9) Social change is the change of social institutions, social structure, social system and the entire human relationships. Discuss the factors of social change.

Answer:

Social change is the change of social structure and relationship of a society. It is universal change which brings numerous change the social activities such as in the mood of production, social relationship, social organs, production and reproduction and social culture. Entire social system and structure is changed over a period of time in order to fulfill the social-cultural requirements. It is an ongoing process that shapes our societies, influence our lives, and drives progress.

**Horton and Hunt (1968)** defined it as “changes in the social structure and social relationships of the society”.

According to **MacIver and Page**, social change is a change in social relationship.

In another way, social change is the process of replace the old ones by introducing the new social structure and system. Widow marriage, same sex marriage is some example of social change.

Social changes occur in every accept of society such as, social institutions, social structure, social system and social relationship. In the context of social institutions, social institutions such as family, marriage, education, religion and government. Social change can make changes in it by reshaping its roles, duties and function. Due to social changes there is change the size of the family people are practices nuclear family instead of joint family.

Social structure and system such as political system, economical system, etc. are greatly influence by the social changes. Both of them concern with the society. When any political event happens, it carries a great change in the society for example the political moment of 2006 carries democracy in Nepal and which changes the structure of the society. And the advancement in technologies carries many changes in the social system. For example, we use many heavy equipment in the industries which increase the production which is a change in the economic system of the society.

The changes in the human relation is also a social change. Due to the norms, values and culture social changes occur. Society is a web of relationship so, any changes in the relationship can occur social changes. Inter-caste marriage is an example of social change due to change in human relationship.

There are many factors due to which social changes occurs. Some of them are given below:

1. **Biological Factor**

In simple words, biology is the study of living organisms. It studies the function, structure, process and characteristics and it also studies their evolution process. Biological factor is a factor of social change. It deals with the reproduction of living organism. Decreasing fertility shift the family size which changes the structure of the family from joint to nuclear family. Decrease in the birth ratio increase the living standard of the people. Development in the medical and health care increases the human lifespans which bring change in the population of the society. Hence, biological factors concern with many human activities and lifestyle which make it as a factor for social change.

1. **Physical and Geographical Factor**

Geography is the study of the earth surface and the processes that shape it, including the physical features, climate, vegetation, and human activities geographical factors also deals with the natural disaster such as earthquake, landslides and flood etc. Physical factor deals with the earth climate, rainfall, rivers, mountains, animal life and minerals. Both of them are major factor to cause social change.

If the land is fertile, climate condition is favorable for human settlement, animal husbandry is possible then huge amount of people is migrated from the unfertile area to fertile area which increase the mod of production which is favorable for the human development which changes the people lifestyle. Geographical disaster such as earthquake also contributes the social change. For examples when the earthquake happen the houses distorted by the earthquake are made in the same style which shows the uniformity in the houses of the place. Due to the geographical disaster many people migrate from one place to another and they exchange their culture, norms, values with each other which creates “we felling” among them which creates social changes. Due to physical and geographical factor many economic and political event happen which changes the structure and the system of the society.

1. **Technological Factors**

**Technology** is the application of scientific knowledge to the making of tools to solve specific problems. Technological factors play a huge role in shaping social and cultural changes in our world. Advancement in science and technology acts as a pillar for the development of any nation. It helps to develop in main sectors of the nation such as in economic and educational. Development in means of transportation, advancement in communication and other scientific invention made the world close and make the world as a global village.

Technology is used in the development of trade, commerce, business, and industrial development which are operated by machines. Simple we can take an example of mobile phone. Mobile became a commodity item for 21st century people used mobile for many purposes such as for communication and entertainment. At past time people visit the drama house and “Rodhi Ghar” for the entertainment but now days people simply use their mobile for entertainment by listening music and seeing movies.

1. **Cultural Factors**

Culture is the way of living. It is the medium, tool, vehicle, or means by which we meet our socio-cultural requirement. It is an acted document comprises material and non-material aspects of cultural properties. Culture play a vital role in social change. Material culture comprise tools, equipment’s, machines and technology whereas non-material culture consists of norms, value and beliefs which brings a number of changes in the society.

