

Social Change

Change means differentiation in anything observation over sometime. If we feel that there's come alteration we call it changes. If this change is in context to social structure, institution etc, i.e. social context then it is social change.

According to "Change means variations from previous state or mode of existence".

Change is an universal phenomena i.e. it is a law of nature. There's always a change in nature. Society is a part of nature & so society also changes & static society is unthinkable. Society is on the wheel of change, which may occur due to various factors (like demography, ideas etc. If there is any change in Technology etc there's change in society) but the change varies in speed & form.

In some places the change is rapid whereas in other places it may be slow. These days due to industrialization & urbanization the change is rapid as compared to earlier times. The form may be economic, political, social (industrialization) religious (industrialization), change in any part of society affects all the other parts of society. Eg. An individual is the fundamental unit of society & there's change in the life of the individual which is called evolutionary process of social change (birth to death). This is a slow process.

Definition of Social Change

Ginsberg (By social change I understand a change in the social structure).

Kingsley Doris "By social change is meant only such alternations as occur in social organization i.e. the structure & functions of society".

Merril & Elbridge "Social change means, that large no. of persons are engaging in activities that differ from those which they or their immediate forefathers engaged in some time before."

Gillin & Gillin "Social changes are variations from the accepted mode of life, whether due to alteration in geographical condition, in cultural equipment, composition of the population. Or ideologies & whether brought about by diffusion or inventions within the group."

Jones' "Social change is a term used to describe variations in or modification of any aspect of social process, social patterns, social interaction or social organization."

M.D.Jenson – Describes –Social change as "modification in ways of doing & thinking of people."

Characteristics of Social change

1. Social change is universal or it is an essential law.
2. Change with diff. in speed & form simple society ... change was slower.
3. Change is unpredictable in general Revol is a process of social change. What speed & in what form the change takes place is not easily predictable.
4. Social change is change in community

5. Social change generally changes in direction. There are 3 patterns of social change.
- i. linear failure change generally leads to progress (change for good) can't cycle –car – train –plain
 - ii. Fluctuating change – the change may be upward & downward. The demographic change is such also economic change,
 - iii. Cyclical change – the change is in a cycle. Fashion, sometimes also in economical aspect (Karl max gave this idea. He says earlier there was no private property & we may go back to it).

Factors of Social change

1. **Demographic factors** – Population plays an important role in society if there is change in the composition of pop there is change in society by composition we mean the structure i.e. sex ratio. For balance in society the sex ratio should be 1:1 and if there is change in the ratio there is change in society if there are more females than the status & position goes down (because in Polygamy more wives & the hubby now their status goes down). In the other case the females position rises. The bride –price increases (in the tribal society).
Age group – childhood, adulthood, old age. If the population of children is most then increase of population will be slower. If adults more than there will be rapid change in society cause they are the most regulative. In case of old more there is conflict in society they don't wish for change.

Marital status in production of children. If girls are married young there will be over population & the health is also in danger. Status of women becomes lower. And if at too late a stage – a girl is married fertility is less. Changes in demography – Birth rate & Death rate. Higher birth rate creates a lot of problems. Malthus theme of population – Economics. Over population-poverty unemployment increases. Death – rate – man – power decreases.

Immigration & Emigration – 1 is coming into country, 2 – going out of the country. Causes cultural problems leads to over population. 2 – Brain – drain is the problem.

2. **Natural factors** – now nature affect society – National calamities, floods, epidemics affects society in its social relationships (i) structure. People become selfish as during scarcities they are more bothered feeding themselves.

3. **Technological factors**

- a. Mechanization & social change – machines bring about this gave women the chance to work gave rise to women's lib.

Unemployment & such problems arose these affected cottage industries.

- b. Urbanization – changed job opportunities.

Transport gave rise to social contacts. Communication gives rise to greater awareness & is basis of recreation too.

Atomic Energy & change

4. **Cultural Factors**

Write about concept of cultural lag by W.F. Ogburn book – social change brings change. He says material & non – material change. Usually non-material can't

cope up with material changed & gives rise to cultural lag.

Change in values ideas & custom's changes society (Habits).

In handbook of Sociology, he said if may so happen that material behind education, unization etc., too brings change in marriage system etc.

