

Social Institutions

What is a social institution?

- Complex integrated set of social norms organised around preservation of certain social values
 - Family
 - Government
 - Economy
 - Education
 - Religion

Function of Institutions

- They have a purpose
- Relatively permanent in their content
- They are structured
- There is some uniformity in the structure
- They are characterised by some values

Family

- Most basic of all institutions
- Serves the person's need to belong to and receive and give love
- Satisfies the need for care and socialisation
- Serves the procreation needs of society
- Different types of family – nuclear, joint and extended
- Marriage is the foundation of family life

Government

- A government is an institution entrusted with making and enforcing the rules of a society as well as with regulating relations with other societies.
- Types: monarchy, democracy, authoritarianism and totalitarianism
- Monarchy – Kingdom
- Democracy – for the people and by the people
- Authoritarianism – no participation of the people
- Totalitarianism – Control over the people -

Education

- To impart knowledge to all
- School, Colleges, University, Skill institutions and others
- Specialised knowledge and skills

Economy

- The economy is the social institution responsible for the production and distribution of goods.
- The two dominant economic systems in the world are **capitalism**, under which resources and means of production are privately owned, and **socialism**, a system under which those resources are owned by the society as a whole.
- Factories, Companies, Commercial outlets (shops), Chains (shopping Malls etc)

Religion

- Religion is a social institution that answers questions and explains the seemingly inexplicable.
- Religion provides explanations for why things happen and demystifies the ideas of birth and death.
- Religions based on the belief in a single God (monotheistic) or many Gods/Goddesses (polytheistic).
- Hinduism, Islam (Book), Christianity (Book), Sikhism (Book), Buddhism, Jainism etc.