



THIRUTHANGAL NADAR COLLEGE

(Belongs to the Chennaivazh Thiruthangal Hindu Nadar Uravinmurai Dharma Fund)

Selavayal, Chennai-51.

A Self-Financing Co-educational College of Arts & Science

Affiliated to the University of Madras

Accredited with 'B' Grade by NAAC

An ISO 9001: 2015 Certified Institution

NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT: Social Work

SUBJECT : Community Organization

TOPIC : Concept and Elements of community

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UNIT- I

Concept and elements of Community

Concepts

COMMONLY USED TERM
DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION
DIFFERENT WAYS TO MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS
EG: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, CASTE COMMUNITY, LINGUISTIC
COMMUNITY ETC...
TO REFER AN ASSOCIATION OR GROUP
OR TO REFER THE ENTIRE MANKIND.



Definitions

COMMUNITY IS "A SOCIAL GROUP WITH SOME DEGREE OF WE-FEELING AND LIVING IN A GIVEN AREA" *BOGARDUS*

COMMUNITY IS " AN AREA OF SOCIAL LIVING MARKED BY SOME DEGREE OF SOCIAL COHERENCE" *R.M. MACIVER*

A COMMUNITY IS A GROUP OR COLLECTION OF GROUPS THAT INHABITS A LOCALITY" *OGBURN AND NIMKOFF*



- Community- geographic area- having common interests and activities.
- Community- area of social living- marked by some degree of social coherence.
- Community is a circle in which people are living with some intentions.
- Eg: Village, town, tribe, city.

Elements of community

LOCALITY
COMMUNITY SENTIMENT
STABILITY
NATURALNESS
SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY
REGULATIONS OF RELATIONS



Locality

TERRITORIAL GROUP

OCCUPIES SOME GEOGRAPHIC AREA

EVEN THE WANDERING GROUPS LIKE TRIBES OR
NOMADIC COMMUNITY HAS A LOCALITY
THOUGH CHANGING HABITATION.

PEOPLE FORMS COMMUNITY ONLY WHEN IT
BEGINS TO RESIDE IN A DEFINITE LOCALITY.



- Living together facilitates people to develop social contacts, gives protection, safety and security.
- It helps the members to promote and fulfill their common interests.
- Same locality brings a strong bond of solidarity among its members.
- Locality is a basic factor of community life.

- The physical factors such as fertile soil, minerals, forests, fisheries, water resources, vegetation, weather, climate etc.. are included in the locality.
- These factors influence the lives of community members in several ways. Especially on their economic activities.

Community sentiment

LOCALITY ALONE CANNOT MAKE A COMMUNITY.
SOMETIMES, PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE SAME AREA MAY
NOT HAVE ANY CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.
EG: CITY LIFE
THEY MAY NOT HAVE COMMON OUTLOOK AND SHARE NO
COMMON INTERESTS.



- A community is essentially an area of common living with a feeling of belongingness.
- Community sentiment means a feeling of belonging together.
- The members must be aware of their staying together and sharing common interests.
- Without this there cannot be any community.

Stability

NOT ONLY LOCALITY AND COMMUNITY SENTIMENT BUT ALSO HAS STABILITY.
NOT LIKE TEMPORARY GROUP LIKE MOB OR CROWD, BUT RELATIVELY STABLE.
IT INCLUDES A PERMANENT GROUP LIFE IN A DEFINITE PLACE.



Naturalness

NORMALLY COMMUNITIES ARE ESTABLISHED IN A NATURAL WAY. THEY ARE NOT DELIBERATELY CREATED OR NOT CREATED BY PLANNED EFFORTS.

INDIVIDUALS BECOME ITS MEMBERS BY BIRTH ITSELF.

ALSO MEMBERSHIP IS NOT A VOLUNTARY ONE.

IT HAS ITS ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT ; NOT BECOME SUDDENLY.



Size of the community

MAY BE BIG OR SMALL

A SMALL COMMUNITY MAY BE INCLUDED IN A WIDER COMMUNITY

EG: CITY/VILLAGE MAY BE INCLUDED IN A WIDER COMMUNITY CALLED THE DISTRICT.



Regulation of relations

EVERY COMMUNITY DEVELOPS IN COURSE OF TIME- A SYSTEM OF TRADITIONS, CUSTOMS, MORALS, PRACTICES, RULES AND REGULATIONS TO REGULATE THE RELATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS.



end