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Lesson No.

- 1.1 : Social Change : Meaning
- 1.2 : Types of Social Change : Progress and development
- 1.3 : Types of Social Change : Evolution and Revolution
- 1.4 : Cultural and Demographic - Factors of Social Change
- 1.5 : Economic Factors of Social Change
- 1.6 : Technology as a factor of social change

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SOCIAL CHANGE : MEANING

Structure

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1.2 Meaning

1.3 Definitions

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1.12 Exercise Questions**1.13 Suggested Readings****1.0 Objectives :**

After going through this lesson you will be able to :

- * understand the meaning of Social Change.
- * know what are the reasons behind Social change.
- * explain in which direction the change is taking place.
- * discuss various characteristics of Social Change.
- * throw light on the views of various social thinkers regarding this social change.

1.1 Introduction

Change is a universal phenomenon. Change is the law of nature and is inevitable. Change takes place in every society. Change brings variations in the structure of the society. Change occurs due to natural or planned efforts. Social change is a continuous process and so many factors contribute for the changes in the society from time to time. So it is important to know different aspects of social change.

1.2 Meaning

Change is any alteration, difference, modification which takes place in any situation or in an object or in a society by the time. Change is the law of nature so it is an inevitable phenomenon. Difference observed in anything over a period of time is denoted as change. The term social change is used to indicate the changes that take place in human interaction and inter relationships. Society is web of social relationships. So social change means change in the system of social relationships. The term social change is also used for the changes seen in social processes, social interaction and social organization. It can also be said that change in the structure and functions of the society.

The rate of change in every society is different. It is not uniform for all societies. Some societies change at high speed and in some it is very low or negligible. Different aspects of society change at different pace. In some societies one factor changes more rapidly than other. When one observes a modification in the social organization as a whole or in some of the components it is denoted as a social change. Social change must be observable in social organization as a whole or some of the aspects of the society which is observable in the components of the society. It is essential to see change in the structural aspects of the society. Social change must show a degree of permanence in the structure of the society. Social change can be defined as every observable transformation over time which effects in a way. The structure or functioning of social organization of a given collectivity, group or society and which modifies the course of history.

1.3 Definitions

According to **Merril and Eldridge** "Social change means that large number of persons are engaged in activities that differ from those which they have engaged in

sometime before. Society is composed of a vast and complex network of patterned human relationships, in which all men participate, when human behaviour is in the process of modification. This is only another way of indicating that social change is occurring."

According to **Jones** " Social change is a term used to describe variation or modification of any aspect of social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organization."

According to **Gillin and Gillin** "Social changes are variations from the accepted modes of life whether due to alterations in geographical conditions, in cultural equipment, composition of the population or ideologies and whether brought about by diffusion or invention within the group."

According to **Kingsley Davis** "By social change is meant only such alterations as occur in social organization, that is, structure and functions of society."

According to **Majumdar, H.T.** "Social change may be defined as a new fashion or mode of modifying or replacing the old, in the life of people or in the operation of society."

1.4 Characteristics of social change

1.4.1 Social change is continuous: Social change is a continuous process as society is always undergoing a change. No society is stable every society is undergoing a change.

1.4.2 Social change is universal phenomenon: Social change is universal in nature. Every society time to time under goes change. The rate of change may differ from society to society. But every society is undergoing a change.

1.4.3 Social change is inevitable: As change is the law of nature so no society may be primitive or modern has remain stable. The change may come in natural way or it may be brought by the human beings in the particular direction. To satisfy the changing needs of the individuals society has to undergo a change.

1.4.4 Social change is environmental: Change must take place within a geographic or physical or any cultural context. Both environment and change have impact on human behavoiur. Social change can never take place in a vaccum.

1.4.5 No uniformity in the speed of change: Social change is a universal phenomenon but its speed varies from society to society and time to time. The speed of change is generally slow but due to revolution or some other factors it may increase. The rate of change is faster in urban areas as compare to rural areas.

1.4.6 Social change is unpredictable: To predict about the direction and the nature of social change is very difficult. Because there are no inherinted laws of social change which can assume the definite form or direction of social change. So it is not possible to comment on the direction of social change.

1.4.7 Social change is a neutral process: Social change is an alteration or modification of the existing pattern in the society. It does not means that the older values were inferior from the new ones, as new values or norms are the alteration of the older values only.

- 1.4.8 Social change creates chain reaction:** Social change is one aspect of life which leads to a number of changes in other aspects also. The change in rights, privileges, status of women has resulted in a series of changes in home family relationships and the outer world. So social change creates a chain reaction. If there is a change in one part the other part will change accordingly.
- 1.4.9 Social change is effected by multiple factors:** A change can be brought by a single factor but it will be associated with other factors also. Social change is a complex phenomenon which effects almost all the aspects of social life because the social factors are interrelated with each other and are mutually inter dependent. So change is effected by multiple factors.
- 1.4.10 Change may be short term or long term:** Some times the result of social change is immediate while on the other hand it may take years to bring out results. The change which appears to be important in today's time it may have nothing to do with the trends of life in later years.

1.5 Causes of Social Change

Social change is a complex phenomenon in which no single cause produces a change. There are always multiple factors which become the cause of social change. The causes of social change may be inherited either in the social system or change may be the cause of the impact of social environment or non-social environment on the social system.

- 1.5.1 Strain and Conflict:** In every society strain and conflict of social interests are always present. No society is free from these conflicts and strains. The attempt to solve these conflicts and strain leads to change. These are more evident in the political field. The struggle to remain in power results in conflicts which produce some kind of social change.
- 1.5.2 Social Problems:** Social problems are the integral part of every society. In order to solve these problems change takes place in the social system. Problems such as unemployment, prostitution, beggary, poverty, over population, slum related problems create a situation of social change in the society. These arise due to the internal deficiencies in order to solve these social problems steps are taken which bring change in the existing social order.
- 1.5.3 Revolutions:** Revolution also brings changes in the social system. Revolution is an attempt to make a change in the existing system of the government. Revolution brings a change in the economy, culture or society. Revolution takes place due to the dissatisfaction of the masses from the present system. The main objective of the revolution is the reorganization of society in accordance with their own ideologies.
- 1.5.4 Cultural change:** Cultural change also contributes in the process of social change. The diffusion of culture within the society and from one society to another has been a great source of social and cultural change in every society.

1.5.5 The impact of social environment: There is a great influence of social environment in bringing about social change in the society. The shift of political alliances, invasions, peaceful immigration and trade bring lot of changes in the social system. Any one of these changes affect some part of the social structure earlier and other later on.

1.5.6 Impact of non-social environment: Changes in the non-social environment which are not in the control of human beings such as soil erosion, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, famines, and any other natural disasters play an important role in the structure of social change. These all factors bring about social change in the society.

1.6 Direction of social change:

1.6.1 Planned or directed change: Social change can be brought with the social planet which is a conscious process and involves investigation, discussions, agreements for achieving those conditions which are desirable for the change. Social planning involves a certain consensus in the whole society or a large number of people should consider that there is a need of a change and are not satisfied with the existing factors only then it is possible to change the situation. The social changes are mostly uncontrollable but by doing planning we can reduce the delay and cost of integrating them into culture. Planning is a rational activity so by doing planning one can bring about change into society by specific plans or ones efforts.

1.6.2 Unplanned or non directed change: Unplanned change means the change which is result of natural calamities for example floods, earthquakes, famines or any unexpected natural disaster. Human society is influenced by place, land, water, river, and other natural resources. This type of change is caused by social forces which are beyond the control of human beings. Human being can manipulate some of the things of nature but it is not in his hands to control them. The natural disaster take place automatically without any conscious plans or efforts. So the change which is not controllable is unplanned and has no direction at all.

1.7 Types of Social Change:

1.7.1 Evolution : Evolution describes a series of related changes in a system. Evolution involves a change not only in size but in structure also. Evolution is a continuous process of differentiation and integration. By the process of differentiation and integration the efficiency of the society is being constantly increased. The concept of evolution applies to the internal growth of an organism .The term social evolution is used to explain the evolution of human society which means social relations. Social evolution

is accompanied by increasing heterogeneity in society. Evolution also involves a changing adaptation of the object to its environment and after adaptation a further manifestation of its own nature. Evolution is concerned with those changes which occur spontaneously. For example, physical changes in an organism is evolution because it occurs not under the influence of some external forces.

1.7.2 Progress : Progress means moving forward in some direction or achieving something. Social changes are of various types and can be explained by different terms such as growth, progress, adaptation and accommodation etc. Progress points out the material advancement and also implies rational outlook towards life and ideological innovations. The word progress is taken from the Latin word 'Progredior' which means to step forward. It means that a change which makes some advancements is known as progress. Progress is a quite complex process of social change.

1.7.3 Revolution: Revolution is an abrupt change in the entire structure of a existing set up. Revolution means any new development in the economy, culture, polity or society. Revolution does not means restoration of the old order. The substitution of any thing or replacing anything without effecting the system of the government or society is not considered as revolution. Revolution can be said only when there is a movement and a change which can be seen in the functioning or structure of the society.

1.7.4 Development: Development also brings change in the structure of the society. Development takes place when changes are positive and constructive. Social change with development leads to progress. Development implies betterment at all levels may be physical, social, economic, cultural etc. Development comes through the new technological advancement and new infrastructure of industrilisation.

These are four major types of social change. The detail of these types is discussed in the coming chapters.

Check your knowledge

1. Planned or directed change

2. Strain and Conflict

3. Social change creates chain reaction. How?

4. Any three Causes of Social change.

1.8 Theories of Social change**1.8.1 Cyclical theories of social change**

Cyclical theories also see a series of stages through which society must pass, but instead of ending in a final stage of rejection they see a return to the starting point from another round. The exponents of this theory are Oswald Spengler, Vilfredo Pareto, Pitrim Sorokin, Arnold Toynbee.

The most important exponent of this theory is **Oswald Spengler** (1880-1936) a famous German philosopher. He saw each great civilization passing through successive stages of birth, growth decline with the complete cycle covering about a thousand years.

Vilfred Pareto has given the theory of 'circulation of elites'. **Pareto** is of the view that each social system consists of higher and lower classes. None of the class is stable as there is a change in it. Society changes in a cyclical fashion as there is circulation of higher to lower class and lower to higher level. People of lower class want to reach the higher level. This process of up and down goes on continuously. Due to this very change social change occurs. He called the higher class as the Elites.

According to **Sorokin** all great civilizations are in a cycle of endless three cultural systems. According to him social change occurs in a fluctuating manner. He has given three types of cultures Sensate culture, Ideational culture and Idealistic culture.

Sensate culture: The Sensate culture is concerned with those empirical facts which can be observed touched and tasted. These commodities satisfy our sensual needs. In such a society material things concerning luxuries and physical desires are given much importance and art, music and literature etc. are interpreted in material forms.

Ideational culture: This stage is contrary to sensate stage of culture. Ideational culture is concerned not with senses but with emotions, imaginations, soul and God. People try to seek truth not in material world but in the world of divinity.

Idealistic culture: This stage comes in between the sensate and ideational stage. When a society moves from sensate to ideational stage

or vice versa then for sometime it enters idealistic cultural stage.

In simple words Sorokin's belief that great civilizations go through three stages of culture each of which in turn passes through a period of growth and decline.

Arnold Toynbee an English historian has also given a cyclical theory of social change. He maintained that civilizations pass through three stages of birth, growth and death. The first stage is a kind of challenge and the second stage is a time of trouble and the third stage is of regeneration. According to him all great civilizations arose in response to some challenge and all have died except western civilization, which is also moving towards the later stage of decay.

