



SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND SOCIOLOGICAL PRESPECTIVE

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Abstract

Social change is the inevitable process and prominent feature of the every society, human civilization has many phases of transformation and changed a lot over the years. Emergence of industrialization and modernization has brought significant changes in social institutions and society. Societal transformation started in early era of industrial revolution which triggered huge population migration and institutional changes. Human settlement has changed in many ways, from primitive to rural, rural to urban and urban to industrial society. Industrial revolution was followed by political revolutions which brought several change in thought process of mankind. This was beginning of social change and social transformation on various platforms. Nature of social transformation can be different from society to society. Moreover the speed and impact of change is also diverse from society to society. With many other reasons most of the transformation is occurred due to development process at large in society. Transformation could be any sector like economy, education, political systems social intuitions, languages, culture, ethics and values. Some time social transformation can cause unexpected changes which can be turn in to social problems too. This phenomenon of transformation is significant discourse studied by social science in general and sociology in particular. Sociological perspectives have been focused on various changes in reference with change in caste, class, status, role, social mobility, development, social problems, etc.

Key words: Social Transformation, Social Change, Development, Modernization, Sociological analysis.

Introduction

Over the years due to force of progress and continuous evolution of mankind social change became integral feature of society. In many ways society has been transformed and the rate of social transformation is different from place to place. The nature and scope of change is also varying in respective communities. There are many drivers of social transformation viz; industrialization, political revolutions, social movements, and modernization. Social transformation indicates the notion of mobility. Most of the social transformation is taking place due the development and social change take place due to development. In recent time process of industrialization and modernization changed the scenario completely. The change is evident in social institutions and social structure. The thinking process has also transformed from primitive to scientific. Change is not always positive, few times it brings conflict and contradiction. As the human society has emerged with new structure like urban and industrial society there are many complication creating difficulties in civil society. As we know due the science and technology, life of human kind have all access to facility and comfort however the unprecedented growing population and unplanned development creating problems to the human society. The place of informal relation has been taken by the formal relationship; the primary society has become secondary. The changing nature of social interaction created various social issues and problems.

The social transformation was always been centre point of study among the social scientists. Many a times development and progress can create issues and unintended problems in the society. Development induced displacement or cultural transformation creates conflict these are some issues created in the phase of transformation. Social change can left deep impact on social institutions. So it always challenge to the social science to observe the transformation and to analyze the impact of it. In sociology many studies were conducted on the changing nature of primitive society and its continuous progress. This paper is an attempt to analyze how social transformation has changed human civilization and how sociologists are studying it with various perspectives. It is an attempt to understand nature, order, social reconstruction, social change, social structure, etc. This is a descriptive type of study and based on secondary sources. Various theories, reviews, articles and books have been used for reference.

Classical sociological approaches

Distinguished social scientist contributed on the social change and social transformation issues since from the beginning with the reference to Caste, Class, Status, Role, Education, Social Equality, Social Mobility, Development, Modernization, and Industrialization, westernization, etc. Social sciences and Sociology always has a major role in describing and analyzing the social change. In the beginning anthropological and sociological studies were to describe the statistics and those were not related to change and transformation. However these were important studies which focused on macro observations and broad issues. But as huge migration started worldwide and commencement of industrialization things were changed rapidly. The pace of mobility was very high that time. This period was considered of transformation in human thinking. It was period of advance thinking and radical change in thought process. Many pioneer sociologists observe the social change in various different perspectives. August Comte stated three progressive stages of the change. He suggests that the human civilization has gone through stages which start with theological thinking which changes into metaphysical stage. Comte claims that in third and final stage thought process reaches to positive thinking. As per August Comte the last stage is the most radical in the process of social change. The second most influential sociologists Herbert Spencer also analyses the human progress and came to conclusion that human society is gradually progress in certain manner. His idea of social change is start with the primitive status to the form of military society and it advances into the industrial society. In the final state of type, society works on the rules of industrial norms and behavior. In another theory Herbert Spencer compare human progress with the law of evaluation. He explored the idea that the human civilization develop gradually as same as cosmic evaluation.

