

# Social Structure and Social System

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
7	Social Structure and Social System	Use various graphics/smart art to explain the bases of social system.

## Summary

Sociologists use the term structure to refer to the way in which the different parts of an entity are inter-connected and emerges as an integrated whole. Chief characteristics of social structure are normative system, positive system, system of sanctions and a system of anticipated responses. The bases of social structure are needed to pursue a goal, a preparedness to accept one's role and status; norms and mores. The words 'organisation' and 'social structure' are closely related.

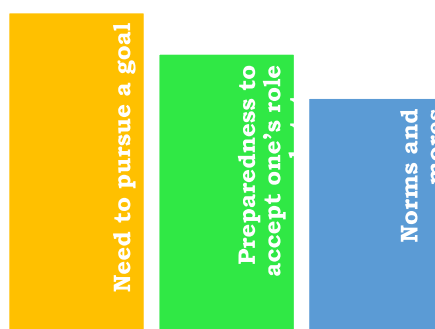
## Concept of Social Structure

- 'Structure' refers to the way parts of anything relate to one another i.e. an ordered arrangement of parts. 'Social Structure' refers to the way individuals, groups, or parts of society relate to one another. Therefore, social structure is the way a society is organized into expected social relationships.
- Its units are groups, institutions, associations and organizations.
- Individuals relate to each other in these units according to the position (status) they occupy, and role they play Hence, establishing a 'structural form'
- Individuals and units of a social structure may come and go, yet the structural form remains relatively stable through various generations of people.

## Characteristics of Social Structure:

- It is a normative system. It functions through its position system i.e. status and role that an individual occupies within it.
- The normative system requires a sanction system (i.e. rewards and punishments) for its implementation.
- Social structure is a system of anticipated response.

## Basis of Social Structure



## Relationship between Social structure and Social System

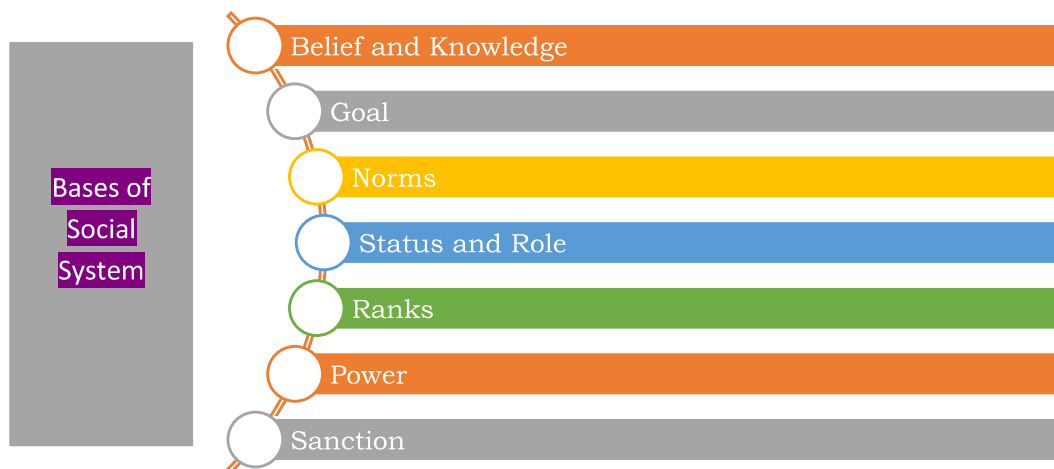
System generally means an orderly arrangement of constituent units.

The main features of a system are:

1. It is made up of different parts
2. There must be a systematic relationship between the parts
3. Arrangement of these parts should create a pattern
4. There is a functional relationship among the parts of a system. All the parts create a new entity when they are functionally related

## Characteristics of Social System

- Social system is based on interaction of plurality of individuals
- The interaction must carry a meaning
- Social system is a unity where various parts like institutions, customs, traditions, procedures and laws are arranged in an integrated manner.
- There exists a functional relationship between the parts of a social system.
- Social system is related with the cultural system.
- Social system has an environmental aspect.



## Evaluate Yourself

1. Write how functional relationship between different parts of social system exist with the help of examples?
2. 'Sentiments are closely related to beliefs'. Justify the statement with examples.
3. How would you explain the difference between ascribed and achieved status?
4. Explain different elements of social system.