informal, personal and inclusive.

(iii) Occupation:-

Agriculture is the pre-dominant occupation of rural community. It is associated with different crafts like basket making, spinning, weaving, washing clothes etc. In contrast with the urban society there is less division of labour. He, at a time performs roles of an all rounder. He is often called on jack of all trades but master of none.

(iv) Informal Social Control:-

Social control is relatively simple and less problematic. Predominance of face to face relationships has made the task of regulating relations easy. Customs, traditions, group standards and moral are

effective as social pressure. Formal means of control such as law, legislation, police, court etc are not resorted to in normal situations to maintain social order.

(v) Importance of family:-

Rural community is built around the institution of family. The rural family is very cohesive. It lives together, eats together and work together. The family circle provides the greatest part of the economic social needs of its members. People are bound by family customs and traditions. Rural women are much dependent on their menfolk.

(vi) Role of neighbourhood:-

Neighbourhood is a community in miniature. It is similar to a community but it is a small area in which relationships tends to be primary or more or less intimate. In a village, neighbourhood is of great importance. Neighbours share the joys and sorrows together. They have a spirit of comradeship. They participate in all common ceremonies, functions and festivals. They assist one another in all important matters.

(vii) Faith in religion:-

Rural people are mostly religious in their outlook. They have deep faith in religion, in God. Their main occupation is agriculture. The rural men believes that the Nature - Gods will have to be pleased by various means to help them in agricultural operations. Their deep faith in God and religion creates various tensions and disturbances.

(viii) Conservatism & Dogmatism:-

The rural people are said to be highly conservative, traditional and dogmatic in their approach. Their social attitudes and behaviours are dictated by traditions. They are basically skeptical in nature.

(ix) Rural community & social change:-

They cling family to their beliefs, traditions and old practices. Custom is their kin. They are not ready to go against it. Their behaviours is natural and they live a peaceful life. They are sincere and hospitable. They are not ready to accept sudden change. They are far away from the changing urban civilized life. That is why there is a gap between urban and rural life.

* RURAL PROBLEMS:-

(i) Economic problems:-

Comparatively, rural people are poor. Increasing population, sub division of land holding, heavy load on land, traditional methods of cultivation, unemployment and other factors have been responsible for poverty in rural areas. In Pakistan 24.3% of people live below the line of poverty.

(ii) Lack of educational facilities:-

Large number of people are uneducated and ignorant in rural community. Many villagers do not have schools and some of existing schools do not have teachers and other facilities.

(iii) Traditionalism:-

The ruralites are traditions and custom bound. They are illiterate, ignorant and superstitious. They don't accept the change. They are skeptical in nature regarding development programs.

(iv) Lack of Civic amenities:-

Comparatively, rural community is lacking civic amenities. Basic amenities such as medical facilities, electricity, transportation, communication etc are not available to the satisfaction of people.

(v) Defective rural administration:-

Rural communities are unorganized and politically not awakened. Their failure to understand the democratic methods of administration has contributed to the inefficient functioning of the rural administrative bodies.

(vi) Social problems:-

Due to ignorance, illiteracy and poverty, the rural people have become the victim of some evil habits and practices. Smoking, gambling, drinking and prostitutions are adopted. The evils of animosity, hatred, jealousy, fraud, cheating are widespread among the rural communities.

P-T-O.

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"URBAN COMMUNITY"

Urban community means city community. Man originally built the city, and the city, in turn, civilized man. In urban community, people are highly impersonable along with high degree of complexity and heterogeneity in the style and identities. The urbanites are product of rational choice. There exist a complex division of labour with specialization of jobs. They are equipped with modern facilities.

"CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN COMMUNITY"

(i) Social heterogeneity:-

An urban society is heterogenous. The city life is complex and many sided. Uniformity and similarity are rarely found. It is more characterized by diversity. The ways of thinking, habits, morals, religious beliefs, food, dress, occupations etc of people differ significantly.

(ii) Secondary relations:-

The urban community is characterized by secondary relations. It is a secondary group where people are different towards one another. Face to face, friendly or intimate relations may not be observed among people. Mass media such as telephone, radio, press, post etc are used by urbanites for contacts. Superficial form of politeness and manners are common.

(iii) The animosity of life:-

The city is an ocean of strangers. Heavy concentration in limited spaces makes it impossible for people to know one another. Everyone is stranger for every other person. This leads to namelessness in which individuals and identities remain unknown. This kind of namelessness in city is often referred to as animosity of city life.

(iv) Secondary control:-

Control of social behaviour is more difficult in a city. The social behaviour of people is no more regulated by social norms, traditions, religion and group standards. The informal means of social control are not very effective. Regulation of social behaviour is largely done through specialized agencies such as law, police, courts etc.

