

# Patrician College of Arts and Science

Department of Social Work

Social Work with communities And Social Action

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# WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES & Social Actions

- Communities
- Characteristics of Communities
- Meaning of Communities
- Types of Communities
- Tribal Communities

- **Communities Meaning**

A group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.

# Characteristics of Communities

**Some of the important characteristics or elements of community are as follows.**

## **1) A group of people:**

A group of people is the most fundamental or essential characteristic or element of community. This group may be small or large but community always refers to a group of people. Because without a group of people we can't think of a community, when a group of people live together and share a common life and bind by a strong sense of community consciousness at that moment a community is formed. Hence a group of people is the first pre-requisites of community.

## **2) A definite locality:**

It is the next important characteristic of a community. Because community is a territorial group. A group of people alone can't form a community. A group of people forms a community only when they reside in a definite territory. The territory need not be fixed forever. A group of people like nomadic people may change their habitations. But majority community are settled and a strong bond of unity and solidarity is derived from their living in a definite locality.

### **(3) Community Sentiment:**

It is another important characteristic or element of community. Because without community sentiment a community can't be formed only with a group of people and a definite locality. Community sentiment refers to a strong sense of awe feeling among the members or a feeling of belonging together. It refers to a sentiment of common living that exists among the members of a locality. Because of common living within an area for a long time a sentiment of common living is created among the members of that area. With this the members emotionally identify themselves. This emotional identification of the members distinguishes them from the members of other community.

### **(4) Naturality:**

Communities are naturally organised. It is neither a product of human will nor created by an act of government. It grows spontaneously. Individuals became the member by birth.

### **(5) Permanence :**

Community is always a permanent group. It refers to a permanent living of individuals within a definite territory. It is not temporary like that of a crowd or association.

### **(6) Similarity:**

The members of a community are similar in a number of ways. As they live within a definite locality they lead a common life and share some common ends. Among the members similarity in language, culture, customs, and traditions and in many other things is observed.

Similarities in these respects are responsible for the development of community sentiment.

### **(7) Wider Ends:**

A community has wider ends. Members of a community associate not for the fulfillment of a particular end but for a variety of ends. These are natural for a community.

### **(8) Total organised social life:**

A community is marked by total organised social life. It means a community includes all aspects of social life. Hence a community is a society in miniature.

### **(9) A Particular Name :**

Every community has a particular name by which it is known to the world. Members of a community are also identified by that name. For example people living in Odisha is known as odia.

### **(10) No Legal Status:**

A community has no legal status because it is not a legal person. It has no rights and duties in the eyes of law. It is not created by the law of the land.

### **(11) Size of Community:**

A community is classified on the basis of its size. It may be big or small. Village is an example of a small community whereas a nation or even the world is an example of a big community. Both the type of community are essential for human life.

## **(12) Concrete Nature:**

A community is concrete in nature. As it refers to a group of people living in a particular locality we can see its existence. Hence it is concrete.

**(13)** A community exists within society and possesses distinguishable structure which distinguishes it from others.

## **TYPES OF COMMUNITIES**

\*Rural Communities

\*Urban Communities

\* Tribal Communities

- **Rural communities:** are those that reside out in the country. They have many general characteristics, such as: A small population size. A generally low population density.
- **Urban Communities :** It is something which an individual thought as, an area with high density of population, an area with the availability of basic requirements, an area of good resources, the area has lots of opportunity of employment and such an area which can be considered as life-giving for luxurious desires of human

## **Tribal communities**

### **Definite Common Topography:**

Tribal people live within a definite topography and it is a common place for all the members of a particular tribe occupying that region.

the absence of a common but definite living place, the tribal will lose other characteristics of a tribal life, like common language, way of living and community sentiment etc.

### **2. Sense of Unity:**

Unless and until, a group living in a particular area and using that area as a common residence, does not possess the sense of unity, it cannot be called a tribe. Sense of unity is an invariable necessity for a true tribal life. The very existence of a tribe depends upon the tribal's sense of unity during the times of peace and war.

### **3. Endogamous Group:**

Tribal people generally do not marry outside their tribe and marriage within the tribe is highly appreciated and much applauded. But the pressing effects of changes following the forces of mobility have also changed the attitude of tribals and now, inter-tribe marriages are becoming more and more common.

### **4. Common Dialect:**

Members of a tribe exchange their views in a common dialect. This element further strengthens their sense of unity.

### **5. Ties of Blood-relationship:**

Blood-relation is the greatest bond and most powerful force inculcating sense of unity among the tribals.

## **6. Protection Awareness:**

Tribal people always need protection from intrusion and infiltration and for this a single political authority is established and all the powers are vested in this authority. The safety of the tribal is left to the skill and mental power of the person enjoying political authority. The tribal chief is aided by a tribal committee, in the events of contingencies. Tribe is divided into a number of small groups and each group is headed by its own leader. The chief of a group works according to the directives received by him from the tribal chief.

## **7. Distinct Political Organization:**

Every tribe has its own distinct political organisation which looks after the interests of tribal people. The whole political authority lies in the hands of a tribal chief. In some tribes, tribal committees exist to help the tribal chief in discharging his functions in the interests of the tribe.

- **8. Common Culture:**

Common culture of a tribe springs out from the sense of unity, common language, common religion, common political organization. Common culture produces a life of homogeneity among the tribals.

- **9. Importance of Kinship:**

Kinship forms the basis of tribal social organization. Most tribes are divided into exogamous clans and lineages. The marriage among tribals is based on the rule of tribal endogamy. Marriage is viewed as a contract and there are no prohibition on divorce and remarriage.

- **10. Egalitarian Values:**

The tribal social organization is based on the egalitarian principle. Thus there are no institutionalized inequalities like the caste system or sex based inequalities. Thus men and women enjoyed equal status and freedom. However some degrees of social inequality may be found in case of tribal chiefs or tribal kings who enjoy a higher social status, exercise political power and possess wealth.

- **11. Rudimentary type of Religion:**

Tribes believe in certain myths and a rudimentary type of religion.



# Thank you

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