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