SOCIAL CHANGE IN SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

The present paper examines about social change, its causes, impact, theories and processes of social change, when change in social structure, attitudes, customs and traditions of the society and related factors take place. It is said that there is social change. Social change may occur for a number of different reasons. Social change refers to any significant alternation over time in behavior patterns and cultural values and norms. Social changes are brought about through the process of education. Social change is an ever present phenomenon in any society.

INTRODUCTION

Social change is change in established patterns of social relations or change in social values or change in structures and subsystems operating in society. A few aspects of family system or marriage system or banking system or caste system or factory system etc. may change but we never find a total change in any of these social systems. Social change is thus always or mostly partial. Social change is the change in society at large. Society has been defined by MacIver as "web of social relationships". Change which has occurred in these social relationships is social change.

Jones," social change is as term used to describe variations in, or modifications of, any aspect of social processes, social patterns, social interaction or social organization".

M.D. Jenson," social change may be defined as modification in ways of doing and thinking of people".

M.Ginsberg," by social change, I understand a change in social structure e.g. the size of the society, the composition or balance of its parts or the type of its organization".

INTERNAL CAUSES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Strain and Conflict:- Every social system has some degree of conflict of interests. The stable and settled social system resolves its conflicts by means of institutionalized rules. No society is free from conflicts. Any effort to resolve the conflicts would result in some form of change.

Social Problems:- Problems like prostitution, beggary or unemployment etc. involve a good deal of social conflict which cause some social change. The social problems are caused due to some internal deficiencies. If these problems are tackled, it may contribute to social change.

Cultural Change:- Cultural innovation causes social change. The amalgamation of culture with in society and from one society to another is a source of social change.

IMPACT OF SOCIAL OR NON-SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Social Environment:- Change of Political parties, military rules, trade shifts can present adjustment problems in the existing social system.

Non-Social Environment:- Changes like Soil Erosion, deforestation, flooding, earthquakes, Tsunami, Cyclone, Hurricanes etc; bring social change with them.

Talcott Parson, Parson considers change "not as something that disturbs the social equilibrium, but as something that alters the state of the equilibrium so that a qualitatively new equilibrium results".

Social change is not the result of one single factor. Various factors play their roles in the process of social change. Social change as a process. Everything in this world is changeable and changes. Human society and man is no exceptions to it. In fact the forces of change are present in the society itself and it is these forces that bring about social changes.

SOME OF THE THEORIES PROPOUNDED IN THIS REGARD ARE ENUMERATED BELOW:-

➢ **Theory of evolution:-** Spencer is the chief protagonist of this theory, according to which, the forces of social change are inherent in the society itself and it is these factors that bring about social change.

➢ **Theory of the determinism or determinant theory of social change:-** Karl marx is said to be the chief protagonist of this theory according to which there are definite determinants of determining factors of social change. Karl marx recognizes economic factors as the basic factors of social change.

➢ **Continual theory of social change:-** According to the advocates of this theory process of social change is continuous and it is caused by various factors.

Maclver and page have laid down in the following four as economic factors of social change:-

- Physical environment of geographical factors of social change.
- Biological factors of social change.
- Technological factors of social change.
- Cultural factors of social change.

Social change means any significant alterations in a social structure.

PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE IN SOCIETY:-

1) Sanskritization:- Sanskritization as a concept and process of change is associated with the name of prof. M.N. Srinivas By sanskritization he meant that a lower caste particularly the untouchables, after improving their economic status, leave their own customs and practices, dress, names, food habits and

take up and follow Sanskrit names dress of the upper caste, become vegetarian, put on sacred thread and leave their dirty occupations and take up agriculture or other clean jobs.

Srinivas, "Sanskritization is an extremely complex and heterogeneous concept. It is even possible that would be more profitable to treat it as a bundle of concept than a single concept.

- It refers to improvement in the economic conditions of the lower castes.
- It starts giving Sanskrit names to its younger generation.
- The group starts exerting influence in the political life of the village society.

The concept of sanskritization is very important in explaining the type of changes that have taken place in the Indian caste system as a basis of social stratification and as a process of social change.

