

CHAPTER 2

SOCIAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL ORDER IN RURAL AND URBAN SOCIETY

2Marks Questions:

1. Define social change.

Answer:

Social change refers to any change in the system in which social-relationships remain organised, controlled and stable.

2. Define authority.

Answer:

Authority refers to a person who has inherent power to give reward and punishment. According to Max Weber, authority refers to legitimate power.

3. Define law.

Answer:

“Law is the body of rules which are recognised, interpreted and applied to particular situations by the courts of the state.”

Law is collection of customary standardised and formalised norms that regulate human conduct. They have the support of customs and law making bodies.

4. What is traditional authority?

Answer:

Traditional authority emphasises on social values, beliefs and continuity. Family based on kinship are its example.

It maintains the social order and brings desired changes according to social demands.

5. What is socialisation?

Answer:

Socialisation is a process of social learning through which a child acquires the norms, attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that are acceptable in his/her culture. The principal agents of socialisation are the family, school, peer group and media.

6. What is conformity?

Answer:

Conformity is a type of social influence in which individuals change their attitude or behaviour in order to adhere to existing social norms.

7. What do you understand by Ghettoisation?

Answer:

Ghettoisation is the process of creation of ghettos through the conversion of mixed composition neighbourhoods into single community neighbourhoods.

8. What is the meaning of social influence?

Answer:

It refers to the efforts by one or more individuals to change the attitudes, beliefs, perception or behaviour of the people.

4Marks Questions:

1.Would you agree with the statement that rapid social change is a comparatively new phenomenon in human history? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

It is estimated that human beings have existed on planet earth for approximately 500.0 (five lakh) years, but they have had a civilised existence for only about 6.0 years.

Of these civilized years, it is only in the last 400 years that we have seen constant and rapid changes.

Even within these years of change, the pace has accelerated only in the last 100 years. Because the speed with which change happens has been increasing steadily, it is probably true that in the last hundred years, change has been faster in the last fifty years than in the first fifty.

And within the last fifty years the world may have changed more in the last twenty years than in the first thirty years.

2.How is social change to be distinguished from other kinds of change?

Answer:

Social change is a general term that refers to almost any kind of change not qualified by some other terms, such as economic or political change.

Social change refers to changes that are significant, changes which alter the underlying structure of an object or situation over a period of time.

Social change does not include any and all changes, but only changes which transform things fundamentally.

Social change remains a very broad term. Attempts to further qualify it by its sources or causes: by its nature, or the kind of impact it has on society; and by its pace or speed.

3.What is social change?

Answer:

Social change refers to the change in the system in which human social relationship remains organised, controlled and stable.

It is a universal phenomena that the rate of change varies. It is community change and nature of change is influenced significantly by time factor.

Social changes are of various types i.e.; growth, evolution, progress etc.

Social changes are caused by changes in economy, social and environmental factors, technological factors and political status of that state.

4. State a few causes of crime in the society.

Answer:Biological factors: It is the result of heredity transmission.

Psychological factors: Frustration leads to aggression and aggression leads to crime.

Economic factors: Poverty big gap between classes, unemployment etc.

Geographical factors: Due to climate and seasonal changes.

Socio-cultural factors: Lack of proper education, broken homes.

5. How are a village, town and city distinguished from each other?

Answer:

Villages are a unit of the rural community, where rural life upholds itself and does perform its functions.It is simple community based on agriculture.

Villages are end product of nomadic ways of life based on hunting, gathering food and transient agriculture to a more settled form of life.Social changes are slow and gradual.It has a large population, high density of population, heterogeniety predominantly engaged in non agricultural occupations.

Their life is complex and multidimensional. These are mostly commercial hubs.

Social changes in cities are quick and drastic.

6. How does social change manifest differently in rural and urban societies?

Answer:

Social change manifests differently in rural and urban societies due to their distinct characteristics and dynamics. In rural areas, change often occurs at a slower pace, influenced by traditional values, agrarian economies, and close-knit communities. Agricultural practices and cultural traditions play a significant role in shaping social norms. In contrast, urban societies experience rapid and diverse changes driven by factors such as industrialization, technological advancements, and globalization. The influx of people from diverse backgrounds in urban areas fosters cultural heterogeneity, leading to a faster evolution of social norms and values. Thus, the pace and nature of social change vary significantly between rural and urban settings.

7Marks Questions:

1.What is meant by social order and how is it maintained?

Answer:

Social order, is the tendency within established social systems that resists and regulates change.

