

Social Change : Concept and determinants, Modernization, Education as an Agency of Social Change

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Meaning of Social Change

✦ Social change refers to modifications of social structures and processes over time.

✦ The word 'process', means over a period of time and social change is something that is perpetually happening.

Social change includes :

- structural and functional change,
- change in the organization of a society,
- its norms and roles,
- change in the cultural system i.e. change in societal beliefs, ideas, traditions and practices.

✦ In simpler societies, change has been rare and usually low and in more complex societies social change may be fast caused by internal revolution civil strife, inventions, discovery and or by the influence of particular individuals or social reforms in society. However, major changes have taken place in contemporary societies due to the onset of industrialization.

Definitions of Social Change



- ✦ According to *Dictionary of Sociology and Related Sciences* Social changes refer to 'Variations or modifications in any aspect of social process, pattern or form Social change may be progressive or regressive, permanent or temporary, planned or unplanned, unidirectional or multidirectional, beneficial or harmful.'

Definitions.....contd



- ✦ **Robert Lauer**, “Social change is normal and continual. The important questions to ask is to relate to the direction and rate of change at various levels of social life.”
- ✦ **M.E. Jones**, “Social change is a term used to describe variations in, or modifications of, any aspect of social processes, social patterns, social interaction or social organization”.
- ✦ **Majumdar, H.T.** “Social change may be defined as a new fashion or mode, either modifying or replacing the old, in the life of the people – or in the operation of society.”

Definitionscontd

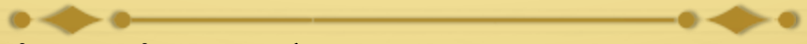


- ✦ *Kingsley Davis (1949)* distinguished between terms like social change and cultural change. According to him, cultural change embraces all changes occurring in any branch of culture including art, science, technology, philosophy etc., as well as the changes in forms and rules of social organization. On the other hand, Kingsley argues that social change means alteration in social organization of a society, including changes in the structure and functions of the society.

To sum up

- ✦ Any alteration, difference or modification that takes place in a situation or in an object through time can be called change. The term 'social change' is used to indicate the changes that take place in human interactions and human relations. It means a change in the system of social relationships. Social relationships are understood in terms of social processes and social interactions and social organizations. It includes alterations in the structure and functions of the society. Social change may swift and radical as in the case of the French or Russian revolutions or it may be slow or gradual as in the case of secularization and modernization. All societies evolve over a period of time and social change is a part of the process of growth.

Nature and Characteristics of Social Change



1. Social change is universal:

- ✧ (not confined to a particular society or group, unchangeable society is considered as a dead society.)

2. Speed of social change is related to time factor:

- ✧ (The speed of social change is not uniform. It differs from period to period.)

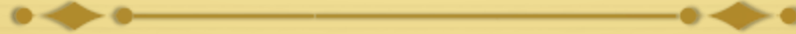
3. Speed of social change is unequal and comparative

- ✧ (slow in traditional society whereas it is rapid in modern society. In urban areas the speed of social change is faster than the rural areas.)

Nature and Characteristics of Social Change

contd.....

4. Social change is an essential law:



- ✦ (law which occurs and over which we have no control. It may be planned or not, it must occur.)

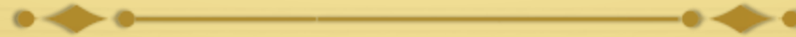
5. Social change may be planned or unplanned:

(Green Revolution is planned whereas Earth quakes, natural calamities are unplanned)

6. Social change may be short term or long term:

(fashion, behaviour are short term but other changes take years to produce results like customs, traditions, folkways)

Nature and Characteristics of Social Change contd.....



7. Social change lacks definite prediction

✧ (Result of the social change we can not say)

8. Social change is a community change

9. Social change is the result of the interaction of various factors :

(Cultural, biological, physical, technological and other. One factor may trigger a particular change but never causes social change)

The background of the slide features a collage of vintage postage stamps. The stamps are faded and overlapping, showing various designs including circular emblems, portraits, and text in different languages. Some visible text includes "POSTAGE", "AERIAL", and "AIR MAIL". The overall color scheme is warm and yellowish-gold.

Stages of Social Change

First stage



- ✦ As social change is a continuous process, it does not occur abruptly. The foundations of new habits are laid on the old habits. If a man does not form new habits, he cannot advance towards modernization. For example, when adults belonging to two cultures get married, their children have the mixture of both the cultures. It is termed as the first stage or initiation of social change.