1.8.2 Linear theory of social change

In linear theory of social change society moves from simple to complex form. There are different stages of development in each of which various factors set together to bring about the change in the society. The theories of Auguste Comte and Herbert Spencer are of great importance.

According to **Auguste Comte** the theory of society passes through three stages of evolution the theological stage, the metaphysical or abstract, the scientific or positive stage. In the first stage the human mind seeks to understand the essential nature of beings, he supposes all phenomena to be produced by the immediate action of supernatural beings. In the second stage which is modification of the first stage in this mind supposes instead of supernatural beings abstract forces, are capable of producing all the phenomena. In the last and final stage observation and experimentation becomes the basis of social analysis. This is the modern stage of social evolution.

Herbert Spencer develops the relation between society and human beings. According to him both grow throughout their life cycle. He regarded evolution as a process in which society passes through different phases. He considered that the increasing differentiation of functions within the society and the increasing size of the societies as the important factors in this process.

1.9 Summary

Social change is a modification in any present system of the society. It takes place in every society it may differ in rate of change. When variations are seen in the social institutions, social processes, social organizations or in the functioning of society then it is said that change is taking place in society. Social change also brings variations in the social relationships of the society. Social change can be said when transformation is seen in the functioning and structure of the society may be permanent or temporary but it should be visible.

1.10 Model Answers**Define change:**

Change is any alteration, difference, modification which takes place in any situation or in a object or in a society by the time. Change is the law of nature so it is an inevitable phenomenon. Difference observed in anything over a period of time is denoted as change. The term social change is used to indicate the changes that take place in human interaction and inter relationships. Society is web of social relationships. So social change means change in the system of social relationships.

What is Sensate culture?: The concept of sensate culture is given by Pitrim Sorokin. According to him Sensate culture is concerned with those empirical facts which can be observed touched and tasted. These commodities satisfy our sensual needs. In such a society material things concerning luxuries and physical desires are given much importance and art, music and literature etc. are interpreted in material forms.

What do you mean by Unplanned or non direct change : Unplanned change means the change which is the result of natural calamities for example floods, earthquakes, famines or any unexpected natural disaster. Human society is influenced by place, land, water, river, and other natural resources. This type of change is caused by social forces which are beyond the control of human beings. Human being can manipulate some of the thing a nature but it is not in his hands to control them

1.11 Glossary

Disaster	:	an unfortunate happening
Famine	:	great shortage of food and water
Strain	:	to pass through a seive
Alteration	:	any change in the existing system
Inevitable	:	not able to be avoided
Diffusion	:	to send out in all directions
Uniformity	:	likeness
Invasions	:	attack made by an enemy
Heterogenety:		differences
Innovations	:	creativity
Rational	:	to be able to reason or think

1.12 Exercise Questions

1. What do you mean by Social Changes? Discuss its characteristics.
2. What is Social Change ? Why it occurs?

Short Questions (Define)

- (a) Social Change
- (b) Linear Theory
- (c) Cyclical Theory
- (d) Planned Social Change
- (e) Sensate Culture

1.13 Suggested Readings

- 1. Kuppuswamy B. : Social Change
- 2. MacIver and Page : Society
- 3. C.N. Shankar Rao : Sociology

TYPES OF SOCIAL CHANGE : PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT

Structure

2.0 Objectives

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Meaning of Progress

2.3 Definitions of Progress

2.4 Characteristics of Social Change

- 2.4.1 Progress is a desired change
- 2.4.2 Progress is a relative concept
- 2.4.3 Progress is concerned with the group as a whole
- 2.4.4 Progress is a process of gaining and losing
- 2.4.5 Progress is volitional
- 2.4.6 Progress and human society
- 2.4.7 The concept of progress is variable

2.5 Basis for Progress

2.6 Conditions favourable for Progress

- 2.6.1 Faith
- 2.6.2 Population
- 2.6.3 Equal Opportunities
- 2.6.4 Basic Needs
- 2.6.5 Industrial and technological advancement
- 2.6.6 Capable Government

2.7 Difference between Change and Progress

2.8 Meaning of Development

2.9 Determinants of Social Development

- 2.9.1 The Role of People's Ability, Experience and Knowledge
- 2.9.2 Adoption of Technology
- 2.9.3 Innovative Personality
- 2.9.4 Education

2.10 Summary

2.11 Model Answers

2.12 Glossary

2.13 Exercise Question

2.14 Suggested Readings

2.0 Objectives

After going through this lesson you will be able to:

- * know how Progress brings changes in social system.
- * understand the relation between social change and development.
- * discuss changes seen due to development on social change

2.1 Introduction

In social change progress and development both have an important role to play. Progress means to move forward in the direction and achievement of some goal. Development means the change which is constructive and positive in nature. Both development and progress bring change in the social structure of any society. To understand social change in various sections it is necessary to understand the meaning of social progress and social development.

2.2 Meaning of Progress

Progress means moving forward in some direction or achieving something. Progress points out the material advancement and also implies rational outlook towards life and ideological innovations.

The word progress is taken from the Latin word 'Progredior' which means to step forward. It means that a change which makes some advancements is known as progress. Progress is a quite complex process of social change. It has been defined differently at different historical periods and at different places. In some societies progress means to get maximum money from the public in the forms of taxes. Whereas in 19th century the maximum utilization of natural sources was considered as progress. A situation which may be considered a progress in one society may be regarded as decline in another.

2.3 Definitions of Progress

- (i) According to **Lumely**, "It is a change, but it changes in a desired or approved direction not in any direction."
- (ii) **Ogburn and Nimkoff**, "Progress means change for the better and hence must imply value judgment."
- (iii) **Ginsberg**, "Progress is a development of evolution to a direction which satisfies rational criteria of values."
- (iv) **MacIver and Page**, "By progress we imply not merely direction, but direction towards some final goal, some destination determined ideally not simply by the objective consideration at work."

So by studying above definitions we can say that progress means a desired change towards our approved social ends which may effect human welfare. Progress is a change in the same direction.

2.4 Characteristics of social progress

2.4.1 Progress is a desired change : A change is called progress when it fulfills the desired aim. When change occurs in a particular direction to

bring desired change we call it as a progress. It always takes society forward in material or non-material aspects of the human life.

2.4.2 Progress is a relative concept : Progress does not have the same meaning in all the societies. In India ideational advancements may be regarded as progress may be regarded as progress where as in Western societies material advancement is considered the basis of progress. So progress means a desired change towards our approved social ends.

2.4.3 Progress is concerned with the group as a whole : Progress does not mean change desired by an individual or a group of individuals. When the whole group or majority of its members move towards advancements, it is called progress.

2.4.4 Progress is a process of gaining and losing : Progress is a process in which if we gain something on the one hand we loose on the other. The percentage of gaining is more than loosing. If loss will be greater than it cannot be called social change.

s 2.4.5 Progress is volitional : Progress is the product of conscious efforts of man. For example material and ideational innovations are not possible unless conscious efforts are made to achieve the same. Progress does not come through inactivity. It requires desire and volition.

2.4.6 Progress and human society : Progress means change in a desired direction to achieve some specific goal. Only human beings have certain goals in life, when by conscious efforts they try to achieve the same it is called progress.

2.4.7 The concept of progress is variable : Progress is variable in nature because what is considered today the symbol of progress may tomorrow be regards as a sign of non- progress. Progress is closely correlated with social values.

2.5 Basis of progress

Progress is the realization of our social ideals. It is related with the social values of the time and place to which it belongs. Progress means the achievement of some goals. According to some sociologists material achievements are to be regarded as progress, whereas according to others spiritual enhancement is progress, and some of them consider accumulation of knowledge as progressive or regressive. The progress of a society can be measured on the basis of the following factors.

- (i) A healthy mind and body are essential for progress in any direction.
- (ii) The acquisition of objects necessary for life is an essential condition for progress.
- (iii) The maximum exploitation of natural sources is needed for group welfare.
- (iv) Universal education is required for progress.
- (v) The improved form of family organization is needed for progress.

- (vi) Maximum facilities should be provided to persons performing various constructive works for the progress of the society.
- (vii) There should be improvement of public rights in the sphere of commerce and trade.
- (viii) Improved standard of living of majority of people brings progress in the society.
- (ix) The relations between Government and Public should be improved and should be free.
- (x) For the progress of any society the popularity of different arts present in the society is must.
- (xi) The spiritual aspects of life should be enhanced for the progress of the society.
- (xii) Spread of occupational education is necessary in today's time so that youth can help in the progress of the society.
- (xiii) The co-operative aspects of life should be improved.
- (xiv) The provision of social security in the form of social insurance is essential for the progress of the society.
- (xv) There should be freedom of expression, thought and equal opportunities should be provided to all for the progress of the society.
- (xvi) Moral conduct of the people is necessary for the progress of the society.

2.6 Conditions favourable for social progress

Following are the main conditions which are conducive to social progress.

- 2.6.1 Faith:** People must have faith that they are capable of making progress. Lack of such faith and confidence results in failure of many plans which may be made for social advancements.
- 2.6.2 Population:** Population should be at optimum point. Optimum population is that when the working force of a country is in proportion to its natural sources. If the society is overpopulated and within its means it fails to satisfy the ever increasing needs of the people, then in that case progress is not possible.
- 2.6.3 Equal opportunities:** Another condition conducive to social progress is that all its members must be given equal opportunities to make progress. If discrimination is made on the basis of caste, creed, race or religion etc., then in place of mutual co-operation society will be torn apart into different conflicting groups which may hamper social progress.
- 2.6.4 Basic needs:** Social progress is possible only if minimum basic needs of all the people are satisfied. If even minimum needs are not satisfied. Insecurity may creep in. Most of the time people have to struggle for the satisfaction of their bare basis needs and progress will be out of question.
- 2.6.5 Industrial and technological advancement:** Industrial and technological advancement are essential preconditions for social progress. For these

advancemans, advance occupation training centers must be set up. These centers must provide equal chances to every one to seek different vocational guidance.

2.6.6 Capable Government: Another important factor which helps social progress is capable leaders. If administration is in the hands of some vested interest who think of their own selfish ends, then progress is out of question, people can have faith in those leaders only who work for common welfare of the society which leads towards progress.

2.7 Difference between change and progress

Following are the differences between the two :

- (i) Progress is a change : change in some specific direction. Change is just an alteration that occurs in a society. It is neutral process.
- (ii) Social change is an alteration that occurs in social relationships or social organization. It can be integrative or disintegrative. Whereas social progress is when society advances forward. So change is a broader concept which implies any type of alteration, whereas progress means forward movement of society.
- (iii) Social change is spontaneous and it does not occur due to conscious efforts of man. Change is the law of nature which is continuously occurring and man sometime may not be aware of it. On the other hand progress is the product of the conscious efforts of man and man is always aware of it.
- (iv) Change in fashion, behaviour, ideas and ideologies is felt by all the members of a society and it has never been a point of controversy. Whereas progress is a relative concept. The same change may be regarded as progressive by some and regressive by others.
- (v) Progress implies social welfare, whereas in change no such idea is imbibed.
- (vi) Progress is closely associated with moral system. It is the moral values on the basis of which is judged whether a society is progressing or not. In Western countries material advancement is considered progress, whereas in ancient India main emphasis was on spiritual advancement.

In the end we can say that progress is not simply a change but it is a change in particular direction. The implication of progress is that which change has been seen it is for the betterment. Progress indicates continuity, quality, and direction to desired goal.

2.8 Meaning of Development

Development takes place when changes are positive and constructive. Social change with development leads to progress. Development implies betterment at all levels may be physical, social, economic, cultural and health. Development comes through the new technological advancement and new infrastructure of industrilisation.

