

A Study On Social Changes Through Education In India

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ABSTRACT

Education enables a man to acquire virtue, by making him social, interactive, and disciplined; it opens the vistas of learning by helping him better absorb information and sharing the same, thus making him humane, and the central element in the social structure. Education is considered the most important 'ideological state apparatus' devised by the ruling classes to ensure that the society largely conforms to their ideas and interests. Education is seen as a major vector in society, but that it is largely allocated a conservative role, since its main function is in the socialization of the young and the maintenance of the social order. In the traditional educational system the role of education was to transmit a fixed way of life to the students as society itself was an unchanging and static entity. However, in this modern context, education is seen as an instrument of social change brought about by changing man's attitude and outlook. In this paper, the authors tried to display the importance of education as an agent of change in this rapid changing world as well as the relationship between education and the social change.

KEY NOTES: Social change, Empowerment, Education

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is an important instrument to bring social revolution among all the instruments education is considered as the most powerful. Education for all, at all levels, and at all ages of children is the only remedy to bring about the desired social change in Indian society. The relationship between education and social change takes a dual form-education as an instrument and education as a product. This implies that education as an instrument is used as a means for bringing about desired changes in the society and in the later case changes in the educational structure follows as a consequence of changes which have already taken place in the society.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To analyze the Relationship between education and social change.
2. To study the role of education in social change.
3. To identify the factors affecting social change.
4. To find out the factors resisting social change.

EDUCATION AS A NECESSARY CONDITION OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Historical experience of advanced countries has shown that for any social revolution education is the pre-condition. Illiterates remain satisfied with their existing conditions and feel that they are destined to be what they are. They never bother to exert to bring change in their present social and economic conditions. They are 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.

EDUCATION AS AN OUTCOME 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. Education follows social change. It has its place before and after social change First come social changes and then teaching process is changed according to those social changes. Education system changes according to the needs of society.

EDUCATION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Education as an instrument of social change means how education helps people to bring social change. Education changes the outlook and the tradition approach towards social and economic problems. It sharpens the skills and knowledge of the children. Technical education helps in the process of industrialization which results in vast changes in society. Education not only preserves the cultural traditions i.e., customs, traditions and values etc. of the society but also transmits them to the next generation. It also motivates the children to adopt new pattern in order to remain dynamic and forward looking. Education fulfils the needs of the society and propagates such ideas which promote social changes in all fields of life.

PROCESS OF SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION

Change is the law of life, and changes in society are always taking place. Changes may be slow, so slow that people may not even perceive them, there are times when they are so rapid and drastic. In all spheres of life things are changing in the economic sphere, in the political fields, in the sphere of education and so on. Social changes to a great extent are brought about through the process of education.

- Change in the experiences of individual
- Change in the attitudes of individuals
- Change in the thought patterns of individuals
- Change in the social interaction
- Change in the social relations
- Change in the social structure
- Social Change

FACTORS AFFECTING SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

GEOGRAPHICAL FACTOR (PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT)

Social change takes place due to physical environment or geographical factor. Floods, earthquakes, famine, epidemics, fires, excessive rains, drought hot or cold climate transform the life style of people. The changing face of the earth due to advancing deserts or due to irrigation also affects population to a great extent.

BIOLOGICAL FACTOR

Biological factors like heredity prepare the way for social change. The biological heredity determines the general and glandular constitution of the offspring which is closely related to temperament, intelligence, physique, activity level and other potentialities of individuals. Biological factors result into better equipped or less equipped persons, strong or weak persons and several other changes in social set up. Difference in sex ratio which is in fact the result of the biological factor, changes customs of marriage makes changes in social set up and social structure.

DEMOGRAPHIC FACTOR

Population plays a vital role in social change. Due to increase or decrease in population the possibility of social change is also influenced. Because of these factors change in social structure of the country is taking place at a rapid speed. Decrease or increase in the population has an immediate effect upon economic institutions and associations. The ratio of men to women in a society affects marriage, family and the condition of women in a society.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC FACTORS

Technological and scientific inventions such as various types of machines and equipments etc. are potent factors in social change. They break regional barriers by providing easy and fast means of communication as well as of conveyance. The press, radio and aeroplane together have brought the world closer and provided for intercultural impacts. Scientific inventions in the field of medicine, public health, community organization, the means of transportation, the means of knowledge, dissemination and interaction, and physical environment are regarded as significant factors in social change.

IDEOLOGICAL FACTORS

Social change is caused by ideological factors. Ideas rule the world. Philosophical, scientific and political ideas significantly influence social change. New scientific thoughts, new religious ideas, new philosophies revolutionize the world. Rise of Buddhism, Communism, and Fascism have magically influenced new thought and human mind and changed its attitudes and values of life. Ideas like "liberty, equality, equality and fraternity", became a powerful force for bringing about a revolution as they did in the case of French Revolution in 1789. Similarly ideologies like communism, socialism and democracy have impact on changing the patterns of society.

CULTURAL FACTORS

Human culture is a process of change. Any change in cultural order is accompanied by a corresponding change in the whole social order. Culture gives speed and direction to social change and determines the limits beyond which social changes cannot occur. Cultural factors change from generation to generation and they bring about the change in the society.

PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

Psychological factors are important elements in social change. Man by nature is a lover of change. He is always trying to discover new things in every sphere of his life and is always anxious for new experiences. As a result of this tendency the most traditions, customs etc. of every human society are undergoing perpetual change.

WAR

War is also a cause of social change because it influences the population, the economic situation and ratio of males to female, etc.

NEW OPINIONS AND THOUGHTS

Another factor of social change is the appearance of new opinions and thoughts. For example changes in the attitudes towards dowry, caste system, female education, etc. have resulted in wide spread social variations and modifications. In fact, a majority of the social revolutions take place as a result of the evolution of new ways of thinking.

VOLUNTARY ACTS OF INDIVIDUALS

History is replete with examples where "all important social and cultural changes are brought about by men of genius." In the modern world, Lenin in Russia and Mahatma Gandhi in India, have had a profound influence, and it would be difficult to demonstrate that our world would have been different had they not lived and acted as they did.

ACCEPTANCE BY HIGH STATUS INDIVIDUALS

Any change would become easily accepted in the society if the people who are in high position would accept the change.

LEGISLATION

Legislation plays an important role in bringing about planned social change. Abolition of slavery in the U.S.A. could be affected by legislation and it brought about massive change in the social structure and systems of not only the U.S.A. But other parts of the world as well. Compulsory primary and secondary education in Western and Asian countries, legislation against practice of untouchability, raising the age of marriage by law, ensuring the property rights of women, are a few measures which have brought about radical social changes in various countries including India.

OTHER FACTORS**WESTERNIZATION**

Westernization means blind imitation of the social ways and values prevailing in western countries. The trend towards Westernization in India can be seen in all fields— social, economic, political, cultural, religious and educational. India is following the example of the West. In the social sphere we are following the West in matters like dress, life style and town-planning etc.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

India is fully resolved to bring about fast industrialization. There is increase in industrialization. Industries have taken the place of agriculture. Agriculture has itself transformed into an industry. The application of science and technology to industry has increased substantially. Chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, mechanical devices, pesticides etc. have come into wide spread use. Thus industrialization in India is responsible for social change.

URBANIZATION

Urbanization is the result of industrialization. Moreover, the fast growth of population of India has led to fast urbanization in India. Urbanization has resulted in an increase in the number of industrial cities and mobility of villagers towards the cities.

SECULARIZATION

Secularization promotes change. The people of India have adopted the ideal of secularism according to which everybody is free to follow the religion of their choice. In the wider sense secularism includes compassion, tolerance, diversification, broad outlook and unorthodoxy.

FACTORS RESISTING SOCIAL CHANGE

Social barriers: Social factors such as orthodoxy, rigid caste and class structure, public opinion, vested interests, factionalism, conflict, are the barriers to change.

CULTURAL BARRIERS

Conservatism, fatalism, superstitions, a feeling of pride and dignity in the old and traditional ways of life, incompatibility of new and old cultural traits, slavery and poverty are the cultural barriers to change. For example, in South India the devdasi custom in temples causes obstruction in the social change for the eradication of prostitution. Similarly many values of Hindu religion are obstacles in the way of begging.

POLITICAL BARRIERS

Political factors also resist social change. In our country many kings, maharajas and big landlords oppose many changes to bring about equality among the people.

ECONOMIC BARRIERS

Economic conditions also are obstruction in social change. Poor people do not think of anything except bread and other necessities of life. A person may become lazy because of excessive surplus money. He thinks everything in terms of materialistic benefits. He is resistant to good changes.

PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS

Man's love for traditions, his pessimistic attitude, the lack of desire for material and economic gains, indifference towards the material world and learning problems are some of the psychological barriers to social change.

FEAR

Fear of the people that social change will prove harmful is resistant to change. Those who are leading a life of slavery and poverty and those who, for lack of confidence fear that social change will bring misery and sorrow are barriers to social change.

SHORTAGE OF INVENTIONS

When the public is not dynamic there are fewer or no inventions. People are not prepared to accept the invention. If there is no invention or fewer inventions the chances of social change become bleak.

ISOLATION

Isolation is another deterrent factor. When a certain social group, a society or a community is isolated from the rest of the social group, community, nation or the world, the members do not have the opportunity to observe other groups and consequently do not become aware of their weaknesses, shortcomings, tensions and needs. It must be kept in mind that isolation may be psychological as well as geographical. Sometimes strong in-group loyalties also cause social isolation.

CONCLUSION

The student movements have often been the major force demanding social change in many societies. A decade between 1960 and 1970 witnessed a large number of student upsurges resulting in social and political changes. The student movements stood with the establishment and in majority of the cases they tried to discredit, transform or topple governments. The students are today a new social force of incalculable significance. But student movements have been far less active in the late 1970s than a decade ago. It is true that college educated persons are still the most progressive group in society whether they are quiet or vocal in calling for social reform or change. More and more persons are receiving higher education. Majority will attain a degree.

The computer and the internet's evolution these past few years have been staggeringly fast. A computer that used to fill an entire building in 1965 has about the same computing power as a modern-day cell phone. Most of the popular forms of media like TV, radio, and print are slowly being nudged from their pedestal by the internet. Everything seems to have changed drastically these couple of years, and this includes the K-12 education system. If that is so, it means that society will contain a "built in" engine for social change. As long as universities continue to occupy an increasingly important place in society, so long changes are bound to be initiated through education in some way or the other.

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