(v) Large Scale division of Labour:-

In urban communities there exist large scale division of labour and specialization. In every walk of life specialization is visible. Different people are engaged in different kinds of activities like mechanical, commercial, educational, political, scientific and so on. Work is divided among people on the basis of interests, talent, efficiency, age, sex etc.

(vi) Large scale Social Mobility:-

An urban community is characterized by intense social mobility. Social mobility refers to movement of people from one social status to another. An individual's position in an urban

community is determined more by his achievement than by his birth. Urban life in this way is highly competitive. A city judges status according to what individual does, how he speaks and what he usually accomplishes.

(vii) Individualism:-

In urban community, people are more individualistic in attitude. The voluntary character of urban association, the multiplicity of opportunities and social mobility, all force the individual to make his own decisions and to plan his career.

(viii) Social tolerance:-

Social tolerance characterizes city life. Diversity of population, impersonality of contacts & heterogeneity in living style make it almost inevitable for the city people to develop the spirit of tolerance. The spirit of tolerance gives the strength of unity in diversity to the life in city.

(ix) Unstable family:-

Urban family is not firmly organised. Many of the traditional functions are transferred to the external agencies. Family is no longer the economic, educational, protective, recreational and effective unit. Family has lost much of its control over its individual members.

* "URBAN PROBLEMS"

(i) Problem of Concentration:-

Concentration of people in a definite limited space is one of the problems of Urban Society. Due to attraction of the city (pull factor) men have migrated to cities. Lack of job opportunities in rural community (push factor) also forced people to desert the village life.

(ii) Problem of facilities:-

Concentration of people has resulted in other problems such as overcrowding, housing problems and lack of water, and fresh air facility, insanitation etc.

(iii) Problem of Slums:-

Increasing industrialization and urbanization have created slums in the city. The slum dwellers live in horrible areas. Living conditions in such areas are very unfortunate. These are substandard places, poor ~~plac~~ houses.

(iv) Problem of Privacy:-

Lack of privacy and intimacy are natural outcome of city life. Due to indirect and impersonal relations, closeness will not develop. Life becomes mechanical, charmless.

(v) Problems of Vices:-

The city is centre of economic insecurity, mental illness, gambling, prostitutions, crimes, juvenile delinquency, pollution, alcoholism etc. The city

life endangers the physical, mental and moral health of people.

* "DIFFERENCES B/W RURAL & URBAN LIFE"

Rural Life

Urban life

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|---|--|
| (1) Rural society is homogenous, marked by unity & uniformity | Urban life is heterogenous. It is known for diversity & complexity. |
| (2) Dominated by primary relations hence more cohesive. | Dominated by secondary relations. It is not united. |
| (3) Informal means of control such as customs, traditions & hospitality sufficient to regulate interpersonal relations. | Formal means of social control such as laws, police, court etc. Regulation of interpersonal relations is needed. |
| (4) Less mobile. Opportunities for social movements are limited. Status is ascribed. | More mobile & open society. Provide more chances for social mobility. Here status is achieved. |
| (5) Limited scope for division of labour & specialization. Agriculture is main occupation. | Occupations are more specialized, widespread opportunities for pursuing numerous jobs. |
| (6) Family is very influential | Family is said to be unstable. |
| (7) Class conflicts are unknown | Class conflicts paralyse city life. |
| (8) People are conservative, orthodox and dogmatic. | People are progressive. |
| (9) Small number of people. | Large number of people. |
| (10) Less stress on education here. | Mass education is widespread. |

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RURAL URBAN CONVERGENCE:-

The Communities are normally divided into rural and urban. However, the line of demarcation is not always clear as Maciver has remarked that between these two communities, there is no sharp demarcation to tell where the city end country begins.

Every village possesses some elements of the city and every city carries some features of a village.

* Rural Urban convergence:-

The concept of rural-urban convergence refers to the shrinking similarities between the village and the town in some aspect of community life.

Urban culture is diffusing at a very fast rate in the rural areas. Kingley Davis has said that the city boundaries can thus characterize people who do not live in cities.

* Towns:-

The convergence of rural and urban communities has long been present in form of towns. Towns are more advanced than rural communities but less advanced than urban community.

FEATURES OF TOWNS

(i) Nature of relations:-

Are Personal and informal.

(ii) Bridge the gap:

The towns are most likely to bridge the gap between rural and urban communities.

(iii) Potential to become urban areas:

The characteristics of town have potential to become urban areas.

(iv) Facilities in town:

Higher education, abundant supply of labour, better communication facilities and water reservoirs.

(v) Establishment of Industrial units:

Availability of above mentioned facilities in towns catch the attention of factory-owners who establish their industrial units in such areas.

(vi) Differences are vanishing:

Many scholars argue that distinction between rural and urban communities is philosophical separation. The concept of rural diminishing and major differences between two forms of communities are vanishing.

