

Chapter 5

The Community

Community can be defined in numerous ways, depending on the application. The variety of individuals, families and cultural groups represents in a community contributes to overall character of the community.

DEFINITIONS

Community word is derived from two words-com and munis. A Com means together

A Munis means to serve Community is a group of people who lives together, shares together, a particular set of interest. According to WHO: A community is a social group determined by geographical boundaries and a common values and interest. The members know and interact with each other. It functions within a particular social structure and exhibits and creates certain norms, values and social institutions. The individual belongs to the broader society through his family and community.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMUNITY

▲ Distinctiveness: Each community has defined geographical boundaries having its beginning and end. These boundaries are more remarkable in small communities than large communities

▲ Homogeneity: There is similarity in psychological characteristic of people living in the defined boundaries of the community, e.g similarity in language, lifestyle, customs and tradition, etc.

▲ Closeness: The people in the community have to face interaction and free communication. The extent of closeness varies. Th community people frequently participate in common activities etc.

A Sense of belongingness: The people in the community feel a sense of belongingness among themselves but the degree and intensity of feeling may vary among members of the community.

A Sense of togetherness: There is unity and cohesiveness among the members in the community which is based on their interaction and sense of belongingness to community.

A Self-sufficient: The community provides all such means and

facilities which help in meeting the basic needs of the people, i.e. space to live, education, protection and security, etc.

Characteristics of Healthy Community

- ▲ Awareness of the 'we' feelings among the community members
- ▲ Conservation and recognition of natural resources

- ▲ Participation of subgroups in community affairs
- ▲ Preparation to meet crisis
 - ▲ Ability to solve problems
- ▲ Communication through open channel
 - ▲ Resources available to all
- ▲ Setting of disputes through legitimate mechanism
- ▲ Participation as citizen in decision-making
- ▲ Wellness of high degree among its members. Functions of Community

FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNITY

- ▲ It provides space for housing and shelter for socialization and
 - ▲ It provides safety and security by protecting the community recreation members
 - ▲ Linkage with social systems outside the community for meeting needs of its members.
- ▲ Provides opportunity for employment and nourishment. Protection, distribution and consumption of goods and services.

Socialization and education for its members.

Provides opportunities for interaction amongst members, transmits information, ideas, beliefs and provide support system.
all aspects of

TYPES OF COMMUNITY

Rural Community

Rural means "belonging to the country. The word village is derived from the Latin word "villaticus" means 'belonging to a farmhouse There is a sense of "we feeling" and cooperation. Agriculture is said to be the starting point of human civilization as it helped man to have a settled life in a village and village and the farmers are the one who produce the cereals..

Definitions

"The rural community comprises of the constellation of institutions and persons grouped about a small center and sharing common primary interest: -Elridge and Merrill

"The village is unit of rural society. It is the theatre where in the quantum of rural life unfolds "itself and functions: -AR Desai

Characteristics

Occupation: The main occupation of the people in rural community is agriculture, animal husbandry, poultry and Apiculture and fishing, bee keeping, etc.

Dressing: Most the villages follow the traditional pattern of dressing

. Environment: Villages have natural surroundings. Animals, birds, river, ponds and all other natural things are common in the village.

Social stratification: The caste system and class system very much prevalent among the village population due to their deeply rooted believes and customs.

Size: The village communities are small in size. There may be a few households or small number of people

. Population: As the villages have large areas of land for cultivation the number of inhabitants is small. However, in our Indian villages the particular habitat has overcrowding, while the land around is spacious. Therefore, if one considers the density of the real habitat of the village, it is high, many families live buddled up, in fact there is no road even to have convenient transportation.

. Mode of communication: The minimum use of the electronics and technology is seen in the villages.

- Homogeneity: The village life has much homogeneity. People of a village have common occupation and common way of living.