Second stage



- ✦ The second stage of social change is the **stage of acceptance**. When a person borrows some habit from some other culture and tries to adopt it, he is said to be at the second stage of acceptance of it. When the habit is maintained by many, the second stage of social change takes place.

Third stage



- ✦ The stage is also known as the stage of **Selective Elimination**. When new things are to be adopted, at first the old habits are evaluated. The new habits are undertaken only when the old habits are found to be comparatively lesser useful. The process is called the process of selective elimination.

Fourth stage



- ✦ It is also known as the **stage of integration**. At this stage the new habits no longer remains new, but is integrated in the total habits.

Causes/ factors or Determinants of Social Change

- ✦ **Endogenous factors** (Internal Sources) of social change originate within a specific society and are responsible for significant changes within that society. These are the result of interaction and conflict caused by differential values of the old and the young, the literate and the illiterate, the urban and the rural folk etc.
- ✦ **Exogenous factors** (External sources) of social change are the result of contacts with other cultures, diffusion of innovations, or spread of ideologies from other societies.

1. Cultural Factors of Social Change

- ✦ Any change in **values or belief systems** among social groups affect social institutions. For e.g. rise of nuclear families and disintegration of joint families has altered relationship within the family.
- ✦ **Conflict between old and new values** lead to creation of a completely new value system.
- ✦ **Social values and beliefs** can also produce social change.

For eg., Din- i- illahi (a concept of state religion propogated by Akbar)

1. Cultural Factors of Social Change contd.....

Three important sources of Cultural Change

- ✧ **Invention** : *Invention* is the combination of existing elements of culture into something new. Inventions produce new objects, ideas and social patterns.
- ✧ *Discovery* occurs when people take note of existing elements of the world, Medical advances; for example, offer a growing understanding of the human body.
- ✧ *Diffusion* is the transference of cultural traits from one place/ or groups to another. Diffusion creates changes as products, people, information spread from one culture to another.

2. Conflict and Change

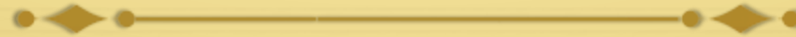
- ✧ Tension and conflict in a society also produce change.
-
- ✧ “Karl Marx saw class conflict as the engine that drives societies from one historical era to another”.
 - ✧ Problems such as caste prejudice, prostitution, juvenile delinquency population unemployment, the need for slum clearance etc. provide a good deal of social conflict, in the course of which social changes occur.
 - ✧ The partition of India into India and Pakistan and then of Pakistan into Pakistan and Bangladesh produced massive changes all over the former India.

3. Ideas and Change

- ✦ Social change is caused by ideological factors also. Ideas rule the world. Philosophical, scientific, and political ideas significantly influence social change.
- ✦ Rise of Buddhism, Communalism, Fascism have influenced new thought and human mind and changed attitudes and values of life.
- ✦ Ideas like “liberty, equality, and fraternity”, became a powerful force for bringing about a revolution as they did in the case of French revolution in 1789.
- ✦ changes have been brought about by the personal influence of great philosophers like Guru Nanak ji, Gandhi, Lenin and Marx.

4. Demographic Change

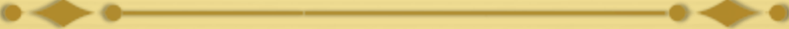
Population patterns also play a part in social change.



- ✧ change in the **structure of population** with respect of age, education, occupation etc.
- ✧ **Migration** within and among societies is demographic factor that promotes change. Migration due to over population, political reasons and partition of India
- ✧ change in **education of women**, female participation in the labor force

5. Physical Environment

The changes in the natural environment



- ✧ Loss of forests, soil erosion, environmental degradation and climatic changes has significantly influenced the way human beings live in groups.
- ✧ Natural disasters such as floods, tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions have had disastrous consequences.
- ✧ Natural calamities can destroy the human settlements as well as their means of livelihood, and thereby could be a factor of social change.

6. Psychological factors

- ✦ Man, by nature, is a lover of change
- ✦ Change in attitude of society towards family planning, dowry, caste system, women's education etc. which brought about radical changes in society are primarily psychological in nature.
- ✦ Other elements include greater achievement motivation, entrepreneurial spirit, higher educational aspirations, openness to new experiences, revolt against paternalism and authoritarianism, positive attitude towards life and nature and above all rational world view.

