

Lesson -1**COMMUNITY-DEFINITION, MEANING AND CHARACTERISTICS****1.0 Objectives:**

The objectives of this lesson are to explain the concept, definition, meaning characteristics and sociological significance of the community.

Contents:

- 1.1. Introduction
- 1.2. Definition
- 1.3. Characteristics of community.
- 1.4. Community and society
- 1.5. Association and community.
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- 1.7. Community- Sociological significance
- 1.8. Summary.
- 1.9. Key words
- 1.10. Exercises.
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1.1 Introduction :

The concept of community is applied to a village, a city, a tribe or a nation. When the members of a group live together and share the basic conditions of a common life, we call that group a community. One's life may be lived wholly within it. All of one's social relationships may be found within it. A person rarely exists alone. People residing in a particular locality should develop social likeness, should have common social ideas, common traditions and the sense of belonging together. The fact of social living and common specific area gives birth to community.

2.2 Definition:

- (i) Community is "a human population living within a limited geographic area and carrying on common inter-dependent life- (Lundberg)
- (ii) Community is "any circle of people who live together and belong together in such a way that they do not share this or that particular interest only, but a whole set of interests-(Mannheim)
- (iii) Community is "a social group with some degree of "we feeling" and "living in a given area". – (Bogardus.)
- (iv) Community is "the total organisation of social life with a limited area ". (Ogburn and Nimkoff)
- (v) Community is "the smallest territorial group that can embrace all aspects of social life." (Kingsley Davis)
- (vi) Community is "a group of social beings living a common life including all the infinite variety and complexity of relations which result from that common life or constitute it"-(Ginsberg)
- (vii) A community is a cluster of people, living within a contiguous small area, who share a common way of life" – (Green, Arnold).

The definitions refer to two approaches to the meaning of community. Some writers have given the areally based conception of the community. Others emphasized psychological aspects of the community. No community has walls around it. We may live in a village and yet belong to a wider community like nation community or world community. Communities exist within greater communities.

1.3 Characteristics of community:

The following are the Characteristics of the community.

(i) Locality:

A Community always occupies a territorial area. Even nomad community has a local basis, though changing their habitation. They will occupy some place or other wherever they are settled. The locality is a strong bond of solidarity. The development of communications weakened local bond in the modern times. This is evident by the fact that the urban patterns penetrated into rural areas. In the village people, there is unity because they reside in a definite locality. In spite of the extending facilities of communication in the modern world, the locality is still strong bond of solidarity.

(ii) Community sentiment:

The residents of a ward or district may lack common interests. They may not have conscious identification with that area. Such a 'neighbourhood' is not a community because, they do not possess a feeling of belonging together. They lack community sentiment. Though locality is a necessary condition is not enough to create a community. A community is an area of common living. There must be common living. The community should have awareness of sharing a way of life.

The great and small communities.

There is expansion of the concept of community to the dimensions of the nation and the world. The small communities still remain. The nation or world community does not eliminate the village or neighbourhood. We need smaller as well as wider communities. The great community brings more varied culture. But living in smaller community, we get more intimate satisfactions. The larger community provides peace, protection, patriotism. The smaller community provides friends and friendships, face-to-face contacts and local pride.

(iii) Group of people:

Community is a group of people. Whenever the individuals live together and share the basic conditions of common life, we call them a community.

(iv) Permanency

The community is not a temporary congregation of people. It includes a permanent life in a definite place.

(v) Naturality:

Communities are not created by an Act or legislation, but are natural. An individual is born in a community.

(vi) Likeness

In a community, there is a likeness in language, customs, mores etc. According to Green, "A community is a cluster of people living within a narrow territorial radius who share a common way of life."

(vii) Wider ends:

The communities are not for particular end. The community has wider ends. they are natural and not artificial.

(viii) A particular Name

Every community has a particular name. In the words of Lumley, "It points identity. It indicates reality; it points out individuality; it often describes personality and each community is something of a personality."

(ix) No legal status:

A community has no legal person. It cannot sue, nor it can be sued. In the eyes of the law, it has no rights and duties.

(x) Size of community:

A community may be big or small. A big community like nation will contain within it a number of small communities. Today efforts are being made to create one world community.