Vilfredo Parato put forwarded the idea of political factor behind the change. He said that political will and force make changes and transformation in society. Even though the society act rigidly, political force enforces the changes in society, he claimed. Sorokin explored concept of cyclic and linear change. In his concept he stated that the social change particularly the cultural change starts in linear direction. It goes straight in direction but due to various forces it goes in another direction some time it comes back to the same place too. Eventually the force of development will guide the direction of change. Lewis Coser thinks that conflict in society initiative the change, the social transformation can be happen the society only through conflict.

Mikhailosky the Russian sociologist also described the social change in three stages in which first stage is dominated by nature and the second one is based on facts and reality, in third and final stage of change humans took control over nature. Karl Marx was first social scientist who looked the social change very differently. His idea of observation was based on the factors responsible for the social change. His theories are based on economical factors, prevailing in the society. His whole idea of social change was the ownership of production and its distribution. He claimed that any change in the ownership of production and distribution can change the direction of social change. As per his ideology, material things are important then the all other institutional factors. Any change in the materialistic things can bring the change in social institutions. The nature of social interaction can be changed and decided by the materialistic condition of that society. If small section of the society holds the power and ownership of the means, eventually the direction of social change will decided by them. They will bring the changes according and favorable to them. It means the direction of social change will be managed and controlled by the few of the society which May not in interest of the larger section of the society. Marx clearly highlighted the socio-eco factor which is inter-related and determines the change. The nature of change is not decided by humans rather it is determined by the economical factor. He coined the term capitalist society, who lead the change and decide the nature of social change. These are the few classical sociologists perspectives who explain their ideas of social change and social transformation. This was the period of renaissance, developing ideas and analyzing human nature and his capability. Social change was described and analyzed limited to the thinking process. But things changed rapidly hereafter, many driving forces came in existence and social transformation was on the peak and moreover the new era of modernization brought paradigm shift in transformation.

Modernization and Transformation

Studies related to the social transformation in early period were limited to the various social revolutions and political revolutions in the early twentieth century. Later on it was focused on the world wars and its implications. The most significant social transactions took place in colonial period, where two different communities interacted with each other. Twentieth century is the most important and happening for the transition and transformation in the world. Emergence of machine and dominance of science created new knowledge society. This was the period when the rise of cities and urban development took place, migration triggered massively and education was on peak. This was the period when most of the countries opened up the doors to other countries. The open market concept arrived. This was not remained up to the goods; it was the transformation in culture too. Clothing pattern were exchanged, good were carried away and even new food habit was introduced among the countries. Past so many years it was not happened at this level. It was the era of education and knowledge based society. Major change was happened in the social institutions. The place of small group was taken by secondary group. The secondary group is based on informal relationship and on the basis of voluntary membership. Few significant changes were took place in this period. Rural institutions were destroyed and overtaken by the urban culture. Joint family was converted in nuclear family. Simple economy was shaping into complex economy.

The modernization has changed many things including the way of communication and communication system. That has changed the value and norms of the society. Technology has brought significant change in our life. It brings the culture of materialism and consumerism too. Suddenly it is found that new thinking of self orientation and cynicism is dominating. The technology has provided alternative support which replaces the need of others. It change the way of interaction and brings the mechanical solidarity among the society. However the technology brings the most important change and transformation on the society i.e. changes above the discrimination. Access to knowledge and technology was opened up to everyone. Technology does not consider stratification which divides society. Increasing industrialization, commercialization and urbanization has made society plural and multicultural. In urban centers social mobility is leading to make significant changes, like caste and race related issues. Process of industrialization has triggered massive migration across the world. Economic, political, social and cultural

integration is evident due to the process of migration. Industrialization was the major shift in social as well as digital transformation. It changes mode of production, the nature of employability and industrial relation too. The atmosphere of workplace, style of working and availability of work was also changed. The new concepts of human resource management came in existing. This revolution gave the freedom and choice of job. Certainly industrial revolution creates prosperity and happiness in society. Education was another major factor for social transformation. With the availability and various educational programme development was stimulated. New research and innovation with the help of science created many jobs and employment that motivate industrialization.

