CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

Society is generally explained in terms of structure. What is more important is the positions which individuals occupy in the society and the functions which they perform. Class indicates the position of a man in a society.

The growth and development of class structure came into existence because of technological changes. Large scale development occurred in various fields of life on account of industrial revolution. Oil played very important and key role in these developments. There was a rapid growth of transport and communication, growth in ship-building industries etc., and explorations of new oil fields. New plants were set up to manufacture machine tools. As a result banking and industrial investments increased.

The industrial revolution increased human mobility. The merchandise and money came into circulation. New skills also emerged on the scene. People started enjoying many privileges and chose professions suitable to their aptitude.
The concept of structure is very complex and cannot be easily defined. Many definitions exist reflecting variety of attitudes to the problem. Ford and Pugno assert that the concept of structure is "an educational expression in search of definition." Some hold the opinion that "the purpose of education is to enable the students inculcate the fundamental ideas and grasp the structure of the subject in relation to other subjects."

The elements of social structure usually include groups, organizations, institutions, political systems, religious sects, communication patterns, etc. According to Radcliffe Brown (1906-14) the social structure can be defined as the continuing arrangement of persons in relationship to each other or in relationship to its institution. The social structure is in fact social established norms or patterns of behaviour in a society. The social structure stipulates the study of compact relationships and behaviour of the people, their mode of thinking. The importance and position of family as social institution.
The importance and place of a family is well established in all social systems.

The study of social structure has been divided into many sub-groups. The major sub-groups include family, interpersonal relations, marriage, status of women, caste and kinships. The class division of a society is one of the major aspects of social structure. It plays an important role in shaping the future of a society.

The British Institute of Public Opinion has divided the population including both, male and female sexes into three grades:

I. The Upper Grade
II. The Middle Grade
III. The Lower Grade

It is very difficult to lay down the common characters to distinguish the above mentioned class divisions. It may differ from person to person. Dudly Boxer in 1867 put one forth of the population under the category of upper and middle class and three quarter under the working classes. The assigned all shop assistance as well as all
clerks to the middle groups.

**UPPER CLASS:**

The concept and composition of Upper Class have undergone radical metamorphosis over say a century. It evoked connotation that referred to gentlemanly attributes. It comprised the society distinct group of people belonging to landed aristocracy. The highest echelon of the society. Obviously enough, family antecedents and occupation together sublimated the status of this class.

With the passage of time as the feudal era gradually headed towards its inevitable decline giving way to a new era dominated by trade, commerce and industry, there emerged a neorich class of those who controlled trade and industry. Much to the resentment of the so-called gentleman of the receding system, the neo-rich now dominated the upper class. The life of the larger towns was already getting domineered over by the neo-rich who wielded a swaying following from employers, traders and managerial works. This emerging class was gaining unrestrained political strength and influence by way of sending representatives to the parliament on a considerably large scale.
Barring a few exceptions where the neo-rich intermingled with the gentle man more because of class over-lapping (a gentleman getting into a trade) than a social necessity, the two remained at bay and differed conspicuously in attitude and way of life. The new rich predominantly non-conformist, hostile to landed interest and proud of having made his own way. For him family antecedents and lineage were of no practical significance from the point of view of social prestige.

**MIDDLE CLASS:**

As the term itself implies, the existence of a middle class in a society means existence of at least two more classes - the Upper Class and the lower class.

Owing precisely to its significant role that of providing skilled manpower in the emerging new system, the middle class proliferated at a considerable pace and produced its effect on the system. This class that gave away superior shop-keepers and master craftsmen and created the requisit market for consumer goods and services, was known for its high consuming power and standard of living.
As education is indispensably associated with the occupational structure of the middle class, the growing size of the middle class meant great advancement in education. The 19th century witnessed a great increase in schools with commercial bias. The old grammar school in the town were speedily reconstructed to meet the growing requirements of this class.

**LOWER CLASS:**

They were the working classes in general. Characterized by low income and low standard of living, they were hostile to structure of classes and class-prestige. Increasing number of secondary schools and growing awareness resulted in a swift and inevitable process of occupational mobility which meant more and more people from the working classes getting into the middle class by acquiring professional education. Institution of scholarships financed from public funds accounted for added opportunity and impetus to the members of the working classes to climb out of the their classes to the middle class.
IMPORTANCE OF CLASS IN SOCIETY:

Society is an order and an organization of activities. Differentiation and division of labour are indispensable to society. Classes as part of social stratification categorise people as per their occupation and way of life. Society have classes within them must be assignable to a class. Nor does it follow, though it is often assumed, that the classes which exist in any given society can be realistically arranged into a simple hierarchy of superior and inferior, each class standing above or below the next. Account has also to be taken of the notion of social function of what a person does as well as of what he is and the relation between these two aspects are highly complex.

Society exists class which depend on occupation and achievement-unless in deed, in such a society, the notion of class ceased to be entertained at all.

