

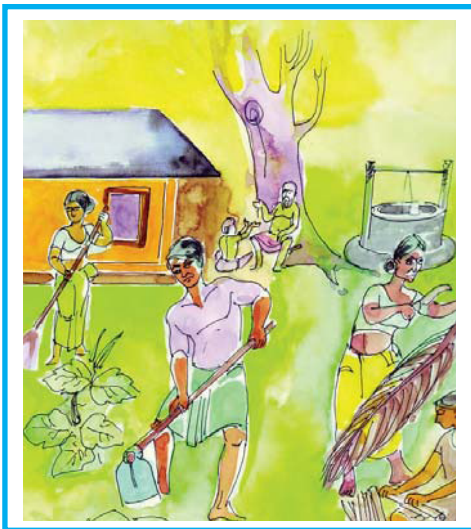


Our Society

◆ Introduction

The most elementary unit of society is the Family. A number of families together will create a society. Based on various objectives, a society maintains inter-relationships. Society consists of various institutions and organizations. These are helpful for the survival of a good society. We get various benefits from social organizations. There are so many duties to be performed by us. The main objective of this chapter is to get students to comprehend these facts.

Society refers to a collection of people, institution and organizations. All persons whom you meet in society, including your family, relations and acquaintances are members of this society. They join in the achievement of the various objectives and requirements. Mutual relationships among them will be developed.



7.2

People work Together

The family will be mainly responsible for the development of any society. Mother, father, brothers, sisters, grandmother and grandfather etc. are members of a family. A collection of such families creates a society.

Human society originated hundreds and thousands of years ago. They also got together and lived together for the fulfillment of various objectives and requirements. They were bound by social duties and responsibilities.



fig 7.1
Work in unity

The smallest social unit of a society is the family. Society is formed through collection of such small units. These live together and help each other. (Fig: 7.1)

You proceed to an ant-hill. Look at it carefully. Termites live together in harmony. Take the case of a Bee hive. The bees find their food together. One common feature is

seen in their lives. That is, they live in harmony, and get together in danger. These qualities are seen in our society too.



Activities

1. Discuss how a society is formed.



Assignment

1. Observe carefully, the behaviour of termites, bees and ants. Report on how they behave. Observe some such species and compile a report.
2. A common feature in the animal world is to come together in a calamity without any difference. Write an essay regarding this common feature of the animal world after considering it carefully.



Diversity in Society

There are various differences in society. By examining carefully the family, society or country these diversities could be identified. You are a member of society, also a member of the neighbourhood society and school. Society covers villages and towns. We are all members of society. Hence, it is important to understand the various differences existing in the components of society.

When we are small, we live in the mother's lap. Now after becoming adults, we represent society. Think about a small nest of birds. Until the wings become strong enough to fly, the mother bird and father bird feed and protect nestlings. When they grow wings these small birds join the other birds and live together. When you were small, you grew under the protection of your parents. After becoming an adult you become a member of society.

Any society has its own differences. Dresses and ornaments, customs and practices, languages spoken vary. Members follow different religions. In many occasions their appearances, also differ. Anyhow, we all belong to one family. Imagine a forest. There are various trees and plants in it. Various animals live there. Trees, plants, animals contribute to the wellbeing and existence of the forest. This diversity of the jungle, assists the wellbeing and existence of the forest. There are differences in human society. Although there are differences, society remains a common unit. The diversity of society, contributes to its wellbeing in many ways.



Activities

1. Discuss the diversity in the animal world and collect information.
2. On a flow chart show how society with the family, village and the school is formed.



Structure of Sri Lankan Society

The structure of a society is built through elementary features like race, religion and language. Sri Lankan society comprises Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher and Malay ethnic groups. They speak the language inherited by the respective ethnic groups. Among these are Sinhala, Tamil, English and Malay languages. Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity and Islam are the religions in Sri Lanka.

Similarly in most countries of the world there are people of various religions, speaking various languages. They live peacefully and also work together. This can be seen from the incident below.

One day Ama received a letter from an Indian friend. A part of it is given below.

Be Happy !

Dear friend Ama,

“..... My Motherland is sixty four times bigger than your Country. Hindu, Malay, Gujarat, Dravida, Bengali, ethnic groups live here. They speak different languages. The people worship various religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Catholicism, Islam and Jainism. We all are children of Mother India. Other countries call us as Indians”.



Activity

1. Write a letter to a foreign friend with information about Sri Lankan Society.



Assignment

1. Identify various differences in the society you live in. Include the ethnic groups, languages, customs and practices and religions of that society and prepare an attractive leaflet.



