SOCIOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

Paper: 4.01(General Course)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION-DISORGANIZATION

Unit-5

Dr. Bandana Baishya

Social Organization-Disorganization

Social organization refers to the systematic ordering of social relations by act of choice and decision. It implies system or pattern. Every society is composed of individuals who form various groups or social units. There is interrelationship between members of the group and between groups in an organized society. Social organization fulfils the purpose of the society as a whole. An organization is an articulation of different parts which perform various functions; it is an active group device for getting something done.

Definition of Social Organization

Some definitions of Social organization are mentioned below-

- According to *Cooley*, "Social organization is the result of the shared activities and understanding of the people."
- According to *Louise Weston*, "Social organization can be thought of as the pattern and process of relations among individuals and among groups."
- According to *Elliott* and *Merrill*, "Social organization is a state of being, a condition in which the various institutions in a society are functioning in accordance with their recognised or implied purposes."

Characteristics of Social Organization

- **A definite purpose**: An organization has its own definite purposes. Without any purpose or goal individuals seldom comes together.
- **Consensus among the members**: The smooth running of an organization depends much on the mutual understanding, cooperation and consensus among its members.
- **Harmony between statuses and roles**: An organization is understood as a mechanism that brings different people together into a network of interaction to perform different functions. In an organization different people have to perform different role according to their status or position. There must be harmony between their statuses and roles.
- **Control of the organization**: Organization maintains its control over the behaviour of its members and regulates their activities through norms and regulation of the supreme authority.

- **Norms**: An organization must have its own norms and values to achieve the goal of the organization.
- **Serve different needs**: For the fulfilment of group purposes individuals sometimes sacrifice their own purposes.
- **Status and division of labour**: By the division of labour the assignment to each unit or group is specialized in an organization among the workers. Thus, members of an organization have different status according to the allotment of activity.

Types of Social Organization

An organization is a collection of people who work together to attain specified objectives. There are two types of organization structure, one is formal organization and the other is informal organization.

(i). Formal Social organization

A formal organization is a type of group that is deliberately constructed and whose members are organized to achieve a specific goal. They follow a formal relationship, rules, and policies are established for compliance, and there exists a system of authority. Banks, academic institutions, hospitals, political parties, religious institutions and companies are just a few examples a formal organization.

Characteristics of Formal Social Organization

Some characteristics of Formal Social Organization are underlined below -

- **Specific function:** in an organization different people have different type of work. According to their ranks, everybody has specific role in the organization.
- **Norms:** The formal organization has its own norms or rules of social behaviour. It lays down procedure to be followed by the members of the organization.
- **Name or other identifying symbol**: Established organizations have their own name and symbol. The symbol of identification may be mottoes, slogans, songs, logos etc.

- **Authority**: it is the power of convincing, influencing or dominating other's behaviour. So it is one of the most significant criteria of organization. Where there is no authority there is no organization.
- **Bureaucracy:** it refers to the administrative aspect of the organization. It also refers to the arrangement of the organization designed to carry out its day to day business. It is represented by a hierarchy of officials who are assigned for performing different responsibilities and provided with different statuses and roles.
- **Rationality:** Rationality is very important in an organization. Here comes responsibility, systematic reliance on knowledge in the operation of organization.
- **Substitution:** An unsatisfactory person of the organization can be removed and others should be assigned to his tasks or post.
- **Criteria for joining**: Formal organization frames some criteria as eligibility to join as a member of the organization.

(ii). Informal Social Organization

Informal organization is formed within the formal organization, it is a system of interpersonal relationships between individuals working in an enterprise that forms as a result of meetings, interacts and association of people with one another. Such organization is created by the members spontaneously, i.e. created out of socio-psychological needs and urge of people to talk. The organization is featured by mutual aid, cooperation, and companionship among members.

Characteristics of Informal Social Organization

- In informal Social Organization there is a face to face relationship among the members.
- It is characterised by mutual understanding, cooperation and companionship instead of definite rules and regulations to govern the relationship between members.
- Members of the informal organization work together in their individual capacities and not professional.
- Informal organization is small in size and it is less complex.
- Informal organizations are comparatively dynamic and subjected to changes when required.

Factors influencing Social Organization

Some elements or factors of social organization are –

- Members of the social organization can chalk out various programmes to extend their helping hand to improve and develop social environment.
- Social and economic planning is an essential and most important step for the development and wellbeing of the society. Organization may take initiative for proper execution of such planning.
- People of the society should be educated to be aware against social evils and prejudices. To create a healthy environment in the society such malpractices should be eradicated.
- In our society people are still deprived of some basic necessities. Members of the organization can provide help to such people so that people get education and make their life a meaningful one.
- Because of ignorance or illiteracy people may not be aware about some government plans and policies. Members of organization can take initiative towards creating awareness among people and mobilize them to avail such opportunities.

Social Disorganization

Social disorganization means breaking or dismantling or dispersing of the social system, social institutions and social relationships. It increases when there is no general agreement; individuals define the important interests of the society in purely individualistic terms.

