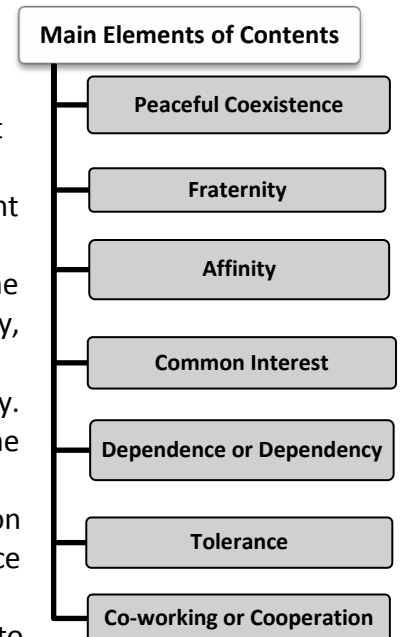## Elements of Social Harmony

Contents of Social Harmony are –

- ❖ **Peaceful Coexistence:** harmony is not based on the principle of conflict, there is **no conflict of interest and aspirations.** It is a concept of coexistence and interdependence apart from socio-cultural and political opposition. Social harmony is not a question of identity, nor is it a separate existence, it is **a peaceful co-existence.**
- ❖ **Fraternity:** Social harmony **is an emotional concept,** an important component of which is the feeling of fraternity.
- ❖ **Affinity:** A component of harmony is affinity. Affinity leads to the development of **belongingness and affectionate relations** in the society, due to which harmony is established in the society.
- ❖ **Common Interest:** This is also an important component of harmony. Because it is necessary for harmony, that people should talk about the common interest and not the self interest.
- ❖ **Dependence or Dependency:** All the people of the society depend on each other for some work or the other. Interdependence or dependence among people established harmony in the society.
- ❖ **Tolerance:** A key component of harmony is tolerance. It is important to note that accepting and respecting the existence of all the beliefs, cultures, and religious of the society is tolerance. Therefore, in order to increase social harmony, it is necessary to have the concept of tolerance.
- ❖ **Co-working or Cooperation:** Cooperation is the feeling of working together and understanding the work. Therefore, by working together or co-operation, harmony is established in the society.

Main Elements of Contents
Peaceful Coexistence
Fraternity
Affinity
Common Interest
Dependence or Dependency
Tolerance
Co-working or Cooperation

Ancient and Traditional Elements

- ❖ **Art:** Art is an important component of social harmony. There is **no place for caste-class discrimination in art,** so it is a symbol of social quality. **Art is the vehicle of culture.** art maintains our social harmony. By presenting poignant depictions of social practices, untouchability, discrimination and deprivation, art encourages harmony by bringing about a change in the hearts of people and increasing inter-group interaction.
- ❖ **Family:** Family is the **smallest unit of the society.** The first influence on a person is of his family. Children should be taught good values from the very beginning by the family, so that they develop a good-will towards the society and country. Through the **joint family system,** we can imbibe the qualities of mutual coordination, unity, etc., which later help in maintaining social harmony.
- ❖ **Cultural Festival: Holi, Chhath festival, Diwali, Rakshabandhan, Eid, Christmas** etc. are celebrated together. These festivals **give the message of social harmony.**
- ❖ **Religious Texts:** These are also an important component of social harmony. Different typ[es of religious texts like **Vedas, Puranas, Quran, Bible etc.** teach human beings to love each other. In this way, these religious texts give the message of social harmony.
- ❖ Jajmani System

Modern period Elements

- ❖ **Constitution:** Social justice and equality is possible only through the constitution. It provides for social justice and quality in the society and **lays the foundation of a progressive society.** The social philosophy enshrined in the Constitution of India lays the foundation for socio-economic justice for

every section in the society. Many such provisions have been made in the constitution, which help in maintaining social harmony. For example, **Article 14, Article 15** etc. In this way, the constitution promotes social harmony through the fundamental right of equality and the fundamental duty of promoting brotherhood.

