

With the advancement of society this degree of interdependence increases manifold. Family being the first society is based on the biological interdependence of the sexes. Not only individuals are interdependent but also the groups, communities and societies. Both cooperation and conflict are two another important characteristics of society because famous sociologist Macver once remarked that society is cooperation crossed by conflict. Cooperation is essentially essential for the formation of society. Without cooperation there can be no society. People cannot maintain a happy life without cooperation. Family being the first society rests on cooperation. Cooperation avoids mutual destructiveness and results in economy in expenditure. Like cooperation conflict is also necessary for society. Conflict act as a cementing factor for strengthening social relations. In a healthy and well developed society both cooperation and conflict co-exist because with the help of these two universal process society is formed. Conflict makes cooperation meaningful. Conflict may be direct and indirect. However both are necessary for society. Social relationships are the foundation of society. That is why famous sociologist Macver remarked that society is a network of social relationship. Hence it is difficult to classify social relationships. But this social relationship is based on mutual awareness or recognition to which Cooley call we-feeling, Giddings call consciousness of kind and Thomas as common propensity. Without these social relationships no society could be formed. As social relationships are abstract in nature so also the society is abstract in nature. Different kinds of social processes like cooperation, conflict constantly takes place in society. And the relationships established around these create society. Hence a network of social relationships which created among individuals constitutes society. Permanency is another important characteristic of society. It is not a temporary organisation of individuals. Society continues to exist even after the death of individual members. Society is a coherent organisation. Society is an abstract concept. As Macver opines society is a web of social relationships. We cannot see this relationship but we can feel it. Hence it is an abstract concept. Wright has rightly remarked that society in essence means a state or condition, a relationship and is, therefore, necessarily an abstraction, besides society consists of customs, traditions, folkways, mores and culture which are also abstract. Hence society is

abstract in nature. The very nature of society is dynamic and changeable. No society is static. Every society changes and changes continuously. Old customs, traditions, folkways, mores, values and institutions got changed and new customs and values takes place. Society changes from its traditional nature to modern nature. Hence it is one of the most important characteristic of society. Culture is another important characteristic of society. Each and every society has its own culture which distinguishes it from others. Culture is the way of life of the members of a society and includes their values, beliefs, art, morals etc. Hence culture is comprehensive because it fulfils the necessities of social life and is culturally self-sufficient. Besides each and every society transmits its cultural pattern to the succeeding generations. No doubt society consists of individuals. But mere collection of individuals is not society. It is something more than that and something beyond the individual.