



## **SOCIAL CHANGE AND EDUCATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Education is considered the most powerful instrument of social change. It is through education that the society can bring desirable changes and modernize itself. The social change in a nation may take place because of socio-economic politico upheavals. It may begin at unconscious level but soon may be promoted to the conscious level. Education has dual role to perform. First, it creates frustration in the individual with the existing situation. It prepares him to look for change, it promotes dejection. Thus, unconsciously, it prepares the people towards accepting change whenever it is to be presented.*

**Key Words:** Social change, Education, organization

### **INTRODUCTION**

“Time and the world do not stand still, change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.”

**John F. Kennedy**

When ever individuals come in contact these takes place an interaction between them. Whenever there is an interaction there is implied a change. Individuals never establish contact with each other in the same way at two occasions. It may be seen that in each new human relationship. There is some novelty, some change. This change we may term as a social change.

Social change is an alteration in a social organization. The alteration affects its structure as well as its functions. The social change means that there occurs a change in course of time in the activities of the people. Merrill feels that “Society is a complex network of patterned relationships in which all the members participate in varying degrees. These relationships change and behavior changes at the same time.” These changes we refer to as social changes. Every day men are faced with new situations. The pattern of behavior they adopt to meet with those

situations has to differ from what they have adopted in the past. This pattern is indicative of social change. Thus social change may involve, new techniques, new ways of making a living, changes in the residence, developing of new ideas and formulation of new values. The social change implies change in the social structure and functions of the various units, which form society. Social structure includes social institutions like the family, the marriage system, caste system, educational institutions, customs, manners, literacy forms, language, dress and food habits etc.

### **SOCIAL CHANGE IN SOCIAL STRUCTURE**

Social change also involves change in social structure. Ginsberg says “By social change I understand a change in social structure, e.g., the size of a society, the composition or balance of its parts or the type of its organizations.” There can be distinguished two types of society open society and closed society. The open society is a dynamic society, in it the changes in structure occur rapidly. A closed society refers to a society which is



static in nature. It means a society in which statuses roles tend to remain substantially the same from generation to generation. It may however, be noted that the concept of closed and open society is a relative concept. The closed and open societies may be compared on the basis of the changes which occur in them at certain points of time. In the words of Jones, "Social change is a term used to describe variations in or modification of any aspect of social processes, social interactions or social organization."

There are a large number of causes or factors that bring about social changes. Sometimes even one cause may become responsible for social change. At other times, some factors or causes jointly act in such a way that social change becomes inevitable. Again it is stressed that the processes, causes and effects of social change work simultaneously.

### **INFLUENCE OF PROMINENT PERSONALITIES**

Ideas and ideologies of great leaders have played an important role in social change. The influence of prominent personalities like Marx and Lenin in Russia, Mao Tse Tung in China and Gandhiji in India are some of the well known examples of Modern History. Theories of social change have been propounded by evolutionists, revolutionaries, technologists, cyclists, spiritualists and hero worshippers:

Evolutionists believe that social change has evolved from painful experience of society to less painful experience and it has taken place uniformly gradually and progressively. Revolutionaries advocate that social change is purposive in that man with his intelligence and fortitude can reach his goal and many individuals achieving their similar goals can bring about social change. Technologists are of view that technical technological and scientific inventions and discoveries have broken the regional barriers and thus the

entire world stands interconnected. There is a cross flow of ideas. Invention in medicine, health and communication influence all aspects of life. In our country, there has been transition from traditional ways of living towards modernization. People are moving out of the rural areas to the urban centers. The cyclic theory refers to events and happenings in historical entities which pass through the cycle of birth, vigorous maturity and senile decay. For example history stands a witness to the rise and fall of mighty empires ; glorious civilizations and rich cultures. The spiritual theory stipulates that there is an inner spiritual force which causes social changes. The great man theory is that social changes are brought about by great man through their thoughts, words and actions. The great inventors and discoverers in arts, literature, science, social science and technology have changed the course of history as much as the statesmen philosophers and theologians.

An educational change leads over time to a social change and social change in turn intensifies and strengthens the social change. The process of change may be in the reverse order. A social change may lead to an educational change. The educational change in turn may intensify and strengthen social change.

### **INFLUENCE OF EDUCATION**

In the various theories of social change the relationship of education and social change are: Education gives knowledge and enlightenment to individuals. An educated person can be a better judge about the adoption or otherwise of a social change. Social change is for the people. Education prepares them to welcome social change. If the social change is not in the right direction, a educated man rejects it after due intellectual evaluation. Education prepares people not be shocked by the trauma of the change. Education empowers people with valves which serve



as criteria for analysis throws light on the desirable and undesirable effects of social change. Education equips individual to initiate social changes. An educated man is in a position to convince people why he is taking the initiative. The social change may be a novel one or it may be used to banish social evils. It is education that has banished child marriages, SATI and encouraged widow marriages. Education also produces leaders who devote their time, money and energy to bringing about social changes. It is education that has produced reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Swami Dayanand, Swami Vivekanand and Mahatma Gandhi. Education brings about changes in knowledge. Superstitions give way to rational thought. Education is a great cementing force between diverse castes, religions, regions and political views. It promotes emotional and national integration through its curricular, co-curricular or extra-curricular activities. Narrow approach to issues is discouraged and wider view is promoted.

It is worth recognizing that teacher is a common human being with many common positive and negative characteristics, but the society has very high expectation of him and he has to live up to them ; then only, he can be an effective agent of social

change. A number of social, political, economic, intellectual, technological and moral factors operate and individually and collectively cause social change. But behind all these factors, the role of education is very important.

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