Diffusion of culture from developed countries to developing countries bring a huge change in the society. For example, the fast-food chain, fashion trends and dressing pattern of the western culture high influence the Nepalese culture. It can bring positive and negative changes in the society. For example, using of mobile phone is also a culture which can be used for both negative and positive purposes. Culture can bring changes in norms, values and morals of the society and individual. In gist culture bring both material and non-material social changes.

1. **Political Factor**

Politics is the mother institution of society. It is formal devices to control the social activities. Political agencies help in drafting the rule and regulations to maintain peace and harmony in the society. Legislations also are used to improve social norms on the basis of new legal norms. Many political moments carry many social changes. For example, political moment of 2007 in Nepal which bring the democracy in the country. Which brings many changes in the many sectors such as education, economic and development sectors of the nation which eventually changes the structure of the society. Before 2007 rules and regulation are made by the king which mainly beneficial to the king dynasty but after 2007 Nepal become democratic country in which rules and regulations are made by the candidates who are elected by the citizen of Nepal which are beneficial for the citizens. For example, before 2007 all of the people are not able to gain or access the educational rights but after 2007 they are able to join school, colleges for their higher education which changes the society.

1. **Educational Factor**

Education is the process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values and attitudes through formal instruction, informal learning experiences. It is a life long journey. It helps people to think rationally and logically. It rejects the theological perspective or interpretation and follow the logical interpretation. It maintains peace and harmony in the society by introducing the logical and rational interpretation.

Modern education has changed our attitude and outlook. It increases the speed of the developmental fields which brings social changes in many social sectors such as economic and technological. For instance, at past time people are not much familiar with education they believe in theology and if any body say that theology is wrong then they claim he/her as a cultural anomie. Many activities such as child marriage is highly in practices. But respectively with time get understand the important of education

And people are logically and rationally developed their perspectives towards every social event which occur social change. For instance, after getting education they reject the theological perspective and interpretation and believes in reasons. For example, the child marriage is not allowed in the society but the widow marriage is allowed. In gist, with the development of the education the society get changed.

1. **Demographic Factor**

Demography is the scientific study of human populations, focusing on their size, structure, distribution, and dynamics over time. The term demography is derived from two Greek words: “demos,” meaning “the people” and “graphy” meaning “to write” or “to describe”. Birth, death, migration and mortality are some salient feature of the demographic studies.

Birth, death and migration are the major factor to change the population. Demographic is a factor of social change. When the people migrate form one place to another place they carry their norms, values, and culture with them and then they share their culture to other and also follow or practices other people norms, values, and culture which occurs social changes.

For example, a family of Palpa district migrate to Butwal they have certain norms and values of their origin but when they migrate to Butwal they follow culture and norms of Butwal peoples which creates changes in their social life. So that, we can say due to demography social changes also occur.

1. **Inventions, Discoveries and Cultural Diffusions as a Process of Social Change**

Sociologically speaking, some factors are the major process of social change such as inventions, discoveries and cultural diffusion as a process of social change. Innovations, discoveries and cultural diffusion integral process of social change because they introduce a new idea, new technologies and practices that reshape societies in various ways.

When new inventions are created such as telescope, steam engine, radio, aeroplane smartphone etc. they often revolutionized how people live, work and interact. Such as the innovation of printing press revolutionized communication by making reading text more accessible, which led to an increase in literacy rate, similarly the steam engine, electricity and the internet have also transformed societies by enabling faster transportation, empowering industries and connecting people globally.

Discoveries whether in science geography and other more fields often challenge existing beliefs and paradigms leading to shift in societal norms and values. For instance, discoveries in medicine have extended lifespan and improved quality of life, while discoveries in astronomy have expanded our understanding of the universe and our place.

Cultural diffusion occurs when ideas, customs and technologies spread from one society to another through trade migration or conquest. These processes lead to the exchange of cultural practices, languages, religions and various acts forms, creating more interconnected and diverse global society. For example the spread of Buddhism.

Overall inventions, discoveries and cultural diffusions serves as catalysts for social change by challenging existing norms, fostering innovation and promoting cultural exchanges ultimately shaping the trajectory (way of traveling).