The term development has been used in many different senses and is vaguely

defined. It is because that the term development has varied usages in different discipline. The earlier usages of the concept development was defined in the terms of Social Evolution and all the growth was related to it. Development was considered as organic, cumulative and irreversible. Any change in the organism was considered as development.

The next stage of the concept of development is related with the economic growth of the society. The economic meaning of the concept gained in the middle of the twentieth century when countries of the Third World had first attained freedom from colonial rule. In the next stage development was considered as the fulfillment of the basic needs of the people. The attention was paid on the fulfillment of the needs of the people and it was also realized that the less developed or underdeveloped countries were dependent on the developed countries.

The concept of development includes the redistribution with the growth. It includes economic growth, self-reliance and the development in all the other factors also.

Check your knowledge**Define progress.**

Progress is a relative concept. How?

Explain development

Role of innovative personality in development

2.9 Determinants of social development

Social development is influenced by various factors such as social, economic, political or mental. For the development of the society all the factors play an important role. All these factors may vary from society to society and time to time.

2.9.1 The Role of People's Ability, Experience and Knowledge: Development of any country depends on the efficient employment of factors of production such as land, labor, capital and organization. The employment of a factor of production is not just a matter of choice but is very much conditioned by cultural and social factors. The people must have the required ability, experience and knowledge to make the best use of the facilities that are made available. Development is, therefore related with economic, social and cultural factors as well.

2.9.2 Adoption of Technology: Adoption of technology is not just governed by simple mechanical considerations. Technology can yield results only when appropriate social conditions are present. All types of technology are not suitable to all types of societies. A particular type of technology which serves a purpose in a few societies may prove to be meaningless or dysfunctional in some others. Labor saving machines are more ideally suited to the more advanced Western societies. These may be dysfunctional for societies in which large number of unemployed and unskilled workers are ready to work for very low wages.

2.9.3 Innovative Personality: Development requires innovative personality. Early socialization and the nature and contents of education to which the child is exposed decide largely the emergence of innovative personality. In some societies a child is taught to solve problems independently and encouraged to be creative. In traditional societies on the other hand, more importance is given to conformity. Here the children are encouraged to accept uncritically the lore and practices handed down from the previous generations. In such traditional societies development would be very slow and gradual.

2.9.4 Education: Education is considered as a powerful weapon to initiate social change and all round development of the society. Education is that tool of social change which directs society towards development. Education moulds the personality of the individual defines him his status in the society. Education opens the mind of individual to take over new technology and

infrastructure which plays an important role in the development of society.

2.10 Summary

By concluding above discussion we can say that development is a change which leads to the progress in the existing social structure. As development takes place at all the levels so progress of the society takes place automatically. Development and progress both bring change in the social structure of the society. The change in the social structure of the society which comes through development and progress are constructive in nature and for the welfare of the society. This kind of a change is towards some final goal and some determined destination which has positive implications.

2.11 Short Notes :

Role of Education in development

Education is considered as a powerful weapon to initiate social change and all round development of the society. Education is that tool of social change which directs society towards development. Education moulds the personality of the individual defines him his status in the society. education opens the mind of individual to take over new technology and infrastructure which plays an important role in the development of society..

Role of technological advancement in progress

Technological advancement has big role to play in the progress of the society. New technology make the tasks easier and there is also less time consumption. Industrial and technological advancement are essential preconditions for social progress. For these advancements, advance occupation training centers must be set up. These centers must provide equal chances to every one to seek different vocational guidance.

Progress is a desired change

Progress means moving forward in the direction of achieving some kind of a goal. A change is called progress when it fulfills the desired aim. When any change takes place in society in specific direction and change is invited then it is said that progress is a desired change. This type of change takes society always forward in both material and non material aspects of human life.

2.12 Glossary

Innovative	:	means something new
Cummulative:		addition in relation to all the previous parts
Irreversible	:	which cant be changed
Rational	:	able to reason

- Evolution** : a gradual growing from one form to another
Volition : a conscious decision
Acquisition : to gain or collect something
Optimum : favourable condition
Regressive : to return to earlier or advanced stage
Spiritual : religious

2.13 Exercise Questions

- (1) Define Progress and discuss its characteristics.
- (2) What do you mean by Progress? What are its bases and favourable conditions?
- (3) What is development? Discuss the determinants of development.
- (4) Define development. How it is different from progress?

Short Questions**Define :**

- (a) Progress
- (b) Development
- (c) Difference between progress and development
- (d) Role of technology in progress.

2.14 Suggested readings

1. Kuppaswamy B. : Social Change
2. MacIver and Page : Society
3. Encyclopedia of social sciences
4. Oxford Dictionary of Sociology
5. <http://en.wikipedia.org>. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

TYPES OF SOCIAL CHANGE : EVOLUTION AND REVOLUTION

Structure :

3.0 Objectives

3.1 Introduction

3.2 Meaning of Evolution

3.3 Definitions

3.4 Concept of Evolution

3.5 Principles of Evolution

3.6 Types of Evolution

3.6.1 Biological Evolution

3.6.2 Social Evolution

3.7 Meaning of Revolution

3.8 Causes of Revolution

3.8.1 War

3.8.2 Ineffectiveness of governing class

3.8.3 Dissatisfaction with political set up

3.9 Stages of Revolution

3.9.1 Pre Revolutionary Stage

3.9.2 Initial or moderate Stage

3.9.3 Radical Stage

3.9.4 Post Revolutionary Stage

3.10 Types of Revolution

3.10.1 Political Revolution

3.10.2 Economic Revolution

3.10.3 Cultural Revolution

3.11 Short Notes

3.12 Glossary

3.13 Exercise Questions

3.14 Suggested Readings

3.0 Objectives :

After going through this lesson you will be able to know :

- what changes are seen when evolution takes place
- how revolution brings changes in the structure and functioning of the society
- what are the different stages of revolution by which change takes place

3.1 Introduction

Evolution and revolution both are the types of the social change. They both bring change in the present form of the society. Evolution is a change which takes place not only in size but in structure also. Evolution is a continuous process of differentiation and integration. The concept of evolution applies to the internal growth of an organism. Whereas revolution is a process which takes place when there is a movement and a change in the functioning or structure of the society. Both evolution and revolution bring change.

3.2 Meaning of Evolution : Evolution is one of the processes of social change. The term 'evolution' comes from the Latin word 'evolyer' which means to develop or to 'unfold'. It means more than growth. The word 'growth' means a direction of change but only of a quantitative character, e.g., we say population grows. Evolution involves something more intrinsic a change not merely in size but at least in structure also, for example when we speak of biological evolution, we refer to the emergence of certain organism from others in a kind succession. It is a process in which hidden or latent characters of a thing reveal themselves. But since nothing is independent of the universe, evolution also involves a changing adoption of the object to its environment and after adaptation a further manifestation of its own nature. Thus evolution is a continuous process of differentiation - cum - integration.

3.3 Definitions :

According to **MacIver and Page**, "When there is not only the continuity of change but direction of change, we mean evolution.

According to **Herbert Spencer**, "Evolution is integration of matter and concomitant dissipation of motion during which matter passes from indefinite incoherent homogeneity to definite coherent heterogeneity."

From these definitions it becomes clear that evolution means more than growth and more than a passing from simple to complex. The block of stone which a sculptor carvers into a statue does not devolve, it is molded by an external process. Evolution is the fulfillment within an immanent nature of life.

3.4 The Concept of Evolution :

The concept of evolution as a process of differentiation-cum integration was first developed by the German Sociologist **Von Baer** and subsequently by **Darwin, Spencer** and many others.

Darwin's theory of Evolution may be termed as 'Classical theory of Evolution. According to these theories every civilization passes from lower to higher stage. **Auguste Comte**, Sir **Henry Maine** and **Morgan** are main profounders of this theory. They tried to give evolutionary interpretation of society in different ways.

- (a) According to **Auguste Comte** every society passes through three stages of evolution (i) **Theological stage** - At this stage spiritualism dominates the society. (ii) **Metaphysical stage** -At this stage man starts believing that every **ends** in the world is controlled by some metaphysical force

(iii) **Scientific or positive stage**- At this stage observation and experimentation become the basis of social analysis. This is the modern stage of social evolution.

- (b) According to **Sir Henry Maine**, in the beginning society used to be patriarchal in nature and after this stage contract and freedom become the basis of social organization.
- (c) According to **Morgan** civilization and society has evolved in a sequential order. In order to understand social evolution we should observe different stages of evolution of social institutions and organizations.

In nineteenth century **Darwin** propagated the theory of 'Biological Evolution' According to Darwin in the initial stage an organism is very simple, indefinite and incoherent. Its different parts are more or less similar. At later state, due to evolution, the differences in different organs of an organism become apparent. So a change in any one part affects the whole body.

According to **Spencer**, "Societies show integration both by simple increase of arms and by coalescence and re-coalescence of masses. The change from homogeneity to heterogeneity is multitudinously exemplified; Up from the simple tribe also in all parts to the civilized nation full of structural and functional unlikeness. With progressive integration and heterogeneity goes increasing coherence.. simultaneously comes increasing definiteness. Social organization is at first vague; advancement brings settled arrangements which grow slowly more precise; customs pass into laws, which while gaining fixity, also become more specific in their applications to variety of actions and all institutions at first confusedly intermingled, slowly separated at the same time that each within itself marks off more distinctly its component structures. There is progress towards greater size, coherence and definiteness.

3.5 Principles of Evolution

Herbert Spencer thus describes four principles of evolutions These are:

- (i) Social evolution is one cultural or human aspects of the law of cosmic evolutions.
- (ii) Social evolution takes place in the same way as cosmic evolution takes place.
- (iii) Social evolution is gradual.
- (iv) Social evolution is progressive.

In addition to these four characteristics, three other features of social evolution are clearly evident from its foregoing definition.

- (a) Social evolution takes place through the process of differentiation. In order to understand it if we study the history of a society over a long period of time, we will find that association and institutions, etc. are constantly evolving or developing. In social evolution new and ever newer

circumstances and problems are constantly appearing and in order to cope up with them new associations and institutions. Take for example, the community in a town. Previously, when the town had been a small community in a town. Previously, when responsibility of a panchayat or a town area committee. Its management is in the hands of dozen different committees.

- (b) But without integration this differentiation cannot take one anywhere. Hence, synthesis, along with differentiation, is necessary. Today while new nations are coming into being in the human society, equally strong efforts are being made to create a world society by uniting these nations.
- (c) By virtue of this double process of differentiation and integration the efficiency of society is constantly increasing. Division of labour is the key word of modern economic evolution. By an increase in the number of associations and institutions in society, work in various spheres is performed more successfully and because of the process of synthesizes various spheres take advantage of each other's efficiency also.

In the theory of social evolution, the naturalists apply the biological principles of survival of the fittest and struggle for existence to society. Many scientists have found this theory tenable and offered their explanation of it. Hobhouse has written, "By evolution I mean any sort of growth, by social progress the growth of social life in respect of these qualities to which the human being can attach or can rationally attach values". The principles of social evolution maintains that society attach values." The principle of social evolution maintains that society moves in a liner fashion.

According to **Morgan, Hadden** and **Engles**, every society passes through the following three stages : (1) Savagery, (2) Barbarism and (3) Civilization. In the same way these scholars have held that there are four stages in the economic development of every society (1) Hunting (2) Pastoral, (3) Agricultural and (4) Industrial state. According to evolutionary principles these are three recognized stages in the development of technology - (1) Stone Age, (2) Bronze Age, and (3) Iron Age. In the same way the evolutionists have attempted to show that there are stages of development in the various institutions of human society, such as marriage, family, Government etc.

