

# SOCIAL CHANGE

TOPIC # 3

## DEFINITION

- Kingsley Davis
  - Leaving a thing or an attitude and adopting another by a society is called social change.
- Maclver
  - [social change] simply refers to a change in the human relationships.
- Merrill
  - Social change means that large number of persons are engaging in activities that differ from those in which they or their parents engaged some time before.

## DEFINITION

- Social change is the transformation of culture and social institutions over time.
- Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society ( J.J. Macionis)
- Examples : the industrial revolution, the abolition of slavery, and the feminist movement.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Social change is sometimes intentional and planned, but oftentimes unplanned.
- It is inevitable, but some societies change faster than others.
- It is controversial.
- Some changes are more important than others.
- It is a continuous process.
- The consequences of social change are often unforeseen.

## ASPECTS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Sociologists study the process of social change in following aspects;
- DIRECTION of change----- means whether it is positive or negative
- RATE of change----- slow, fast, moderate
- SOURCES of change-----factors responsible for change
- CONTROLLABILITY ----- look at the degree to which the change can be controlled.

## FACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- **Physical Environment** –Changes in the physical environment often produce changes in the lives of people.
- Human misuse of natural resources can bring very rapid changes in physical environment which in turn change the social and cultural life of people.
- As office buildings, shopping malls, industrial plants, residential areas, and highways are developed, less land remains as groundcover to absorb rainfall.

- Repeated flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis may effectively change the lives of the people
- Climate change also have social impacts by affecting health, causing displacement of people and resulting in reduction or loss of people's income due to enhanced natural calamities. Many human groups throughout history have changed their physical environment through migration.

## FACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- The earthquake of October 8,2005; a window of opportunity for both negative and positive cultural transformation.



## FACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- **Demographic Factor** – size, composition, distribution of population.
- A population change is itself a social change but also becomes a causal factor.
- Increase or decrease in the population brings change in its size and composition that further affect economic , political and socio-cultural aspects of the human life.

## FACTORS OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- In 1947, migration from India was a turning point in the history of Pakistan. The planners and decision makers faced the serious issue of matching the resources with the unmanageable growing size of population.
- Population welfare Programme was launched in 1953 through an NGO, the Family Planning Association of Pakistan, and focused on advocating and facilitating small family norms.

- **Conflict, War and Conquest**– Change also results from social conflict, including wars, ethnic conflict, efforts by social movements to change society, and efforts by their opponents to maintain the status quo.
- Throughout the history, much change has occurred as a result of wars when the winning society forces a new political social and economic systems on the losing society.

- In Pakistan, war against terrorism starting in 2001, resulted in terrorist attacks, the loss of thousands of lives, 2.5 million internally displaced people, and an estimated \$45 Billion cost for the war.
- Inter –ethnic group conflict in Pakistan

- **Isolation and Contact-** Areas of greatest intercultural contact are the centers of change. War and trade have always brought intercultural contact and today tourism is adding to the contacts between cultures .
- On the other hand, isolated areas are centers of stability, conservatism and resistance to change.

## SOURCES OF CHANGE

- **Technology-** Changes in culture can change technology; changes in technology can transform culture; and changes in both can alter other aspects of society.
- It is a culture that decides the purpose to which a technical invention must be put. The factories can produce the weapons or necessities of life.
- Steel and iron can be used for building warships or tractors.

## **Technology**

- Technology is an important force for change; in some ways, technological development has made our lives much easier.
- The modern factory, means of transportation, medicine, surgery, mass media, space and computers technology etc. have affected the attitudes, values and behaviour of people across societies.

## Technology

- Genetically engineered plants have been developed and marketed in recent years, and biochemists are creating potatoes and rice with the same protein value as meat.
- The technology has also created the potential for new disasters , ranging from global warfare to localized technological disasters at toxic waste sites.