Marxian theory of social change i.e. Technological Deterministic theory. On interpretative theory – change according to him is inevitable & a continuous process. He has given more important to the economical factors. He says if there is change in economy the only tractor my (changes of demography etc affect the individuals) there is change in society – change n the production system i.e. change in technology because it is due to change in technology that these's change in production that's why his theme is called technological data. Two change in production system. Has two aspect productive forces & productive relations – this is due to change in technology productive apparatuses, labour & production experience & labour still ? productive faces. Productive relations ? Capitalists & labourers (master & slaves).

Sociological Theories of Social change

Classical- Evolutionary Theory of Change

Evolutionary theories are based on the assumption that societies gradually change from simple to more complex forms. Early sociologists beginning with Auguste Comte believed that human societies evolve in a unilinear way– that is in one line of development. According to them social change meant progress toward something better. They saw change as FUNCTIONAL and beneficial. To them the evolutionary process implied that societies would necessarily reach new and higher levels of civilization. These evolutionary view of social change was highly influenced by Charles Darwin's theory of Organic Evolution.

Theories	Perspective on social change	Key authors
Evolutionary theory	Society moves in a linear direction from a simple to a more complex structure.	Comte, 1853/1929; Spencer, 1898; Pareto, 1901/1968
Conflict theory	Individuals and their groups fight to maximize their benefits. Society is in a constant state of disequilibrium.	Marx and Engels, 1848
Functionalist theory	Society is in a constant state of equilibrium. When a change occurs in one part of society, adjustments are made. Social change occurs when the equilibrium is compromised due to the rapidity with which events occur.	Durkheim, 1893/1967; Parson, 1951

Millions of people worldwide are affected by dramatic social change (DSC).

1. H Morgan believed that there were three basic stages in the process of evolutionary change:
 - Savagery,
 - Barbarism and
 - Civilization.
2. Auguste Comte's ideas relating to the three stages in the development of human thought and also of society namely-the theological, the metaphysical and the positive in a way represent the three basic stages of social change.
3. Herbert Spencer:
 - Spencer started with the assumption that reality was governed by the cosmic law of evolution. He said; "the evolution is an integration of matter and concomitant dissipation of matter during which matter passes from the indefinite incoherent homogeneity to definite coherent heterogeneity". Stated in simple words, this means that evolution is a twin process of "differentiation and integration" whereby a simple and less differentiated society is formed.
 - Spencer's conception of the notion of social reality was influenced by biology. Adopting organismic analogy, Spencer believes that like individual organism, societies were made up of inter-connected and interdependent parts. In case of society these parts are social institutions. A more or less persisting network of inter-dependent parts constitutes the social structure.

Like organism, societies are also characterized by progressive increase in size. Increase in size is followed by increase in differentiation and integration. Thus, simple societies had relatively undifferentiated social structure. Increasing differentiation or in other words increasing division of labour is accompanied by new means of maintaining integration. Thus, societies either due to change in environment or due to internal growth of population gradually undergo evolutionary change. This change is viewed as progressive and unidirectional process involving transition from small and simple to large and complex type of societies. Spencer's theory of change is a macro theory because the entire societies are taken as a unit of analysis.

Further, Spencer even examined certain stages which the societies in course of their evolution passed. Each stage is characterized by increasing differentiation and increase in the integration. The evolutionary sequence consists of the following stages:

- Simple society (Herd or band)
- Compound society (Tribe and chiefdom)
- Doubly compounded society (City state & kingdom)
- Trebly compounded society (Empire and modern nation state)

4. T. Hobhouse:

- Following Spencer, L.T. Hobhouse also presented the sequence of evolution. Like Spencer, he continued to believe in the idea of progress. However, he used concept of social development to analyse and explain social change.
- Taking advancement in human knowledge as the chief indicator of development, Hobhouse also presented an evolutionary sequence tracing development of human society through five stages:
 - Stage of preliterate societies
 - Stage of literacy and proto-science
 - Stage of reflective thought
 - Stage of critical thought in Greece
 - State of modern science.

Social Control

According to Mannheim, social control is the sum of those methods by which a society tries to influence human behavior to maintain a given order.