Kuwait was one of the major trade centres in the Arabian Gulf. The Persians and the Indians began to settle them the oldest between the two is the Persian community and unlike their Arab brothers they follow the Shia sect of Islam. The two communities have not been able to
integrate in our community because of their respective
clan and tribal attitudes and by divergent religious sect.
Inter marriages between the two communities is non-existent.

Various tribes had their own classification. The
ones who bred camels were considered to be the noblest and
ones who bred sheep and goat were not respected in the
society. In fact the Bedouin Arab looked down upon them.
Such attitudes have been some what modified but in general
the Kuwait still took down up on manual labour. This
attitude can be attributed to Bedouin dislike settled
life. As Rapheal Patai has put it, "One of the basic
feature of the Bedouin ethos is contempt for physical labour
with exception of tending the live stock and raiding which
are considered the only fitting occupation for freemen."

THE ECONOMY:

The population of Kuwait depended heavily on the sea
as a major source of livelihood and trade, pearl diving
and boat building. In fact Kuwaiti people were forced to
depend on the sea because of its geographical location and
lack of resources. Discovery of oil in Kuwait has brought
about radical changes in the economy.
TRADE:

The Kuwaitis became the foremost traders in the Gulf region because of the geographical situation of the country. They could easily establish contacts with other countries situated in the region through sea and land routes. A British employee of the Indian Civil Service who travelled across the Persian Gulf in 1831 put the share of Kuwaitis in the Gulf trade $500,000 in imports and $100,000 dollars in exports.

OIL:

It is the discovery of oil that has financed Kuwait's monumental development during the past 30 years. And Kuwait has gained intervention fame because of oil power. The country is producing oil more than the needs of the total population. So it is very natural that the Kuwaitis should be concerned with deriving the absolute a maximum benefit out of it.

Many industries have developed as a result. Refineries, petrochemicals, maritime transport have come up in Kuwait. These industries are important for the same reasons as those given for LPG. They represent diversification
of the industry more jobs and technical advancement. This will give an opportunity to the nation to get a way from the position being only a supplier of crude oil.

**MAJOR CLASS IN KUWAIT BEFORE OIL ERA:**

In the beginning, the society in Kuwait was simple and traditional. The tribal and clan relationship was very strong. The discovery of oil has brought about significant changes but basic structure of society remained the same. It may be divided into two major classes.

I Upper
II Lower

There was also a middle class in the society which was not very prominent.

**Upper Class:** It consists of the ruling families and merchants.

**Working Class:** It consisted of pearl, divers, carpenters, boat builder, fisherman and formers.

**Upper Class:** Generally there are two sections of the people of the society. The one which rules the other what is ruled. The new era in the history of Kuwait begins with the settlement of Al Sabah family in the year 1710. They
traced their descent from Bedouin tribe or Utubi clan who were of the Dhamshah branch of Amarat tribe. The two families migrated to the north in search of greenery and pastures. The settlers chose this place near the sea which was a shore of natural resources and vantage point of trade and business.

The present Amir Sheikh Jabir Al Ahmad Al Jabir has kept the tradition consulting the subject on important problems. It is not an alien phenomenon in the Arabian Peninsula. It is one of the major pillars of a tribal society. However, the degree of consultation differs from tribe to tribe. This experience helps the Amir to grasp the financial affairs and world economics. This also helps the state to enjoy study economic growth. The ruling class were respected on account of their financial position. There was a conscious effort on the part of the ruling family to establish a strong economic base. As present these families are involved in all fields of big as well as small business in and outside their countries. They almost occupy and control almost economy of the country.
Great economic changes have taken place in Kuwait during the post war years but the tribal and clan relationship continues to prevail in the society. It is very common to hear a young graduate speaking providely of his tribal ancestry. One can notice the class division in tribes through the marriage institution. It is considered taboo to enter into marriage agreement with a tribe that does not meet your tribal standards.

The administration of Kuwait during pre-independence days reflects the tribal and family loyalties, the majority of posts were held by the members of the ruling families and the members belonging to the merchant class belong to the upper class.

Kuwait is a clan and active town with broad and open main bazar and dwelling houses made of solid store stretch along the beach where 20 thousands inhabitants live. They attract Arab and Persian merchants from all quarters by the equity of its role and freedom of its trade. The Kuwaiti merchants transported the cargo of other nations in the Gulf area, to India and Africa. The business of
transhipment flourished in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti merchants exported good neighbouring countries mainly Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The trade with Saudi Arabia was so substantial that rulers of Saudi Arabia asked the Kuwaiti merchants to pay taxes. They refused to comply saying that trade must be free. They believed in tax free business and trade. They said that they did not have the right to tax other people too. Therefore they refused to collect taxes from Saudi merchants who traded with them. The Saudi Arabia ruler reacted strongly by prohibiting Saudi merchants from trading with Kuwait. Kuwaiti merchants were skillful trades men and were respected on account of their good financial position. They enjoyed high standard of living.