Social order prevents, discourages, or at least controls change. In order to establish itself as a strong and viable social system, every society must be able to reproduce itself over time and maintain its stability. Stability requires that things continue more or less as they are – that people continue to follow the same rules, that similar actions produce similar results, and more generally, that individuals and institutions behave in a fairly predictable manner.

The ruling or dominant groups in society generally resist any social changes that may alter their status, because they have a vested interest in stability. On the other hand, the subordinated or oppressed groups have a vested interest in change. ‘Normal’ conditions usually favour the rich and powerful, and they are able to resist change.

Social order refers to the active maintenance and reproduction of a particular pattern of social relations, values and norms. Broadly speaking, social order can be achieved in one or two ways – when people spontaneously wish to abide by a set of rules and norms; or when people are compelled in various ways to obey such norms.

Spontaneous consent to social order derives ultimately from shared values and norms which are internalised by people through the process of socialisation.

Socialisation may be more or less efficient in different contexts, but however efficient it is, it can never completely erase the will of the individual.

While socialisation does take on much of the burden of producing social order, it is never enough by itself.

Thus, most modern societies must also depend on some form of power or coercion to ensure that institutions and individuals conform to established social norms.

Power is usually defined as the ability to make others do what you want regardless of what they themselves want.

2. What is authority and how is it related to domination and the law?

Answer:

Authority is defined by Max Weber as legitimate power, that is, power considered to be justified or proper. For example, a police officer, a judge, or a school teacher all exercise different kinds of authority as part of their jobs.

This authority is explicitly provided to them by their official job description. There are written documents specifying their authority, and what they may and may not do.

A law is an explicitly codified norm or rule. It is usually written down, and there are laws that specify how laws are to be made or changed, or what is to be done if someone violates them.

Law forms the formal body of rules according to which society will be governed. Laws apply to all citizens. Whether or not I as an individual agree with a particular law, it has binding force on me as a citizen, and on all other citizens similarly regardless of their beliefs.

Domination works through power, but much of this power is actually legitimate power or authority a large part of which is codified in law.

Consent and cooperation are obtained on a regular and reliable basis because of the backing of this structure of legitimation and formal institutional support. This does not exhaust the domain of power or domination – there are many kinds of power that are effective in society even though they are illegitimate, or if legitimate are not codified in law.

3.How demographic factors, education and social legislation cause social change?

Answer:

Population growth, its size and composition cause social change.

When population starts multiplying, unemployment, housing, cleanliness and hygiene, poor economic condition, severe stress due to competition.

Education is one of the core factors which has far reaching consequences on the evolution, revolution and progress of individual and society by and large.

Modern educational system aims at imparting empirical knowledge.

Education enables the members to participate effectively in social domains.

Education can bring radical changes in the status of women.

Modern education has brought significant changes in customs, traditions, superstitions and beliefs of people in the society.

Social legislation has brought significant changes in society if it is supported by social opinion.

After independence in India many legislations have been passed out. Of so many, a few could bring about significant changes e.g. legislation related to SCs and STs. But there are many which are unimplemented. It could not bring about significant changes particularly in the rural society like 'Sharda Act' related to child marriage.

4.What are some kinds of changes brought about by technology and the economy?

Answer:

1. The combination of technological and economic change has been responsible for immense social changes, specially in the modern period.
2. Technology affects society in a wide variety of ways. As seen above, it can help . us to resist, control, adapt to or harness nature in different ways. In combination with the very powerful institution of the market, technological change can be as impressive in its social impact as natural factors like a tsunami or the discovery of oil.
3. The discovery of steam power allowed emerging forms of large scale industry to make use of a source of energy that was not only far stronger than animals or human beings, but was also capable of continuous operation without the need for rest.
4. Modes of transport like the steam, ship and the railways transformed the economy and social geography of the world.
5. The rail, road enabled the westward expansion of industry and trade on the American continent and in Asia. In India too, the railways have played a very important role in shaping the economy, specially in the first century after their introduction in 1853.
6. Steamships made ocean voyages much faster and much more reliable, thereby changing the dynamics of international trade and migration. Both these developments created gigantic ripples of change which affected not only the economy but also the social, cultural and demographic dimensions of world 3 society.
7. Sometimes, the social impact of technological changes become visible only retrospectively. A technological invention or discovery may produce limited immediate effects, as though it were lying dormant. Some later change in the economic context may suddenly change the social significance of the same invention and give it recognition as a historic event. Examples of this are the discovery of gunpowder and writing paper in China, which had only limited impact for centuries until they were inserted into the context of modernizing Western Europe.