Any society must have harmony and order. Where there is no harmony or order the society actually does not exist because society is a harmonious organization of human relationships. Unless the individuals live up to the prescribed norms of conduct and unless their self-seeking impulses are subjugated to the welfare of the whole it would be quite difficult to maintain effectively the social organization.

Society in order to exist and progress has to exercise a certain control over its members since any marked deviation from the established ways is considered a threat to its welfare. Such control has been termed by sociologists as social control.

Social control has been defined by Maclver as the way in which entire social order coheres and maintains itself- how it operates as a whole as a changing equilibrium. To Ogburn and Nimkoff the patterns of pressure that a society exerts to maintain order and established rules is social control. According to Gillin and Gillin social control is that system of measures, suggestions, persuasions, restraint and coercion by whatever means including physical force by which a society brings into conformity to the approved pattern of behavior or subgroup or by which a group molds into conformity its members.

Meaning of Social Control

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Ogburn and Nimkoff the patterns of pressure which a society exerts to maintain order E Ross defines it the system of devices whereby society brings its members into conformity with the accepted standards of behavior.

According to Lapiere social control is a corrective for inadequate socialization.

G.A Lundberg has defined social control as designating those social behaviors which influence individuals or groups towards conformity to established or desired norms.

Kimball Young defines social control as the use of coercion, force, restraint, suggestion or persuasion of one group over another or of a group over its members or of persons over others to enforce the prescribed rules of the game. These rules may be set down by the members themselves as in a professional code of ethics or they may be those laid down by a larger, more inclusive group for the regulation of other smaller groups.

Social control may thus be defined as: Social control is an influence where influence may be exerted through public opinion, coercion, social suggestion, religion or any other method. The influence is exerted by the society which means that group is better able to exercise influence over the individual than a single individual. This group may be the family, the church, the state or the trade union etc. The effectiveness of the influence however depends on variable factors. Sometimes family may exercise more effective influence than the state or vice-versa.

The influence is exercised for promoting the welfare of the group as a whole. The person is influenced to act in the interest of others rather than in accordance with his own individual interests. Social control is exercised for some specific end in view. The aim is always the welfare of the whole. The individual is made conscious of other's existence; their interests. He is made to adhere to the appropriate social ways.

Need for Social Control

Social solidarity is essential for the existence of society. No two persons is alike in their nature, ideas, attitudes and interests. Every individual is a separate personality. There are cultural differences among the individuals. As a matter of fact society is a heterogeneous or-

ganization. If every individual is allowed unrestricted freedom to act and behave, it may create social disorder. For an orderly social life social control is necessary. The aims of social control are to bring out conformity, solidarity and continuity of a particular group or society.

Social control is necessary for maintaining order in the society. It is necessary for every society or group to maintain its social order and this is possible only when its members behave in accordance with that social order. An important objective of social control is to maintain the old order. Although enforcement of the old order in a changing society may hinder social progress, yet it is necessary to maintain continuity and uniformity in society.

Without social control social unity would be a mere dream. Social control regulates behavior in accordance with established norms which brings uniformity of behavior and leads to unity among the individuals. The family maintains its unity because its members behave in a similar manner in accordance with family norms.

No two men are alike in their attitudes, ideas, interests and habits. Even the children of same parents do not have the same attitudes, habits or interests. Men believe in different religions, dress, eat differently and have different ideologies. There are so many differences in the ways of living of the people that at every moment there is the possibility of clash between them. In modern times this possibility has all the more increased because man has become too self-centred. Social control is necessary to protect social interests and satisfy common needs. If social control is removed and every individual is left to behave freely society would be reduced to a state of lawlessness.

The Purposes of Social Control

The study of social control is an important aspect of sociology. It is a significant field of study. It is a unifying factor in the study of human behavior. According to Kimball Young the aims of social control are to bring about conformity, solidarity and continuity of particular group or society. These aims are good but most individuals who endeavor to control their fellow men show little perspective in their efforts. They want that others should accept the modes of conduct which they themselves prefer. This preference may be based on any factor-experience derived in life, desire to exploit others for one's own gain, political, personal or economic.