Technological and Economic Changes

- ✦ use of sophisticated **electronics** like computers, mobile phones that has made the world to be like one village.
- ✦ The **form of communication** has been changed by the use of the internet, mobile phones among others.
- ✦ **Agricultural advancements** like irrigation lead to surplus food, which lead to economic growth and urbanization.
- ✦ changing from a **manual labor force to a technology driven labor force** in which machines play a large role lead to changes in the society.

a. Industrialization

- ✦ Many social scientists have used industrialization as the prime mover of social change.
- ✦ It involves a gradual shift from subsistence production to commercialized production
- ✦ transfer of many workers away from food production into manufacturing and services
- ✦ It causes extensive migration which disrupts the large kinship organization and leads to more nuclear family units.
- ✦ Industrialization also fosters education and science, bureaucratization of labour force and gross change in the occupational structures.

b. Urbanization

- ✧ Urbanization is another process that significantly alters traditional social systems. ————— ◆ —————
- ✧ As cities attract large number of rural migrants, they expose them to mass media, organize them for political action, motivate them to attain higher levels of education, and provide for better health and educational facilities.
- ✧ Greater occupational differentiation modifies the traditional stratification system and encourages social mobility.

d. Secularization

- ✧ Secularization is another concept which is useful in the analysis of social change in India.
- ✧ With the introduction of Western education, the British legal system, and various ideological movements either changed or abolished many customs once thought to be part of religion. Traditional ideals of ritual cleanliness and pollution and purity are giving way to the rules of reasoned or rational hygiene.

Political Factors of Social Change

- ✦ Laws act as an instrument of socio – economic and political change in society. ➡
- ✦ The Sarda Act (1929) has made the minimum age for marriage for boys and girls.
- ✦ Laws also seek to **mitigate social evils** and to uplift the lower sections of the society. (esp. SC, STs, BCs)
- ✦ Laws also **protect the interests** of women, children and other **disadvantaged sections** of the society.
- ✦ Laws try to **alter age old customs** which are considered **inimical to social stability** and progress like social legislation of marriage and child labour , practice of giving and taking bribe, Article 17 of the constitution has abolished the practice of untouchability.

Role of Elections

- ✦ The **right to vote** and the role of elections are also important factors of social change. It inculcates a sense of self respect and responsibility among the citizens.
- ✦ Elections themselves throw up a **variety of issues**, which highlight the problems, goals and objectives concerning the socio economic conditions of the village, state and the country at large.
- ✦ Elections are a form of **political communication** between the government and the governed.
- ✦ Elections are the means by which the **rulers become sensitive** to the demands of the people.
- ✦ This **two way awareness** and communication between the electorate and the elected leads to social change.

Economic factors of Social Change

- ✧ Economic factors influence the quantity and direction of social change. The effect of these factors can easily be studied by the available evidence:

1. The Marxian View : Karl Marx is the chief architect of the economic theory of social change. He believes that social change is basically the result of economic factors. Marx traced the development of society from **agriculture to feudalism to capitalism and finally to socialism.**

Class struggle between the two classes – the Bourgeois (the owners of the means of production) and proletariat (the workers who work for a wage under Bourgeois). A revolution carried out by the workers against the capitalist that lead to the establishment of socialist society.

Economic factors of Social Change Contd.....

2. Impact of Industrialization

The industrial revolution which started in Europe in the late 17th century slowly found its way across the globe. The following changes were noticeable and permanent:

- ❖ Production from households to factories**
- ❖ Capital acquired a greater role**
- ❖ Agrarian to industrial workforce**
- ❖ Women entered workforce**
- ❖ Barriers to religion crumpled**
- ❖ Urbanization took place**
- ❖ Mass transport and communication**

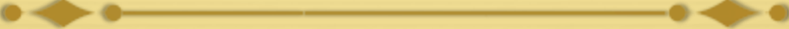
Thus, radically altering the existing social structure.

Economic factors of Social Change Contd.....

3. Green Revolution

- ✦ As population rise, consequently the demand for food grew, India found itself depending on food imports to feed its million people. India to become self sufficient in food has been termed the “Green Revolution”, which is the name given to dramatic changes brought about in the field of agriculture. The impact of Green revolution on social relationships :-
- ✦ Relationships based on land gave way to employer employee relationship
- ✦ Large scale seasonal migration from states like U.P., Orissa and Bihar to Punjab and Haryana. This had a great impact on family relationships also.
- ✦ Widening of inequality among the landed and landless.

