

Paper – II, Social Anthropology, B.A. Honours, Part - I

Topic: Youth Organization

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The most important social institution in the tribal social organisation is youth organization. Every tribal society has their youth organization is a type of organization with a focus upon providing activities and socialization for minors. Members of youth organization are only un-married boys and girls. In every tribal society there is different names different structure and having different age group people. In different tribal society somewhere youth organization are separate and somewhere different, for boys and for girls they both have their own organization in some tribal society.

Every tribal society has their own youth organization and every tribal society calls their youth organization by different names.

Some tribes and their youth organization names.

<u>Tribes</u>	<u>Youth Organization Name</u>
a. Munda, HO	Gitura
b. Naga	Morong
c. Bhatiya	Rangbang
d. Garo	Nokpante
e. Angami Naga	Khinchuk

These organization are centred in big buildings known as dormitories. There are separate houses meant for boys and girls. All the youth of the tribe pass their night in the dormitory. In the villages where there is no dormitory for the girl, they sleep in the house of some old women. Such is the custom of the Munda Tribe. In Baitar the boys and girls of the age of 15 and 16 sleep in the dormitories. The unmarried boys and girls gather here at night, sing and dance and participate in other social activities and finally pass the night.

Characteristics of Youth Organization

The following are the important characteristics of the youth organization:

- Youth organization has stable place where unmarried boys and girls live in night.
- While at some places there are separate dormitories. For boys and girls, in other tribes they live in a common dormitory. This is the custom in the Muria tribe. On the other hand, among the Konayak Nagas of Assam, the boys live in the Morung and the girls sleep at Yo.
- Normally the dormitories are situated outside the village in the forest, but they may also be near the fields as it is in the case of dormitories of the Nagas. In Oraon tribe the dormitory is situated in the centre of the village.
- The age of membership of the dormitory differ from tribe to tribe. As a general rule it is four or five years in most of the tribes.
- The members of the dormitory are divided into two classes according to age – seniors and juniors. The head of the dormitory is selected from the senior group. It is his job to take care of all the members of the dormitory and maintain discipline among them. The juniors follow the commands of the seniors and receive different types of education from them.

Functions of Youth Organization

- Educating boys and girls in social and other duties and imparting them education in the matters of sex.
- boys are taught to fight, hunt, magic do other activities such as magic etc.
- Following the principle of endogamy and keeping the movement of women limited and controlled.
- In dosmitories guests are welcomed very nicely and polstely.
- the members are also taught about love, help emotions, also how to organise marriage. Functions. Death cere many and also to live in discipline.
- Youth organization also work as a head of dormitory. All people get together and work for group problems.
- The members of youth organization are taught to gather food, to grow and cut crops and all other agricultural work, household work, hunting and etc.
- Youth organization helping in the gathering of edible things and consolidating economic organization.