



ISD Virtual Learning

# Sociology: Social Structure

April 20, 2020



## Sociology: Social Structure

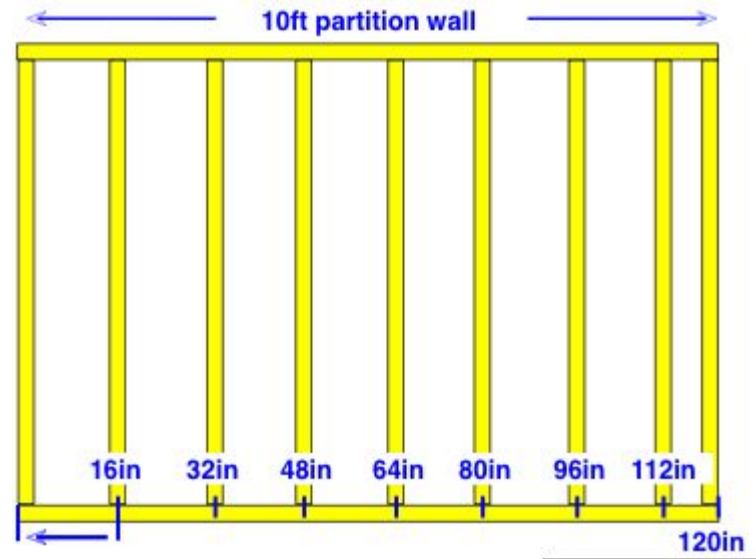
### Lesson 21: April 20, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: The student will be able to define Social Structure and examine how society contributes to the structure of our own lives.**

# Warm Up

Look at the two images of walls being built during a construction project and answer the questions.

1. The diagram at the bottom shows the studs (the boards shown in yellow) spaced every 16 inches. Why do you think they are patterned that way?
2. What are some things that are eventually going to be put on the boards in the top image?
3. What would happen if this wall structure wasn't built solidly or even built at all?



# What is Social Structure?

**Social Structure** is the network of interrelated statuses and roles that guide human interaction.

- It is underlying patterns of society that we might not always see but we know are there.
- It gives society strength.
- It helps us to make sense of our daily situations.
- It's like a map that helps to guide our directions in how we go throughout our lives.

*Connection to the Warm Up:*

We don't see the structure of the wall. We don't We only see what's on the outside like the drywall or sheetrock that is attached to it which hides the studs making up the structure of the wall...but we know those things are there.

The pattern used to space the studs helps to give the structure strength. That wall is now solid, and combined with the other structured walls, can hold up the roof of the building.

Without this structure, the building would collapse.

***What would happen to society if we didn't have structure?***



Without structure, people would not know what they're supposed to do, how to act, what rules/laws to follow, how to interact with one another. Fortunately, we have structure which holds up our society, gives it strength, and allows it continue to exist for many, many years...just like the walls that have held up buildings that have existed for centuries.

# What Contributes to Social Structure?

There are a lot of things that go into building the structure of those walls that we take for granted. You need things like:

- Lumber
- A level
- Tools
- Nails/screws
- Tape measure



What do we need to create our social structure?

You need things like:

- Statuses
- Roles
- Groups & organizations
- Social interaction

The next few lessons are going to explain what those things are and examine how they affect our lives and contribute to Social Structure.

# Practice

Think about a situation that you have experienced recently and answer the following questions on a piece of paper:

1. What was the situation?
2. How was structure clearly present?
3. What would have happened if there was no structure or if you and/or other people around you defied the established structure.

When finished, reflect back on that situation and your answers. Did it help you gain a new respect for the role of structure in our society?

Example:

1. I was recently driving to Andy's to get some frozen custard after dinner.
2. Everybody was driving on the right side of the road. At traffic lights, we all stopped when it was red and went if the light was green. I got in line (while still practicing social distancing), waited my turn, gave them my order & money, they gave me food.
3. If there was no structure, people could have just driven on whichever side they wanted, ignored the lights which would have caused a crash. Somebody could cut in line causing a fight, not paid for their food, etc. People could have been hurt, things stolen, etc.

## Reflection

The world can be confusing, scary, or even dangerous when society's rules, laws, and expectations are unclear.

Thankfully, we have guidance and how we are supposed to behave during different scenarios whether they arrive daily (going to a restaurant to buy food, work with a colleague on a job task, etc.) or just a few times in our lives (getting into a fight, problems with the law, etc.).

That guidance comes from Social Structure!



# Additional Resources

To learn more about Social Structure, check out the following links:

ARTICLE: [Encyclopedia Britannica - Social Structure](#)

ARTICLE: [ThoughtCo - The Concept of Social Structure in Sociology](#)