Inter-relationships in society.

There are objectives formed among individuals and families as well as in society. These objectives are based on expectations. Interrelationships are formed targeting these expectations.

Similarly, relationships are formed between organizations, and various societies, based on objectives and expectations. Relationships between individuals and organizations, are also formed. These can be called inter-relationships prevailing in society.



How are inter-relationships formed

Inter-relationships are formed within family members, relations, neighbours and villagers based on various objectives and expectations.

There are various reasons for the creation of these relationships.

- Economic needs.
- Leisure and amusement
- Educational needs
- Political
- Cultural
- To live together

In human society, there are various occasions where interrelationships are formed. These relationships establish a healthy and effective society. For Sri Lankans, the major festival which has cultural as well as national significance is the Sinhala and

Hindu New Year. In order to get an understanding about inter-relationships which are formed there, the extract given below.

“On 13th of April (Bak) we were awakened by the “cooing of the cuckoo”. All of us were very happy. From the previous day we had all been getting ready for the New Year. Mother did everything according to the auspicious time schedule. She arranged the table nicely. The table was loaded with milkrice (Kiribath), sweets, cakes and bananas. Mother invited everyone to the table. She fed each of us with a mouthful of Kiribath. All enjoyed having food. Our mother gave us plates containing sweets, to be handed over to our neighbours. The neighbourhood children also were in our home. We swung ourselves singing songs.”

Inter-relationships are very important in a society both in times of happiness and sorrow. Helping others, is a special feature in our society. Helping, those who are in distress is a common feature. These are helpful for the wellbeing of a society.



Benefits of having Inter-relationships in Society

Inter-relationships in a society are important in many ways. The major benefits among many are given below.

- Unity among various ethnic groups.
- Co-operation of others is given to carry out work. Therefore time taken for it is also minimized.
- In common activities, due to the combination of knowledge and intelligence of many participants, productivity is increased and expenditure is decreased.
- There will be goodwill, enjoyment, friendship, peace and common feelings among people who participate in the work.



Activities

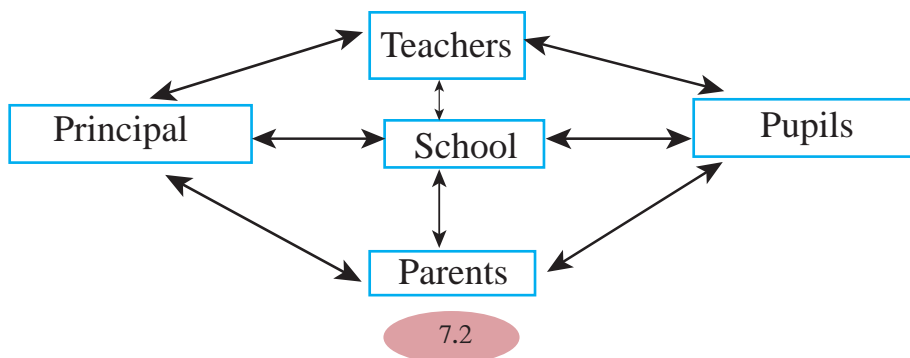
1. Discuss how inter-relationships are formed in cultivation, constructions, fishing and Sramadana Campaigns.
2. Due to the creation of interrelationships a special value is given to the under mentioned words. Make sentences using those words in relation to interrelationships.

(Unity, Collectiveness, Agreement, Cordiality, Friendship, commonly, Profit, Happiness, Entertainment, Patience, Experiences, Knowledge, Improvement, Benevolence, Understanding.)



Inter-relationships in School

These relationships are centered on four main groups. They are the Principal, teachers, parents and students.



Inter-relationships leading to the wellbeing of a school.

The head of a school is the Principal. He prepares the background for the wellbeing of the school. Teachers help him in this. The main task of teachers is to lead pupils in the learning process.

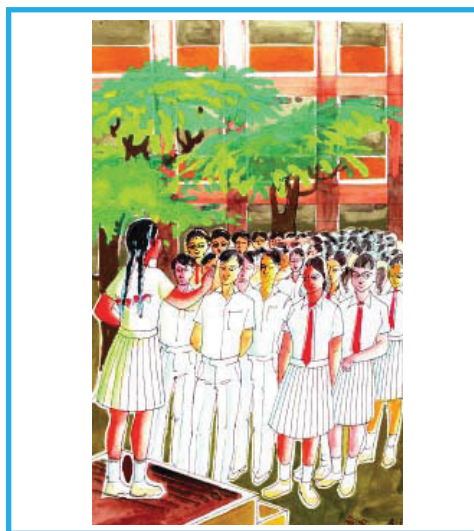
The central figure of a school is the student. The upliftment of students is the basic target of school inter-relationships. It is necessary to have co-operation of parents to fulfill this task. Hence, the school is one of the main social institutions which has inter-relationships.

