

UNIT – II

Basic concepts: society, community, institution

Society · Community · Association · Institution · Status-role

Explanatory Lecture Slides

Invitation to Sociology · Minor-II-1 · Semester I

INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY

Topics covered in this unit

01

Define society and its characteristics

02

Define community

03

Distinguish association and institution

04

Explain status and role

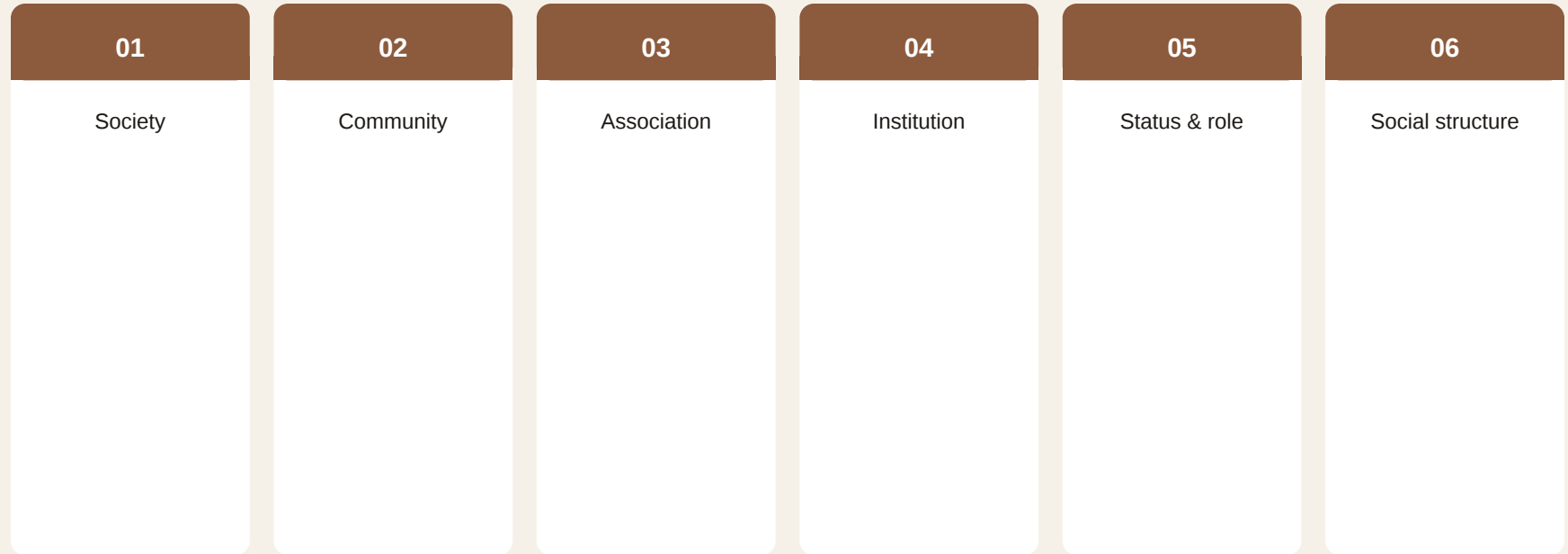
05

Place social structure

06

Use Indian examples, not only Western

How this unit is organised



Society

A web of social relationships (MacIver). Not a group you can photograph.

- Characteristics: likeness and difference, cooperation and conflict, interdependence, a culture, continuity, a territory more or less.
- PYQ: define society, characteristics (2021 6-mark; 2022).
- Society is the genus; State is a species of association inside it.

Society

IS

- A system of relationships.

IS NOT

- Only the government.
- Only people in one village.

Community

A group with locality and community sentiment (we-feeling). Village, tribe, urban neighbourhood.

- PYQ: community — definition, features, important elements (2021, 2024, 2025).
- Tönnies: Gemeinschaft (community) v Gesellschaft (society/association).
- A law college is usually an association, not a community — unless it really is.

Community

TWO MARKS OF COMMUNITY

- Locality.
- Sentiment.

THREATS

- Migration.
- Anonymity of the city.

Association and institution

Association: a group organised for a purpose (a bar association, a trade union).

- Institution: established procedures (marriage, property, religion, caste).
- You join an association; you are born into institutions.
- The Bar Council is an association with statutory teeth (Advocates Act). Marriage is an institution with statutes around it.

Association and institution

ASSOCIATION

- Voluntary.
- Purpose.
- Membership.

INSTITUTION

- Norms.
- Roles.
- Continuity.

Status and role

Status: position in a social system. Role: the expected behaviour attached to it.

- Ascribed (caste, sex at birth) v achieved (judge, graduate).
- Role conflict: a lawyer who is also a family elder in the same village dispute.
- PYQ: role and status (2024).
- Art. 15–16 try to weaken ascribed status in public life.

Status and role

ASCRIBED

- Caste.
- Race.
- Order of birth.

ACHIEVED

- Occupation.
- Education.
- Office.

Social structure

The patterned arrangement of statuses and institutions that lasts longer than a person.

- PYQ: social structure and its elements (2021).
- Elements: groups, institutions, statuses, norms.
- A Constitution is a legal diagram of political structure; caste is a social structure that the Constitution tries to recode.

Social structure

STABLE

- Kinship.
- Caste (still).
- Property.

CHANGING

- Class.
- Occupation.
- Urban neighbourhood.

Property as a social institution

PYQ short note: property (2022, 2024).

- Not only TP Act s.5. Property is a bundle of claims a society will back with force.
- From status to contract (Maine) is also from kin-property to market-property.
- Art. 300A: a legal right. Art. 39(b)(c): a social warning.

Property as a social institution

SOCIOLOGY

- Institution.
- Power.
- Exclusion.

LAW

- Title.
- Transfer.
- Eminent domain.

Status and role

Status: position in a social system. Role: the expected behaviour attached to it.

- Ascribed (caste, sex at birth) v achieved (judge, graduate).
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Cases a KSLU answer should name

CASE

K.T. Plantation v State of Karnataka

(2011) 9 SCC 1

Property as a constitutional legal right —
institution meeting text.

CASE

Lata Singh v State of U.P.

(2006) 5 SCC 475

Choice in marriage against community sentiment
— association v community.

CASE

Shayara Bano v Union of India

(2017) 9 SCC 1

An institution (talaq) tested against rights.

Provisions & materials to quote

Art. 300A

Property.

SMA 1954 / HMA 1955

Marriage as a statutory institution.

Advocates Act 1961

A professional association with public functions.

Art. 19(1)(c)

Right to form associations.

Art. 15

Against ascribed-status discrimination.

10 / 16-mark frames from this unit

Q1

Define society. Explain its main characteristics.

Q2

Define community. Explain its salient features.

Q3

Examine the concept of role and status.

Q4

Write short notes: institution; association; property.

Unit recap

- 1 Society = web of relationships (Maclver).
- 2 Community = locality + we-feeling.
- 3 Association is joined; institution is inhabited.
- 4 Status is the seat; role is the script.
- 5 Maine: status to contract — the one-line history of property and family.