8. From that vantage point, given the advantage of enabling circumstances, gunpowder helped to transform the technology of warfare and the paper-print revolution changed society forever.

9. Sometimes changes in economic organization that are not directly technological can also change society. In a well-known historical example, plantation agriculture, that is, the growing of single cash crops like sugarcane, tea or cotton on a large scale created a heavy demand for labour.

10. In India, too, the tea plantations of Assam involved the forced migration of labour from Eastern India (specially the Adivasi areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh).

Fill in the Blanks:

1. Shifts in _____ practices.
2. Transformation of traditional _____ systems.
3. Adoption of new _____ methods.
4. Rapid technological _____.
5. Expansion of _____ opportunities.
6. Changes in _____ structures.
7. Close-knit _____ relationships.
8. Adherence to traditional _____ values.
9. Reliance on _____ authority figures.
10. Diverse _____ structures.

Answer:

1. Agricultural
2. Livelihood
3. Farming
4. Advancements
5. Economic
6. Social
7. Community
8. Cultural
9. Local
10. Institutional

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is a key characteristic of social change?

- a. Stability
- b. Continuity
- c. Transformation
- d. Tradition

2. Which factor is more likely to drive social change in urban areas?

- a. Strong community ties
- b. Technological advancements
- c. Agricultural practices
- d. Cultural conservatism

3. In rural societies, social order is often influenced by:

- a. Rapid technological innovation
- b. Traditional values and customs
- c. Urbanization trends
- d. Global economic shifts

4. Which term refers to the process of people moving from rural to urban areas?

- a. Subsistence farming
- b. Urban sprawl
- c. Rural flight
- d. Agrarian revolution

5. What is a potential consequence of rapid urbanization on social order?

- a. Strengthening of traditional values
- b. Fragmentation of community bonds
- c. Decreased reliance on technology
- d. Preservation of agrarian lifestyles

6. What role does education play in influencing social change in both rural and urban settings?

- a. Preservation of status quo
- b. Catalyst for innovation
- c. Reinforcement of traditional values
- d. Hindrance to technological progress

7. Which of the following is an example of social change in a rural community?

- a. Adoption of modern farming techniques
- b. Preservation of ancient rituals
- c. Establishment of traditional crafts
- d. Limited interaction with the outside world

8. In urban societies, social order is often characterized by:

- a. Reliance on subsistence agriculture
- b. Close-knit community structures
- c. Diverse and complex social interactions
- d. Resistance to technological advancements

9. Which factor is more likely to contribute to social cohesion in rural areas?

- a. High population density
- b. Cultural diversity
- c. Shared values and traditions
- d. Technological innovation

10. What is the term for the organized efforts to improve the economic and social well-being of rural communities?

- a. Urbanization
- b. Rural development
- c. Industrialization
- d. Modernization

Answers:

- 1. c
- 2. b
- 3. b
- 4. c
- 5. b
- 6. b
- 7. a
- 8. c
- 9. c
- 10. b

Summary:

Social Change:

Social change refers to the alteration or modification of social patterns, structures, and institutions over time.

In rural societies, change may be influenced by factors such as technological advancements, economic shifts, and demographic trends.

Urban societies often experience more rapid and complex changes due to factors like industrialization, globalization, and cultural shifts.

Rural Society:

Rural areas are characterized by smaller populations, close-knit communities, and often traditional agrarian economies.

Social order in rural society is often based on longstanding customs, shared values, and strong community ties.

Changes in rural society may be slower compared to urban areas, but they can be profound, impacting agriculture, lifestyle, and social relationships.

Urban Society:

Urban areas are marked by larger populations, diverse economic activities, and increased cultural heterogeneity.

Social order in urban society is often influenced by formal institutions, such as government and legal systems, as well as informal networks within communities.

Urban environments tend to experience more rapid social change, driven by technological advancements, migration, and shifts in economic structures.

Interplay of Rural and Urban Dynamics:

The relationship between rural and urban areas is dynamic, with migration often leading to cultural exchange and the spread of ideas.

Urbanization can bring about both positive and negative changes in rural societies, influencing economic opportunities, education, and access to resources.

Challenges and Opportunities:

Both rural and urban societies face challenges in maintaining social order amidst change, but the nature of these challenges varies.

Rural societies may grapple with preserving traditions while adapting to modernity, while urban societies often face issues related to social inequality, crime, and cultural diversity.