

## Concept of Society

### Introduction

The term "society" which came from the Latin word *societas* generally designates persons belonging to a specific in-group. In anthropology, the term is used to refer not only to a group of people but also to the complex pattern of the norms of interaction that arise among them. Men express their nature by creating and recreating an organisation which guides and controls their behaviour in several ways. "This organisation, society, liberates and limits the activities of men, sets up standards for them to follow and maintain: whatever the imperfections and tyrannies it has exhibited in human history, it is a necessary condition of every fulfilment of life". Society exists only where social beings behave toward one another in ways determined by their recognition of one another. The more complex a society is, the more varied the social relationships are. Society, however, is not restricted to humans alone. Animals also live societies. The features of either a human society or an animal society are a certain level of association, a level closer and more intricate than a mere aggregation but looser and less complex than an organism. Further, the units they bring together on this level are not cells or organs but individuals. However, the society in which man lives has been distinguished from that of animals due to its government by culture. Man's social life is governed by culture and family is often regarded as the first form of society.