Due to the relationships the school has, inter-relationships can develop among students. The school community itself is full of variety. Student groups of the same age as well as of different ages, groups of students from the same village or from different villages can be seen in a school.

As a student;

- These interrelationships in school are beneficial to you in various stages of your life.
- Examine the picture below which shows how student relationships can be formed in school.

You would meet different kinds of students in the school. You become friendly with them when you participate in sports, in school associations, societies and clubs etc. If you keep the company of good students you will be able to cultivate good qualities in you. You will have chances to help each other as a result of these relationships. Compassion, affection, kindness, unity, mercy, love, kindness and faithfulness are some of the qualities you can develop through friendships among students.



7.4

Meeting of students in a School



Activity

Perform a 'Role-play' based on a story which is about the build up of inter-relationships among students



Establishment of Inter-relationships through Mass Media

Newspapers, books and electronic media can be considered as major avenues responsible for the establishment of mutual relationships in society. These media influence the knowledge, comprehension and news consciousness of individuals in a special way.

Through mass media, inter-relationships can be extended among societies throughout the whole world. This can be described as part of a process that links societies of a country as well as of the world.

Major Types of Mass Media and Benefits derived from them.

Mass Media		Benefits
Electronic	Television	Gaining knowledge and information about the world.
	Radio	Promoting good qualities and moral values.
	Fax	Understanding of norms, customs, leisure, entertainment and enjoyment.
	Telephone Internet	
Printed	Newspapers	Get to know about national and international news and incidents.
	Books	Knowledge about culture. Knowledge about various subjects.



Activities

1. Explain how interrelationships are established through mass media.
2. Indicate the nationalities associated with the following greetings
Ayubowan....!
Wanakkam....!
Aswalam Alaiyikum....!



Institutions carrying on inter-relationships in society.

There are numerous institutions established for membership opportunities. Various services are supplied by these institutions. There are various officials and individuals to carry out such services. There are links between people and these institutions. When supplying services, links are built among these institutions.



fig.7.4

By studying the activities of these institutions, students get some understanding regarding those institutions. This gives them an incentive to develop their subject areas too. Students' skills will be developed through societies established in school. Knowledge, leadership, willingness to volunteer, organizing skills, ability to work in union, are some examples of benefits that can be derived from them.

The undermentioned occasions can be seen as two areas where interrelationships are established in a school.

- Group activities of students.
- Learning teaching process



7.4

Students learn together



Activity

Prepare a booklet regarding the administrative structure and services rendered by two selected social institutions in your area.



Organizations and Interhuman Relationships in the Society

Various organizations have been established in society. Members of society are actively engaged in these organizations. These organizations have been established, throughout the island for various purposes. Some examples are given below.

- Mutual Benefit Society
- Death Donation Society
- Samurdhi Beneficiary Society
- Village Development Societies
- Co-operative Society
- Sanasa Society
- Agriculture Development Society
- Sports Society
- Youth Society
- Childrens' Society

There are many more similar societies. Even in institutions like Schools, Kovils, Churches, there are a number of social and religious organizations which give rise to inter human relationships.



Various organizations established in Schools

Various societies have been formed in schools where inter-relationships among students are promoted. Some of them are given below.

- Literary Association
- Science Society
- Environmental Circle
- Boy Scouts Association
- Sports Association/Society



Activities

1. Name the institutions which bring about public relationships in your village.
2. What are the activities carried out by these social institutions?
3. Name the organizations established in the school and mention the work done in connection with the achievement of inter-relationships.

Form a “student citizens committee” with the participation of grade 7 students of your school under the guidance of the class teacher and with the permission of the Principal. Prepare and implement a programme to assist in the development of the school.



Our duties and responsibilities to society

Duties can be described as a collection of activities accepted as good and appropriate by society. These are performed on behalf of others. They also have a moral value.

Duties are actions and obligations performed voluntarily for the wellbeing of the family members or for the members of society.

You are a member of the family and also of society. There are numerous duties and responsibilities to be performed by you for the well-being of the family and society. It is important in many ways for the well-being of yourself, your family and society to have some understanding of these.