3.6 Types of evolution: Evolution is mainly of two types : Biological and social.

3.6.1 Biological evolution: Darwin is the main propounded of this theory which is later followed by many scientists. The main points of Darwin's theory are the following :

- (i) In the initial stage of development organism is in a very simple form. As it evolves it grows more and more complex in nature and form. For example, amoeba is a very simple unicellular organisms and all its bodily functions are performed by one cell only. Whereas, human body is the most evolved form of organism, where different functions are

performed by different organs.

- (ii) As the organism evolves its different organs get differentiated. But it does not mean that they become independent of one another. With increasing differentiation mutual interdependence also increases.
- (iii) Evolution is a continuous process. Its movement is not visible. But the change in different parts of organism can easily be observed.
- (iv) Evolution passes through definite stages in the process of change. Organism evolves from simple to complex, homogenous to heterogeneous and incoherent to coherent entity.

3.6.2 Social evolution: The concept of evolution was appropriately applied by **Herbert Spencer** to social phenomenon. By equating society with an organism Spencer made clear that as organism changes from simple to complex from indefinite to definite and from homogenous to heterogeneous form, similarly society is also evolving. He has applied the concept of evolution to social phenomenon in the following manner:

- (i) In the beginning human society was very simple, There was not much division of labour. Some persons were performing different functions. But gradually as the society evolves, it gets differentiated and due to increasing specialisation in different spheres, different functions are to be performed by different institutions, associations and other social groups, etc. As a result of it, society becomes more complex.
- (ii) Like biological evolution in the process of social evolution too, society passes through definite stages. For instance, primitive man was nomadic in nature then came pastoral age, next is agricultural and modern is industrial age.
- (iii) Social evolution is neither a quantitative change nor it is affected by external factors. The change is brought about from within, it is qualitative nature.

3.7 Revolution and Social Change

Meaning of Revolution: Revolution is a violent, change in the society. Revolution in general is an attempt to make a radical change in the system of government. Revolution also means any fundamental new development in the economy, culture or society. Revolution also means the restoration of the old order. The substitution of any thing or replacing anything without effecting the system of the government or society is not considered as revolution. Revolution can be said only when there is a movement and a change can be seen in the functioning or structure of the society. Revolution have a tendency to spread all over. A revolution in one country acts as a stimulus to revolutionary activity in another countries.

Revolution is an extreme form of change in the system. It is a sudden change in the material and non-material aspects of the culture. Revolution is a change which is extensive and precise in nature which begins with the change in the political set up. Revolution has a goal which involves substantial change in the social structure of the society. Revolution involves or advocates the illegal methods for the achievements of their goal. Because most

of the legal and peaceful methods are not much effective in bringing about a revolution in the society. Revolution is a substantial change in the structure of the society so it is feared by those who do not want change because of their vested interests.

Revolution takes place when the members of the society are dissatisfied with the social order and work for radical change. Revolution brings change in the entire existing social structure of the society. The main objective of the revolution is the reorganization of society in accordance with their own ideologies. The Indian National Freedom Struggle is an example of a revolution which brought lot of changes in the entire structure of the society. Indian Freedom struggle inspired other Asian countries for their freedom.

Revolution can succeed only if preparation for it are kept secret. Revolution are sometimes spontaneous and these are more effective for example the revolutions in Germany and Austria were not played by any revolutionary high command.

Revolution fulfill a crucial function in the development of society. They overthrow the social order, which is considered not useful, for the establishment of new order. In this power passes from one class to the another. According to the Marxist Theory all social institutions are determined and conditioned by the mode of production. The Productive forces of the society at a certain stage of their development clash with the existing relation of production. The older order tries to suppress the new order due to their own interests. The suppressed order rises and revolts and tries to over throw the old order. This brings revolution, which in turn brings change in the society.

Check your knowledge**Meaning of Revolution**

Metaphysical stage

Meaning of evolution

Biological evolution

3.8 Causes of Revolution:

Revolution occurs when there is complete or partial breakdown of the old order caused by the War, Economic crisis or inefficiency of the ruling class.

3.8.1 War: War is a most important cause of revolution in modern times. The general dislocation caused by war, the material losses and human sacrifices create a climate conducive to radical change. A large section of people suffer from such type of a situation. The country which gets defeated faces many problems. They become dissatisfied with the prevailing situation.

3.8.2 Ineffectiveness of Governing Class: The class which is ruling i.e. the elite class, when it is not able to satisfy the ruling class or their extent of exploitation increases then revolution takes place. When the people of working class are not satisfied with the policies of the ruling class they broke out revolution to meet their demands.

3.8.3 Unable to enjoy their Political Rights: The another reason for the broke out revolution is when people are not enjoying their political rights. They do not receive the political rights which satisfy their needs. The Political elites try to defend their own privileges and ignore the demands of the people, as a result the outsiders try to bring change in the old order and give them their rights.

3.9 Stages of revolution: The stages of a modern revolution vary according to time, place and the character and aims of the revolutionary group.

3.9.1 Pre-Revolutionary stage: In this stage revolution comes in the form of demonstrations, strikes, meetings, outbreaks of violence, a partial or total breakdown of law and order. But this type of Revolutions are few.

3.9.2 Initial or Moderate stage: In this stage when one comes into power, being a coalition of various groups and parties it adopts a moderate character. A total break down is not in the interest of revolution, because they lack in qualified manpower to fill all key positions with its own candidates. So they need co-operation of number of supporters of old regime.

3.9.3 Radical Phase: In this phase the movements which have more ambitious plans and are driven forward by the sheer logical events tend to adopt more radical measures. The coalition of parties splits up and more radical elements emerge. The power of the ruling group passes to the hands of the small group of people.

3.9.4 Post Revolutionary Stage: Some revolution fail at a very early stage or are beaten by the forces raised against them. Some of these last longer and gradually change their character. Certain revolutionary achievements are maintained and others are slowly washed away.

Revolution is more stronger in those parts of the world where social

and political problems exist. The higher education acts as a powerful stimulus towards revolution. Higher Education provokes a Revolution of Expectations that cannot be fulfilled. Revolution now is not meant the liberation from the society but it is considered as reshaping of the society.

3.10 Types of Revolution

Political Revolution - a radical change in the structure and functions of political institutions like the political parties, political system and governance etc.

Economic Revolution - a radical change in the structure and functions of economic institutions dealing with production and distribution of economic resources.

Cultured Revolution - a radical change in the cultural institutions in a society.

3.11 Short Notes

(a) Four principles given by Herbert Spencer of evolution

Herbert Spencer thus describes four principles of evolutions These are:

- (i) Social evolution is one of the cultural or human aspects of the law of cosmic evolutions.
- (ii) Social evolution takes place in the same way as cosmic evolution takes place.
- (iii) Social evolution is gradual.
- (iv) Social evolution is progressive.

(b) Three stages of evolution by Auguste Comte

Auguste Comte every society passes through three stages of evolution

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Theological stage | - At this stage spiritualism dominates the society. |
| Metaphysical stage | - At this stage man starts believing that everything in the world is controlled by some metaphysical force |
| Scientific or positive stage | - At this stage observation and experimentation become the basis of social analysis. This is the modern stage of social evolution. |

3.12 Glossary

Evolution	:	a process in which living organisms develop from earlier forms
Cosmic	:	related to universe
Heterogeneous	:	difference in views
Barbarism	:	uncivilized or primitive society
Slavery	:	the state of being slave
Precise	:	definite
Substantial	:	able to be seen
Suppressed	:	to crush or to put stop
Liberation	:	to set free

3.13 Exercise Questions

- (1) What is Social Change? How it occurs Through evolutions?
- (2) What is Revolution? What are the causes and stages of Revolution?
- (3) What is evolution? How it is different from Revolution.

Short Questions (Define)

- (a) Social Change.
- (b) Biological evolution.
- (c) Social evolution.
- (d) Cultural Revolution.
- (e) Political Revolution.

3.14 Suggested readings

- Kuppuswamy B. : Social Change
MacIver and Page : Society
Encyclopedia of social sciences
Oxford Dictionary of Sociology.
C.N. Shankar Rao : Sociology

LESSON NO. 1.4

AUTHOR : Dr. RAMANDEEP KAUR

CULTURAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC : FACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- 4.1 Objectives
- 4.2 Introduction
- 4.3 Meaning of culture
- 4.4 Cultural Factors
 - 4.4.1 Ogburn's Views
 - 4.4.1.1 Material Change
 - 4.4.1.2 Non-Material Change
 - 4.4.2 Moore's Views
 - 4.4.2.1 Cultural Conflict
 - 4.4.2.2 Acculturation
 - 4.4.2.3 Cultural Diffusion
- 4.5 Summary
- 4.6 Demographic factors
 - 4.6.1 Meaning
 - 4.6.2 Changes in the size of Population
 - 4.6.2.1 Birth rate and death rate
 - 4.6.2.2 Immigration and emigration
- 4.7 Effects of composition of population
 - 4.7.1 Age
 - 4.7.2 Marital status
 - 4.7.3 Sex ratio
- 4.8 Summary
- 4.9 Short notes
- 4.10 Key words
- 4.11 Exercise Questions
- 4.12 Suggested Readings

4.1 OBJECTIVES :

After going through this lesson you will be able to:

- * see how cultural factors effect the social change and in what manner?
- * know whether demography brings out any change in the society.
- * explain the different factors of demography which bring about social change in the society.

4.2 INTRODUCTION :

Both cultural and demographic factors have their own place and role to

play in social change. Culture is the expression of our everyday life its reflections can be seen in our beliefs, knowledge, art, literature, religion and many other daily activities. On the other hand demography is related with increase and decreased in population which also effects our society. So whenever there is change in both the factors the change in society will automatically occurs and which is visible.

4.3 MEANING OF CULTURE :

Culture is the way of acting, feeling and thinking which are learned, shared by plurality of individuals. Culture is the system which is transmitted from one generation to another and among the other members of the group. Culture is the sum total of ideal patterns and norms of behaviour of group. Culture is accumulative in nature it always keeps on adding new inventions ideas and theories to its present form. Due to this nature of culture social change takes place. Culture is the manifestation of human mind. Man's ideology is reflected by culture. Culture is an important factor of social change.

4.4 CULTURAL FACTORS AND SOCIAL CHANGE :

Cultural factors consists of customs and traditions, inventions, exchange, ideology, and change in knowledge and values. Culture provides the base for inventions and discoveries. One adopts the cultural traits of the another society through war, attack, defeat or by the fulfillment of the right requirements. Culture gives direction and speed to social change. Our ways of behaving, thinking, living and acting are very much influenced by the changes in social values. No culture is static it always keeps on changing. It undergoes a change due to different factors such as international trade, foreign invasions, foreign rule, etc.

Cultural factors play a primary role in the process of social change. **Max Weber** has considered the contribution of cultural factor in bringing about social change. Weber on one hand has considered the inter relationship between religion and social structure as one aspect of culture. On the other hand he analyses the moral codes of various religions and mutual relationships of economic and capital. He is of the view that cultural factors which include religious factors help in social change. He tried to establish that change in religion is the cause of variations in economic institutions. One can not deny that changes and variations in culture inevitably influence social relationships. Culture gives speed and direction to social change and determines the limits beyond which social changes cannot occur.

Culture and social changes are so loosely interrelated that all cultural changes involve social change. Culture is not merely responsive to the influences from without or to changing techniques, it itself is a force directing social change. A culture gives views and directions to social behavior. It was the social philosophy of Marxism which has brought tremendous changes in Russia and many other societies.

In India Gandhism has influenced the economic and social order to a great extent. Hinduism and Buddhism had a great influence on Hindu social set up.