1.4 Difference between community and Society:

To constitute a community, the presence of community sentiment and 'we feeling' are necessary. Society is web of social relationships. It refers to the structure of all social relationships direct or indirect. There is an element of likeness in society, but the enemies can also be included in society. When we think of 'society', we think of the organization. When we think of community, we think of life whence organization springs.

Society has no definite boundary or limits. Society is universal and pervasive. It is the network of social relationships. Community is a group of people living together in a particular locality.

Community is the species of society. It exists within society. Some communities are all inclusive and independent of others. Small communities exist within greater communities; the village within a town, the town within a region, the region within a nation.

Community is concrete, society is abstract. Society is a net work of social relationships which cannot be seen. It is an abstract concept. Community is a concrete concept. We can locate this group and locate its existence.

Zimmerman and Frampton describe the distinction between community and society as follows. "In the community (Gemeinschaft), the group has a life of its own, superior to that of its temporary members. The group is an end in it self. In the society (Gesellschaft), the group is merely a means to an end. In the 'Gemeinschaft', we have faith, customs, natural solidarity, common ownership of property, and a common will. In the Gesellschaft we have doctrine, public opinion, fashion, contractual solidarity, private property, and individual will".

1.5 Differences between association and community:

Association is a group within a community. An association is partial, while community is a whole. An association is formed for specific purpose. A community includes the whole circle of common life. It is not deliberately created. It is more comprehensive, more spontaneous than any association.

Associations exist within community. There are a number of associations within a community. Association is an organisation within the community. Association is an artificial creation, community is a natural growth. Association is deliberately created for a specific purpose. Community is not created but it grows out of community sentiment. It is spontaneous.

Membership of an association has limited significance, while membership of community is of wider significance. Membership of association is voluntary, but the membership of community is compulsory. Community sentiment is an essential feature of community, but not of association. A community works through customs and traditions, while an association works through written laws and rules.

1.6 Differences between Institution and community:

Institution is an organization of rules, traditions and usages, while community is a group of people. Institution is a structure of society to fulfill some specific needs, while community fulfils almost all the needs. Institution is abstract whereas community is concrete. Individuals are the members of community and not of the institution. Every institution is concerned with one aspect of life, while community is concerned with the whole of social life. Institution is based on the collective aspects of human beings, while community is based on mutual relationships. Institutions are born in a community while a community grows it self.

1.7 Community-its sociological significance:

Community is the most inclusive groupings of man. There is possibility for the individual member to live his whole life within it. Community possesses a distinctively territorial character. It implies a common soil as well as shared way of life. Geography sets broad limits within which may develop a wide variety of civilizational complexes. The local area is a basic condition of social relationships that holds the group together. It gives it a distinctive social form. There is relationship between locality and cultural development. The literature of human ecology reveals the accommodation patterns of man in different types of environment found within the city or the country. Every group creates, for all its members, an environment of its own.

Community sentiment stimulates a common interest among the members of a locality. This common interest has its broad or inclusive character. It is not attached to specific objects but to the whole background of daily life, to place and people together. It embraces both what belongs to us, the heritage of tradition, the position we occupy in community, the familiar features and our possessions, and what we belong to, the obligations and responsibilities that hold us within the accepted social order. These strands are variously interwoven into the community sentiment.

Common interest here as elsewhere combines with self-limited interest in various proportions, that is, with individual perception of private benefits and advantages, and with the sense of prestige or

privilege or power that the particular community bestows upon its members. In so far as the common interest extends among them, however, it represents an attachment to the complex unity of place and group.

1.8. Summary:

The concept of community is applied to a village, a city, a tribe or a nation. Community is a social group with some degree of "we feeling" and "living in a given area". The bases of community are locality and community sentiment. There is expansion of the concept of community to the dimensions of the nation and the world. The characteristics of the community include (i) Locality, (ii) Community sentiment, (iii) Group of people, (iv) Permanency, (v) Naturality, (vi) Likeness, (vii) Wider ends, (viii) A particular name, (ix) No legal status, and (x) Size.

There are differences between community and society. Society has no definite boundary or limits. Community is a group of people living together in a particular locality. There are differences between association and community. Association is a group within a community. Associations exist within community. There are differences between institution and community. Institution is a structure of society to fulfil some specific needs, while community fulfils almost all the needs.