* FACTORS WHICH EFFECT RURAL URBAN CONVERGENCE:

(i) Diffusion of culture:

Urban culture is making its way in rural areas which is one of the major reasons behind the convergence. Kingsley Davis rightly said that, "The

city effects are wider than city itself.

(ii) Migration:-

Due to high rural-urban migration in Pakistan both because of better facilities and education the difference between rural and urban community is diminishing. Due to striking increase in migration towards urban areas which is resulting in cultural diffusion.

(iii) Transportation:-

Due to improved transportation facilities, people of both settings are now more exposed to each other.

(iv) Communication awareness:-

Improvement in communication means is also resulting in rural urban convergence. Communication outlets like radio, TV, newspaper and telephones in rural communities are more exposed to urban way of life. They are likely to get influence by life style and consumption patterns of urbanites.

(v) Changing Physical geography:-

Urban areas are increasing with respect to their geography and in such expansionism the geographical divide between both communities is reducing. Many rural communities have become part of urban centres.

(vi) Increasing health awareness:-

Due to increasing health awareness in rural areas and lack of such facilities

these people are likely to move to urban centres.

(vii) Political awareness:-

The political parties have realised that majority of the vote resides in rural areas. Therefore, political parties have direct attention to rural areas. Further, the political awareness in rural areas is increasing, they are likely to come to urban areas ~~and~~ to attend conventions and processions.

* URBANISM:-

Urbanism represents patterns of living reflected by characteristics such as anonymity, impersonality, interdependence, mobility and technological reliance. Urbanism is a way of life followed by people living in urban areas.

Louis Wirth outlines four characteristics of Urbanism.

- (i) Urbanism (ii) Individualism, (iii) Superficiality
(iv) Transiency.

The span of relationship is limited due to high degree of mobility in Urban areas. People readily move from one place to another. Due to this transition, they are less likely to keep permanent relationships.

* Other characteristics:-

(i) Organic solidarity:-

Durkheim gave this concept, is one of the characteristic of Urban life. He argued, the dissim-

larities in urban life will become a source of integration between urbanites. Because people in urban areas are dependent on each other due to high degree of specialization.

(iii) Rapid Social change:

Likely to accept change.

(iii) Conspicuous consumption:

Urbanism is characterized by high degree of consumption to communicate one's social standings.

(iv) Heterogeneity:

Heterogenic in nature.

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FUTURE OF CITIES IN PAKISTAN:

Pakistan is one of the developing countries that are facing rapid changes brought about by urbanization. The annual growth rate of urbanization in Pakistan is 3.19%. The United Nations population fund (UNPF) estimated that by 2030 almost half of the population of Pakistan will become urban.

★ The process of Urbanization:

The process of urbanization in Pakistan was abrupt in nature as many of the developmental projects in urban areas were on immediate basis rather than properly being planned. The only planned city in Pakistan is Islamabad.

Factors which can shape future of cities in Pakistan:- / Problems faced by Cities:-

(i) Governance:-

The future of cities in Pakistan would depend on quality of governance. Currently, organizations responsible for planning and development lack technical expertise, planning and resources to cure negative consequences of urbanization.

(ii) Rising urban poverty:-

Is one of the biggest challenges that the cities are facing. The rising urban poverty can be attributed to factors like poor management, unemployment, inflation and low development expenditure.

(iii) Issues of Service delivery:-

One of the major problems due to ever increasing urbanization faced by government is provision of services. The lack of infrastructure and high cost of provision of facilities to far flung areas of cities are impeding the delivery process.

(iv) Rising Population:-

Rising population is another major issue being faced by cities of Pakistan. The most populous cities such as Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Multan etc are expected to grow at an alarming rate. Example: According to ministry of planning Lahore is expected to have by 2030 and Karachi by 2030 expected to have people.

(v) Pollution:-

The cities of Pakistan are generating and getting affected by many environmental hazards. It is alarming to know that only 1% of the waste water gets treated in Pakistan and rest is dumped into rivers, and streams. Further, only 50% of the solid waste generated is collected. The water supply passes through places that contain wastes like zinc, nickel, cadmium, lead etc. The mixing of these wastes with water causes serious health problems.

(vi) Housing:-

Urban areas ^{are} facing shortage of houses. Due to this shortage and the increasing demand of houses, the prices of houses have also been increased by owners. This has resulted in urban slums. This trend can be seen in Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad.

(vii) Crime:-

The crime rate in cities is increasing due to the anonymity and impersonality characteristic of city life. Migration takes place in search of better life. When the expectations of migrants with respect to better life is not fulfilled, the resultant frustration can instigate them to aggression and criminal activities. Crimes like robbery, mobile snatching, murder, land grabbing, extremism, terrorism become common issue.

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