There is a correlation between social forms and the ideas, beliefs and ideologies underlying them. Our view of the role of sex in human life having undergone a change has changed the principal basis of family and marriage. A change in religion and morality brings a subsequent change in beliefs, attitudes and aspirations of the people. Change in social institutions asserts maximum influence on our social relationships. A change in the form of marriage brings a change in family set up. In India as caste system is under-going a change, the Hindu social organization is changing subsequently. As institutions regulate social relationships, a change in them can be held responsible for social change to a great extent. Thus there is a definite relation between changing attitudes and beliefs and changing social forms of relationships.

4.4.1 Ogburn's Views :

Ogburn has given two aspects of cultural change one is material change and other is non material change.

4.4.1.1 Material change: Material things include new inventions such as computers, television sets, machinery, automobiles, tools, manufacturing of goods.

4.4.1.2 Non material change: it includes art, philosophy, ideology, attitudes, religion, family, education. Whenever there is change in material aspect of the culture there will be change in the non material aspect also. Material changes are always forward from non material changes as non material changes take some time to adjust according to material advancements.

4.4.2 Moore's Views :

There are many cultural conditions which influence a social system. **Moore** has given three such conditions : (a) Cultural conflict, (b) Cultural diffusions, (c) Acculturation.

4.4.2.1 Cultural conflict: By cultural conflict we mean, when different cultural groups come in to close contact and every group tries to impose its culture on the others, the result is cultural conflict.

4.4.2.2 Acculturation: Acculturation is the second stage which comes after cultural conflict. At this stage one group completely adopts the culture of the other group.as the process of contact between different cultures it involves direct or indirect social interaction or exposure to the mass media and other means of culture.

4.4.2.3 Cultural Diffusion: Third stage is of cultural diffusion, in which culture of one group diffuses into other.

Cultural factor not only influences our social relationships, It also influences the direction and character of technological change. Our beliefs and attitudes determine the use to which the technological inventions will be put.

Technological changes does not take place of their own they are brought by human beings. Human beings are becoming more and more materialistic and want to live leisurely. To lead easy life and to minimize the manual labour they have started inventing new techniques, machines, and devices for their own comfort which brings about change. The atomic energy can be used for destruction or for construction purposes. Steel and iron can be used for building warships or for construction purposes. **Dowson and Gettys** rightly opine, "culture tends to give direction and momentum to social change to set limits beyond which social change may not go."

Due to geographical and social catastrophes the whole material world may collapse. But this will not be the end of the world, because remaining people have the art to reconstruct it. In other words, we may say that as long as the non material aspects of a culture survive, so can the society. The burning of ancient Rome, did not destroy the Roman society, nor has the physical devastation of Europe destroyed European civilization.

4.5 SUMMARY :

We can conclude that culture and social change are inter-linked. Both the concepts social change and cultural change overlap each other. The change brought in culture by material things will automatically bring change in the non material aspect of the culture. The change brought by technological advancements bring change in social relationships. But it does not warrant the conclusion that there is no distinction between social and cultural change. Actually the field of social change is limited in comparison with the field of cultural change.

4.6 DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS

4.6.1 Meaning

Demography can be defined as the analysis of the size, structure, and development of human populations. Two main features of demography are the sex and age composition of human groups. Demography also includes the geographical distribution of populations, genetic composition, population projections and family planning. Population change both in size and structure has a direct effect on the availability of social needs such as housing, education, health, and employment opportunities. The demographic factors of human population are important for understanding change in the society.

The population of every community keeps on changing it is not static. Population changes may occur because of war, migration, invasions etc. Changes in the quality and size of the population have an effect upon the social organization as well as customs, traditions, institutions associations etc. Increase and decrease of population have effect on social relationships of any age or of any sex. The increase or decrease in the composition of population has also effect on the economic institutions and associations.

4.6.2 Changes in the size of population

The change in the size of population directly effects the social structure of the society. The change in the size of population has effect on standard of living of the persons, social values they follow, beliefs and the social organization. It also effects the various other aspects of social life of the individual. The change in the size of population is mainly effected by two factors:

4.6.2.1 Birth and Death rate: Birth and death rate has a lot of impact on the size of population. There are three stages of population growth :

- (a) High birth rate and high death rate which leads to small or no increase in population.
- (b) High birth rate and low death rate results in population increase.
- (c) Low birth rate and low death rate results in population stabilization.

Increase in birth rate has lot of effect on the societies development. The increased birth rate increases the size of population which results in population explosion. The basic needs of the society does not increase at the same pace at which the size of the population is increasing. Due to this many problems arise such as poverty, unemployment, health related problems. They further effect the working of the society and there is decline in the standard of living. On the other hand decline in birth rate also effects the society. There is exploitation of the natural resources because of the scarcity of the working force. This effects the economic set up of the society.

Death rate also effects the structure of the society. The increase in death rate causes scarcity of experienced persons in the society which directly effects the working of the society. The death rate ratio of men and women is not same at the times which effects the institution of marriage and family which has deep impact on the society. On the other hand low death rates due to medical facilities also effect the composition of the society. Due to this there is increase in number of older people in the society.

Population effects the social, cultural, and economic life of the people. So in societies where there is high population rate their way of living and economic standard is different than those whose population is less or under control. Human life depends on the basic needs of the society.

4.6.2.2 Immigration and emigration: Immigration and emigration both effect the social features of the society. Immigration effects the size of the population of the society. As Bierstartd and Sorokin has said due to immigration the immigrants start mixing with the native people and the culture of that region which results in that the immigrants have the characteristics of two cultures.

Emigration not only effects the size of the population but it also effects the social set up of the society. In some societies people of some particular traits move out which results in sacarcity in that particular sphere in one society and

abundance in the other society. Men emigrate more as compared to women due to this there is absence of male members in the families which leads to family disorganization and many other problems also. There is change in the role and status of women in those families where men have emigrated.

4.7 EFFECT OF THE COMPOSITION OF POPULATION ON THE SOCIETY

The composition of the population also effects the society. Changes in the birth rate and death rate determine the rate and direction of change. Likewise marital status of population also effects the change in the society. The sex ratio also causes changes in the society. These all factors effect the change in the social attitude, social relationships, and influences the social organization. Whenever there is change in one of them there will be change in the society.

4.7.1 Age: Age is the important constituent of the composition of the population. The society where the ratio of population of younger people is more the society has different outlook. As the youth is more innovative and is always ready to take risks and accepts challenges there are more discoveries and new inventions in the society. The traditional ways and ideas are replaced by the modern ideologies and social values. The speed of change is faster in those societies where the ratio of the youth is more. On the other hand if the ratio of aged persons increases in the society then the society follows the older traditions set by the older generation. There will be no new inventions and discoveries in the society.

4.7.2 Marital status: Marriage is an important social institution and it has undergone a lot of changes during the past years. The change in the marriage system brought lot of changes in the society as well in the status of women also. For example the change in the form of marriage which is from polygamy to monogamy and child marriage to late marriage has brought lot of changes in the institution of marriage as well as in the organization of the society.

4.7.3 Sex ratio: The another constitute of demographic factors is sex ratio. The change in sex ratio brings out social change in the society. The difference in sex ratio imbalances the functioning of the society. In India the number of males is more than females as compared to other societies. The ratio of males and females is 790 females to 1000 males approximately. This effects the social institutions of the society which bring change in the social conditions of the society.

4.8 SUMMARY:

In the end we can conclude that demographic factors effect all the societies in different ways. The increase and decrease in population, changes in sex ratio, changes in rate of birth and death effect the social system. There is change in the social institutions and social relations of the members of the society. Demographic factors also bring about change in the attitudes and standard of living of the people living in the society. Population effects the social and cultural life of the

people. The increase in population will lead to many problems and it will become difficult to meet the basic needs of the individuals. So the demographic factors have a lot of impact on the social change in the society.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE (Define)

a) Acculturation :

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b) Material culture :

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c) Cultural conflict :

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d) Sex ratio :

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e) Birth rate and death rate

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4.9 MODEL ANSWERS :

Define culture : Culture is the way of acting, feeling and thinking which are learned shared by plurality of individuals. Culture is the system which is transmitted from one generation to another and among the other members of the group. Culture is the sum total of ideal patterns and norms of behaviour of group. Culture consists of customs and traditions, inventions, exchange, ideology, and change in knowledge and values. Culture provides the base for inventions and discoveries. Culture is the learned and shared behaviour which keeps on passing.

Demography : Demography can be defined as the analysis of the size, structure, and development of human populations. Two main features of demography are the sex and age composition of human groups. Demography also

includes the geographical distribution of populations, genetic composition, population projections and family planning. The population of every community keeps on changing it is not static. Population changes may occur because of war, migration, invasions etc. Changes in the quality and size of the population have an effect upon the social organization as well as customs, traditions, institutions and associations.

Emigration as a constituent of demography : Emigration not only effects the size of the population but it also effects the social set up of the society. In some societies people of some particular traits move out which results in scarcity in that particular sphere in one society and abundance in the other society. Men emigrate more as compared to women due to this there is absence of male members in the families which leads to family disorganization and many other problems also. There is change in the role and status of women in those families where men have emigrated.

Non material culture : Non material includes art, philosophy, ideology, attitudes, religion, family, education. Whenever there is change in material aspect of the culture there will be change in the non material aspect also. Material changes are always forward from non material changes as non material changes take some time to adjust according to material advancements.

Acculturation : Acculturation is used to describe the process of contact between different cultures. In the process of acculturation one group completely adopts the culture of the other group. As the process of contact between different cultures it involves direct or indirect social interaction or exposure to the mass media and other means of culture. Acculturation leads to the modification and alteration of the existing culture in the society.

Cultural Diffusion : The process of diffusion involves borrowing of cultural elements from another societies. Diffusion is one of the main sources of cultural and social change. The process of diffusion involves the spread of cultural elements both material artifacts and ideas from one culture to another. For example the spread of modernisation process around the world - represents the diffusion of industrialism from the advanced to the less developed societies.

4.10 KEY WORDS :

Immigration: to move from one place to another.

Diffusion: the action of spreading over a wide area.

Alteration: change in the existing situation.

Monogamy: a type of marriage in which one man marries with one woman.

Polygamy: A type of marriage in which one can have more one spouse at a time.

Accumulative: together a number of things.

Invasions: the arrival of large number of people in another country due to any reason.

Emigration: to leave one's own country in order to settle permanently in another country.

4.11 EXERCISE QUESTIONS :

- 1) Write an essay on Cultural Factors and Social Change.
- 2) How demography is responsible for bringing change in society.

Short Questions (Define) :

- (a) Culture
- (b) Demography
- (c) Acculturation
- (d) Cultural Diffusion
- (e) Cultural Conflict

4.12 SUGGESTED READINGS :

- | | | | |
|----|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Kuppuswamy B. | : | Social Change |
| 2. | MacIver and Page | : | Society |
| 3. | Shankra Rao C.N. | : | Sociology |
| | http://en.wikipedia.org | : | Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia |
| 4. | Yogendra Singh | : | Modernization of Indian Tradition |

LESSON NO. 1.5

AUTHOR : DR. SUKHDEV SINGH

ECONOMIC FACTOR OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- 5.0 Objectives
- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Meaning of Economic Factors
- 5.3 Economic institutions
 - 5.3.1 Production
 - 5.3.2 Distribution
 - 5.3.3 Consumption
- 5.4 Economic Stage & Change
- 5.5 Marxist Explanation of Social Change
 - 5.5.1 Primitive Society
 - 5.5.2 Asiatic Society
 - 5.5.3 Feudal Society
 - 5.5.4 Capitalist Society
 - 5.5.5 Socialist Society
- 5.6 Kuppaswamy's Ideas on economy
 - 5.6.1 Tribal Economy
 - 5.6.2 Peasant Economy
 - 5.6.3 Pre-Industrial Urban Economy
 - 5.6.4 Industrial Economy
 - 5.6.5 Corporate Economy
- 5.7 Summary
- 5.8 Probable Questions
- 5.9 Further Readings

5.0 OBJECTIVES :

After studying this lesson the students should be able to:

- explain the meaning of economic factors
- know about the economic factor in sociological terms
- Know the impact of economic factors on society.