Community is the most inclusive groupings of man. The individual lives his whole life within it. The local area is a basic condition of social relationships that holds the group together. Community sentiment stimulates a common interest among the members of a locality.

1.9. Key words:

- (I) Community sentiment.
- (II) Association
- (III) Institution
- (IV) Society.

1.10 Exercises:

1. Define community and discuss its characteristics
2. Bring out the differences between community and society,
3. Discuss the sociological significance of community.

1.11. Reference Books :

1. Maciver, R.M & page, C.H (1959) : Society, An introductory Analysis, London, MC millan & co.
2. Sachdeva, Dr. & Bhushan.V (1982) : An introduction to Sociology, Kitab mahal, Allahabad, Delhi.

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LESSON -2**MAJOR FORMS OF COMMUNITY****2.0. Objectives:**

The Objectives of this lesson are to explain major forms of community and their differences.

Contents:

- 2.1. Introduction
- 2.2. Meaning of community
- 2.3. Elements of community
- 2.4. The Rural community
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- 2.8. Summary
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2.1. Introduction:

The term community we apply to a pioneer settlement, a village, a city, or a nation. Whenever the members of any group, small or large, live together in such a way that they share, not this or that particular interest, but the basic conditions of a common life, we call that group a community. The mark of a community is that one's life may be lived wholly within it. One cannot live wholly within a business organisation or a church; one can live wholly within a tribe or a city. The basic criterion of community, then, is that of all of one's social relationship, may be found (Maciver and page)

2.2. Meaning of community:

The word 'community' has been derived from two words of Latin, namely: 'com' and 'Munis'. In English 'com' means 'to serve together'. It means, the 'community' is an organisation of human beings formed for the purposes of serving together. We know that a person cannot live alone. He is linked to his fellows in many ways. People who reside in a particular locality should develop social likeness, should have common social ideas, common traditions and the sense of belonging together. The basic elements of community are a geographic area and sentiment of unity.

Definition of community:

Bogardus defined community as "social group with some 'we feeling' and living in a given area". Where a certain number of individuals live a common life in a locality, we call those persons a community.

Osborn and Neumeyer define the community as "group of people living in a contiguous geographic area, having common centres of interests and activities, and functioning together in the chief concerns of life".

Ogborn and Nimkoff define the community as "any circle of people who live together and belong together and not for one interest only, but for a whole set of interests".

Community has a spontaneous growth:

No community is deliberately created by the people with a purpose; but it grows itself spontaneously. Community has a natural origin and growth due to natural and automatic forces. Common customs, conventions, religious beliefs bind the individuals together.

7. Permanence:

Communities are durable because, they have developed themselves. There are age-old communities still existing in the modern era. A community may be big or small. There are big communities like the nation which include a number of small communities.

Now efforts are being made to make the entire world as one community. Big and small communities are essential for human life. While big communities give protection to the people, the small communities provide intimate relations, friendship, unity, solidarity and sense of belongingness.

Communities may be classified under three major forms i.e rural, urban and tribal communities. The characteristics and the differences among the major forms of the communities are described in the following lines.

2.4. The Rural community:

A rural community is that form of association maintained between the people and their institutions in a local area in which they live in a village which usually forms centre of a group of families living in a geographical area who generally think of themselves as living in the locality to which they often give a name, and who interact with each other through visiting, borrowing and lending tools, extending services, participating in social activities.

There is isolation in the country life and the family is also isolated from the rest of the world. The type of the family relationships that exists in the rural society are primary; family customs are deeply rooted in the individual. The individual has no relation with the other people of the world. The customs rule over him. So a rural society is characterized by primary relationships. The main occupation of the countrymen is fishing or farming. The occupation depends upon the geographical basis of the rural community. The ruralite makes out a living from the powers of the Nature. He is influenced by the climate, the nature of the soil and seasons. The agricultural occupation influences his social life also. His work and leisure are determined by the powers of the Nature. In bad years he falls into debt. In good years he may earn a living; he has to observe simplicity of living since his contacts are fewer; he need not be showy.

In rural life family imposes greater control over the members. The status of the individual is the status of the family. Property is considered as a family possession. Marriage itself is a duty to the family in rural life. Religion, occupation, mode of living, recreation and politics are influenced by the family conditions in the rural community. Social control exists in a large measure in a rural community.

