

# SOCIAL CONTROL

Unit XI

Sociology of Nursing

# Social control

- Social control refers to the control of society over the individual.
- Some social control implies a system of device through which society controls the activities of individual members.
- **Mannheim** – “Social control as the sum of those methods by which a society tries to influence human behaviour to maintain a given order”.
- **Ogburn and Nimkoff** – “The patterns of pressure which a society exerts to maintain order and established rules”.

# Nature of Social Control

1. Social control denotes some kind of influence.
2. It is essentially use by the society or community.
3. It is implement for promoting the welfare of all the individuals or of the group as a whole.
4. The social control is an old as human society.
5. It is universal.

# Nature of Social Control

- **Social control denotes some kind of influence.**
  - The influence may be exercised in various ways by means of public opinion, coercion, religion, morality, ideology, leadership, law, customs, values, folkways, etc.
- **It is essentially use by the society or community.**
  - It may reflect in some cases the influence of a few extraordinary individuals over other ordinary individual.

# Nature of Social Control

- It is implement for promoting the welfare of all the individuals or of the group as a whole.
  - It is there to serve the general interests of all and to control the dangerous selfish interests of those who try to satisfy them.
- The social control is an old as of the society.
  - In the absence of social control no society can ever hold together its members for any length of time.
- It is universal.
  - Where there is society there is social control.

# Process of Social Control

- Customs create habits.
- Habits create customs.

# Types of Social Control

- Society makes use of various means of social control depending upon the time and social situation for the realization of its purpose.
  - **Formal control**
    - Law, legislation, military force, police force, administrative devices, political, educational, economic (industry) etc.
  - **Informal control**
    - Public opinion, sympathy, sense of justice, norms, values, folkways, mores, customs, religion, morality, fashion, etc.

# Political

- The **political leaders show the way for the masses** to follow the path taken by great man of their past.
- The path influences the political and other economic fields to the fellow man.

# Law

- The society grows in size and complexity consisting of number of organizations, institutions and structures.
- **Informal means of social control are no longer sufficient to maintain social order and harmony.**
- Therefore the law provides uniform norms, rights, responsibilities and penalties throughout a social system.
- Laws are formulated by legally authorized bodies or agencies to control the deviated behaviour.

# Education

Education is a process of socialization, it prepares the child for social living and **reforms the attitudes wrongly formed by children already.**

It teach them the values of discipline, social cooperation, tolerance and sacrifice.

It encourage the individual qualities of honesty, fairness, sense of right and wrong.

It gives him the ability to succeed in his struggle for existence.

The child learns to respect the opinion and advice of others, hence education is a necessary condition for the proper exercise of social control.

# Religion

- **It refers to man's faith or belief** in some supernatural power or force.
- Religious concept is thus linked with man's relationship with god.
- The norms concerned with religious behaviour followed by constitute the religious code.
- **The conceptions of spirits, ghosts, taboos, soul, talk etc., control human actions and enforce discipline.**
- Various religious agencies such as temple, churches, mutts created by religion also help to control and humble the disobedient.

# Norms

- An important feature of a group is that it has a set of values which controls and modifies of a group of individuals.
- The interaction among the members in a group leads to development of rules related to behaviour.
- Such rules of a group behaviour are called social norms.
- It is highly impossible to imagine a society without norms.
- It is a agencies to control the human behaviour.

# Values

- Social values and norms explain the way in which social processes operate in a given society.
- They are the social sources of patterned interaction.
- Values account for the stability of the social order.
- It provide the general guidelines for conduct that what is right and important for the society.
- Thus, values such as respect for human dignity, sacrifice, helpfulness, co-operation, individuality, etc., guide our behaviour in various ways.
- In doing so, they facilitate social control.

# Folkways

The word means literally "the ways of the folk".

'Folk' means people and 'Ways' refers to their behavioural habits.

It means the accepted ways of behaviour in society.

It arise automatically, spontaneously and unconsciously within the group.

These are socially approved and have some degree of traditional sanction.

- The ways of eating, dressing, walking, working, expressing love and affection etc., represent folkways.
- Taking three meals a day, walking on the left side of the road, regular brushing of the teeth, washing cloths, taking bath regularly, respect the elders, etc.

# Mores

- The mores represent another category of norms.
- Some folkways are become more compulsive and regulative in character.
- **These folkways which become regulators of behaviour are normally referred to as 'mores'.**
- Mores to those folkways which are considered by the group to be essential for its welfare and existence.
- **It is speaking the truth, don't commit adultery, don't tell lies, don't disrespect of god, etc.**

# Customs

- They are the **long established habits** and uses of the people.
- Customs refers to “practices that have been repeated by a large number of generations, practices that tend to be followed simply because they have been followed in the past”.
- They continued for long time and have passed from one generation to another.
- **They are accepted by the society, followed because they have been followed in the past.**
- Customs create habits and habits create customs.

# Fashion

Fashion may be defined as 'permitted range of variation around a norm'.

People want to be like their associates and friends and also want to be different from them.

They help us to express our individuality without going against norms.

Thus no woman want to attend a dinner party in a night dress.

People want to eat fashionable foods, wear fashionable dresses, read fashionable books, enjoy fashionable amusements, etc.

# Role of Nurse

- These social control are to be followed by the individuals.
- But no society completely succeeds in making all its members follow the social control.
- Some of them fail to conform to these social control.
- Failure of conform to the social control of society is called deviant behaviour or deviance.
- Social deviance disturbs life pattern of people and leads to many diseases.
- As a nurse should understand the patient's deviance behaviour and treat the patient.