

**BIT**  
**Social Change**  
**Unit - 5**

**a. Change, development, progress change**

Change means any kind of differences or modification in the previous structure or form of any objects. In the initial stage of human life and current stage has been changed continuously such as structure, organization, norms, values, ideal etc. we cannot imagine stable society because every society is changing what we have now that was not before. Now we find changes in every aspects of entire society. But the speed of change is not same in all society. This depends on the time, situation and age. Sometime it may goes fast and sometime it goes slowly.

Social change means changes in the values and social norms which bind the people together and help to maintain social order. A change in the attitude of people may bring about changes in the social structure. Any alteration, difference or modification that take place in social situation, institution, interrelation, interaction, structures etc is known as social change.

**Definition**

Koeing-

"Social change refers to modification which occur in the life pattern of a people"

M.D. Jenson

"Social change may be defined as modification in ways of doing and thinking of people."

All the definitions mentioned above shows that social change means change in social structure and life patterns of a people.

**#.Characteristics of Social Change**

1. It is a universal

Social occurs in all societies of world. The population changes, technological expand, material changes, ideologies and values takes on new components and institutional structure.

2. Prediction is not possible

Definite prediction of social change is not possible. Means it difficult to make any prediction about the exact forms of social change.

3. It occurs as an essential law

Change is the law of nature. It may occur either in the natural cause or as the result of planned efforts.

4. It is result from the number of factors

It is thought that a particular factors like changes in technology, economic development or climate conditions causes social change. The reason is that social phenomena are mutually interdependent.

#### 5. Social changes are chiefly those of modification

Social changes may be broadly categorized as modifications. It may be replacement of physical goods or social relationship. The old extended family has become the small equalitarian family.

#### 6. Speed of social change is not uniform

It is necessary that social change occurs in all societies but its speed is not uniform in every society. Social change in urban area is faster than in rural areas.

#### 7. Social change is community change

Social change does not refer to the change in the life of an individual. It is a change which occurs in the life of the entire community. Social change is social not individual.

### **Development-**

The word development is widely used to refer to a specified state of advancement or growth. It could also be used to describe a new and advanced idea or product, or an event that constitutes a new stage under changing. Circumstances, generally, the term development describes good change. But how do you tell which change is good.

In this regard researchers explain, three ways that the term development is used.

#### **1. Development as a vision**

Here, the term is used to describe how desirable a society or a region is, possibly with regard to what it can become.

#### **2. Development as a historical process**

This refers to social change that occurs over extended periods of time due to inevitable processes. For instance, it is widely believed that both communism and capitalism are an inevitable outcome of progress.

#### **3. Development as action**

This refers to deliberate action to change things for the better, as with providing aid to alleviate hunger.

- All of these are definitions of development, but when it comes to distinguishing between nations that are more development than others or when describing some other international aspect, usually more meaning is implied in the word.

- From the sociological point of view development means "improvement in country's economic and social conditions." More specially, it refers to improvements in a way of managing an area's natural and human resources'. In order to create wealth and improve people's lives.

## #. Characteristics of development

### 1. Continues process

Development is a continues process from the moment of inception of the society.

### 2. Follows a pattern

Development occurs in an orderly manner and follows a certain sequence or pattern. Ex. Primitive, medical and modern phases of development of society.

### 3. Has a direction

It runs as corollay from the above said feature that the process of development follows a definite direction. The direction is always forward and never backward.

### 4. Evolutionary nature

Development when occurs in a slow and gradual manner it is said to be evolutionary in character.

### 5. Multidimensional

Before the concept of development focusing on economic growth but nowadays it has multidimensional aspects, such as political, cultural and social dimension too.

### 6. Universal

Development is a common process witnessed by every society however primitive or modern it is. So, is universal.

### 7. Progressive

Development as process is always forward looking and has no look back. So development is always progressive.

### 8. Positive yields

The outcomes of development are always positive. It is for the betterment of the society. For e.g. development of technology necessarily improve human quality of life.