- Telecom research produced Cellular Phones through which it is easy to contact / connect others around the globe. It wasn't possible before this technology. SMS, Whats app, Facebook, Tango, Viber and IMO culture.

- **Invention**-Invention produces new objects, ideas, and social patterns. new use of knowledge to produce something that did not exist before
- **Discovery**- new perception of something that exists. It occurs when people take note of existing elements of the world.
- **Diffusion**- spread of cultural elements from one society to another creates change as products, people, and ***information spread from one society to another.***

- In Pakistan, with the emergence of satellite television a demand for media professionals and performers has been created in the last decade. Discussion and debate on issues which could not be debated earlier has become possible.

## THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Theories of social change have generally been concerned with
- the direction of change
- the manner in which change occur.
- Some of the theories of social change are the following:

## CYCLICAL THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Cyclical theories examine the patterns of social structure and culture that recur at regular intervals.
- Societies go through a life cycle or life span. Organisms undergo stages starting from birth, a period of development, maturity, eventual decline and then death.
- The necessity for growth is the primary cause of social change.

## Cyclical Theory of Social Change

- Ibn-e-Khaldun...Abd al-Raḥmān ibn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr Muḥammad ibn al-Ḥasan Ibn Khaldūn
- Society is like human being. It ages just like human being. Maximum age of a human being is 120 years. Average age is 80 years.
- Every human society faces cyclic change. Each cycle/stage is half of a human's age, i.e. 40 years.
- The changes in human society follow the clock-wise pattern and this circle is repeated after about 120 years in the same society.
- There are fixed, definite, clear and standardized stages in this cycle, each having peculiar economic, social, religious, and political characteristics.
  - Growth
  - Development
  - Decay
- Each stage has an age of 40 years.



Existence, become stronger and lose their strength

## Stage 1: Growth

1. In the stage of growth the individuals are not united fully and creative leadership is emerging.
2. The people have primary group relations in most of their daily situations.
3. There is no regular military force and established State.
4. Kinship loyalties dominate over individual's interests.
5. There are potentialities in the population for making society stronger and richer in all walks of life.
6. There is solidarity and unity among the members of society. **Asbiyat** is strong

*Solidarity: harmony of interests and responsibilities among individuals in a group.*

## Stage 2: Development

1. At the second stage society becomes stronger in economic, political, social and in such other fields.
2. The population is not a liability and there is a strong Government with a well-organized military force.
3. Trade, commerce and other economic activities flourish in the society.
4. There is a strong hold of primary groups on the behaviour of an average person.
5. The commoners enjoy amenities of life to a reasonable extent.
6. The society is strong to face any out-side aggression, but the people try to extend their political powers over the neighboring societies.



## Stage 3: Decay

1. At the third stage, society enters in the process of “decaying”.
2. The commoner starts feeling the taxes are burden.
3. And the rulers and chiefs do not have the real political hold over an average person.
4. People start thinking individually.
5. There is a decline in all the social institutions of the society.
6. This depression results in creating disorganization and confusion in the minds of the people.
7. Thus, ultimately the society attains the same position from where it started 120 years back.

## CYCLICAL THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- According to Oswald Spengler, a German school teacher, every society is like a living organism and has a similar life-cycle; birth, maturity, old age and death.
- In his book 'The Decline of the West'-1918, he pointed out that the fate of civilizations is a matter of 'destiny'

- He analyzed the history of various civilizations including the Egyptian, Greek and Roman and concluded that all civilizations pass through a similar cycle of birth, maturity and death. The western civilization is now on its decline which is unavoidable.
- He saw Western societies entering a period of decay- as evidenced by wars, conflicts, and social breakdown that is the indication their destiny.

## CYCLICAL THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Arnold Toynbee used the term 'Challenge and Response'
- Toynbee asserts that every society faces challenges,
  - at first... challenges posed by the environment
  - Later challenges from internal and external enemies.
- The nature of the responses determines the society's fate.
- The achievements of civilizations consists of its successful responses to challenges; if it cannot mount an effective response, it dies.
- He has pointed out that history is a series of cycles of decay and growth. But each new civilization is able to learn from the mistakes and tomorrow from cultures of others.

