

Almond's Model: Structural Functionalism

By Dr. Pragya Rai, Assistant Professor,
Political Science, Maharaja Bahadur
Ram Ranvijay Prasad Singh
Mahavidyalaya , Ara

Basic Concept

- Theorized by Gabriel Almond (The Politics of the Developing Areas)
- Every political system has some structures and these structures perform certain functions meant for it.
- There are differences between developed and developing countries so far as structures are concerned, the structures perform almost similar functions.

What is structure?

- Structure means institutions. Every political system has several institutions such as political party, legislature, executive, judiciary, etc.
- He uses political system instead of state.

What is Function

- Role to office.
- Work done by the system.
- The word “function” is more comprehensive.

Why Structural Functionalism?

- The structural functionalism enables us to have a clear conception about the role of the various structures. A student of political science will be able to compare various political systems.
- The student will be able to assess the various aspects and the operational process of the political system.

Origin of Structural Functionalism

1-Talcott Parsons

2-Emile Durkheim (1858-1917)

3-Bronislaw and A. R. Radcliffe-Brown

4-Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1947)

Characteristics of Political System

- There are simple and complex political systems .
- . The industrialised matured societies of the West have complex political structures where as the developing countries of the Third World have simple structures.
- . There may be differences between the systems and structures but all the systems perform almost same political functions.

- The political structures may be specialised, non-specialised or may be primitive.
- All political systems are mixed systems in the cultural sense.

Functions of Political Systems

- **The input functions are:**

1. Political socialisation and recruitment-people gradually adjust themselves. It recruits members of the society out of particular subcultures, religious communities, statuses, classes, ethnic communities and the-like and inducts them into specialised roles of the political system, trains them in appropriate skills, provides them with political cognitive maps, values, expectations and affects. with the political system.

- 2. Interest articulation-citizens claim the fulfilment of their demands or materialisation of interests.
- 3. Interest aggregation-Various demands and claims are to be aggregated into a consolidated form and after that the political system takes action.

- 4. Political communication-These three functions are performed by means of political communication. All sorts of interests are articulated through communication and, again, they are aggregated by means of communication.

- **The output functions are:**

1. Rule making

2. Rule adjudication.

3. Rule application.