DISCUSSION AND DEFINITION OF THE CONCEPTS

1. PROFESSION:

The question as to what constitutes the essential characteristics of a profession has become complex by the claims put forth in recent times by different occupational groups, for professional status. The clamour for professional status and recognition on the part of many occupational groups, serve to highlight the fact that professions command great prestige in contemporary society and that professional status is a highly sought after value.

In general profession denotes an occupation which profess to develop a knowledge system in the special problem area such as religion, health and disease or law and justice. The special access to a specific area of knowledge, gives them the right to claim that they know better than the rest of the general population. The common people must therefore, accept their advice in their area of competence, without much argument. But this explanation is beyond the scope of any empirical operational definition. To make the concept more clear, sociologists have attempted to explain the term
profession in various ways. The most common way is to derive an ideal type of a definition mostly based on the examples of established professions such as law and medicine. Millerson, G (1964), in a survey of the work of twenty one such writers points out that they list twenty three different elements between them. Among the most frequently mentioned traits are: (i) Skill based on theoretical knowledge; (ii) The provision of Training and test of entry prior to entry into the occupation; (iii) Tests of competence of members; (iv) Professional Organisation; adherence to a professional code of Conduct; (v) altruistic service (Millerson, 1978).

In addition to this a perusal of sociological literature available on the concept of profession identify the following core Characteristics of profession, which are mostly accepted throughout the world (Sheffer' 1968).

1. Research and continuous in-service updating of specialized knowledge; (7) Intellectual activity; (8) Social necessity (9) Recognition by public and status in society (10) Standardised terminology (11) Code of ethics for the practitioners (12) Autonomy of the profession and (13) Authority of the practitioners. Two facts emerge clearly from the various attempts to elucidate the meaning of profession - Firstly profession applies to a body of theoretical knowledge, to be acquired through a prescribed course of intellectual training, Secondly. Professions are tightly
organized bodies, which among other things, set the standards of proficiency, regulate entry into their own organisation, grant licences for practice of their specialized skills and thus secure monopoly over their practice, and prescribe a code of conduct for the members in their dealings with one another as well as with the clients.

III. PATRIARCHY :-

In general the term patriarchy is used to describe a particular form of household organisation in which the father dominated other members of an extended kinship network and controlled the economic production of the household. According to feminists patriarchy is a term used to describe the organizing principle of male dominance. (Maria Mies, 1977)

IV- EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION :-

The women's movement for the first time brought into focus the existence of oppression as distinct from exploitation. Exploitation is rooted in the economic reality. It manifests itself in the class structure of the capitalist society. All those who work for wages have to face exploitation whether they be men or women. "Exploitative social relations," says Maria Mies, (1977) exist when non-producers used the services of actual producers. Oppression is basically associated with the use of force in order to repress the will of a living being.
The family is the locus for the continuation of women's oppression not only because of its part in socializing women to their roles in life, but also because of the psychological domination of men within that institution. The primary burden of women within the family is their continued responsibility for extensive household labour, which plays a central role in maintaining the capitalist social order.

The specific form the family takes within the capitalist mode of production serves as the primary locus for the regeneration of a sexist ideology and the perpetuation of women's oppression. This has serious repercussions on women's exploitation in the work sphere. It gives credence to the belief that the male wage-earner is the primary bread winner for the family. Evidence of the lag between this belief and reality is, however, glaring. In reality, the earnings of other family members, besides the male head, are crucial to the maintenance of the household.

The household is an area in which the members share certain mutually accepted responsibilities associated with living together in the traditional household. The division of tasks is fairly rigid. Women are primarily responsible for domestic work and childcare which is inclusive of servicing all members of the family and long hours of fatiguing labour.
and intensive work. This work is undertaken by women in a relationship of financial dependence upon and hence subordination to the men. Since most households are dominated by patriarchal values, it appears to the objective observers as an area which the woman is systematically made dependent upon and unequal in relation to the man. In the context of existential reality a man's domestic work therefore is seen as an expression of the fundamental inequality of the marriage contract (Lalitha K & Kalpana K, 1984).

VI THE CONCEPT OF 'ROLE'

The term social role refers to the expected kind of social behavior associated with a particular social position. Thus the position of a 'teacher' is associated with a role which includes all the activities of teaching and a number of other expected forms of behavior. Social status refers to the position in a hierarchy. At the same time social status does not, primarily, refer to a placing in a graded order of power or rank but to the social position. Every status has a certain set of activities associated with it. Which constitute its roles. The roles are, again, associated with the rights and duties of a status. Status and role, are concepts serving to connect the culturally defined expectations with patterned behavior and relationships which
comprise the social structure. Each person in society occupies, inevitably, multiple statuses and for each of these statuses there is "an associated-role". A particular social status involves, not a single associated role but an array of associated roles. This is a basic characteristic of social structure. "This fact of structure can be referred by a distinctive term "role-set" by which is meant that complement of role relationships which persons have by virtue of occupying a particular social role." (Merton 1957)

The concepts of role-set and of status-set Arm structural and refer to the parts of the social structure at a particular time.

Norms are standards of conduct that should or should not be followed. Social norms Arm defined either as evolutions or as sanctions. evaluations Arm should and should not do statements, while sanctions refer to punishments attached to particular behavior. Social values are generally defined as shared conceptions of the desirable or shared conceptions of desirable goals (Lakovizsanford - 1977).

Both norms and values are important elements in the organisation of human society because these provide order stability and predictability in interpersonal relationships. Both function as mechanisms of social control. Thus social roles Arm in accordance with the social values, ideals And
patterns. These ideals, values and norms do not change easily in any society and thus it becomes difficult for change-to-occur-fast in-society. Even if the status changes with employment, as in the case of the modern women, her traditional role expectations remain the same.

VII. SOCIAL ROLE :-

The social role is also termed as "personal role " which includes specific and general social work. The specific role of the profession refers to specialization in certain domain of knowledge and their general social role is what they perform as members of certain group. Every social role presupposes that there is a common bond between "social person and "social circle' (Mishra L.S. 1984).