Education as an Agency of Social Change

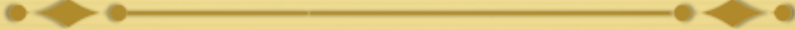
- ✦ There is **inter-dependent relationship** between education and social change . 
- ✦ On the one hand it brings change in social conditions. On the other hand it is influenced by social change, which means social change helps spreading education.
- ✦ First come social changes and then teaching process is changed according to those social changes. Education system changes according to the needs of society.
- ✦ So the relationship between education and social change takes a dual form- *Education as an Instrument* and **Education as a Product.**

1. *Education as an Instrument of Social Change*

How education helps people to bring social change.

- ✦ **Education as a Necessary Condition of Social Change.**
- ✦ Historical experience.
- ✦ Illiterates remain satisfied
- ✦ They never bother to exert to bring change (guided by orthodoxy, traditions and fate rather than by rationality in their actions.)
- ✦ Education helps people to make them rational in their thinking and approach.

2. Education helps people to make them rational in their thinking and approach



- ✦ Education has affected our customs, traditions, manners and morals, religious beliefs and philosophical principles.
- ✦ It has removed to great extent the **superstitious beliefs** and **unreasoned fears** about the supernatural beings.
- ✦ It has **widened our vision** and removed our narrow ideals, prejudices and misunderstandings.
- ✦ Higher education has brought about by more refined behavior.

3. Transmission of Culture & preparing the young for adjustment to change



- ✦ Moore (1963), a functional sociologist, in his book “Social change” talks about the function of education in the pre – modern and modern societies, which he calls, ‘static society’ and ‘changing society’ respectively.

4. As an agent of social Reform/social improvement




- ✦ To bring about social change, education has three different functions to perform.
- ✦ First, it should **examine the heritage and eliminate** that part which is found irrelevant in modern times.
- ✦ Secondly, it should **act as agent of social reform** or social improvement
- ✦ it should **encourage innovation** in the material and cultural aspects of society, thereby **lessening the resistance to change** in the society.

5. Improvement in the status of women

Education has contributed to a radical improvement in the status of women.

- ✦ Educated modern women no more tolerate the double standard of morality.
- ✦ Education has helped them to seek employment outside the family.
- ✦ It has fostered the sense and the feeling of equality.

6. As an agent for upward social mobility

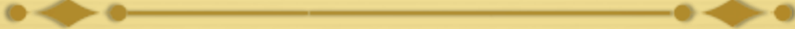
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- ✦ Education plays a great role in **getting occupations** which are key determiners of general social status.
 - ✦ Thus the **schools are agents** in realizing the desire for upward social mobility.
 - ✦ The schools have been instrumental in **transforming the occupational structure** and modifying the class structure as well.

