



2. In India, it is difficult to make a clear distinction between the old and new social movements. Discuss.

Ans:

Old Social Movements:

- Class based - united to fight for rights.
- Anti-colonial movements.
- Nationalist movement united people into national e.g., liberation struggle.
- Movement against colonialism.
- Nationalist movement mobilised against rule of foreign power and dominance of foreign capital.
- Mainly concerned with struggles between haves and havenots. Key issue is reorganisation of power relations, i.e. capturing power & transferring it from powerful to powerless, e.g. Workers were mobilised towards capitalists; Women's struggle against male domination.
- Worked under guidance & organisational framework of political parties, eg. Indian National Congress led the Indian National movement; Communist Party of China led the Chinese Revolution.
- Role of political parties was central and poor people had no other effective means to get their voices heard.
- Concerned about social inequality and unequal distribution of resources -important elements.

New Social Movements

- Decades after Second World War- 1960s and early 1970s
- Take up not just narrow class issues but broad, universal themes, which involved a broad social group irrespective of their class.
- Vietnam were forces led by US bloody conflict.
- Paris - Vibrant student's movement joined worker's parties in a series of strikes protesting against the war.
- USA was experiencing a surge of social protests. Civil rights movement was led by Martin Luther King.
- Black powers movement led by Malcolm X.
- Women's movement, environmental movement.
- No longer focus on redistribution of power rather are more concerned with improving the quality of life. eg. Right to education, clean environment.
- No longer confine themselves within political parties. Instead started joining civil society movements and forming NGOs because they are supposed to be more efficient, less corrupt and less autocratic.
- Globalization - reshaping people's lives, culture, media Firms - transnational. Legal arrangements - international. Therefore, many new social movements are international in scope.
- Essential elements - Identity politics, cultural anxieties and aspirations.

3. Environmental movements often also contain economic and identity issues. Discuss.

Ans: The Chipko movement is a suitable example of an ecological or environmental movements. It is an appropriate example of

intermingled interests and ideologies. Ramchandra Guha says in his book *Unquiet Woods* that villagers came together to save the oak and rhododendron forests near their villages. The government forest contractors came to fell the trees but the villagers, including large number of women, came forward to hug the trees to check their being felled. The villagers relied on the forest to get firewood, fodder and other daily requirements. It was a conflict between livelihood needs of poor villagers and government's desire to make revenue from selling timber.

Chipko movement raised the issue of ecological sustainability. Felling down natural forests was a form of environmental destruction which resulted in demonstrating floods and landslides in the area. Therefore, concerns about economy, ecology and political representation underlay the Chipko movement.

4. Distinguish between Peasant and New Farmer's Movements.

Ans:

(i) Peasant movements have taken place from pre-colonial days. The movement took place between 1858 and 1914 remained localised, disjointed and confined to particular grievances. The well known movement are:

- Bengal Revolt of 1859 - 62 against the indigo plantation system.
- Deccan Riots of 1857 against money lenders.
- The Bardoli Satyagraha - 1928 was a non tax campaign started by Gandhi.
- Champaran Satyagraha 1917-18. It was directed against indigo plantations.
- Tebhaga movement (1946-47)
- Telangana movement (1946-51)

(ii) New farmer's movement started in 1970s in Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Main Characteristics:

- Movements were regionally organised.
- Movements were non-party.
- Movements involved farmers rather than peasants.
- Main ideology- Strongly anti-state and anti-urban
- Focus of demand - Price related issues.

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