2) Westernization:- The term westernization was introduced by an Indian sociologist, M.N.Srinivas. He maintained that the British rule produced radical and lasting change in the Indian society and culture. The British brought with them new technology, new institutions, new knowledge and new values. The new technology and the revolution in the means of communication helped the British to integrate the nation.

CHANGES IN LIFESTYLES

2.1) Worldliness:- Indian philosophy of life especially the Hindu way of life is based on the doctrine of Karma. It is believed that all the problems are due to post karma. The western value system gives more importance to be materialistic outlook.

2.2) Changing of social stratification:- The Traditional Indian society was a closed system where individual status was determined by birth. Caste system divided the social groups into hierarchical order. Castes not only assigned a name, status and occupation to tis members but also prescribed custom, traditions and a life style which is different from caste to caste for e.g.: Brahmins occupied the top position.

2.3) Changes in Legislation:- with the introduction of the British judicial system, the principle of equality and consciousness of positive rights was established. The British introduced several laws for bringing about social reforms in the Indian society for abolishing such institutions as sati (1829), female infanticide, child marriage and human sacrifice.

2.4) Impact of Education:- Modern education introduced by the British helped the Indian people to study. The spread of new education during the British rule gave rise to a new social class in India which played a decisive role in the history of modern Indian nationalism westernization results not only in the introduction of new institutions but also in fundamental change in the old institutions.

Westernization as a process of changes has brought about changes in the old institutions and given rise to new instructions.

3) Modernization:- Modernization is a process of change when a society change from its traditional moorings into a modern society, there is a gradual but fundamental changes in the lifestyle of the people. There is also a change in their outlook of the world. Modernization refers to improvement in all aspects of individual and social life. Modernization is a general phenomenon of social change.

3.1) Demographic Changes:- Significant demographic changes that have occurred due to modernization are the growth of population. Also, there is decline of death rate and migration from the rural to the urban areas.

3.2) Changes in polity:- Modernization brings changes in the polity also local interests and loyalties give way, to some extent to nationalism. There is also a tendency towards a greater democratization of the political process. Another important change in the polity includes over emphasis on urban areas. There is a tendency towards over urbanization with various problems of alienation and unemployment.

Modernization is a total process of transformation in all aspects of individual and social life. Modernization is a progressive process which will produce goods for the individual and society if it is adopted in the right spirit.

4) Secularization: - The Indian concept of secularism only requires that there shall be no state religion and that the state shall treat all religion equally. It does not, however, prevent the state from giving financial assistance to educational institutions sponsored by the church or other religions associations. The important place held by religion in the Indian society ideal of religious toleration in terms of equal regard for all religion. (sarva dharma sama bhava)

4.1) Hindu Renaissance:- The impact of modern, western, liberal ideas of democracy, equality, justice, dignity of men and autonomy of secular life really jolted the Indian intelligentsia. It inspired several independent socio, religious, reform movements in the nineteen century, collectively called the Indian renaissance. Swami Dayanand rejected caste distinctions and the inhuman practice of untouchability.

Secularization has brought about significant changes in the traditional institutions, caste, family system and village community.

5) Globalization: - Globalization is identified as a process whereby national and international boundaries are broken down by economic, political and cultural activity on a world wide scale.

5.1) Implications of globalization for society:- Globalization is a dialectic process, because it does not bring a generalized set of changes acting in a uniform direction. It consists of mutually opposed tendencies. Various views exist about the implications of globalization for society. A few suggest that

we are moving closer to a global society. Whereas other argues that globalization has led to a fracturing of the world into a society of states.

Globalization is a process of change which is affecting different societies around the world. Globalization will lead man to reflect and to act to make the world a better place. It will be free of disease, famine and war.

CONCLUSION

The present paper throws light on social change it causes, theories and process of social change social change is the alternation of the way societies are organized. Change in social organization is universal, although it is occurring at varying rates. Social change may occur for a number of different reasons. Social changes in the Indian society cannot be dissociated from the initial social conditions of the society. Its historical roots provide a base for its evaluation. Social change as earlier discussed is ubiquitous and inevitable as change is the only permanent phenomena. This implies that for a change to be social the alternation permeates the entire society. In this regard social changes is said to be collective and impressive on the entire society or group.

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