7. Education increases political awareness

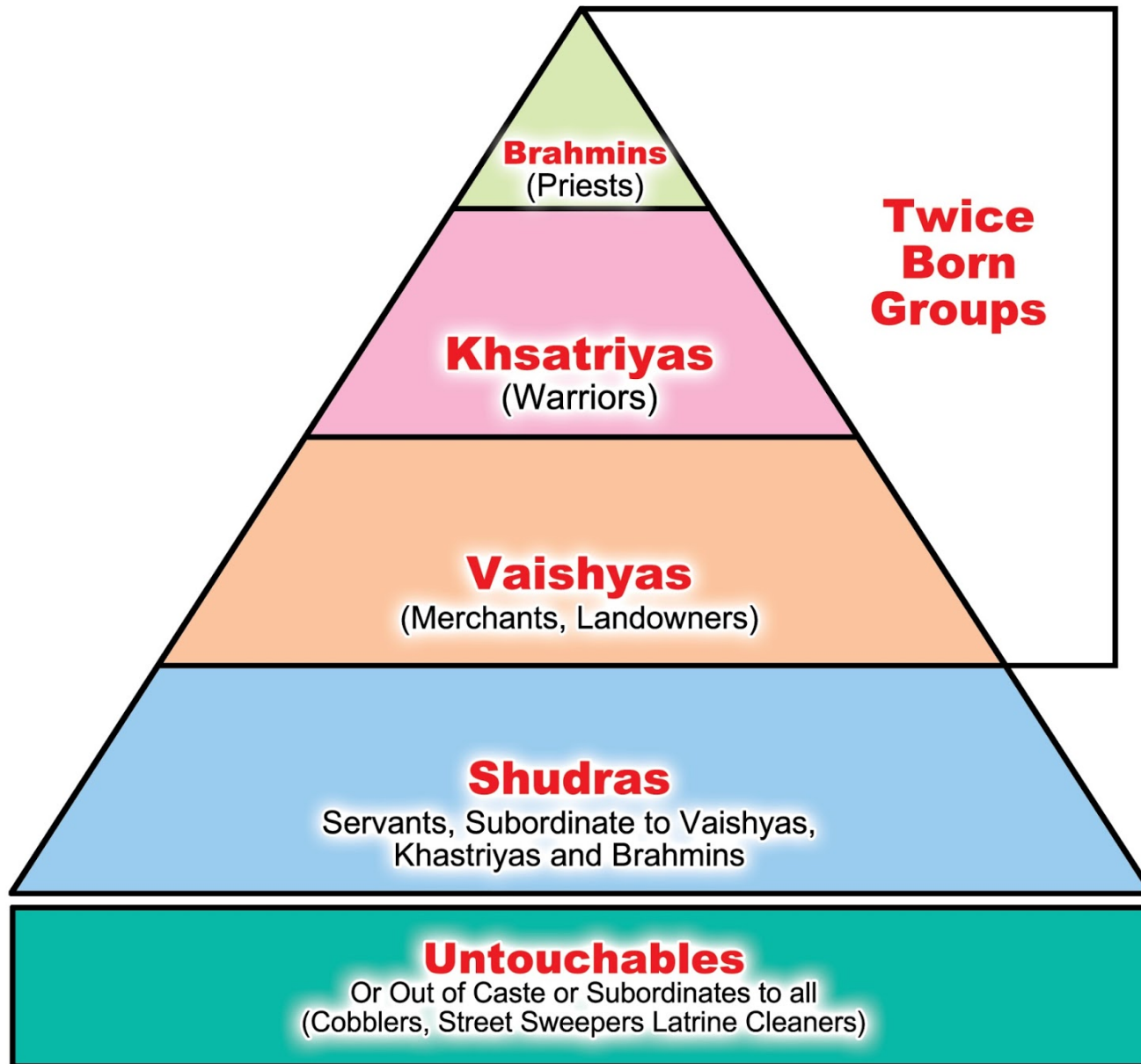
- ✦ education makes a man to become more conscious of his rights and also of his duty to provide and guard similar rights for others.

8. Change in Social structure

Education has brought about change in the very structure of Indian society.



- ✧ M.N. Srinivas, an eminent sociologist uses the term “Sanskritisation” to refer to the way the social change can be understood in the modern Indian context.
- ✧ The process of ‘Sanskritisation’, refers to the process by which a low Hindu caste or a tribal or any other group changes its customs , rituals, ideology and the way of life in the direction of a high castes.
- ✧ In the process of imitation, the lower castes or groups have always resorted to education as a source of upward mobility in the Indian social structure.



9. Values of Humanitarianism

- ✦ The forces of Westernization are also facilitated by education.
- ✦ The changes in the old traditions (Sati Pratha, Child's Marriage, Widow Re-marriage, etc.) were brought about by education.
- ✦ Westernization has brought the values of humanitarianism.
- ✦ These imply an active concern for the welfare of all human beings.
- ✦ It is so irrespective of caste, economic position, religion, age and sex.



10. Strengthened the forces of Modernization

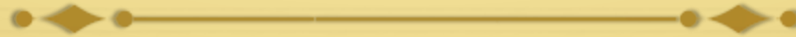
11. Education Creates Social reformers and Leaders

Education as an Outcome of Social Change

✦ 1. Change in Wider Social Environment

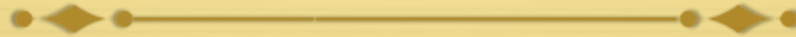
The change may be in the total social environment surrounding the society. It may be due to some internal forces or external forces arising in other societies. Social phenomena occurring in neighboring or distant societies have very widespread impact now . For eg., importance of English language, Computer education etc.