It refers to the decrease in the influence of the existing social rules of behaviour upon individual members. As a result of this, there develops individuation and lack of cohesion of society. The social equilibrium is disturbed and society gets out of gear.

Definitions of Social Disorganization

Some definitions of Social Disorganization are given below -

- *Emile Durkheim* defined social disorganization as "a state of disequilibrium and a lack of social solidarity or consensus among the members of a society."
- According to *Ogburn* and *Nimkoff*; "When the harmonious relationship between the various parts of culture is disturbed, social disorganization ensue."
- According to *R.E.L. Faris*, "Social disorganization is a disturbance in the patterns and mechanisms of human relations."

Thus on the basis of these definitions it may be said that social disorganization refers to serious mal-adjustments in society as it fail to satisfy the needs of an individual.

Characteristics of Social Disorganization

The main characteristics of social disorganization are the following:

- **Conflict of Mores and of Institutions**: Every society has its mores and institutions which regulate the life of its members. With the passage of time, in a changing society the existing mores come into conflict with the rise of new ideals and formation of new institutions. This leads to destruction of consensus, social organization breaks up and social disorganization ensues.
- **Transfer of Functions from one Group to Another**: In an organised society the functions of different groups are defined and predetermined. But as society is dynamic, the functions and responsibilities also transfer from one group to another. For example, some functions once performed by the family have been transferred to other organizations like crash, school etc.
- **Individuation:** the modern society gives importance on individuation. As a result, a young person wants to take independent decision on some important matters of life. This trend has set in a dangerous process of social disorganization.
- **Ambiguity of social roles**: With the passage of time social norms, values, conditions has also been changed, which also brings a change in the roles and statuses of the people. Role and status are no longer treated as fixed. People begin to choose from the different roles available which cause disequilibrium in the society.

In the word of *Faris*, "Social disorganization is the disruption of the natural relation of persons to a degree that interferes with the performance of the accepted tasks of the group."

Types of Social Disorganization

Social Disorganization may be categorised as follows:

1. **Individual disorganization**: When disorganization develops among individuals it is called Individual disorganization. It includes crime, insanity, or mental derangement, prostitution, Juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide etc.
2. **Family Disorganization**: When disequilibrium grows among the members of the family, the family life is disrupted. It may consist of divorce, desertion, separation, broken home, unmarried mothers, illegitimate births etc.
3. **Community Disorganization**: Community organization stands on unity and cooperation without which it may be disorganized. This comprises of poverty, beggary, unemployment, over population, lawlessness, political corruption, crime etc.

4. **International Disorganization**: Crisis on international understanding leads to disequilibrium in the whole globe. It includes movement, dictatorship, war etc.

Causes of Social Disorganization

Some causes of social disorganization are underlined below -

- **Social Change**: Social change is most important factor or cause of social disorganization. Because of the change in the social behaviour of individuals, social relations are disturbed and social disparity is created. This leads to disintegration in the social relationship.
- **Social Attitudes**: Change in social attitudes may sometimes lead to social disorganization. People desirous of embracing new ideas and attitudes create major conflict between the old and new values. This conflict may lead to social disorganization.
- **Division of Labour:** According to *Emile Durkheim*, extreme division of labour is the cause of social disorganization. Extreme division of labour produces an abnormal anomalous situation in which the different parts do not integrate but are at cross purposes with each other.
- **Violation of Social Rules**: When the rules and regulations of society fail to keep individuals under control, social disorganization sets in.
- **Cultural lag**: Cultural lag refers to the imbalance in the rate and speed of change between the material culture and non-material culture. Objects of material culture change very quickly. But ideologies, institutional structures and other aspects of non-material culture change slowly and gradually. Hence a 'gap' or a 'lag' arises between the material and non-material culture. This lag, referred to as 'cultural lag' invites the process of disorganization to set in.
- **Industrialization**: Industrialization creates conditions leading to social disorganization contributing to unemployment, crime, immorality, family disorganization etc.
- **War:** War lead to serious and violent forms of social disintegration. It disturbs the economy of a country and introduces confusion and disorder in society.
- **Geographic Factors**: When people fail to adjust into certain extra-ordinary physical or geographic conditions or situations, it may create disorganization in the society. Natural calamities like storms, cyclones, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, epidemics etc. may be the cause of social disorganization.
- **Social problems**: Social problems are the conditions threatening the well-being of society. Social problem includes poverty, unemployment, economic, biological, bio-psychological and cultural dependency etc.

Prevention of Social Disorganization

Society requires adopting some steps or measures to prevent social disorganization. Some important points may be drawn as follows to meet the challenges of social problems-

1. To emphasise on imparting appropriate knowledge and adopt a wider outlook for harmonising the past and present.
2. To design the curriculum to update the scientific knowledge of the young generation as well as to reflect the desirable elements of the post social heritage.
3. To plan to remove economic disparity and utilize human resources.
4. To emphasise on universalization of education.
5. To make extensive use of non-formal education system to solve out the problems of social disorganization.

Development of nationalism is an essential function of education to overcome these difficulties. As education is a conditions of social and economic changes it can find out desired result and prevent social disorganization.

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