## Progress

Progress can be defined an improvement in the well being of human beings progress can be identified with improvements in public life, civilization, ethical behaviour, religious observance.

Social progress is defined as the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives and create the conditions for all

individuals to reach their full potential. The social progress imperative mission is to improve the lives of people around the world, particularly the least well off, by helping government the private sector off, by helping government the private sector and the non-profit sector to collaborate more effectively and make better use of the resources available to solve pressing social and environmental problems. Our goals is to effect this change by providing those stakeholders with useful, timely information to help them make better choices.

Social progress is defined as aggregate improvement in quality of life for the population income, health status and freedom, and it is achieved through a series of steps in which one or more of these measures is improved. It defines the good of society as the sum of the goods in individuals in society.

### **#. Types of social progress**

- According to Comte there are three types of social progress.

#### **1. Physical progress**

By physical progress we mean the progress in outward living conditions, like housing, agricultural and industrial production etc. physical progress provides base for social progress. It is the most fundamental progress of mankind. If its absence no other kind of progress is possible. Physical progress is the first rung in the ladder of social progress.

#### **2. Intellectual progress**

By intellectual progress we understand the progress of social cohesion and social disintegration, and also the forces which lead to social disruption and disorder. Comte believed that if our intellect can be made to accept the importance of social cohesion, our selfish feelings will automatically turn into altruistic desires. The increase in feeling of altruism world in turn lead to great strides in social progress.

#### **3. Moral progress**

In his book positive polity, Comte attached great importance to moral progress. He regarded the feeling element to be of higher value then the intellectual element. He gave more importance to morality in comparision with intellect. Deviating from his general philosophy, Comte began to regard morality to be the highest aim of man's development.

### **b. Factors in social change**

#### **1. Demographic factors**

The demographic factors like the size and composition of populations, produce social change. The phenomenal growth of population in 19th century has led to Vast social change and brought problems. Food problem, housing problem, unemployment, poor health, poverty etc. in the other hand there are also some countries where there is the problem of under population. The falling rate of population has posed a serious problem for countries like Canada, Sweden. The increase and decrease in population, a change in ratio of men and women, change in rates of birth and death are likely to affect our social problem.

#### **2. Cultural factors**

Cultural factors constitute yet another sources of social change. Cultural factors consist of our values, customs, beliefs, ideas, norms, moral and various institution. There is an intimate connection between our belief in institution. Certainly cultural change involves social change as the social and culture are closely related. Culture gives speed and direction to the social change. Our ways of behaving, living, thinking and acting are very much influenced by the changes in social values.

### **3. Geographic factor**

The geographical factor consists of rainfall, earthquake, volcano, landslide and other natural disaster etc. it profound influence upon human society. For e.g. the great volcanic eruption of Yokohama in 1923 was responsible for the new kind of architecture in Japan. However certain changes in the environment influence to human activity. Some social geographers give too much importance to geographic factors in bringing about social change.

### **4. Technological factors**

The technological factors represent the conditions created by man which have a profound influence on his life. In the attempt to satisfy his wants, fulfill his needs and to make his life more comfortable, man builds civilization. Technology is a product of civilization. The modern age is often called the technological age. In utilizing the product of technology man provokes social change. A single invention may have innumerable social effects. For e.g. computer and net has influenced our entertainment, education, business, politics, sports, literature, attitude, knowledge and so on.

### **5. Economic factors**

Social behaviour, assumptions, activities, relationship and perspective have been developed on the basis of economic ground. In this situation, economic factors can be considered as a factor of social change. Social structure can be analyzed on the basis of the nature of economy.

When a man becomes economically profound, he or she have access to education, health, communication, nutrition and similar other requirement. This situation may contribute in developing and the scientific perspective and assumption in looking the society. It also inspires to avoid social evils. People start actively involving in replacing the old beliefs, cultures, systems and behaviour the new ones, which may contribute in bringing socio-cultural changes in society.