The size of the rural community is relatively small. The density of population in a rural community is lower than that of the urban community. Rural communities are homogeneous in racial and psychological traits. Territorial, occupational and other forms of social mobility of the population are less in the rural community. There are less numerous contacts per man in the rural community. There is narrow area of interaction system in the rural community.

In the concept of community, greater emphasis is put upon unity that is resultant due to common living than its regional aspect.

Lundey defined "community" as a collective institution of the people with common as well as diversified objects. He writes:

"A community may be defined as a permanent local aggregation of people having diversified as well as common interest and served by a constellation of institutions"

According to prof. Menzar, "A society that inhabits a definite geographic area is known as a community".

2.3. Elements of community:

The following are the elements of community.

1. Group of people:

Community is a group of people who live together and share the basic conditions of common life.

2. Common life:

Prof. Elwood maintains that the life of the people in a community is near about the same. There is not much difference between the way of life of the individuals. Their dietary pattern, dressing habits, language are found to be similar. Since they live together in a particular geographical area, they have emotional and cultural uniformity. Community is not deliberately formed with a certain aim or objective. They are the out come of social uniformity among the individuals.

3. Locality:

A community always occupies a definite locality. The area need not be fixed in one place. For instance, the nomadic tribe change their places of residence from time to time. Yet they live together as a community, wherever they occupy a particular locality. The communities develop strong bond of solidarity wherever they reside in a particular locality. The village people get unity because they reside in a definite locality. Due to development of communications in the modern world, the territorial bond has been weakened, " yet the basic character of locality as a social classifier has never been transcended".

4. Community always has a particular name:

Society may not be having a particular name; but community has a particular name. Community is always known with a particular name. For example, based on the linguistic condition, people living in Punjab are called Punjabis; people living in Kashmiri culture are called kashmiris.

5. Common Sentiment:

Community sentiment means a sense of belonging together. In big cities, a person does not know his next door neighbor. Intimate contacts are found lacking in big cities and it does not create community sentiment. For creating community sentiment, a group of people should live together in a particular locality and share basic conditions of life. Community is an area of common living. There should be awareness of sharing a way of life as well as the common earth to develop community sentiment. Community sentiment is an essential element of community.

2.5. Change in the rural community:

The village community is undergoing change in different spheres.

(1) Caste system:

The British rule in India gave a serious blow to the caste system in the villages. The British rulers induced the different castes to adopt other occupations in the place of traditional ones. The hold of caste panchayat was loosened. Even untouchability is abolished.

(2) Jajmani system:

The 'Jajmani' system, a feature of village community in India has weakened now. The occupations of the village people are now not based on caste system. The payment for services is not in kind; it is now mostly cash payment.

(3) Family system:

The joint family is no longer the characteristic of the village community. Nuclear families have come into existence. The family control over members is weakened.

(4) Marriage system:

The boys and girls are now consulted by the parents in mate-choice. The marriage rites are minimized. The custom of child marriage is now abolished.

(5) Living standards:

The standard of living in the village is going higher. There are changes in the diet and dress. Schools have been opened.

(6) Economic system:

The educated rural youth seek jobs in cities. The government gives financial assistance for setting up industries in villages. The per capita income has increased.

(7) Political system:

Panchayats promoted political consciousness. The newspapers, radio, and television have added to the political knowledge of the villages.

villages in India are passing through a transitional period. The old social relations, bonds and ties have disappeared. The community consciousness is decreasing.

2.6 Urban community:

Urban communities emphasize more the secondary groups. The Urban dweller comes into contact with many groups of people during a day. The populations of urban communities are relatively heterogeneous. Social mobility is high in the city. Urban communities have altered the natural environment more conspicuously than have most rural communities. There is predominance of man made environment over natural environment in the urban community.

The size of the urban communities is much larger than the rural communities. The density of population of cities is greater than in rural communities. Social differentiation and stratification is more in the urban community. There are territorial, occupational and other forms of social mobility of population from the country to city. There are more numerous contacts in the city; there is predominance of secondary contacts. There is predominance of impersonal, casual and short lived relations. There is greater complexity, superficiality and standardised formality of relations. Man is interacted as a name

and address. The work of the urban dweller is specialized in the city. There is aggregation instead of isolation. There will be associations of many kinds. There is specialization of economic tasks. There are unlimited opportunities; there is a competitive living contrary to the rural life.

