

CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

A society consists of a number of individuals. Each individual is expected to do or discharge his/her duty according to his/her position in the society. The position or status of a person is measured in terms of what the person is expected to discharge to the society concerned. Thus, social status can be defined as the position of an individual in a social system with attendant rights and duties.

The social status of a person is evaluated by means of different kinds of phenomena. Modern sociologists talk about the evaluation of social status in terms of assessing :

- (1) the individual's position in the informal and formal groups of the family
- (2) the individual's role in terms of the activities in different social settings whereby he/she relates himself/herself to the larger society
- (3) the value system or the world view which places the individual or group in that society
- (4) the expression of social status as represented symbolically by various cultural dimensions in terms of the ideal or normative types