Liberalization and Transformation

The world was not the same after the era of Liberalization and open market system. It was worldwide process which brings world close. It was merely related to market however opening the gates, there were many other things flow away from western countries and vice versa. New ideas, social media, idea of private sector, idea of private partnership, new technology, digital sharing, great transport, help in health and education sector and above all financial assistance seeded the liberalization process. It lefts deep impact on the third world an underdeveloped countries. It was not only the market and finance were exchanged but the idea of equality, brotherhood, rights of poor, health care and liberal thoughts on caste, these liberal values flow away with the global exchange. Huge and massive economic centers created in compliance with the GATT agreement and new liberalization policy. The sectors like media, television and telephone were ruled by the government sector and somehow it was government's voice, but the new liberalization policy opened up these sectors to private player. This was the opportunity masses to raise the voice against government which leads many social movements. Multinational companies travelled to all countries freely which creates new ideas of branding and benchmarking, this was era of commercialization of everything. Traditional exchange of interaction was replaced by commercialization. Some of the critics of globalization held responsible to commercialization for destroy of social institutions, however few other things was welcomed by society as social change, like Men and women treated equal in job opportunities, women are more invited for many specific jobs and cast and class left behind over the skill and knowledge.

Social science and Sociology

Social scientists always attracted to the discourse of social change and social transformation. It was curiosity for them to know that what factors are mobilizing and working as driving force for social change. The process of transformation must be analyzed and events must be seen in scientific and objective manner. In terms of social sciences it was western experience who guided the method of enquiry. It was necessary to look social transformation in indigenous way. Indian sociologists have made significant contribution in this regard. M N Shrinivas explored the idea of Sanskritization and Westernization which was based on changing culture of castes and communities. Social transformation is connected with all sections of the society. The study of community or society must be linked with the global and local factors. The transformation shall concern with demographical and cultural changes. The study of social transformation is an interdisciplinary approach so within one discipline it can't be carried out in one particular subject. That means social scientists have to go beyond their subject and study transformation in interdisciplinary approach.

Findings and conclusion

Any social transformation or social change is start in the direction of progress or development. However few social scientists think that change in the folkways or tradition is not good for the society, sometimes it create issues for society. However, the process of transformation is inevitable and irreversible. The social change is triggered by the various forces and due various reasons too. The progress or this change is driven for the fulfillment of various objectives of the society. As social scientist describe the change is not superficial it is related with social structure or social system. It means that social change or social transformation is fundamental change in the society. The pace of change can be varying from society to society but the common feature is the willingness of the society. It is also evident that it is unstoppable and irreversible process and will never stop. With all above major contribution of Sociologists and social scientists one can understand that social change and social transformation is very wide and comprehensive concept. There are many perspectives and view which are different to analyze the social transformation. However, there are some broad conclusions on above discussion.

Human civilization had come across through different forms and process. Hundreds of years humans are transforming in many ways. Society is institutionalized and changing with the time. The process of social change and social transformation is sated primarily from the enlightenment period and economical development started from eighteenth century and thereafter. This period were thinking process was becoming scientific and industrialization and political revolutions compelling many changes in the society. With all respective view of great sociologist we could understand how and why social transformation is taking place, it is fact that in twenty first century economic force is driving the social transformation. Every section of the society is related with the economic events. Poverty, under development and low speed of economy can reduce the speed of transformation. Process of Modernization is in full force world over, it brings the new thoughts, trends and opening boundaries for each other. Due to this societies are interacting with new culture, and accepting new value and way of living. Era of information, communication and technology has provided opportunity to acquire knowledge irrespective of caste and class. Information communication and technology is giving access to each of the individual to acquire and obtain knowledge. This was not possible in the past; the resources were controlled by specific communities and caste. The knowledge is opened up for all, this is era of transformation. The twenty first century is more advanced and prone to change with era of information technology and knowledge. Social transformation will be leading to this society with many questions and queries for the social scientist and sociologists.

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