

SOCIOLOGY

Part - II

Q#02 Social Institution

A social institution is an organized entity that brings together different elements of a society to inculcate or teach sociological norms. It permeates society on many levels and determines the trajectory of evolution of a society.

• Role of institutions

Right from the beginning of times, institutions have brought together social individuals on the basis of normative similarities. They are structures that organically rise from pools of societies with a command and consensus on morality, ways of living and future goals. There would be no civilization if it was not for these institutions. Following is an assessment of the role played by some key institutions of any society =

=> Families - The first school of learning

As the basic unit of societies, families play a vital role in tying individuals together. When an infant comes to this world, he or she has no clue at all about his or her own existence or of the ways of the world. Learning from imitating the behavioural starts

patterns and reactions of parents. Their responsibility is primary in determining the individuals their offsprings will become.

Formative years of everyone's lives are replete with examples as to how this institution can make or break societies. If there is a decay of this institution, societies are destroyed.

⇒ Educational Institutions

They enjoy full control and authority in teaching individuals the norms that a society has decided upon. After homes, schools are where individuals socialize and learn about the world the most.

The role of teachers in shaping nations is almost equivalent to mothers. Everything that students learn at home, they practice and improve in educational centers and become the final versions of their character. All the academic knowledge and scriptures produced in these institutions becomes the cornerstone of a civilization's identity.

⇒ Religious Institutions

Historically, religion has also played a key role in socializing humans into a defined civilizational attire. The adherence to a strict morality and the teachings of revered religious figures make humans subservient to a standard code of living.

Without religions, the progress of human civilizations is unimaginable.

They are the first spiritual pivot that allow humans to look beyond reason and to find meaning in existence.

⇒ Political Institutions

Influential organizations of a society, working to form or influence the state also sweep the thinking of individuals and make them receptive to action and change.

If populism, for instance, is common in a society, its civilization will be impacted differently as to if democracy was in fashion.

Great political institutions are one of its kind in history with the philosophers causing an awakening in society.

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⇒ Conclusion

All in all societies and their institutions are inseparable sides of same coin with each impacting the other circularly to keep civilizations growing.