Duties to be performed on behalf of the family

It is the duty of parents to look after, protect and feed the children. It is the duty of children to look after the parents. Respecting priests, elders, teachers can be cited as examples of our duties. Similarly, there are many duties to be performed for our families.

It is the duty of the family members to work for the welfare of the family. It is the duty of good family members, to safeguard the unity of the family and to conduct themselves morally at all times. Directing the children for educational activities by parents and children doing their studies successfully are considered as duties. Developing cordial relationships in the family, bringing honour to the family and protecting it, are also considered as duties. Providing food and other services, promoting good relationship between the family and outsiders are included among these duties.



Activities

01. As a student, mention your duties towards your family.
02. Discuss duties and responsibilities required for the well being of society.



Our responsibilities to society

Activities or duties which are entrusted upon us to be done for the sake of our family and society are called “responsibilities”.

There is a socially accepted commitment for us to carry out responsibilities. There is a social responsibility to look after parents. Parents should feed their children when they are small. When you fail to carry out your duties you are condemned by society. When you fail to carry out your responsibilities you may be punished legally. These duties and responsibilities, cannot be separated from each other. We all are bound to carry out duties and responsibilities for the well-being of society. It is the duty and responsibility of every citizen to carry out duties and responsibilities assigned with respect to our own country and society. Some Individuals become famous through duties and responsibilities carried out for the society they live in. We have many such noble characters. Professor Senarath Paranavitana was a such noble character. He revealed the history of our motherland to the world. He dedicated his entire life to highlight ancient history to the world. Similarly, Anagarika Dharmapala was a great hero who worked to reform citizens and give knowledge about our past. He pioneered efforts to restore places of worship associated with the life of the Buddha in India. Dr. Ananda Coomarswamy was a great Sri Lankan who revealed our heritage to the world. We have met many more such noble characters.



7.7

Anagarika Dharmapala




Activity

01. Prepare a booklet about national heroes who performed and dedicated their lives for the wellbeing of the society.



Respect the laws and regulations of the country and observe them

For the wellbeing of a society, laws and regulations are essential. Enacting laws and regulations and implementing them, observing safeguarding, protecting and respecting them are the responsibility of the society. Every citizen has an obligation to protect such laws and regulations.



It is the duty of the driver and passenger to safeguard road rules. It is the responsibility of a driver to drive the vehicle while safeguarding the pedestrian and passenger. The responsibility of a passenger is to refrain from obstructing the driver.




Activities

1. Discuss road rules along with the relevant symbols.
2. With the advice of your teacher, get the assistance of a police officer to obtain an understanding about the road rules depicted by symbols.




How duties and responsibilities are being carried out

There are a number of accepted responsibilities intended for the protection of citizens and the wellbeing of society. Socially and legally, we are committed to safeguard and carry out these responsibilities.



Observance of socially accepted laws, helping in the implementation of these laws, protection of public property and rights of others are the responsibilities of all citizens.



Observance of laws is the responsibility of all of us.



Duties and responsibilities to be carried out by an Employee

- ◆ Report to the duty in time
- ◆ Attend to activities assigned to her
- ◆ Carry on productions and services as scheduled
- ◆ Work without damaging the work place.
- ◆ Maintain goodwill between administrators and employees.
- ◆ Protect public property.
- ◆ Safeguard the rights of other employees.
- ◆ Assist in the implementation of rules and regulations of the institution.
- ◆ Work for the welfare of the institution and its employees.



7.8

A nurse, treats a patient



Duties and responsibilities to be performed by a student

- ◆ Attend school on time.
- ◆ Clean the class room and the surroundings.
- ◆ Attending to studies properly.
- ◆ Respect for teachers. Disciplined behaviour.
- ◆ Observe rules and regulations of the school, and maintain discipline.
- ◆ Protect the common property of the school.
- ◆ Maintain cordial relations among all members of school.
- ◆ Safeguard the reputation of the school.
- ◆ Respect leadership.
- ◆ Collaborate in work.



Activities

Unity	Modest	Time table	Common
Public Property	Studies	Scheduled time	Skills
Respect to Teachers	Reputation	In time	Discipline
Surrounding	Obedient	School work	Class room

1. Using the words above, write sentences on duties and responsibilities you should perform for your school.
2. Prepare a note on your duties and responsibilities in keeping your classroom neat and clean.
3. Mention duties and responsibilities performed by you to your family.



Duties and responsibilities of members of service and social institutions and social organizations

Service and Social institutions are the organizations which are established to stand for a long time for the well-being of society.