In an urban community family controls are weakened. Regulation of the conduct of the individual is undertaken by specialized associations. Police, courts and teachers take away the functions of the family. There the social control will be exercised by associations. In the city, the social status of the individual can be changed from time to time. There is uncertainty about future in a city. An individual's career is influenced by a lucky contact or sudden opportunity. The urbanite is influenced by novelty and excitement. Thus there is a marked contrast between the social life of the country and that of the city.

2.7 Tribal community:

Tribe is a social group having many clans, nomadic bands, villages or other sub-groups; living on a definite geographical area, a separate language, a separate and singular culture.

(1) Either a common political organisation, or.

(2) Feeling of common determination against those outside their trade.

Imperial Gazette of India define a tribe as, " a collection of families, bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is usually not endogamous, though originally it might have been so".

Bogardus defines, " the tribal group is based on the need for protection, on ties of blood relationship and on the strength of a common religion".

Characteristics of a Tribe:

1. Tribes have a common territory
2. The members of tribe have a sense of unity.
3. All tribals belonging to tribe speak a common language.
4. A tribe is an endogamous group of people
5. A tribe has its own definite political organisation.
6. there is blood-relationship among the members.
7. Religion dominates the life of the people living in tribes.
8. Each tribe has its own common name.

Social life:

1. The tribal people lead a simple and integrated life
2. Their life is not multifarious. A tribal plays a single role.
3. In tribal community, the nature of social interaction is that of a primary group.
4. Folkways and mores regulate the life of people and maintain the law and order.
5. As far as punishment is concerned, it is generally group censure or in extreme cases punishment from the tribe.
6. Family is the only place for socialization of the Youngsters.
7. A tribal society is small as well as homogeneous in its organisational structure.
8. It is the duty of elders to see that the youngsters behave properly.
9. A tribal society is small as well homogeneous in its organizational structure.
10. It is the duty of the elders to see that the youngsters behave properly.
11. Tribal life is dominated by religion and the inhabitants believe in totemism, Magic and fetishism.

12. A tribal society is an endogamous group.

Economic life:

1. Their life is confined to a particular physical environment and resources.
2. The main occupations of the tribals are hunting and food gathering.
3. Tribal's chief technology is development of hunting techniques and processing of animals into edible eatables.
4. Generally all the necessary articles are managed by the tribals and rarely they depend upon outside help.
5. Tribals weave, bark and process fibres from plants as their major source of housing and clothing.
6. Institutions of private property, Credit and exchange do not exist.

2.8 Summary:

The basic elements of community are geographic area and sentiment of unity. The other elements of community include:

2. Group of people
3. Common life
4. Locality
5. Community to have a particular name
6. Common sentiment
7. Community has spontaneous growth
8. Permanence

Communities may be classified under three major forms i.e, Rural, Urban and tribal communities. There is isolation in the country life and the family is also isolated from the rest of the world. A rural society is characterized by primary relationships. The main occupation of the countrymen is fishing or farming.

Now the village community is undergoing change in different spheres. The hold of caste panchayat was loosened. Even untouchability is abolished. The 'Jajmani' system, a feature of village community in India has weakened now. The occupations of the village people are now not based on caste system. The joint family is no longer the characteristic of the village community. The boys and girls are now consulted by the parents in mate-choice. The standard of living in the village is going higher.

Urban communities emphasize more the secondary groups. The populations of urban communities are relatively heterogeneous. Social mobility is high in the city. The density of population of cities is greater than in rural communities.

Tribe is a social group having many clans, nomadic bands, villages or other sub-groups, living in a definite geographical area, a separate language, a separate and singular culture. Tribes have a common territory. The members of a tribe have a sense of unity. Each tribe has its own common name. The tribal people lead a simple and integrated life. The main occupations of tribals are hunting and food gathering.

2.9 Key words:

- b) Jajmani system
- c) Rural community
- d) Urban community.

2.10 Exercises:

- 2. Discuss the major forms of community.
- 3. Bring out the differences among rural, urban and tribal communities.

