Community and Association

Meaning, Characteristics and Differences
Meaning of Community

Traditionally a "community" has been defined as a group of interacting people living in a common location. The word is often used to refer to a group that is organized around common values and is attributed with social cohesion within a shared geographical location, generally in social units larger than a household.

The word "community" is derived from the Old French *communité* which is derived from the Latin *communitas* (*cum*, "with/together" + *munus*, "gift"), a broad term for fellowship or organized society.
Definitions

“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.”  
*MacIver and Page*

“A community may be thought of as the total organisation of social life within a limited area.”  
*Ogburn and Nimkoff*

“A society that inhabits a definite geographic area is known as a community”  
*Maxzer*
## Dimensions of Community

Community has three Dimensions:

1. **Geographical:** Communities are settlements, they can usually be located on maps.

2. **Psychological:** The people of an ideal community share a common culture: a common set of beliefs, values and norms.

3. **Organisational:** Societies and institutions within them are collections of norms and roles that govern and channel social interaction. Community members are expected to be familiar with the entire system of norms and roles.
Elements of Community

1. **Territory:** The group of people forms a community when it begins to reside in a definite locality. A community always occupies a territorial area. The area need not be fixed forever.

2. **We-Feeling:** We – feeling means that members of a community have a feeling of belonging together, it also refers of the awareness gives them a degree of toleration about others’ sentiments.

3. **Commonness:** Community means people sharing a common way of life. As a result of collective participation in the affairs and the prevalent mode of life in the community, there grows a sense of mutual identifications of hopes and aspirations among members.

4. **Ideology:** The members of community share a common ideology
## Features of Community

1. **Group of People:** Group of people share the basic conditions of common life. Group members can act collectively in an organised manner.

2. **Permanency:** Includes permanent group life in definite place community is relatively stable.

3. **Naturality:** Community is established in a normal and natural way, they are not made or created by an act of will or by planned efforts. Individual become members of the group by birth. Community is spontaneous in their origin.

4. **Likeness:** Language, practices, customs, traditions, folkways, mores are common. People share the common way of life and works through customs and traditions.
Features of Community

5. **Wider Ends:** People associate not for the fulfillment of a particular end, they are natural and wider but not an artificial. The membership of community is of wide significance.

6. **Particular name:** Each community will have its own specified name indicating the reality in individuality and describes the total personalities.

7. **Legal Status:** Community has no legal status.
**Association**

Association is a group of people, formed to a particular goal. Such a group is not of a permanent type. Its membership is voluntary and it can be dissolved after the attainment of the goal.

An association is sort of a cooperative unit having its own organisation, rules and regulations.
Definitions

“An association is a group organised for the pursuit of an interest or group of interests in common.”

*Maclver and Page*

“Association is usually working together or people to achieve some purpose.”

*Bogardus*

“An association is a group of social beings related to one another by the fact that they possess or have instituted in common, an organisation with a view to achieving specific ends.”

*Ginsberg*
# Features of Association

1. **Group of People:** An association is a group of people who form it for the attainment of common goals.

2. **Voluntary Membership:** Only those people who endorse the common goals of the association become its members. Membership is voluntary and cannot be imposed on people who do not wish to do so.

3. **Common Goals:** Members form an association for the attainment of common objectives. Those who do not endorse these objectives do not become members of the association.
## Distinction Between Association and Community

1. Membership of association is voluntary, whereas membership of community is compulsory.
2. An association is man-made and community is natural.
3. An association is partial, community is whole.
4. An association exists within a community.
5. An association is temporary, a community is permanent.
6. Association cannot exist with formal rules and regulations whereas, community exists on social conduct.
### Distinction Between Association and Community

7. In association, social control is exercised by formal means whereas, in community social control is exercised by informal means.

8. In association, president, secretaries are the office bearers. There are no such formal positions in community.

9. Pre-condition of the existence of community is the we-feeling among the members. In Association there might be no we-feeling among the members.
Therefore, we can say that associations are simply formed for the fulfillment of certain goals and are temporary in nature. Community, however, is of permanent type and takes care of different facets of human life.
THANK YOU ...

Veenat
Dept. of Sociology
PGGCG- Sec 11
Chandigarh