



Government of Tamilnadu

Department of Employment and Training

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Topic : Social changes in India

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SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

Change means differentiation in anything observation over sometime. If we feel that there's come alteration, we call it changes. If this change is in context to social structure, institution etc., i.e. social context then it is social change.

Change is a universal phenomenon i.e. it is a law of nature. There's always a change in nature. Society is a part of nature & so society also changes & static society is unthinkable. Society is on the wheel of change, which may occur due to various factors (like demography, ideas etc. If there is any change in Technology etc. there's change in society) but the change varies in speed & form.

In some places the change is rapid whereas in other places it may be slow. These days due to industrialization & urbanization the change is rapid as compared to earlier times. The form may be economic, political, social (instigation) religious (instigation), change in any part of society affects all the other parts of society. E.g. An individual is the fundamental unit of society & there's change in the life of the individual which is called evolutionary process of social change (birth to death). This is a slow process.

Characteristics of Social Change:

1. Social change is universal or it is an essential law.
2. Change with difference in speed and form simple society, change was slower.
3. Change is unpredictable in general Revolt is a process of social change. What speed & in what form the change takes place is not easily predictable.
4. Social change is change in community
5. Social change generally changes in direction. There are 3 patterns of social change.
6. Linear failure change generally leads to progress (change for good) can't cycle – car – train – plane
7. Fluctuating change – the change may be upward & downward. The demographic change is such also economic change,

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8. Cyclical change – the change is in a cycle. Fashion, sometimes also in economical aspect (Karl Marx gave this idea. He says earlier there was no private property & we may go back to it).

Factors of Social change:

Demographic factors:

Population plays an important role in society if there is change in the composition of population there is change in society by composition we mean the structure i.e. sex ratio. For balance in society the sex ratio should be 1:1 and if there is change in the ratio there is change in society if there are more females than the status & position goes down (because in Polygamy more wives & the hubby now their status goes down). In the other case the females position rises. The bride –price increases (in the tribal society).

Age group – Childhood, adulthood, old age. If the population of children is most then increase of population will be slower. If adults are more than there will be rapid change in society because they are the most regulative. In case of old more there is conflict in society they don't wish for change.

Marital status in production of children - If girls are married young there will be over population & health is also in danger. Status of women becomes lower. And if at too late a stage – a girl is married fertility is less.

Changes in demography – Birth rate & Death rate. Higher birth rate creates a lot of problems.

Immigration & Emigration - Causes cultural problems leads to over population. Brain – drain is the problem.

Natural factors - Natural calamities, floods, epidemics affects society in its social relationships structure. People become selfish as during scarcities they are more bothered feeding themselves.

Technological factors:

Mechanization & social change – machines bring about this gave women the chance to work gave rise to women's lib. Unemployment & such problems arose these affected cottage industries.

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Urbanization—Changed job opportunities. Transport gave rise to social contacts. Communication gives rise to greater awareness & is means of recreation too. Atomic Energy & change, Cultural factors Social change brings change. He says material & non – material change. Usually non-material can't cope up with material changed & gives rise to cultural lag. Change in values ideas & custom's changes society (Habits). In handbook of Sociology, he said it may so happen that material behind education, urbanization etc., too brings change in marriage system ,etc. Change according to him is inevitable & a continuous process. He has given more importance to the economic factors. He says if there is change in economy the only tractor by (changes of demography etc affect the individuals) there is change in society – change in the production system i.e. change in technology because it is due to change in technology that there's change in production that's why his theme is called technological data.