### **6. Political factors**

If there is a democratic government in society, it may always be found engaged in development. It may respect the mandate of people and materialize their concern and views applying the technology, knowledge, skills, means and resources at the maximum for the welfare in the society and country. This may bring change in social structure. Political parties with majority of the votes can operate various from the government. It can also preserve the cultural heritage. Such can lead to social changes.

### **7. Educational factors**

It includes formal and non-formal education which results social change. Education is an important factor of transforming human society. Scientific knowledge, technological development, development of human resource etc. are the product of education and these products influence social change in society. Educated individuals can takekla different problems easily.

### c. Modernity

Modernity, the self-definition of generation about its own technological innovation, governance, and socio-economics. To participate in modernity was to conceive of one's society as engaging in organizational and knowledge advances that make one's immediate predecessors appear antiquated or at least, surpassed. The eminent Victorians thus appeared old fashioned to a new generation of moderns at the beginning of the 20th century and the motto of poets of the time was to make it new! More specifically , modernity was associated with individual subjectivity, scientific explanation and rationalization, a decline in emphasis on religious worldviews, the emergence of bureaucracy, rapid urbanization, the rise of nations- states, and accelerated financial exchange and communication. There is little consensus as to when modernity began. Histories of western Europe suggest that a modern era arrived at the end of colonial invasion and global expansion. In general, modernity was exemplified by the period subsequent to the onset of modern warfare, typified by two world wars and successful by postmodernism.

Modernity refers to particular era in human society. It is an era characterized by scientific thoughts crater than metaphysical or supernatural belief, individualism, a focus on industrialization and technical development and a rejection of some traditional values.

Modernity was a philosophical movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that was based on an underlying belief in the progress of society. Modernism is a philosophical movement that, along with cultural trends and changes, arose from enormous transformation in western society during late 19th and early 20th century. Among the factor that shaped modernism were the development of modern industrial societies and the rapid growth of cities, followed by the horror of world war.

Modernity was essentially based on a utopian vision of human life in progress or moving for word. It assumed that certain ultimate universal principles or truths such as those formulated by religion or science could be used to understand or explain reality.

### #. Characteristics of Modernly

1. Rise of the nation-state
2. Growth of tolerance as a political and social belief
3. Industrialization
4. Rise of mercantilism and capitalism
5. Rise of representative democracy
6. Increasing role of science and technology.
7. Urbanization

8. Mass literacy
9. Proliferation of mass media
10. Proliferation of consumer products and emerging new life styles.
11. Economic political and cultural aspects of globalization.
12. High population pressure.
13. Job opportunity and better income opportunities.
14. More social stratification
15. Social mobility
16. Status of women in modern society is high.
17. International relation
18. Multiple sources of communications.

#### **d. Post-modernity**

Post-modernity is the economic or cultural state or condition of society which is said to exist after modernity. Post modernity is an approach that attempts to define how society has progressed to an era beyond modernity. Within this era individuals are more likely to have a generation importance placed on science and rational thoughts as traditional met narratives no longer provide a reasonable explanation for postmodern life. In addition, a postmodern society traditionally will have experienced globalization which means new religions will be integrated into society. Therefore, society will be more likely to experience a "pick and mix" culture when deciding a religion as individuals will choose a religion that best suits their lifestyle and choices.

Some schools of thoughts hold that modernity ended in the late 20th century and that it was replaced by post modernity, while some believe that modernity ended after world war II. The idea of the post-modern condition is sometimes characterized as a cultural stripped of its capacity to function in any linear or autonomous state like regressive isolationism, as opposed to the progressive mind state of modernism.

Post modernity is a general and wide ranging term which is applied to literature, art, philosophy, architecture, fiction and cultural and literary eroticism, among others. post modernism is largely a reaction to the assumed certainty of scientific or objective, efforts to explain reality. In essence, it stems from a recognition that reality is not simply mirrored in human understanding of it, but rather, is constructed as the mind tries to understand its own particular and personal reality. For this reason, post modernity is highly skeptical of explanation which claim to be valid for all groups, cultures on the relative truths of each person. In the postmodern understanding, interpretation is everything; reality only comes into being through our interpretations of what the world means to us individually postmodernism relies on concrete experience over abstract principles, knowing always that the outcome of one's own experience will necessary be fallible and relative, rather than certain and universal.