School, hospital and post office are some common service institutions established by the government for the members of society. Temple, Church, Kovil are a category of social institutions established by the members of society for the promotion of virtues.

Through these institutions a special service is rendered to society. They also attend to our needs.

We get help from various Institutions

- | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Eg- Schools | → | Educational activities |
| Police | → | safeguard law and keeping peace. |
| Armed services | → | Protection of the country. |

It is our duty to protect and assist these common service and social institutions. We are bound by that responsibility.

Other than these social institutions, there are organizations established by social groups. These organizations have been formed by formulating rules and regulations for the needs of the members. The Rural Development Society, Samurdhi Beneficiary Society are examples of such organizations. These institutions attend to the needs of members and carry out duties and responsibilities of the institutions. Members are also committed to attend to their duties and responsibilities.



Activities

1. Name the social institutions established in your area for public needs and prepare a table indicating public services rendered by such institutions.
2. List the activities of a social organization established in your village.
3. Establish a school society based on duties and responsibilities of students.

Protection of one's environment is the duty and the responsibility of an individual.



The environment means the surroundings in which we live. The environment is a resource of men, animals, plants and other components. Air, water, vegetation, animals, sunlight and wind have to be protected in their natural form. It is our responsibility to protect our home, school and the neighbouring environment cleanly and naturally. It is the responsibility of all human beings to protect the environment.

What we should do to protect the environment

Near home and School.

- Disposal of garbage in a proper manner.
- Refrain from adding harmful things to the environment.
- Refrain from harming natural things of the environment.
- Refrain from harming and injuring animals.
- Refrain from making harmful sounds.



Activity

Let us establish an environmental organization. Discuss the objectives of your organization.



Enjoyment of rights within a legal framework

The rights of an individual to live in a society are broadly known as human rights. Most modern governments have taken steps to assure some of these rights as fundamental rights through their constitution. Sri Lanka too is committed to safeguarding fundamental rights.



fig 7.9

Sri Lankan parliament



The nature of fundamental rights

Our fundamental rights are included in the constitution.

Every citizen has the right to live in any part of Sri Lanka.

Every citizen has the right to visit any place in Sri Lanka.

Every citizen has the right to follow a religion of his choice.



Right to education is also a fundamental right

Students of this country have the right to receive free education from school up to completion of university education. It includes the right to receive free textbooks and free school uniforms. Other required facilities also have been provided to students to proceed with free education. Free meals for the students of low nutrition levels in the primary sections of schools are also provided. Thus, government is committed to safeguard the basic right for education. Through these facilities provided by the government it is expected that students would obtain a good education and serve the country.

Every citizen is entitled to the undermentioned basic rights. There is no right for one individual to harm another individual. One is also entitled to speak a language of his choice. Nobody can be arrested without a sufficient reason. All are equal before the law.

- Right of speech
- Right of assembly
- Right to vote
- Right to carry on business
- Right to carry an industry

are included under the fundamental rights of Sri Lanka.

Child rights


Our country has accepted laws enacted by the United Nations regarding the rights of children. The Charter on child rights was accepted by Sri Lanka. There are two major institutions established for the protection of child rights in Sri Lanka.

1. National Child Protection Authority.
2. Department of Probation and Child Care Services.

The right to education of every child has been accepted in Sri Lanka. They cannot be employed before they complete 14 years of age.

All people living in this country are governed by a set of laws. Under this system of law all are treated as equals. Thus all have common rights. While enjoying these rights it is the duty of all citizens to protect the motherland.

The constitution of our country gives a guarantee to the fundamental rights of people. Nobody can violate these rights. Thus, Parliament has enacted laws and ensured the fundamental rights of Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Burgher and other communities.



Nobody can violate the fundamental rights of Sri Lankans. They should be protected by the Government.



Activities

1. Name the international organization committed to protect rights of children.
2. What are the facilities offered regarding child rights under education in Sri Lanka?



SYNOPSIS

The family is the basic unit of our society. **Society** is formed when these families join together. In that society there can be **different people** with different ideas. **Different ethnic groups, languages and religions** are found in this society. Based on objectives and needs, relationships are formed between individuals in society. These inter-relationships help the existence of society. In the school society, students hold a major place. Students have relationship with the Principal, teachers, parents and other students. These interrelationships developed in school, will play a productive role in the life of a student. With respect to **inter-relationships**, mass media also play an important role. In addition to individuals, there are organizations establishing inter-relationships in the school society and the broader society. For the existence of this society, there are many duties and responsibilities that we should perform. The Basic Human Rights enjoyed by society have been legally accepted.