2.11 Reference books:

- 1. Das, A.C. (1972) : An introduction to the study of society, Calcutta university press.
- 2. Maclver & R.M., Page, C.H. (1959) : Society, An introductory Analysis, London, Mcmillan & Co.
- 3. Sachedeva, D.R. and Bhushan, V: An Introduction to sociology, (1982) Kitab Mahal, Allahabad, Delhi.

LESSON – 3**COMMUNITY ORGANISATION DEFINITION & SCOPE****3.0 Objective:**

After studying the lesson you will be able to learn

- Definition of community Organisation and its objectives
- Scope and nature of community Organisation

Structure

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Definition of Community Organisation
- 3.3 Characteristics of Community Organisation
- 3.4 Aims and Objectives of Community Organisation
- 3.5 Nature and scope of Community Organisation
- 3.6 Steps in community Organisation
- 3.7 Community Planning and Community Organisation
- 3.8 Summary
- 3.9 Key Words
- 3.10 Exercise
- 3.11 Reference Books

3.1 Introduction:

Social Work functions to find solutions for problems of social adjustment, its aim is not only to help the individual, the family and the group in their relationship but it is also concerned with the improvement of general conditions. Social Work seeks two things for people-economic well-being and the deeper sources of happiness, that is self-realization. The aim of social work is to remove social injustice to relieve, distress, to prevent suffering and to assist the weaker members of society to rehabilitate themselves and their families and in sort, fight the five giant evils of (1) physical want, (2) disease, (3) Ignorance, (4) Squalor, (5) idleness. Social Worker working as a caseworker efficiency and motivates them to take part in social action effectively. As a group worker he develops the capacity in individuals to lead happy group life. Through Community Organisation method attempts to maintain adjustment between social welfare needs and social welfare resources. Information regarding community are collected its needs and problems are studied, priorities are made, resources are mobilized to meet these needs, programmes are made for the development of the community. Programmes are organised on the basis of community. Programmes are organised on the basis of community participation, and interaction process is directed to achieve desired goals.

3.2 Definition of Community Organisation:

The term Community Organisation become an important concept in the Social

Work profession due to the publication of the Committee Report in 1939, which identified Community Organisation as a method of social work. Here we are giving some of the important definitions of Community Organisation formulated by different thinkers.

"Community Organisation is that phase of social Organisation which constitutes a conscious effort on the part of a community to control its affairs democratically, and to secure the highest services from its specialists; organizations, agencies and institutions by means of recognized inter-relations" - Lindmann (1921)

"Community Organisation in its generic sense is deliberately directed effort to assist groups in attaining unity of purpose and action. It is practiced, though often with out recognition of its character, whenever the objective is to achieve or maintain a pooling of talents and resources of two or more groups on behalf of either general or specific objective". — Mc Millan (1947)

"Community Organisation is a process by which a community identifies its needs or objectives, orders (or ranks) these needs or objectives, develops the confidence and will to work at those needs or objectives, finds the resources (internal and/ or external) to deal with these needs or objectives, takes action in respect of them, and in so doing extends and develops cooperative and collective attitude and practices in the community" — Ross (1955)

"Community organization refers to various methods of intervention whereby a professional change agent helps a community action system composed of individuals, groups or organizations to engage in planned collective action in order to deal with social problems with in a democratic system of values" — Kramar (1969)

Community Organisation includes two words: community and its organisation. Community has been defined in terms of geographical boundaries. The area must have some common characteristics Watner states "the word community denotes a number of people sharing certain interests, sentiments, behaviours and objects in common interests in the social welfare field and where the community organisation process is being attempted. It may be a small community, a section of a city, an entire city, a metropolitan area, a country, a state or a nation. Organisation is a process through which it is made possible for people of a community to work out problems involved in coordinating the social services that are provided by all types of agencies-economic development, health, welfare and others.

3.3 Characteristics of Community Organisation:

1. It is a process by which the capacity of the community to function more positively and progressively grows. The social worker makes this process conscious, deliberative and understandable.
2. Community Organisation makes possible the community to identify its needs when community involves itself in solving its problems, the first job of the worker is to help the community to focus its attention upon the problems about which it is disturbed.
3. After the identification of the needs, community is helped by a worker to establish some order of priority among these needs so that efforts may be taken accordingly to fulfill these needs.