

Social problems--(Meaning and Definitions)-----A social problem, in general, is the condition which is not ideal and disrupts the balance of a society. A dictionary of sociology defines social problems as, "any undesirable condition or situation that is judged by an influential number of persons within a community to be intolerable and to require group action toward constructive reform".

Another widely used definition specifies that "no condition, no matter how dramatic or shocking to someone else, is a social problem unless and until the values of a considerable number of people define it as a problem".

Some of the other definitions of social problems given by sociologists are:

1. Horton and Leslie:

It is often defined as the condition which many people consider undesirable and wish to correct.

2. Lindbergh:

It is any deviant behaviour in a disapproved direction of such a degree that it exceeds the tolerance limit of the community.

3. L.K. Frank:

It is defined as any difficulty of misbehaviour of a fairly large number of persons which we wish to remove or correct.