5.1 INTRODUCTION :

While studying the concept of social change, readings about the factors causing the social change become Indispensable. You have already studied the concept of social change in your previous lessons. In this lesson the role of economic factors causing the social change will be discussed.

Economic factors occupy central place in bringing social change in the

societies across the world. The vogue of interpreting social change on economic basis has gained much popularity in modern age. By now it has been proved that change in the economy changes the other aspects of society. Karl Marx was the pioneer thinker who proved that all the aspects viz socio, cultural, religious and political are largely dependent upon the economic factor. Whereas in the technological factors main attribute to social change is the arrival of technology. Marx theory emphasizes not change in the material, but change in the basic norms governing economic relations among the people.

“Maya tere teen naam, Parsu , Parsa ,Paras Ram” it is an Punjabi adage conveying some sense in it. The logic behind change in name of same person in a village is associated with the economic change in Parsu, mean when he is poor everybody calls him Parsu, when he attains little economic betterment he called as Parsa and when he attains high economic status he becomes Paras Ram in the village. The same logics are put by the scholars to prove that change in the society occurs when there is change in the economic aspects.

5.2 MEANING OF ECONOMIC FACTOR :

For survival of human being three factors are involved i.e production, distribution and consumption. While meeting these factors a socio -economic network of relations emerges. Marx says that the character of the society depends on the way in which the economic problems are solved by any society. These ways develop into norms, for example, norms of barter, trade, exchange, property etc. The change of these norms introduces further changes throughout the fabric of the society. He states that mode of production determines the general character of social, political and other aspects of life. Social revolution takes place when there is a conflict between the existing relations of production or the existing property relations and new modes of production (Kuppuswamy). He assumed that there are highly differentiated interest groups, one supporting the old norms of relationship and the other fighting for the new mode of production. Consequently, class struggle is inevitable. In simple words it may be concluded that at a given time a specific set of production relations works but with the passage of time and the changed conditions the existing specific production relation does not work and a stage of conflict emerges which thus, give birth to a new set of production relations or new economic institutions. This change in the production relation bring changes in all the aspects of society.

Kapila in her book concludes that economic factors mean those economic institutions and departments, which constitute the economic structure of a society. From this point of view, consumption, exchange, production, distribution and economic policy of a society are main economic factors and any change in these factors affect the society as a whole.

5.3 ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS:

The economic institutions can be described as the system of social roles and norms organized about the production, distribution and consumption of foods and services. The function of the economic institution is to provide for the material needs and demands of the members of society, ranging from basic means of survival of foods intended for conspicuous consumption.

5.3.1 Production: Involves the assembling and applying of human and natural resources in the creation of goods or crops.

5.3.2 Distribution: Involves channeling inputs i.e natural resources and labour, to producing agencies and output (goods and services) to consuming agencies.

5.3.3 Consumption: Involves the 'using up' of goods and services. Production requires consumption while consumption necessitates production. So of what is produced may be consumed immediately, some may be stored for future gratifications. The accumulation of possessions become the foundation for systems of social stratification and change.

5.4 ECONOMIC STAGES AND CHANGE :

Various scholars, largely economists have proved in their respective works that every society passes through different stages in the course of its economic development. A stage in economic development is defined as a new condition which is competing with the old one (**Kuppuswamy**). Man is gregarious by nature. In the evolutionary process human being are trying to control the nature. The efforts of human beings starts from very simple process of hunting and gathering and go toward more and more complexity with the changing scenario. One of the pioneer economists, **Adam Smith** gives the following sequence of development stages of any society.

- Hunting
- Pastoral living
- Agricultural
- Commercial and
- Manufacturing

Hildebrand gives the following sequence of development of societies.

- Natural or barter economy
- Money economy and
- Credit economy

According to **Bucher** the sequence and stages of development of societies are :

- Independent domestic economy
- Town economy and
- National economy

Karl Marx has classified five major types of society :

- Primitive society / Commune
- Asiatic society
- Feudal society and
- Capitalist society
- Socialist society

5.5 MARX'S EXPLANATION OF ECONOMIC STAGES

As said earlier that the Marx was the first scholar of the world who gave the economic analysis of the development of human civilization. He claimed that social change occurs when there is change in the production forces and production relation. Imbalance or contradiction between the production forces and production relation gives rise to a new social order. In Marx words “ The mode of production in material life determines the general character of the social, political and spiritual process of life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but, on the contrary, their social existence determines their consciousness. At a certain stage of their development, the material process of production in society come in conflict with the existing relation of production, or what is but a legal expression, for the same thing - with the property relations within which they had been at work before. From forms of development of the forces of production, these relations turn into their fetters. Then comes the period of social revolution. With the change of economic foundation the entire immense superstructure is more or less rapidly transformed. All social institutions are determined and conditioned by the mode of production or the material forces of production. These material forces are subject to change, and change with the development in techniques, inventions, discoveries..”

5.5.1 Primitive society:

Marx believed that in this very beginning stage of human beings man was directly dependent upon nature and production process was also very simple. Hunting, gathering, fishing etc were the main activities of men for survival. In this era, equality of human being based on the personal quality and kinship remained predominant. Hardly any occupational distinctions exists in this era. However, with the finding and inventions of new tools in agriculture and other skills gave birth to the new production methods and occupational division started. This division in occupation started eroding the character of old equality based epoch and society entered into the age of slavery.

5.5.2 Asiatic Society:

The main characteristic of this epoch remained that some of the powerful persons overpowered others and made them slaves who will work for them forever and consequently and two classes Masters (Owners of property /land etc) and slaves emerged. Agriculture partly develops in this era and the pastoral tribes start to

settle on fertile land largely on the banks of rivers. This also gave rise to the village and town life . This era is often described as barbaric and of suppressive nature. But when the surplus production come with the masters, the slavery system became a hurdle in further economic advancement. Also continuous suppression of slave and their struggle for freedom gave rise to a new feudal system.

5.5.3 Feudal Society:

In this era the development science, trade and agriculture started and new middle class emerged. This middle class caught hold on the trade and business. In the overall structure of society two classes i.e lord (owner of property/ land or Have's) and serf (Non owners or Have not) emerged. The lords thrived in this era and the serfs were more marginalized. However, kinship bonds remained strong among the communities. The production forces of the feudal structure were not conducive for more production from surplus hence a new structure emerged and human civilization entered to the capitalist epoch.

5.5.4 Capitalistic Society:

The chief characteristic of this era has been the start of organized industrial units which produce at bigger level. The economy loses its agrarian character. Accumulation of wealth by industrialists gave rise to the two classes i.e bourgeoisie (owner, propertiers , industrialists etc) and proletariat (the working class , largely industrial workers). Industrialization and urbanization thrives . An age of exploitation of workers starts where profit making remains the main aim of the human being. In this era social bonds starts losing its hold in kinship. People become more individualistic and materialistic. The mass media and highly sophisticated technology changes the whole course of human civilization.

5.5.5 Socialist Society: According to Karl Marx after the capitalism all societies would enter into the socialism where all the people would be equal. Concept of private property vanish and this era would be having a good human face. Exploitation of some by others would stopped. However, this era has still to come in the world. After this, according to Marx, an era of communism would emerge in which the equality, freedom and human values prevail more profoundly.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE :

a) What is a Social Change ?

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b) What do you mean by Economic Factor of Social Change ?

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- c) Briefly through light on Economic Institutions.

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- d) Name the Economic stages given by Karl Marx .

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5.6 Kuppuswamy in his book on social change has given the following stages of society in the Indian context. These are

- Tribal Economy
- The Peasant Economy
- The Pre-industrial Urban Economy
- Industrial Economy
- Corporate Economy

According to Kuppuswamy all the above five types of societies bears unique social and economic aspects. He asserts that the outstanding feature of the Indian economic scene today is that we have all the different stages of economic development coexisting. There are more than 20 million scheduled tribal people whose economic and social life is in the primitive condition. More than 70 per cent of the people live in the rural areas and Indian society is largely characterized as peasant economy. Similarly, other town, city and metropolitan represents the modern types of economies.

5.6.1 Tribal Economy :

The type of setting, across world bears unique characteristics. According to Imperial Gazetteer of India “ A tribe is a collection of families bearing a common name, speaking a common dialect, occupying or professing to occupy a common territory and is not usually endogamous, though originally it might have been so.

In the simple tribal society, there are no separate economic activities. The economic, the religious, the political activities and others are all closely interwoven. Further, the tribal economy is essentially of the subsistence type in which the production is for direct consumption. Their survival is met through hunting, fishing and gathering. As a result of lack of technology, exploitation of nature is inadequate and inefficient; it is also wasteful as in the case of shifting cultivation (Kuppuswamy). However, with the arrival of technology and changes in the occupation structures tribes are losing its existing structure in the overall process of integration in the Indian society. Tribal people are getting jobs outside their territories. Their traditional kinship network is changing.

5.6.2 The Peasant Economy: The dominant occupation of the people in such a society is agriculture. Naturally, the domestication of plants and animals

constitutes an important economic activity. In fact the whole life revolves around the agriculture. There also exists, alongside agriculture, varied economic occupation, such as those of artisans, weavers, potters, blacksmith. A Simple division of labour characterizes such a society. There is practically no scope for complex division of labor which we find in the industrial society. The social life of peasant society is, therefore, village- oriented. Physical mobility being virtually non-existent because of inadequate development of the means of transportation, primary group relationship prevail in peasant society. Social control is naturally exercised through informal means such as folkways and mores. Family is a very important institution in an agrarian society catering to a myriad needs of its members.

Now the peasant society is under change due to economic and other factors. Agriculture has become highly mechanized. Dependence on agriculture is declining. Small scale industrial units are coming up in villages. Occupational mobility is emerging very fast. People are even migrating to cities for employment. Old system of joint family is now being replaced by single family system. Young couples have started demanding freedom from the supervision of their elders.

5.6.3: The Pre-industrial Urban Economy : The main character of this type of society is that it heads toward more industrial economy and lose its agrarian character. Old kinship system does not work effectively in this era of economy. People tend to profess other occupations than agriculture. This remains a transitional period when people shift from the traditional professions and enter in the new industrial oriented occupations. In many cases feudal forces also emerges in this stage. Many become absentee landlords because they do not till the land rather give it on rent to the cultivators usually known as tenants **Kuppuswamy** writes “the upper classes make the humble, illiterate lower classes do the physically taxing and distasteful work and use autocratic measures to preserve their dominance. One’s career depends on the family and the caste in which one is born. Only the elite could afford to send their children for higher education which is necessary to gain entrance into the privileged occupations. The aim of the elite is to avoid work. In such a society, the man who has enough income from his wealth to lead a comfortable life is the ideal person. On the other hand, the man who owns no wealth but has a good income is looked upon as inferior to the man who does not work but lives on the income from the ancestral wealth”. He further asserts that most of the merchants in the town and city are retail merchants having a small shop with a small stock. Then there are the hawkers, pedlars and pavement vendors. All of them deal with a few items in a restricted market and so have hardly any chance for capital formation.

Now this pre-industrial society is under change. Most societies are heading toward submerging into the bigger industrial societies due to various reasons discussed previously also.