Some reformers and leaders try to conceal their motives by good reasons in the form of altruistic rationalization. A newspaper advertisement that offer discount to those who make purchases by a particular date is an example of such rationalizations. It is difficult to know and classify the motives of the agents of social control.

The classification of the motives or purposes of the agents of social control –

1. Exploitative, motivated by self interest.
2. Regulative based upon habit and the desire for behavior of the customary types
3. Creative or constructive based on social benefit

The results of social control are not always beneficial to society or to the individual. Even social control for constructive purposes may confuse the public and end in inactivity. Efforts to regulate behavior in accordance to custom may cause cultural lag, mental conflict and emotional instability.

Means of social control

The means by which individuals are induced or compelled to conform to the usages and life values of the group are so numerous and varied that a classification is not possible. E.A. Ross has described a number of means that have been used by social groups throughout the human history to keep individuals under control. The important among them are public opinion, law, custom, religion, morality, personality, folkways and mores. E.C. Hayes distinguished between control by sanctions and control by suggestion and imitation. According to him, education is the most effective means of control and the family is the most significant agency.

Karl Mannheim distinguished between direct means of social control and indirect means of social control.

Luther L. Bernard distinguished between unconscious and conscious means of control. The most important among the unconscious means of control are custom, tradition and convention. The conscious means of control are those which have been consciously developed and employed by leaders of all types. According to him conscious means of control are more effective than unconscious ones though the influence of the latter also is quite marked. He also talked about exploitative and constructive methods of social control. Exploitative means are such as punishment, reprisals, intimidation, censorship and repression. Among the constructive means are included revolution, custom, law, education and social reform, non-violent coercion and belief in supernatural forces.

Some sociologists have classified the social control into informal and formal means. Sympathy, sociability, resentment, the sense of justice, public opinion, folkways and mores are some of the informal means of social control. They are very powerful in primary social groups where interaction is on a personal basis. The effectiveness of the informal means of control though somewhat lessened in modern large communities wherein contacts tend to be impersonal may still be observed in small villages. In modern times the informal methods have given place to formal ones such as laws, education, coercion and codes.

Law

Law is the most important formal means of social control. Early societies depended upon informal means of social control but when societies grew in size and complexity they were compelled to formulate rules and regulations which define the required types of behavior and specify the penalties to be imposed upon those who violate them. Law is a body of rules enacted by legally authorized bodies and enforced by authorized agencies. It defines clearly rights, duties as well as the punishments for their violation. The modern societies are large in size. Their structure is complex consisting of a number of groups, organizations, institutions and vested interests. Informal means of social control are no longer sufficient to maintain social order and harmony.

In modern society relationships are of secondary nature. Security of life and property as well as the systematic ordering of relationships make formalization of rules necessary. Law prescribes uniform norms and penalties throughout a social system. What were in mores and customs earlier has now been formalized into a body of law. Law prohibits certain actions for example anti-touchability act prohibits untouchability in any form and a person practicing untouchability is liable to punishment. Prohibition act forbids drinking at public places. In this way law exercises a powerful influence upon the behavior of people in modern societies.

Education

The importance of education as a means of social control is being increasingly realized. Education is a process of socialization. It prepares the child for social living. It reforms the attitudes wrongly formed by the children. Thus a family may make the child superstitious; education will correct his beliefs and remove his prejudices. It teaches him value of discipline, social cooperation, tolerance and sacrifice. It instills in him the qualities of honesty, fair play

and a sense of right and wrong. The importance of education for creating right social attitudes among youth cannot be overlooked.

Coercion

Coercion is the use of force to achieve a desired end. It may be physical or non-violent. It is the ultimate means of social control when all other means fail. Physical coercion may take the form of bodily injury, imprisonment and death penalty. Physical coercion is without doubt the lowest form of social control. Societies would least desire to use it. If a society has to depend on external force it shows its weakness rather than strength in social control.

Nonviolent coercion consists of strike; boycott and non-cooperation. the students may go on strike to ensure better hostel facilities. Boycott is the withholding of social or economic interaction with others to express disapproval and to force acceptance of demands. Non cooperation is refusal to cooperate. The teachers may refuse to cooperate with the management over the payment of salaries. Non-violent coercion can be a successful way of effecting social control.