

UNIT – III

Culture, groups, socialisation, family

Culture · Groups · Socialisation · Family · Education

Explanatory Lecture Slides

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

INVITATION TO SOCIOLOGY

Topics covered in this unit

01

Define culture and its characteristics

02

Classify social groups

03

Explain socialisation and its stages / agencies

04

Define family and its functions

05

Place education as an agency

06

Keep Indian family change for paper II

How this unit is organised



Culture

Learned, shared, transmitted design for living (Tylor: knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom).

- PYQ: define culture, characteristics (2025).
- Material v non-material; cultural lag (Ogburn) — law often lags technology.
- Culture is not the same as civilisation (technical mastery) though exam answers may pair them.
- Law is part of non-material culture with material teeth (prisons, stamps, gazette).

Culture

MARKS OF CULTURE

- Learned.
- Shared.
- Transmitted.
- Adaptive.
- Cumulative.

LAG

- Technology runs; family law walks.

Social groups

Two or more in interaction. Primary (intimate, Cooley) v secondary; in-group / out-group (Sumner); reference groups (Merton).

- PYQ: types / functions of social groups (2023–25 pattern).
- A court is a secondary group with a primary-group style of loyalty among some bars.
- Caste is a closed status group (Weber).

Social groups

PRIMARY

- Family.
- Play-group.
- Village clique.

SECONDARY

- College.
- Party.
- Bar Association.

Socialisation

The process of learning to belong. Without it, no person in the social sense (the 'wild child' stories).

- PYQ: what is socialisation, stages (2022).
- Agencies: family, peer, school, media, religion, workplace, law itself (a trial socialises).
- Anticipatory socialisation: the intern in a senior's chamber.
- Failure: deviance — Unit V.

Socialisation

STAGES (BROAD)

- Oral / family.
- School.
- Adolescent peers.
- Adult roles.

AGENCIES

- Family first.
- School.
- Media now rival both.

Family — definition and functions

A socially recognised unit of mating, reproduction, socialisation and (often) common residence.

- PYQ: functions of the family (2025).
- Functions: biological, economic, socialisation, status-ascription, psychological, religious, educational (historically).
- Forms: nuclear / joint; patriarchal / others; monogamy as legal Hindu/Christian default.
- Paper II will do Hindu joint family in depth — do not dump Mitakshara here.

Family — definition and functions

FUNCTIONS

- Reproduction.
- Socialisation.
- Economy.
- Status.
- Care.

LAW ALREADY IN THE ROOM

- HMA.
- SMA.
- Guardianship.
- Maintenance (CrPC/BNSS + personal law).

Education as an agency

PYQ 6-mark: importance of education (2021).

- Transmits culture, sorts talent, can equalise or reproduce class (Bourdieu — one line if you can spell it).
- RTE Act 2009 / Art. 21A: education as a right, not a family luxury.
- A law college is a socialisation into a profession (clinical papers later).

Education as an agency

FUNCTIONS

- Culture.
- Skills.
- Citizenship.
- Credential.

RISK

- Reproducing privilege under a merit slogan.

Folkways, mores, values

Sumner: folkways (routine), mores (morally charged), laws (State-backed).

- PYQ: social values (2022); these terms appear as short notes.
- Not every more should become a law (Devlin–Hart debate — plant for legal methods).
- Public opinion as a mores-in-motion (Unit IV control).

Folkways, mores, values

FOLKWAYS

- Queue.
- Dress at a wedding.

MORES

- Incest taboo.
- Honesty in a witness box — also a law.

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Cases a KSLU answer should name

CASE

Mohd. Ahmed Khan v Shah Bano

(1985) 2 SCC 556

Family, religion and the State — a sociology problem in a maintenance file.

CASE

Githa Hariharan v RBI

(1999) 2 SCC 228

Mother as natural guardian — role rewriting.

CASE

Unni Krishnan v State of A.P.

(1993) 1 SCC 645

Education as a rights-site, later Art. 21A.

Provisions & materials to quote

Art. 21A / RTE 2009

Education.

HMA 1955 / SMA 1954

Family as a legal form.

Art. 15(3)

Special provision for women and children — family and gender.

JJA 2015

The child as a socialisee the State claims.

BSA / BNSS (witness)

Law as an agency that demands a role.

10 / 16-mark frames from this unit

Q1

Define culture and explain its important characteristics.

Q2

What is socialisation? Briefly explain its stages and agencies.

Q3

Define family. Explain its functions.

Q4

Write short notes: primary group; folkways and mores; education.

Unit recap

- 1 Culture is learned and shared; law is a piece of it.
- 2 Primary group: intimate; secondary: purposive.
- 3 Socialisation = learning the script of statuses.
- 4 Family functions: five heads, then stop.
- 5 Folkways < mores < law is Sumner's ladder.