

**SOCIAL ISSUES IN CULTURAL CHANGE**

(Sociology Project)

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**CULTURE**

Culture is a collective programming of the mind that

distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another. This includes the religion of the group of specific people, the way they think, the beliefs and values they have and much more.

**HISTORY OF CULTURAL CHANGE AS A SOCIAL ISSUE**

**The colonization of the Americas**: European colonizers in the Americas caused a major cultural change for the native population, taking away their identity.

**The French Revolution:** The revolutionaries wanted to overthrow the traditions introduced by the Ancient Regime. However, it came at the cost of lives of thousands of people and a redefinition of the French national identity.

**The Arab Spring**:Series of uprisings in Arab led to changes in various Arab

countries but it also led to civil war in countries like Syria and Yemen.

**RESEARCH AND STATISTICS**

* Urbanization can lead to increased stress, anxiety, and depression.
* Cultural changes can cause struggles with identity formation, making people experience cultural dissociation.
* Economic turmoil. Cultural change can lead to traditional ways being implemented, mainly enforced by the authority in charge.
* Struggles in Education. Cultural change can cause language barriers and differences in learning styles, hampering one's academics.

**STATISTICS:**

According to a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association in 2017, people who live in urban areas are more likely to report feeling stressed than those who live in rural areas.

In the survey,47% of urban residents reported feeling stressed, compared to 37% of

rural residents.

A survey conducted by the American Psychological Association in 2019 found that 54% of adults in the United States reported feeling unsure about their identity.

**CAUSES OF CULTURAL CHANGE:**

* Many groups, which are minorities in interior Balochistan and Sindh are ignored due to their low population. They are not allowed to continue their religious beliefs in some cases and are forced to live through the culture of the locals.​
* Ideological conflicts between political or religious groups.​
* Ethnocentrism: Belief that one's culture is superior to the other.​ Hence, they enforce it on other people.
* Globalization. Spread of different culture's through the internet or media. People have started to adapt to the western culture leaving behind their own.
* Migration. Many people in Pakistan leave rural areas for urban areas, making it hard for them to adapt to the changes.

**THEORIES THAT EXPLAIN CULTURAL CHANGE AS AN ISSUE:**

* From a functionalist perspective, cultural change can be seen as a potential source of instability and disruption, as it can challenge established norms, values, and social

structures.

* From a conflict perspective, cultural change can be seen as a source of tension and conflict between different cultural groups with competing interests and values.
* From a symbolic interactionist perspective, cultural change can be seen as a source of identity disruption and confusion.

**MAIN FIGURES:**

* Max Weber: He believed that cultural change could have profound effects on society, and argued that the rise of modern capitalism was a result of changes in cultural values and attitudes.
* Emile Durkheim: He argued that social change could lead to feelings of anomie, or a lack of social cohesion, which could have negative effects on individuals and society as a whole.
* Stuart Hall: He argued that cultural change can lead to new forms of identity formation, and that these identities can be

shaped by cultural representations and discourses.

* Michel Foucault: He argued that cultural change can be a result of shifts in power relations, and that new forms of

knowledge and discourse can shape the way people think about themselves and their social world.

* Edward Said: He argued that cultural change can lead to the domination of one culture over another, and that this can

have negative effects on the dominated culture.

* Allama Iqbal: He was concerned about the impact of Western colonialism on Muslim culture and identity, and called for

a revival of Islamic thought and culture as a way of resisting Western influence.

* Faiz Ahmed Faiz: He was concerned about the impact of capitalist and Western culture on Pakistani society, and called for a socialist revolution as a way of achieving social justice and equality.

**HOW TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE**

* Education and awareness: Education and awareness-raising campaigns can be an effective way of

promoting understanding and tolerance of different cultures.

* Dialogue and communication: Dialogue and communication can be an effective way of building

bridges between different cultural groups and promoting understanding and cooperation

* Cultural Exchange: Cultural exchanges programs like YES Program, where students based on their

merit are selected to go the US and promote their lifestyle and culture. This would help foreigners to

better understand the culture of residents of countries they think lowly of.

* Policy and institutional change: Policy and institutional change can be an effective way of addressing cultural change as an issue. This can include efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in workplaces

and public institutions.

* Community engagement and empowerment: This can include efforts to promote community-led

initiatives that celebrate cultural diversity and promote cultural awareness. Sense of community:

* Respecting minorities: Although being in the minority side, rights of the minorities should be protected.
* They should be given freedom to do what they want.

**SUMMARY OF CULTURAL CHANGE:**

Cultural change will always remain an issue if there is no tolerance of other cultures and if the change is enforced on the natives. Cultural change will only be positive when it is accepted with mutual consent and as long as it does not change the identity of the group of people in question.

Furthermore, it is of great benefit if one takes up the culture of a more advanced country for their own betterment and growth.