2. Change in Social Goals, Objectives and Values



- ✧ The social change may be in social goals, objectives and values. The changes may be in social values that directly affect the content of social roles and social interaction. For example, the adoption of equality as a value may ultimately lead to compulsory and free primary education, reservation policy in education and financial aid to backward classes.

3. Institutional Social Changes

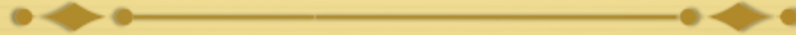


The social change may be institutional which includes change in more definite structures such as form of organization, roles and role content. The adoption of democracy and adult franchise in India has made training in responsible and responsive citizenship absolutely necessary for the electorate. This may ultimately affect the content and the method of teaching in educational institutions as well as the teacher-taught relationships.

4. Changes in Knowledge and Technology

- ✦ The changes may be in the existing knowledge and technology. Space exploration, industrialization, agricultural and domestic technology, development of transportation, and mass media of communication, new understanding of the human organism, individual and social behavior are some of the scientific and technological areas in which knowledge has expanded a great deal and will still continue to expand. Thus, the development of knowledge and technology may bring changes in syllabus, teaching and evaluating methods and role of teacher.

5. Change in Size and Composition of Population



- ✧ The explosion of population with differential rates of increase in different regions, communities, socio-economic groups and age groups may necessitate many changes in the educational system.

Modernization

- ✦ The term 'modernization' is used in social sciences to designate the process through which a traditional society passes and it transforms into a society characterized by **machine technology**, **rational** and **secular attitudes** and highly differentiated social structure.
- ✦ Modernization is not a synonym of 'westernization', which may mean uncritical imitation of the social ways and values prevailing in a western country.
- ✦ It does not stand for "superficial acquisition of some isolated traits and elements of an advanced country".

Meaning of “Modernization”

- ✦ The *economists* use this term simply as another word for **economic growth** to be achieved mostly through man's **application of technologies** to the control of natural resources.
- ✦ The *political scientists* look at modernization as the process of **government building**. They are interested how governments increase their **capacity to innovate, change and cope with social conflict**.
- ✦ The *psychologists* would emphasize **self reliance** and **achievement motivation** essential to modernity.

Meaning of “Modernization” contd.....

- ✦ To the *common man*, industrialization and automation symbolize modernization. On the one hand, increased production that results in better comfort and higher standard of living, and on the other hand, science displacing superstitions.
- ✦ A comprehensive view of modernization in *education* will mean a new approach not only to the aims and process of education but also to the totality of its entire programme so as to relate it to national development, national needs and national aspirations.
- ✦ Modernization goes on and on forever, presumably toward what Heady (2001) describes as the "near perfection" of society.

Definition of “modernization”

- ✧ *Daniel Learner*, who introduced the term “Modernization” for the first time refers it as “Modernization is the current term for an old process of social change whereby less developed societies acquire the characteristics common to more developed societies.”
- ✧ *According to Smelser*, Modernization refers to “a complex set of changes that take place in every part of society as it attempts to be industrialized. Modernization involves ongoing change in a society’s economy, politics, education, traditions, and religion.”

Definition of “modernization”

- ✦ *Alatas*, “Modernization is a process by which modern scientific knowledge is introduced in the society with the ultimate purpose of achieving a better and a more satisfactory life in the broadest sense of the term as accepted by the society concerned.”
- ✦ *Rutow and Ward* say that the basic process in modernization is the application of modern science to human affairs.

Definition of “modernization”

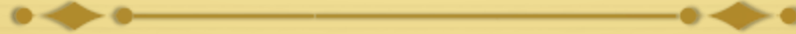
- ✦ **Eisenstadt** says that Modernization refers to both (a) structural aspects of social organization, and (b) socio – demographic aspects of societies.
- ✦ *Inkeles & Smith* (1974) even say becoming modern is the hallmark of joining the "civilized world."

Characteristics of modernization

- ✧ Clear perception of objectives and the willingness to accomplish those objectives with the help of science and technology.
- ✧ Modernization is not just a format but it is a **comparative process**.
- ✧ Modernization is a **continuous process**.

Characteristics of modernization contd...

- ✦ In modernization, **progress and development is implied.**



- ✦ A modern society is **secular and ideologically advanced.**

- ✦ Modernization progressed through the **collective results of various units of the society.**

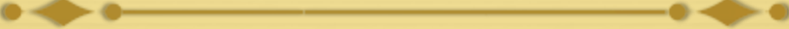
- ✦ The **speed of modernization** depends upon various objectives and the medium of its accomplishments.