**Middle Class**

In addition to the upper and lower classes of the society there was a small group comprising traders, merchants, theologians and tribal sheikhs who formed the middle class. The middle class was distinguishable by its small number, limited role, and dependent economic base. Since they were social negligible class, people believe that no real middle class existed in the Gulf in the earlier decades of this century.
Lower Class:

The lower class consisted of pearl-divers, carpenters, boat builders, fishermen, of and formers before the discovery of oil. The majority of the people in this group were poor, illiterate and wholly dependent on the merchants for their work and employment. They worked very hard, soiled their hands in dust and got nothing in return. They were generally overworked and underpaid.

The pearl was the only important item which was exported from the country. The lower class Kuwaitis were in one way or the other involved in the business of pearl diving. The divers were the ones who divided into the sea in search of the oysters. The Shiabs were those labourers who lowered the divers to the bottom of the sea and pulled them up when they had finished collecting the oysters. The Radifs help the Shiabs in pulling the divers from the bottom of the sea.

The pearl business was a seasonal occupation which lasted only May to September. This business as a result lasted for short period of time in a year.
At the beginning of the season the capital of the ship used to choose the members of the crew. The profession kept the divers away from the families for five months. This situation forced them to borrow money from the captain for the support of their families during their absence. It was a kind of debt which they had to pay back to the captain after the season was over.

If the divers suffered illness or death, a brother or son was forced to work for him until the debt was repaid.

In addition to pearl diving the other famous profession of Kuwaities was boat building. This profession involved carpenters and blacksmiths. The carpenters were usually very low paid. They were paid only 2 or 3 rupees after they have worked down to dusk. The coolies were paid only one rupee. The majority of the population in Kuwait comprised the working class before the discovery of oil.

**DISINTEGRATION OF OLD CLASSES**

In nineteenth century in Kuwait the general process of breaking of the traditional class structure started under the influence of exogenous and native factors. The
Ottoman political established power and the British as colonial power, politically were adopted by internal political and economic transition.

Those functions showed a decisive role in transition of traditional structure.

Following are irreversible impact on the traditional class:

(i) The discovery of oil and subsequent.
(ii) Economic condition.
(iii) Political and Social changes.
(iv) Educational development.
(v) Demographic and cultural developments.

The composition of pre-oil in Kuwait led to a way of establishment of fresh classes.

EMERGENCE OF NEW CLASSES:

In the Gulf States of Kuwait the emergence of new classes are a secret phenomena. The existence and making of fresh classes still stands in progress in the sense of sociology. The degree has yet not reached the level of crystallization that appeared in developed and in the countries under development. In this respect our concern
is here initially analyse the nature of new and fresh classes in Kuwait in the oil era which passed.

The analysis of this class does not mean the negation of the role of tribe and family which retains basic importance as yet, in the Gulf states. Moreover as conclusion of multidimensional progress in post oil year, the class is systematically and generally replacing the old categories of communities and groups consisting of tribe and family.

The emergence of groups and classes were classified as detailed below:

I. UPPER CLASS
   1. Royal Family
   2. Eminent Businessmen.

II. MIDDLE CLASS
   1. Merchants and traders of lower level
   2. Responsible people as Doctors, Teachers and Engineers.
   3. Civil Servents.

III. LOWER CLASS
   1. Oil Prolitrait
   2. Settled Nomadic Beduoins
   3. Workers of other jobs.
UPPER CLASS:

In Kuwait, the people of new upper class were comprise of royal families, for their business and new elites. Traditionally the ruling family in the royal family with the grave scale change in post oil era, the function and the role of the family referred to above, got a new way and their dependence enhanced on other sight of the other class. Through establishing reciprocal relationship, these were with eminent business men, through accommodating the intelligentia of new elites into the power structure which appeared to contribute the progressive function of the present system and finally by originating a wide variety of business practices. And the other people, those were non-royal, were counted in these fields for their education in addition to their family back grounds. Increasingly shared executive power with the merchant class in the royal family by the elected party of National Assembly and the eminent persons.

MIDDLE CLASS:

The Kuwait society witnessed the advancement of the middle classes with the discovery of oil. The rise of the middle classes has been related to the criterion of
industrialization in western Europe and in U.S.A. In the same way in Kuwait the rise of the middle classes was originally owing to the discovery of oil and to the spreading out of Kuwait economy. The present middle class of Kuwait consists of Engineers, Doctors, Teachers, small shop-keepers and Civil Employees. Generally Kuwait was consisted of merchants, landlords and traders. This can be divided in two brother groups who gained middle class through education or who achieved it for the family origin small business.

LOWER CLASS:

In Kuwait the lower class generally composed of industrial workers in post oil era, like settled and nomadic Bedouins. Settled Bedouins enjoyed their lives in desert areas while the workers of the industry dwelt in cities. The financial condition of the lower class completely changed and the member of the lower class adopted the high qualities of living and accumulated money beyond their needs.

The happening of the oil industrial workers as a distinct class, can be co-related with the discovery and unfair profit of the oil and subsequent course of progress of industrialization in this state.