Major Features of Rural Society

The village is the oldest permanent community of man. All early communities were basically rural in character. “Human society has been cradled in the rural group”. The rural community is simply meaning a community that consists of people living in a limited physical area and who have common interests and common ways of satisfying them. Each society consists of different parts, such as individuals, groups, institutions, associations, and communities. The simplest analogy one can think of at this point is that of an organism that has different components working together as a whole. Society is a system like any other system, such as the solar system

Indian Society- Urban

The nature of urban society as represented in thoughts of urban theorists of modern city greatly has contrasting differences in their views. Every place has its distinctive urban characteristic determined by variables as mix of power, space, market and cultural practices. As a result of development in science and technology, there has been industrial development. Due to industrial development there is urbanization as a result of which urban societies created. Every country has its own urban society. Every village possesses some elements of the city while every city carries some feature of the villages. Different criteria are used to decide a community as urban. Some of them are, for example, population, legal limits, types of occupations, social organizations. The city

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refers to “a relatively large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals.”

The major features of urban society are given below:

1. Social Heterogeneity,
2. Secondary Relations.
3. Anonymity.
4. Secondary Control.
5. Large- scale Division of Labour and Specialization.
6. Large-scale social mobility.
7. Individuation.
8. Voluntary Association.
9. Social Reference.
10. Unstable Family.
11. Special Segregation.
12. Lack of community feeling.
13. Lack of unity in family.
14. Moral Laxity.
15. Unbalanced personality.
16. High incidence of crime.
17. Social disorganization.
18. Peculiarities of marital life.
19. Dynamic life.
20. Voluntary associations are formed quickly.
21. Artificial life.

FORMS OF DIVERSITY IN INDIA

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY The high degree of large diversity found in India is due to the existence of diverse population groups. The greatest variety in languages can be found in the one of the biggest democracies in the world. Most of these languages are distinct and have their own distinct form of writing and speech. The dictionary defines ‘Diversity’, as variety or different. Languages are defined as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication.

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RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY Religion is a major concern of man. Religion is universal, permanent, pervasive and perennial interests of man. The institution of religion is universal. It is found in all the societies, past and present. Religious beliefs and practices are, however, far from being uniform. Religious dogmas have influenced and conditioned economic endeavors, political movements, properly dealings, and educational tasks. The major religions in India are following: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam, Parsi, the basic ideas and faith of each religion differs. But they co existently stood in Indian society.

RACIAL DIVERSITY Race is a concept. The term race is used in various senses, even by human biologists, not to speak of politicians, historians and other who have little interest in biological races. The racial classifications are made on the basis of certain genetic traits. Such types of traits used in classification of races are referred to as racial criteria. The racial criteria should fulfill certain requirements. Body suggested a few conditions which should be satisfied by criteria chosen for racial classification.

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Unity holds tightly together the various relationships of ethnic groups or institution in a detailed manner through the bonds of contrived structures, norms and values. It has also been described as a social psychological condition. However, unity does not mean uniformity which implies similarity unity may be born out of similarity Ethnic group is a social category of people who shared common culture, common language or dialect, a common religion, a common norm, practices, customs and history. Ethnic group have a consciousness of their own culture bound. India is an ethnological museum. The waves of immigration have drawn the ancestors of the majority of present population into India from the surrounding territories across the Himalayas.

1. The Negrito.
2. Proto – Austroloid.
3. Mongoloids.
4. Mediterranean or Dravidian.
5. Western Brachycephals.
6. Nordic Aryans.

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Family an Instrument of Culture Transmission and An Agent of Socialization.

The family guarantees not only the biological continuity of the human race but also the cultural continuity of the society of which it is a part. It transmits ideas and ideologies, folkways and mores, customs and traditions, beliefs and values from one generation to the next. The family is an agent of socialisation also. Socialisation is its service to the individual. The family indoctrinates the child with the values, the morals, beliefs and ideals of society. It prepares its children for participation in larger world and acquaints them with a large culture. It is a chief agency which prepares the new generation for life in community. It emotionally conditions the child. It lays down the basic plan of personality. Indeed, it shapes the personality of the child. Family is a mechanism for disciplining the child in terms of cultural goals. In short, it transforms the infant barbarian into the civilized adult.

Questions:

1. What are the factors responsible for social changes?
2. Write a note on diversity in Indian culture?
3. Why it is needed to bring a social change in Indian society?