5.6.4 Industrial Economy

The era of industrial economy becomes highly different than the agrarian economic structure. Industrial society is organized around the axis of production and machinery for the fabrication of goods. In its rhythm of life and organization of work, industrial society is the defining feature of the social structure -i.e the economy, the occupational system and the stratification system - of modern western society. The industrial society, which emerged in the wake of industrial revolution is distinguished by a new economic order. The entire production is shifted away from the family and the household to the factory. Family no longer is a production unit, as in an agrarian setting. Moreover, machine technology, which is the basis of new economic order is the cause as well as the effect of a complex division of labour. According to **Kuppuswamy** when the society gets industrialised it becomes essentially urban. Industrialization implies that inanimate sources of energy like steam and electricity are utilized for the production of goods and for transportation and communication. It also implies a complex set of tools and machines used in production of goods as well as in transportation and communication. Whereas in agricultural or agrarian society illiteracy largely prevails the mass education is one of its chief characteristic.

Kuppuswamy writes that a large number of people, in industrial economy, live in the urban areas because of the factory method of production where hundreds of people are brought together under one roof to manufacture thing. Another important characteristic of the industrial society is the emphasis on achievement. A man's status depends upon what he is capable of doing and not to which family or caste he comes from. There is a vast organization of men, materials and money, in order to bring about mass production of goods for the nation and the international markets. And this affects the social structure in many ways. Imaginative and bold entrepreneurs move up from the bottom or the middle of the social ladder to the top.

The industrial society bears a different social network. Era of high division of labour and specialization begins. Western orient life patterns are emerging all over the world. Lavish spending on social and religious aspects of life becomes a status symbol. This process is also concomitantly bringing the high incidence of mental and moral breakdown, mob violence, juvenile delinquency, organized crime, feeling of insecurity etc. Kinship system loses its grip. However, the economy does not become static, due to various reasons, and the industrial economy further results into the corporate economy.

5.6.5 Corporate Economy

Corporate economy is more advanced stage of economy as compare to pre-industrial and industrial society. In the process of increasing profits, large scale

capital formation, various firms within the country or overseas make mutual arrangements. The occupational structure becomes highly specialization oriented. This era is also characterized by competitiveness, mechanical thinking, and more mundane life. Kinship relations lose their significance. Corporations, largely in connivance with state, establish their market in the large areas and extract money from people by various technological and communication means. In the corporation, the decisions are not taken by an individual but by a group because in the contemporary situation a decision requires specialized knowledge from different sources which no individual can ever have.

5.7 SUMMARY :

Economic factors play a significant role in bringing changes in the societies. Change in the economy of any society concomitantly brings changes in the other aspects of society viz social, religious, cultural and political as well. Karl Marx was the first thinker who inferred that real change in the society occurs due to the changes in production forces and production relations. Every stage of society declines due to its weakness and contradictions and give rise to a new stage. Every stage of society bears a different social order. In the primitive simple societies socio-economic relations largely depend upon the kinship system whereas in the industrial and corporate economies money matters the most and kinship system has less role to play in the society.

5.8 PROBABLE QUESTIONS :

- (1) Define Economic factors and discuss its role in social change.
- (2) Discuss the Karl Marx's view regarding causes social change.

Short Questions (Define) :

- (a) Production
- (b) Consumption
- (c) Industrial Society
- (d) Feudal Society.

5.9 FURTHER READINGS :

1. R.M MacIver & C. H. Page *"Society: An Introductory Analysis"* Macmillan India, Ltd, Delhi 1996.
2. Walfred A Anderson & Frederick B Parker *"Society: Its Organization and Operation"* D. Van Nostrand Company, Princeton, New Jersey, 1964.
3. B. Kuppaswamy *"Social Change in India"* Konark Publishers, Delhi 1993.
4. D.R. Sachdeva & Vidya Bhushan *"An Introduction to Sociology"* Kitab Mahal, Delhi 1990.
5. Neil J. Smelser *"The Sociology of Economic Life"*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey.

LESSON NO. 1.6**AUTHOR : DR. SUKHDEV SINGH**

TECHNOLOGY AS A FACTOR OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- 6.0 Objectives
- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Meaning of Technological Factors
- 6.3 Technology and initiation of Social Change
- 6.4 Modern Society and Technology
- 6.5 Effects of Technology
 - 6.5.1 Technology and Social Change
 - 6.5.2 Technology and Caste System
 - 6.5.3 Technology and Changes among Women
 - 6.5.4 Technology and erosion of traditional crafts
 - 6.5.5 Decline in Superstitions and religious life
 - 6.5.6 Loss of Human Dignity
 - 6.5.7 Technology and Changes in Social Institutions
 - 6.5.8 Change in Values
 - 6.5.9 Highly Specialised era
 - 6.5.10 Technology and Changing Relations in agriculture
 - 6.5.11 Technology and Means of Transport and Communication
 - 6.5.12 Growth of Industrialization and Urbanization
 - 6.5.13 Creation of new job and unemployment
- 6.6 Marxist Explanation of Social Change
- 6.7 Veblen Ideas regarding Technological Determinism
- 6.8 Summary
- 6.9 Probable questions from this lesson
- 6.10 Further Readings

6.0 OBJECTIVE :

After studying this lesson the students should be able to:

- explain the meaning of technological factors
- know about the technology in sociological terms
- discuss the impact of technological factors
- explain ideas of Marx and Veblen about the technological Determinism

6.1 INTRODUCTION :

The concept of social change is one of the important and indispensable in readings for the students of sociology. In the previous lessons, we tried to see how cultural demographic and economic factors brought social change and in

what manner? In this lesson the role of technological factors in bringing social change in the society will be discussed.

Various factors are responsible for bringing changes in the groups, communities and societies across the world. Every aware person in the world might be knowing that this world is ever-changing. What was existing centuries ago in this world is now not available. The Indian and other societies were vastly different from that with which we are familiar today and present one will also not remain the same after some time. It is said that an ancient king wanted an epitaph chiseled on his tombstone that would be forever true. The wise men considered his request and returned with the advice that he use the phrase, "Everything changes". In the last few decades the role of technology has been found so profound that it has been an inevitable part of individual as well as social life. **Jena et al** writes that no modern man or society can sustain without technology. Owing to its universal presence and immense importance in social life. The present age has been variously termed as Technological age, 'super-technocratic age', 'post industrial society', 'Age of Machines', 'Age of Power', 'Scientific age etc. Notwithstanding the role of other factors technology has been proved as one of the basic and foremost factors. Historical accounts on the invention of wheel and iron point vividly indicate the changes in the social set ups right from the pastoral nomadic barbarian to settled settings of agriculture and from agriculture to industrial society. The scientific and technological inventions of 18th and 19th centuries have changed the face of human civilization. The present era of highly mechanized economies coupled with mass communication have galvanized every set up of human population in the process of fast change. Even the remote tribes are tasting the effects of technology resulting in the 'global' economy with its manifold far-reaching consequences.

6.2 MEANING OF TECHNOLOGICAL FACTORS/TECHNOLOGY :

Now the simple question comes in mind that what are technological factors? Are they merely machines and tools or various types? The technological factors represent the conditions created by man which have a profound influence on his life. **Jena** and others clarify technology refers to 'applied science', or application of sciences for industrial uses. But in sociological literature the term has a wider connotation. Along with mechanization, it also implies on appropriate organization and systematic application of scientific knowledge to meet the human requirements. In its human aspect, it refers to an 'industrial tempo', rationalistic attitude and formal organization. Mere scientific inventions or discoveries are not technology, not even the mere installation of these inventions. What matters is their rational organization to cater to the felt needs of a particular society, their diffusion into social structure and necessary changes in the people's attitude and actions. According to **Rao** When the Scientific knowledge

is applied to the problems of life, it becomes technology. Technology is a systematic knowledge which is put into practice, that is, to use tools and run machines to serve human purposes. Science and technology go together.

6.3 TECHNOLOGY AND INITIATION OF SOCIAL CHANGE :

It has been accepted that it was the arrival of technology, simple wheel or highly sophisticated computer designing, which gave way to new social set ups. Where the simple invention of wheel changed the whole course of transportation, the television has changed whole face of world in term of bringing closer the various societies across the world . The arrival of iron point plough increased agricultural production which ushered a new beginning in agrarian societies. According to **Karl Marx** 'Technology discloses man's modes of dealing with nature and the process of production by which he sustains his life and there by lays bare the mode of formation of social relations and of mental conception. According to **Lapierre** " Technology consists of devices, knowledge and skills by which men control and utilize physical and biological phenomena. **Kuppuswamy** writes that the technological invention is the primary factor in social and cultural change. It is true that the wheel, the pot, the compass, gunpowder, the printing press, the steam engine, the telephone, the motor car, the radio, the aeroplane and now the atom bomb have certainly brought about many changes the society. In the words of **MacIver and Page** new invention bring rapid changes. We can see how the radio sets up common standards of speech or how it gives the city a new cultural dominance over the county. We can see how the automobile expands the range of social relationships and reduces the communal character of neighborhood. We can see how the technical conditions of the modern factory tend to strengthen industrial unionism and to weaken the older types of craft unions. **W.F. Ogburn** says' technology changes society by changing our environment to which we in turn adapt. This change is usually in the material environment ...often modifies custom and social institutions. A single invention may bring social effect. Television, for example, has influenced our entertainment, education, health, attitudes, knowledge etc. In simple words in may be said that as far the advances in technology occur the other spheres of society viz. social, economic and cultural also get immediate influence.

6.4 MODERN SOCIETY AND TECHNOLOGY :

The era of present human civilization may avidly can be describe as an era of technology because every aspect of human life is dependent upon technology. We can well imagine our daily life start with the ringing of the clock in the morning, going to office or field by vehicles, use of various household gadgets with electricity, listening radio, watching T.V, -all effect human life. **MacIver** even say that thinking of the persons has been largely governed by the material/

technical aspects.” The most novel and pervasive phenomenon of our age is not capitalism but mechanization, of which modern capitalism may be merely a by-product.

6.5 EFFECTS OF TECHNOLOGY:

Technology effect the human life at various levels and changes the human mind. Here we shall discuss the ideas based on some of the important writers who have clarified the effects of technology in their writings like, **MacIver & Page, B. Kuppuswamy, C.N. Shankar Rao, Jena & Mohapatra, Neil J. Smelser** etc.

6.5.1 Technology and Social change:

The arrival of technology has been changing human life in its various aspects. Attitudes, beliefs, traditions, which one were thought to be the very expression of essential human nature, have crumbled before its advance. Monarchy, the divine ordering of social classes, the prestige of birth, the spirit of craftsmanship, the insulation of neighborhood, traditions regarding the spheres of sexes, regarding religion, regarding politics and war, have felt the shocks. **(MacIver)**. In the Indian context lot of illustrations can be cited:

6.5.2 Technology and caste system:

The arrival of technology has influenced the Indian caste system to great extent. Old orthodox birth based relations are changing fast. Brahmins have lost the birth based reverence. The Phenomena of untouchability has been reduced to the negligible level largely due to the mechanization of human life. *Jajmani* system is no more. Now no one can subjugate the lower ones due to caste division. This has largely been happening due to the new technological inventions resulting in alterations in the social net work.

6.5.3 Technology and changes among Women

Technology have made visible impact on the role and status of the women in general and Indian women in particular. In the typical Indian society the women were confined to four walls of the house leaving very less chance to move out. Their whole life was subjected to the household chores. With the arrival of technological gadgets women have got freedom from drudgery and also have come out households to perform varied roles. Now one can see the women engaged in different skilled jobs largely generated by the technical innovations.

6.5.4 Technology and erosion of traditional crafts.

Another important effect of technology has been the elimination of traditional arts and crafts. Technology concomitant with materialism has so eroded the traditional crafts that every thing is being seen in terms of money and material possession rather than having mastery over the traditional crafts. Number of rural arts and traditional games have disappeared from countryside due to the on slaughter of technology.