- Mobility: Mobility means movement or migration of people from one place to another or from one social status to another, i.e.there are two types of mobility physical as well as social mobility. Both are limited in villages, especially in Indian villages

- . • Social relations: The rural communities are small types have good relationships and better social awareness also. The village is like a large family. Everyone is known personally.

Type of families in village: Village usually has larger families or extended or joint families too.

Education: Earlier most of the villagers were engaged in agriculture, but nowadays advanced education and speciali zation are also common in villages.

Political awareness: Political consciousness, participations and awareness are less in villages.

Social problems: Social problems such as crime rate, juvenile delinquency, prostitution and murder are less in villages. But Indian villages have different social problems like ignorance, superstition, poverty, unemployment and conflicts based on caste system are profound.

Public opinion: Public opinion is not easily changeable in villages due to the rigidity of customs, traditions and values. Education, transportation and communication and new ideas and can help in changing the public opinion in villages too.

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Child marriages: Child marriage is still there in Indian villages. Lack of education, cultural practices and social values promotes to have child marriages.

Women status in society: Women are not considered to be very significant part of the society especially to take decisions for themselves and also in family matters. There is still male dominance.

Factors Affecting Changes in Rural Community

There are certain major factors which encourage changes in rural India, as shown below.

Natural calamities: Such as floods, famines and earthquakes: These phenomena have really uprooted the rural people from time to time. Despite of destructions of life and property, there is social mobility also. When people shift from their original habitat a lot of changes do take place which is natural.

Population growth: Population explosion really takes place in rural India. Due to illiteracy, ignorance and absence of social enlightenment the births are not controlled, and even the use of contraception is also very less. It may be Due to personal and social factors also. The density of population on the land, people migrate to urban areas, in search of livelihood and better facilities and carrier opportunities.

Industrialization and urbanization: Industrial revolution and the vicious process of industrialization and urbanization have no greatly affected the socioeconomic life of man. It is not only affecting changes in occupations or lifestyle but the complete patterns of living are affected.

Education: Education is primary and only tool to bring the change. Education extends one's outlook and perception to changes.

Sanitation and hygiene he the open te denk common is villages and to not only the colon but also a very common source does who d bepatitis. At present the need of Swach B and

specifically in villages the connection does not compulsory in each and every home and the government even funding for this also

Transportation: The transportation facilities are so upgraded that also. The connectivity focus was promoted, highways and construction of roads in so many villages sound the country. Such as the metro through metro train a number of villages as some extend the convenience to rural population for their jobs and occupation

Communication: The communication facilities are extended to rural areas. With the advent of radio, even the illiterate masses could hear things and learn, and now a days the internet is also very common in village population due to the cost effectiveness and easy accessibility of the internet with smartphones. The government has extended internet facilities to most of the rural areas and this is going to be a powerful agent of social change

Political leadership. The effect of political parties and political leadership can be easily observed in villages now days. Even the election of the village panchayat is influenced by political parties and their leaders.

Government efforts :The Central and State Government are several new and old programs which are useful to bring change in rural life. The programs such as twenty-point national health mission, etc from the government have made a fundamental change in many ways.

Urban Community

There were cities in ancient times also, but most of them were important due to one or the other reason whether its religion, politics or trade and commerce only. But the modern cities are mostly of great industrial importance because of which people use to come to cities from villages and this is also the reason for the growth and development of modern cities.

Definitions of City

"A city is a limited geographical area inhabited by a large and closely settled population having many common interest and institutions under a local government authorized by the state"

Characteristics of City

Occupation: The urban people are engaged in different variety of occupations such as medical, trade, commerce, education, government and recreation. There are numerous occupation options available in the urban community areas.

Environment: The environment is quite artificial. The factories, shops, malls, railways, buildings and many other things are all created by man. There is not much naturalism in air and environment both.

Size: Cities are the larger communities as compared to rural area, and their population may be in lakhs, millions or crores the this is because in a small land area, very large number of people De resides. no oels jud nol

Population: The density of population is really very high. There Quis overcrowding and congestion. Slums are also created. Due to such situations the health status of the urban populations is also not satisfactory despite of good health care services.

