



**THE CSS POINT**  
Yes We Can Do It!

## Basic Terminology of SOCIOLOGY

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# Culture

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- ▶ **Culture:** Set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterized an institution, organization or group.
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- ▶ **Function of culture:** "Groups and societies need collective representations of themselves to inspire sentiments of unity and mutual support, and culture fulfills this need"

# Culture...

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- ▶ **Real Culture-** the way people actually behave
- ▶ **Ideal Culture-** the values to which a culture aspires
- ▶ **Subculture-** is a group of people with a culture (whether distinct or hidden) which differentiates them from the larger culture to which they belong.
- ▶ **Counterculture-** Describe the values and norms of behavior of a cultural group, or subculture, that run counter to those of the social mainstream of the day.

# Culture...

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- ▶ **Cultural Relativism-** is the principle that an individual human's beliefs and activities should be understood by others in terms of that individual's own culture.
- ▶ **Cultural Integration-** The process of one culture gaining ideas, technologies and products of another and so this means that this culture will seem to be integrating into the other.
- ▶ **Cultural Diversity-** is the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole
- ▶ **Cultural imperialism-** is the domination of one culture over another by a deliberate policy or by economic or technological superiority.

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- ▶ **Norms-** Generally accepted behavior
  - ▶ **Values-** Collective conceptions of what is considered good, desirable, and proper-or bad, undesirable, and improper-in a culture.
  - ▶ **Folkways-** Norms governing everyday social behavior whose violation raises comparatively little concern
  - ▶ **Law-** Governmental social control.
  - ▶ **Mores-** Norms deemed highly necessary to the welfare of a society.
  - ▶ **Ethos-** word meaning "character" that is used to describe the guiding beliefs or ideals that characterize a community, nation, or ideology

# Group

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- ▶ **Group-** can be defined as two or more humans who interact with one another, share similar characteristics and collectively have a sense of unity.
- ▶ **Primary groups-** are small groups with intimate, kinship-based relationships: families.
- ▶ **Secondary groups-** in contrast to primary groups, are large groups involving formal and institutional relationships.

# Group....

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- ▶ **In-Group-** A group or category to which people feel they belong.
- ▶ **Out-Group-** A group or category to which people feel they do not belong.
- ▶ **Reference Groups-** are the referring points of the individuals, towards which he is oriented and which influences his opinion, tendency and behavior.
- ▶ **Status Group-** A term used by Max Weber to refer to people who have the same prestige or lifestyle, independent of their class positions.

# Group....

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- ▶ **Pressure Group**-a group in which individuals are similar in political and economical interests, try to influence the policy of government.
- ▶ **Ethnic Group**- A group that is set apart from others because of its national origin or distinctive cultural patterns.
- ▶ **Racial Group**- A group that is set apart from others because of obvious physical differences.
- ▶ **Interest Group**- A voluntary association of citizens who attempt to influence public policy
- ▶ **Vested Interest Group**- those people or group who will suffer in the event of social change and who have a stake in maintaining the status quo.



# Status

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- ▶ **Social status-** is the honor or prestige attached to one's position in society. one's social position.
- ▶ **Achieved Status-** A social position attained by a person largely through his or her own efforts.
- ▶ **Ascribed Status-** A social position "assigned" to a person by society without regard for the person's unique talents or characteristics.

# Family

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- ▶ **Family-** A set of people related by blood, marriage (or some other agreed-upon relationship), or adoption who share the primary responsibility for reproduction and caring for members of society.
- ▶ **Nuclear Family-** A married couple and their unmarried children living together.

# Cast, Class and Sect

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- ▶ **Caste-** Hereditary systems of rank, usually religiously dictated, that tend to be fixed and immobile.
- ▶ **Class-** A term used by Max Weber to refer to a group of people who have a similar level of wealth and income.
- ▶ **Sect-** A relatively small religious group that has broken away from some other religious organization to renew what it views as the original vision of the faith.

# Society

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- ▶ **Society:** Group of people related to each other by persistent relation satisfying mutual goals. Human societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) between individuals sharing a distinctive culture and institutions
- ▶ **Socialization-** The process whereby people learn the attitudes, values, and actions appropriate for individuals as members of a particular culture.

# Social Change

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- ▶ **Social change:** refers to an alteration in the social order of a society.
- ▶ **Change:** is more likely to be caused over time by a variety of social forces, including environmental and population pressures, cultural innovation, and technological and cultural diffusion.

# Causes of Cultural Change

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## ▶ **Causes of Social Change:**

- ▶ **Technological and Economic Changes:** (Agriculture advancement, industrialization)
- ▶ **Modernization:** standardizing as towards modern tools (Life Style, Technology)
- ▶ **Urbanization:** Moving population from rural areas to urban (Cities) areas.
- ▶ **Bureaucratization:** Extreme emphasize on rules and regulation, impersonality.
- ▶ **Conflict and Competition:** War: due to religion, ethnic tensions, competition for resources. Gender and Women's Movement: equal pay, property: Today; day care, occupational segregation.
- ▶ **Political and Legal Power:** Elected Official (Government) & Unelected Officials (Corporative Force)
- ▶ **Ideology:** Religious Belief, Political or Regional Conviction.
- ▶ **Diffusion:** Spreading the ones cultural to another culture.
- ▶ **Acculturation:** the process in which a minority is absorbed into the majority and entirely loses its distinctiveness.

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- ▶ **Social order** It refers to a set of linked social structures, social institutions and social practices which conserve, maintain and enforce "normal" ways of relating and behaving.
  - ▶ **Social progress** is the idea that societies can or do improve in terms of their social, political, and economic structures.
  - ▶ **Sociocultural evolution** is an umbrella term for theories of cultural evolution and social evolution, describing how cultures and societies have changed over time.

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- ▶ **Social structure** is a term refers to patterned social arrangements which form the society as a whole, which determines the relationship of definite entities or groups to each other.
  - ▶ **Social Control**- The techniques and strategies for preventing deviant human behavior in any society.
  - ▶ **Stratification**- A structured ranking of entire groups of people that perpetuates unequal economic rewards and power in a society.