

# •Social Control

In this concepts we will discuss about....

1. Introduction.....
2. Definitions of Social Control.
3. Forms of social control.
4. Agencies of Social Control.

# Social Control

## 1. Introduction...

- Social control helps the maintenance of social system. The attainment of happiness is an important aim of an individual when living in society. But society doesn't provide unbounded freedom to individual for attaining his/her happiness.
- Society exercises certain mechanisms to control the behavior of individual which can be referred as social control.
- Social control helps to maintain harmony, cooperation, solidarity etc.
- Social control simply means the control of society over individual

# Social Control

Ross an American Sociologist firstly to deal with the social control in sociological sense in his book entitled as

***Control: A Survey of the Foundations of Order*** published in 1901.

According to Ross the individual has the deep rooted sense of sympathy, sociability and a sense of justice to cooperate with fellow members to work for social welfare. But these sentiments alone not enough to suppress the self seeking individual, when society exercises certain mechanisms of law, morality, religion, ideals, public opinion in establishing social control.

## 2. Definitions of Social Control

- **E A Ross** “social control as the system of devices whereby society brings its members into conformity with the accepted standards of behavior.”
- **Karl Mannheim** “social control as the sum of those methods by which a society tries to influence human behavior to maintain a given order.”
- **According to Ogburn and Nimcoff** “social control refers to the patterns of pressure which a society exerts to maintain order and established rules.”

## 3. Forms of Social Control

- Society makes various forms of control in accordance with time and situation to maintain social order.
- The control mechanisms commonly found in primitive societies is closely related with their belief, like magic or any other organized forms of believes.
- Even though the religion is existed in modern society, along with religion laws, rules etc. are used as social control mechanism.
- Social control is divided into two on the basis of the means of social control that are...
  - 1. Formal social control
  - 2. Informal social control

# Forms of Social Control

## 1. Formal social control

- **Formal social control means the control of society over individual through formal system or means like law, legislation, military force, police force etc. They are created through deliberations.**
- **Violators of formal control are given punishments depending upon the nature and type of violation. Formal control creates body of officials vested with power to enforce control. It is the control through impersonal ways.**

# Forms of Social Control

## 2. Informal social control:

Informal social control means the control practiced through the personal or non official or informal ways. In this type control no need for the implementing officials. It is not purposefully created. They become deep rooted with people through their practices. Family, neighbours, tribe, rural community, caste etc. are important agencies of informal social control.

## 4. Agencies of Social Control

- **1. Law:** Law is agency of formal control that emanating from political agencies. Laws are the general conditions of human activity prescribed by the state for its members. It is enacted by a proper law making authority. It is definite, clear and precise. Laws are the product of conscious thought and a deliberate attempt. It is a code of social and individual behavior.
- **2. Education:** Education is an agency of socialization, through which man studies his society, social institutions and control. The education also transforms the knowledge from one generation to another. Education moulds the behavior of individual.
- **3. Public opinion:** Public opinion means the prevailing and predominant attitude and judgments of the members of community on given issues of general controversy as determined by public.

## Agencies of Social Control

- **4. Coercion:** Coercion is an expression of power used to compel an individual or group to follow a course or courses of action derived by another individual or group. Coercion can be an action through physical forces like arrests the criminals, keeping criminals in jails etc. It is an extreme form of violence. State is the only association which is empowered to use coercion in social control. It is an agent of social control through formal and informal agencies.
- **5. Customs:** customs means a form of social behavior having persisted for a long period of time with a degree of social recognition. It is a kind of informal social control. Customs are the daily activities of individuals. It is closely related with culture. Customs related with religion, caste, practices etc. regulate individual behavior in society.

# Agencies of Social Control

- **7. Folkways and Mores:** Folkways provide traditional definitions of proper ways of behaving in a particular society. It simply means the ways of people especially the way of people in a primitive society. In primitive societies people are controlled through their cultural practices. Mores are those social norms that provide the moral standards of behaviour of a group. It implies that the morals; it is a category of norms. Through mores the community or organizations control the behavior of individuals.
- **8. Religion:** Religion is an informal agency of social control and a social institution. It controls the behavior of individuals through some rules and practices.
- **9. Morality:** It is an institution closely related with religion. It is a body of rules and principles concerned with good and evils. Through morality individuals feel that social control is good for society and necessary for social control.