#### **e. Globalization and changing world**

Globalization is definition as a process that, based on international strategies, aims to expand business operations on a worldwide level and was participated by the

facilitation of global communication due to technological advancement and socio-economics, political and environment developments.

Globalization is the word used to describe the growing interdependent of world's economics, cultures, and populations, brought about by cross-border trade in goods and services, technology and flows of investment, people and information. Countries have built economic partnership to facilitate these movements over many centuries.

Globalization indicates that the world today is more interconnected than before. Globalization in its basic economic sense refers to the adaption of open and unfettered trading market through lowering of trade barriers, removal of capital controls and liberalization of foreign exchange restriction. Large volumes of money movements increased volumes of trade, changes in information technology and communication are all integral to a global world. There is also a significant movement of people from one country to another for trade and work. Such increase in the movements of goods, labour and services have weekend national barriers and restriction that are imposed by a nation-state. Some indentify a new emergence of a "global village".

Global integration, rather than insulted isolation, has been basis of economic progress in the world. Trade, along with migration, communication and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge, has helped to break the dominance of rampant poverty.

Globalization and its impact on people at social, cultural and psychological levels. Social scientists are interest in how societies and people change because of this economic phenomena and how the progress of change can impact families, individuals and communities. Globalization is associated with rapid and significant human changes. The movements of people from rural to urban areas has accelerated and the growth of cities in the developing world especially is linked to substandard living for many.

Concepts of national identity and of family, job and tradition are changing rapidly and significantly. There is concern that competitiveness introduced by globalization is leading to more individualistic societies on the other hand, rapid change can encourage fundamentalism, a desire for the past, and a loss of tolerance for differences in religion and culture.

From the business perspective of globalization. In a capitalistic market, multinational companies are taking the lead in establishing themselves and creating a major presence in almost every part of the world. Coca Cola, McDonalds and Nike are examples of such growth and proliferation. The media then plays a major role in advertising the benefits of new products and services as being better and superior what the local markets has and slowly but steadily the food that we eat, the clothes we wear and the life style we lead begins to change. This process becomes consumerism within a capitalistic culture.

The most significant psychological consequences of globalization is that it transforms one's identity. In terms of how people think about themselves in relation to the social environment. People today especially the young develop an identity that gives them a sense of belonging to a worldwide culture, which includes an awareness

## BISHAL SHRESTHA

of events, practices, styles and information that are a part of the global culture. Media such as television and especially the internet, which allows for instant communication with any place in the world, play an important part in developing a global identity. Yet along with this identity people continue to retain and develop their local identity for daily interaction with their family, friends and community.

Globalization is the process of worlds systems becoming increasing interlinked. Advancements in technology has resulted in improved transported communication system which has increased flows of people, capital and goods between countries globally. This has resulted in "shrinking world", a concept which suggest that the world is becoming smaller due to the increased speed of global connection. For example today more and more people can communicate easily with others on the other side of the world due to the development of the internet and mobile phones.

As far as how globalization effects changing than you may think . It also affects us positively and culturally. Today nearly all jobs in the secondary and tertiary sectors of employment are linked to the progress of globalization with many business having international links. Also, globalization has increased international migration which has resulted in multicultural societies.

However, globalization is also affecting world in a negative way. Increased transportation and the global shift of polluting manufacturing industries has resulted in environment degradation. Population is affecting people's health and having a negative impact on biodiversity levels globally. Also, increased transport connection has resulted in carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gas emission into the atmosphere. These emissions are contributing to climate change which will have an increasing impact on our daily lives in the future due to increased frequency and intensity of hydrological and meteorological events such as droughts, flooding and tropical storms.