❖ **Government:** Government is a group of certain people who rule the nation and states for a certain period of time and by a certain system. Generally it has **three parts - legislature, executive and judiciary.** They play an important role in maintaining social harmony. Many efforts are being made by the government to promote social harmony. For example, to give respect to the lower classes and women, the government is moving them towards progress by providing reservation.

❖ **Media:** Media is the **nurturer and builder of social harmony.** Media has an important role in social harmony, which opposes discrimination against any person and reveals the truth before the public. Ideology of the society is influenced by the media, so its presentation should be towards the positive elements of the society and country. Due to negative elements, situations like **discrimination, violence, hatred, fear, competition and ill-will arise** in the society. Therefore, the media should keep in mind the social harmony of India. Media should not encourage anti-social elements spreading ill-will and **caste discrimination** in the society but should encourage people who promote social harmony and unity. Social media should be used in a positive direction because it is a platform that influences people the most. Therefore, **media and social media are important factors in promoting social harmony.**

❖ **Education:** Education is an essential element for maintaining social harmony. When all the people of the society are educated, social harmony will be promoted through **mutual harmony and brotherhood.**

<div align="center">**Objectives, Characteristics and Importance of Social Harmony**</div>
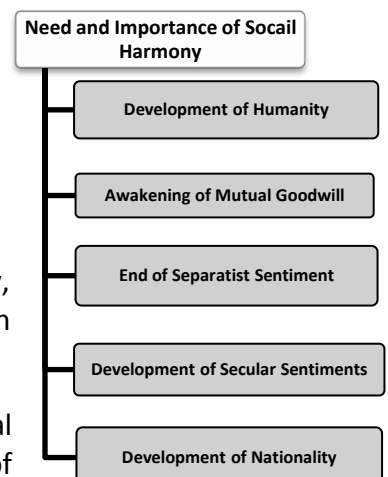
Objectives of Social Harmony

In its basic nature, it is a creative concept, whose main objectives are as follows-

❖ To maintain Unity and Integrity of the nation.
❖ To promote mutual love and harmony among the people by eradicating caste discrimination and untouchability.
❖ To establish unity among all the castes and classes of the society.
❖ To preserve pride of the nation beyond caste, religion and politics.
❖ To encourage collective efforts to eradicate the lacks.
❖ To cooperate in progress of the nation by increasing fraternity, love and harmony.
❖ To protect the unity and integrity of the nation from disruptive external and internal forces.
❖ Providing boost to development.
❖ Scientific refinement and counteracting **socio-cultural distortions.**

Need and Importance of Social Harmony

India is famous all over the world because there is a vision of unity in diversity, social harmony here. Therefore, the need and importance of social harmony can be understood by the following-

1. **Development of Humanity:** The biggest importance of the spirit of social harmony is that it develops humanity as it increases the feeling of

Need and Importance of Social Harmony

- Development of Humanity
- Awakening of Mutual Goodwill
- End of Separatist Sentiment
- Development of Secular Sentiments
- Development of Nationality

human love. No matter which nation a human belongs to, believes in any religion, speaks any language, he is a human first and for that, his feelings should be respected. From this, the feeling of global-belongingness and nationality develops and this feeling will be helpful in maintaining world peace.

2. **Awakening of Mutual Goodwill:** It is only due to harmony that mutual goodwill can be awakened among human beings. This is possible only when all the people are united and keep motivating each other to have good behaviour. Such a tendency can be adopted only by eradicating the feelings of caste and class discrimination. Individuals can adopt mutual oneness with each other only through social harmony.

3. **End of Separatist Sentiment:** In a country where class discrimination and separatist sentiment increases, social relations between citizens also deteriorate and the country starts breaking up. To prevent this disintegration, we have to build character first. For which, education of social harmony must be provided, because without it, selfishness starts increasing in a person. Therefore, there is only one basis for ending all this, that while protecting the national interests of all individuals, education to be one should be given.

   This will end the **separatist feelings** of individuals and the person will be able to understand the importance of social harmony.