Characteristics of modernization contd.....

- ✦ The most influential medium which impels the modernization is the **government** and the **intellectual class of society**.
- ✦ Various types of **national units** form the basis of modernization. These units include **natural equipments, human power and technical resources**.
- ✦ Modernization is the indicator of **financial development**.

Dimensions of Social Change

The rise of modernity is a complex process involving many dimensions of change.



1. Cultural Patterns

Traditional societies are governed by **homogeneity** in the cultural values. Compared with traditional societies, the modern societies demonstrate **heterogeneity**.

2. Social Norms

The traditional society **does not tolerate** the divergence in social norms. people in the modern society are **highly tolerant** of the diversity in social norms. In the traditional societies the **present is linked with the past**. For modern societies, **the present is linked to the future**

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

3. Social Stratification

- ✦ In traditional societies people have **few status** and most of these statuses are **ascribed ones**. Everybody performs multiple roles; in fact there is little specialization of roles.
- ✦ In the modern society there is a **variety of occupations** as well as variety of statuses and most of them are **achieved ones**.

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

4. Social Relationships



- Most of the relationships in the traditional society are of **“primary” type**.
- There is **little anonymity and privacy** of the families from each other. In the modern societies, people are **more concerned about their own affairs**. They have **“secondary”** relations and don't know much about what is happening in the neighborhood.
- In the traditional society **patriarchy** is highly pronounced. As we move towards modern societies, patriarchy starts declining. moving away from authoritarian pattern to **egalitarian pattern**.

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

✦ 5. Changes in the polity ————— ◆ —————

A royal family reigned over an entire nation. As technological innovation allowed government to expand, the centralized state grew in size and importance. Government has entered more and more areas of social life: Social control through gossip or social pressure has been replaced by formal agencies like police and legal system in the modern societies.

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

6. Education



Education change **quantitatively and qualitatively** with the advent of modernization.

Quantitatively, there is often considerable **growth of educational organizations**. E,g,. universal of primary education.

Qualitatively, **Students gain literacy**, learn the skills and acquire the values needed to function in the modern society.

Formal schooling in the traditional societies is limited to elites but it is open to all.

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

7. Family



Modernization affects family roles, structure and functions. Emphasis tends to **shift towards a nuclear family** rather than the extended joint family.

In a traditional family, the economic, educational, religious and recreational needs tend to be **fulfilled by the family**.

With modernization, much of the responsibility of need fulfillment is **transferred to other social units such as the government, the schools and the business**.

Dimensions of Social Change contd.....

8. Demographic Changes

Decline of death rate (better medical facilities, better nutrition, a check over different epidemics)

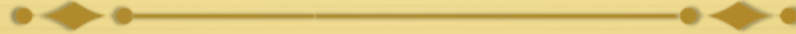
Migration from rural to urban areas (With the rapid increase in population, it becomes difficult for the people to stick to their traditional occupations so they migrate to towns)

It results in the breakdown of the joint family system.

Education and Modernization

- ✦ education is a **prime determinant** of attitudinal modernity.
- ✦ The **secular and scientific education** act as an important means of modernization.
- ✦ responsible for the growth of an **enlightened intelligentsia** which carried forward not only a **movement for independence** but also a relentless struggle for cultural and social reforms .
- ✦ The modern school system can inculcate **achievement motivation**.
- ✦ The diffusion of **scientific and technical knowledge** by modern educational institutions can help in **the creation of skilled manpower** to play the occupational roles demanded by the industrial economy

Education and Modernization contd.....



- ✦ Other values like **individualism and universalistic ethics** etc can also be inculcated through education.
- ✦ **Education Broadens the Mental Horizons**
- ✦ **Change in attitude and behavior**
- ✦ **Creation of National Consensus**
- ✦ **Alters rigid forms of social stratification**
- ✦ **Production of elites and leaders**
- ✦ **Better Standard of Life**

To conclude



- ✧ *Singh (1973), in his book, 'Modernization of Indian tradition' argues: "Education has been one of the most influential instruments of modernization in India. It has catalyzed people's aspirations for nationalism, liberalism, and freedom. It alone has been responsible for the growth of an enlightened intelligentsia which carried forward not only a movement for independence but also a relentless struggle for social and cultural reform."*