Urban life: There are no similarities in the life of the urban people. There is diversity in the fields of occupation, language, religion and the culture because people from different places are residing in urban community.

Social stratification: The people in urban community are stratified on the basis of the class and economic status, the caste system is least prevalent here. The lifestyle of the people also varies according to religion, occupations and other socioeconomic status.

Social mobility: In city mobility is very easy and quick. The Gurban man can rise or lower his status, to a greater extent during his lifetime and the competition for status is very common here. The exercise of talent, the achievement of education, and display ot of wealth are common in urban community.

- **Communication:** The mode of communication is electronic media to a larger extent but some of the official information is also communicated by post, newspaper and magazines also.

Family: The urban families are smaller in size than the rural families. Family mostly includes husband, wife and children. Large family is not that common in the city.

- **Social Problems:** The urban community has different social problems such as higher crime rates, juvenile delinquency, rape, assault, Murder, theft, kidnapping, prostitution, divorce and family disorganizations are very common in cities all over the world.

Social Problems in Urban Community

Urban problems have no limits everyday new problems are identified such as-pollution, crime, juvenile delinquency, begging, alcoholism, corruption, and unemployment are a few of them. Apart from these:

Substance abuse

Elderly abuse

Rape and assault Broken families

Housing and slums

Crowding and depersonalization

Water supply and drainage Waste disposal

Transportation and traffic Power shortage

Pollution

CULTURE

Definition

Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society of living.

Characteristics of Culture

▲ Culture is an acquired quality: Culture is not innate, it is learned through socialization like habits and thought what is called culture. Any behavior which is socially acquired is called learned behavior.

▲ Culture is social, not individual heritage of man: it is inclusive of the expectations of the members of groups social product which is shared by most members of group.

▲ Culture is idealistic: Culture illustrates the ideas and norms of a group. It is a sum total of the ideal patterns and norm behavior of a group.

▲ Culture is total social heritage: Culture is linked with the past and endures through its lives in culture. It is passed from generation to another through tradition and customs.

▲ Culture fulfills some needs: Culture fulfills those ethical social needs of the groups which are ends in themselves.

▲ Culture is an integrated system: Culture possesses an ordered system. Its various parts are integrated with each other and elements which are introduced are also integrated.

▲ Language is the chief vehicle of culture: Man lives not on present but also in the past and future.

▲ Culture increases interdependence: Culture evolves into m complex forms through division of labor which develops sp skills and increase the interdependent of society's members

Functions of Culture

Culture plays a vital role not only for individual but also for a group

Functions of a culture towards an individuals

#Culture makes a human being of the for group life.

#Culture provides solution for complicated situations,

#Culture provides traditional interpretations to certain situations: Through culture man gets traditional interpretations for many situations, according to which he determines his he however these traditional interpretations differ from culture to culture.

Functions of culture towards a group.

#Culture keeps social relationships intact: Culture is the design and the prescription, the composite of guiding values and des By regulating the behavior of the people and satisfying, their primary drives pertaining to hunger, shelter and sex, it has been able to maintain group life.

#Culture broadens the vision of the individuals: Culture has given a new vision to the individuals by providing him a set of rules for the cooperation of the individuals. Culture teaches him to think of himself a part of the large whole. It provides him with the concept of family, state, nation and class so makes possible the coordination and division of labor

#A Culture creates new needs: Culture also creates new needs and new drives for example, thirst for knowledge and arranges for their satisfaction. It satisfies the aesthetic, moral and religious interests of the members of the group. In this way groups also owe much to culture.

Effect of Cultural Beliefs on Health

Individual perceptions, experiences and copes with health and illness is partly determined by cultural beliefs. Some people may perceive home remedies or tribal health customs as superior and more dependable than the health care practices of society.