4. **Development of Secular Sentiments**

5. **Development of Nationality**
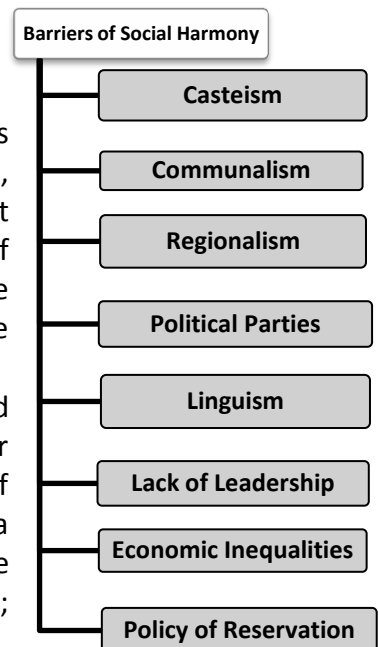
Barriers of Social Harmony

❖ **Casteism:** Casteism is a major obstacle in the way of social harmony of India. The residents here believe in different religions and castes, due to which mutual differences are found in all of them. A person of every caste or religion **considers himself superior** to a person of another religion or caste. Due to this, the feeling of alienation towards each other has taken such a severe form in every person that they are unable to adopt a comprehensive approach in the interest of national harmony renouncing this **narrow sentiment.**

❖ **Communalism:** In our country, people of many religions and sects live such as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians etc. In all these sects, the feeling of **mutual antagonism** has reached to such an extent that the people of one sect look at the other sect with the eyes of hatred. All the sects in India are busy in fulfilling their respective communal interests rather than national interests. This has put the social harmony of the country in danger.

❖ **Regionalism:** By regionalism we mean-to keep a sense of pride and loyalty towards our region. Thus, regionalism refers to a particular area of land, where the inhabitants have a sense of unity of language, culture and economic interests. Thus, regionalism is a negative feeling towards the people of other region. This negative feeling is about the autonomy of one's own territory. That is why; each region demands its own autonomy.

Barriers of Social Harmony
Casteism
Communalism
Regionalism
Political Parties
Linguism
Lack of Leadership
Economic Inequalities
Policy of Reservation

   In states that want autonomy, people are agitating and protesting for autonomy. They are ready to die for their land. This type of regional loyalty is really dangerous for social harmony.

❖ **Political Parties:** Political parties formed on the basis of caste and religion; promote discrimination and communalism the most. These parties seek votes from the people on the basis of caste, religion, sect and region and are involved in acts of national disintegration rather than national interest. This has a negative effect on social harmony.

- ❖ **Linguism:** In the name of language, many disgusting incidents have happened in the states of Assam, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu etc. and this problem exists even today in the country. Therefore, for the sake of social harmony, only one language should be accepted for the whole nation by ending the linguistic debate.
- ❖ **Lack of Leadership:** High level leadership exists in our country but it is lacking at the local level. It is often seen that to fulfil their selfish interests, local leaders incite undesirable feelings like casteism, communalism and regionalism etc.
- ❖ **Economic Inequalities:** As a result of economic inequalities, an environment against social harmony arises. This economic disparity is seen among different classes, regions and different parts of the same region. The poor class is unable to fulfil its basic needs even after hard work, due to which it has a feeling of hatred and jealousy towards the rich. Economic inequality gives rise to class struggle. All this affects social harmony.
- ❖ **Policy of Reservation:** Due to the policy of reservation, a feeling of hatred arises among different castes, which creates an obstacle in the path of social harmony.

Measures to Promote Social Harmony

Measures to Promote Social Harmony

- Abolition of Casteism
- Abolition of Communalism
- Proper development of all Languages
- Integrated development of all States
- Abolition of Economic Inequality
- Spread of Education
- Cultural Exchange
- Change in Reservatin Policy
- Ban on Disruptive Elements
- Increase in Religious and Linguistic Tolerance
- Change in the role of Political Parties