6.5.5 Decline in Superstitions and religious life

The arrival of technology has reduced many superstitions prevailing in societies. Indian society has been known as society of religions couched with many unnecessary superstitions. **Kuppuswamy** writes that the most important aspect of technology is that a man thinks rationally and objectively about things and events. Technology has also affected the religious life. In the olden time most people, particularly in India, used to spend lot of time on religious ceremonies but now the picture is almost on the reverse side. This has happened largely due to the technical factors.

6.5.6 Loss of Human Dignity

A contrary view sees technology as an almost unmitigated curse. Technology is said to rob people of their jobs, their privacy, their participation in democratic government, and even, in the end, of their dignity as human beings. It is seen as autonomous and uncontrollable, as fostering materialistic values and as destructive of religion, as bringing about a technocratic society and bureaucratic state in which the individual is increasingly submerged and as threatening, ultimately, to poison nature and blow up the world (Mesthene)

6.5.7 Technology and changes in social Institutions

Technology has vastly changed or altered our modes of life and also thought. The institutions of family, religion, morality, marriage, state, property etc. have been altered. Family's functions have changed by technology to a great extent. Decision making process has changed. Women are to great extent are enjoying leisure at more. Much of their work is done by modern household electric appliances. Due to invention of birth control techniques the size of the family is reduced. Marriage has lost the sanctity. It is treated more as a civil contract than a sacred bond.

Modern state are turning into secular ones largely due to awareness generated by the technology among the masses. In the olden time education used to be provided largely through informal way couched with religious orientations. Now this has completely changed education has been providing through the formal ways (School, Colleges) and that also to all the sections of society.

6.5.8 Change in Values :

The arrival of technology and consequently under the process of industrialization, urbanization, development of means of transportation and communication values and philosophies have changed substantially. The traditional values have changed. Things are measured more in pecuniary terms. Human being by the use of technology have become less human, more passive and more mechanical. According the **MacIver & Page** "all things are means to means and to no final end, functions to functions and of no values beyond. Highly

individualism has intensified social and psychological uprootedness. Technology has substituted the 'hand work' with 'head work'. This head work required manipulation of the people instead of things." Manipulating others and being manipulated by others enhanced the individualism and the sense of being alone and operating alone.

6.5.9 Highly specialized era.

Another notable change emerging due to the arrival of technology has been the creation of highly specializing fields in various professions. In engineering, medical, lot of specializations have been coming. This has created intensified dependence among the various organs of any organization/group.

6.5.10 Technology and Changing Relations in Agriculture

Agriculture sector is one where the effect of technology can be seen from many sides. Arrival of technology (Machines, tractors, fertilizer, Tubewell) has rendered sweeping changes. The agriculture is no more a subsistence economy. It has turned into a commercial venture. Agricultural productivity and production has gone up substantially. India was not able to feed its vast population at the time of partition but now it is in the position of exporting the crop production besides home consumption. **MacIver & Page** write that the improvement in the breeds of cattle, in the use of fertilizers, in the varieties of seed, in mechanical labor saving devices, and so forth, have had as their direct objective the increase in quantity and quality of agricultural production. **Kuppuswamy** tells that in the field of agricultural technology there have been immense changes in the last 75 years. Advances in chemistry have led to the preparation of new fertilizers and new pesticides. Advances in biology have resulted in the propagation of new varieties of seeds, high-yielding on the one hand and disease-resisting on the other.

India's coarse grain production during 1950-51 was just near the 50 million tones where in the 2003-2004 it has crossed the figures of 218 million tones. This has largely resulted due to the technological factors.

Social relations in agricultural sectors has also been changed to a great extent. In the tradition Indian agriculture some sections and caste were supposed to work at farms as labourers from generation to generations. This has severely been changed. Now hardly any labourer leaves his son to work with the same farmer after his death. This has mainly happened due to technological factors which have generated visible awareness among the varied sections of rural society. **MacIver & Page** spell out that there have gone changes in the relation of agriculture to industry, migration from the farm to the city because of the lessened numbers required to supply the agricultural needs of the whole community, the decay or abandonment of marginal farms lands, tendencies to agricultural depression, new struggles for foreign markets and new tariff barriers.

6.5.11 Technology & means of transport and communication : Another visible sector in which technological factors have played profound role is communication. According to **Rao** Development of transport and communication has led to national and international trade on a large scale. The road transport, the train service, the ship and aeroplanes have eased the movement of men and material goods. Distances have been reduced to a marked point. The nations have come nearer today.

The most profound are the social effects of the tremendous strides made in the recent decades with respect to media of communication. The circulation of Indian language newspapers has gone up greatly and these are now being purchased in considerable quantity by the rural people. Radio and more profoundly television have changed the life of the people. Cultural distances are minimized. Now people can watch the happening across the world sitting in their own home. They have access to see those cultures, which were previously not possible.

6.5.12 Growth of Industrialization and urbanization :

Another notable impact of technology has been the giving rise to Industrialization and urbanization. Industrial revolution that took place in England during the 18th century contributed to the unprecedented growth of industries. The factory produced material are having competitive prices and good quality. Consequently the traditional skills have declined and a good number of artisans have lost their work.

According to **Rao** urbanization has become a world phenomenon today. In 1800, before the Industrial Revolution there were only 21 cities in the world each with a population of 100,000 or over, and these were in Europe. By 1950 there were 858 such cities in the world with a combined population of over 313, 000,000. In India only about 2% of the its population was residing in urban areas in 1900. But now about 30% population has been living in the urban areas. The urban living patterns are also affecting the whole society. People are becoming more materialistic rather staying in the old kinship based holdings. Lot of people are migrating from rural to urban areas for want of jobs and services. The unregulated growth of cities has caused problem such as over crowding, congestion, insanitation, inadequate water and electricity supply, lack of privacy and intimacy etc. The cities have also become the centres of various socio-economic problems such as crime, juvenile delinquency, gambling, prostitution etc.

6.5.13 Creation of new jobs and unemployment :

New technology create new opportunities for men and societies. In the past most people were dependent upon agriculture but now lot of opportunities are generated in the areas of industries, medical, engineering, and service sectors.

Though the technology has provided many new opportunities to human beings yet many people like the traditional craftsmen and artisan are becoming unemployed as they can not compete with the market forces and production of the factory.

6.6 THE MARXIST EXPLANATION OF SOCIAL CHANGE :

Deterministic Theories of Society : By deterministic theories we mean here any doctrines that regard human behavior and change in human behavior as primarily to be explained by environmental, external or material conditions **(MacIver)**.

Marx, a world renowned scholar, in his monumental works mainly concludes that economic and technology changes the whole face of existing social set up. He contends that nothing else but the changes in the economic structure which brings technology are pillars of social change in the society. In 'Capital - Vol-F **Marx** writes, "Technology discloses man's mode of dealing with nature, the immediate process of production by which, he sustains his life and thereby also lays bare the mode of formation of his social relations, and of the mental conceptions that flow from them"

Marx contends that power of economic production is as the determinant of primary economic relationships -given the stage of productive efficiency, these relationships are "indispensable and independent of men's will". In other words, the stage of technological development determines the modes of production and the relationships and institutions that constitute the economic system. This set of relationship is in turn the chief determinant of whole social order, or, as Marx put it in the same work "the sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society- the real foundation, on which rise legal and political superstructures and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness" The cultural life of man, his intellectual, aesthetic, spiritual life, his creeds and his philosophies, the social forms which are their vehicles, are the reflection of the economic order. Here is the 'material' reality which comes to consciousness in our ideals. **(MacIver & Page)**. He further, argues that the material forces of production' are subject to change, and thus a rift arise between the underlying economic factors and the economic relationship built upon them. The production process demands the economic relationships built upon them. The productive process demands - and of necessity will secure - a transformation of economic relationship and therewith of the whole social superstructure. A social revolution thus attends the birth of each new stage of society. The ideology of the dominant economic class opposes itself to the ideology of the class whom that order suppressed and whole the new would liberate and thus " the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggle'

In concept of Historical Materialism **Marx** said in the phase of primitive communism, the process of production was based on the simple technique of fruit collection and animal hunting. The agricultural technology brought about a new process of production. With the establishment of agriculture the primitive subsistence economy got changed to a surplus , economy. The surplus wealth gave birth to the institution of private property and individual ownership, which resulted in the emergence of class structure. The individuals having similar access to and control over means of production constituted one class. According to **Marx** technology played the most decisive role in the historical transformation from slavery, to feudalistic social order and from feudal to modern capitalistic social order.

In simple words it may be concluded that according to Marx the arrival of technology at a given time affects the old economic and social structure of any human group, community or society. Because the new technology demands/ creates new changed avenues. Which are suitable to many and may be unsuitable for the prevailing classes but the change is inevitable So, technology has been one of the basic factor of change in structure of society.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE :

- a) What do you mean by Technology ?

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- b) Explain any two major effects of technology .

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- c) What role does technology play in our religious life ?

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- d) How social institutions are effected by technology ?

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6.7 THORSTEIN VEBLEN IDEAS REGARDING TECHNOLOGICAL DETERMINISM

Thorstein Veblen is another noted scholar who incisively analysed the role of technology in brining social change. He tried to show the role of technology in causing social change in the very direct manner. While the **Marx** advocates economic determinism and tried to show the interaction between economy and technology **Veblen** showed the direct impact of technology on social life.

According to **MacIver** his (Veblen) guiding principle, reiterated insistently that in human life the great agencies of habituation and mental discipline are those inherent in the kind of work by which man live and particularly in the kind of technique which that work involves. Here, above all, must be sought the influences which shapes men's thoughts, their relations with one another, their culture and institutions of control. Habituation is the great molder of the minds as well as the bodies of men. "The way of habit is the way of thought". Man has certain derives or instincts, and these may be regarded as constants, but the habits to which they prompt vary according to the varying opportunity for expression, according to the material environment.. It is thus the difference in environment which explains the difference in the social structure.

Putting the ideas of **Veblen** in simple words, it comes out the man develops particular habits of thought under the stress of available technological facilities and material environment. His feelings, mental process and ultimately his social structure develop on the basis of his habituation. When the material and technological environment changes, concomitant variation takes place in habituation, mental processes and social structure. Thus, 'evolution of society' "substantially a process of mental adaptation on the part of the individuals under the stress of circumstance which will no longer tolerate habits or thought formed under and conforming to a different set of circumstances in the past"

According to **Veblen** social change occurs due to struggle between old institutions and new technology. Each phase of society, whether pastoral, agricultural or industrial has its own 'material exigencies'

Veblen Ideas can be put in the following way also

-Instinct of workmanship

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Invention of new techniques

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Change in physical environment

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Change in habits and thoughts

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Change in social structure.

6.8 SUMMARY :

Of various factors responsible for causing social change, technology has been an important one. As soon as the technology penetrates into the human life the prevailing socio-economic, political and other aspects get changed. Technology has given birth to rationality, eliminated many illusions and

superstitions. Indian social structure has vastly been changed by technology. Role and status of women in India has positively changed. Caste barriers are being lessened. Growth of industrialization and urbanization have been changing the life patterns. The recent revolution in media have turned the world into a 'global village'. Human values are losing its hold due to materialistic attitudes.

6.9 PROBABLE QUESTIONS :

1. Define technology and discuss its role in social change.
2. How technology brings changes in various aspects of society. Explain
3. What is the impact of Technology in Agriculture sector. Discuss with Suitable examples
4. Discuss the Karl Marx and Veblen's view regarding technology as a determined Factor for social change.

Short Questions (Define) :

- (a) Technology
- (b) Industrialization
- (c) Technology and Change in Social Values
- (d) Technology and Social Relations

6.10 FURTHER READINGS :

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