## DIALECTICAL THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- “Dialectics” is a term used to describe a method of philosophical argument that involves some sort of contradictory process between opposing sides.
- The dialectical theory involves the view that the form of historical movement (process or progress), is the result of conflicting opposites.
- For Hegel, it was ideas! For Marx, it was economic relationships to the methods of production.

Plato two people coming together with opposing idea  
History evolves as ideas evolve

## DIALECTICAL THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- thesis, antithesis, and synthesis
- First there is some idea or theory or movement which may be called a 'thesis'.
- Antithesis- the negation or contradiction of the thesis that often produce opposition.
- Synthesis-the resolution of the conflict between thesis and antithesis.

## DIALECTICAL THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- The conflict is the engine of social change
- The way societies change and progress is through conflict and as conflict arises within society itself we come closer to a better society.
- Marx believed that history could be explained through class struggle.
- Marx was convinced that history would pass through certain phases (i.e. Feudalism, Capitalism, Socialism) until finally a Communist society would emerge.

- Marx was concerned by the inequalities between social classes
- **Bourgeoisie**- Those who owned the means of production and were considered the wealthy class in a capitalist society
- A very small proportion
- **Proletariat**- Working classes or lower class in Capitalist society.
- No control over their working lives and no share in the profits



## DIALECTICAL THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Marx argued that the capitalist bourgeoisie mercilessly exploited the proletariat.
- He recognized that the work carried out by the proletariat created great wealth for the capitalist. The products created in the factory (the material outcome of the workers' labour) were sold for more than the value of the labour itself i.e. more than the workers' wages.

The capitalist, who controls the process of production, makes a profit. But the worker does not benefit from this added value, and fails to benefit from the fruits of his/her own labour.

## EVOLUTIONARY THEORY OF SOCIAL CHANGE

- Evolutionary theories are based on the assumption that societies gradually change from simple beginnings into even more complex forms.
- Early sociologists beginning with August Comte believed that human societies evolve in a unilinear way- that is in one line of development. According to him social change meant progress toward something better.
- Change is always positive and beneficial for society.

- Herbert Spencer took Darwin's theory and applied it to how societies change and evolve over time.
- Spencer did not feel the need to correct or improve society, for he felt that societies were bound to change automatically .
- According to him, society has been gradually progressing towards a better state.

- Spencer found similarities between animal organisms and societies in that both had three main systems.
- The first system is the regulative system. In animals, that would be the central nervous system. In societies, it would be a government that regulates everything.

- The second system is the sustaining system. For animals, that's the giving and receiving of nourishment. For societies, that would be industry - jobs, money, economy and those sorts of things.
- The third system would be the distribution system. In animals, that would be the veins and arteries. In societies, it would be roads, transportation, internet - anything in which information and goods and services are exchanged.

- Social Darwinism: Herbert Spencer applied the Darwin's principle of 'survival of the fittest' to human society.
- According to Spencer, the strongest and the fittest should survive and flourish in society, and the weak should be allowed to die out.

SPENCER AND THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION

<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>ANIMALS</b>	<b>SOCIETIES</b>
<i>Regulative System</i>	<i>Central nervous system</i>	<i>Government</i>
<i>Sustaining System</i>	<i>Giving/receiving nourishment</i>	<i>Industry (jobs, money, economy)</i>
<i>Distribution System</i>	<i>Veins and arteries</i>	<i>Roads, transportation, internet, etc.</i>

## SOCIO-CULTURAL CHANGE IN PAKISTAN

- Mechanized farming
- The size and structure of the family
- Education system
- Changes in Marriage pattern
- Media
- Migration
- Introduction of fast food chains
- New job opportunities for women
- Beauty parlors and cyber café'