

INTRODUCTION TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Unit Structure :

- 1.0 Objectives
- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Concept
- 1.3 Nature of rural development
- 1.4 Scope of rural development
- 1.5 Objectives of rural development
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1.0 OBJECTIVES

- Can study Rural Development
- Can understand the Concept of Rural Development
- Can understand the Nature of Rural Development
- Can understand the Objectives of Rural Development
- Can understand the Importance of Rural development

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Developing nation like India has given more importance to Rural Development. Rural economy has great impact on Indian economy. Percentage of Poverty, Illiteracy and unemployment is more in the rural areas. As a result economic development gains more importance in the rural development. Rural Development is a process to develop the rural areas in the country. Rural Development is an action oriented program, and also a social science studying the rural community and their problems. Other social scope (extent) is limited to a specific facet of social life, but rural development's social science deals with an extensive scope.

Social, Political and Economic facets of rural development are taken into consideration in this study.

Rural life has gained importance in the Indian social lifestyle. India is a country of villages. There are 6,27,000 villages in India. Out of the total population of India 75% live in rural areas. Many villages are very small. Some villages are situated far away from the cities in the hilly areas or in deep valleys. Some villages are situated in the desert areas, in the Himalayan hill ranges, Seashores as per the geographical diversification. Villages in the remote areas are separated from the main stream of villages and cities. As a result the life in these remote rural areas is full of hardships and also under-developed.

Even after 63 years of Independence this underdeveloped rural society is forbidden from getting even the basic amenities. It is very essential to provide the basic amenities to this society. Rural Development means providing drinking, education, health, housing facilities, proper basic ingredients of food, etc. which are the day-to-day basic needs. Villages are India's soul. Rabindranath Tagore has rightly said, "Preserving villages means preserving human race." According to Mahatma Gandhi- "destruction of villages is destruction of India." Therefore it is very essential to know the potential of the natural resources, to search it and to develop it, which is expected in Rural Development.

1.2 CONCEPT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Even though a proper concept of rural development is not found still some thinkers have randomly put forward few concepts of rural development. But before you understand the concept of rural development it is very essential to understand the meaning of these two words-Rural and Development.

Rural - The word 'rural' is associated with the rural community. Geographical areas having specific distinguishing features is called a rural area. According to some sociologist village is the one which is not a city. The person who cultivates land is called is a villager and this villagers community where it lives is called a village. If in an geographical area the main occupation and means of living of the people is farming then that society is called a rural society. If in a geographical area 50% or more than that people's main occupation or means of livelihood is farming then that community is said to be a rural community. If in a geographical area more than 50% of the population depend on farming that area is said to be a rural area.

Development - This word development is more often used in economics. The word development with reference to rural development includes three constituent parts which include - Agricultural development, Economic development and Overall development of the rural community. These are the three important aspects of rural development. 'Development' means changing the economic condition of the economically feeble community.

Rural Development:-

1. According to Robert McNamara- Giving stress on the development of the weak or feeble rural community like small farmers, landless farmers and rural artisans and an overall development of the rural area is Rural Development.
2. According to Dr. Swaminathan- The process of developing the weaker sections of the rural society and making them strong in all aspects is rural development.
3. Chester Bolls say that- Rural development is not limited only to agriculture but improving the standard of small scale industries, educational development, advanced communication, rural electrification, rural health, population control centre and to give encouragement to rural culture is rural development.
4. Rural population has to begin to lead a self dependent life, providing technical and other facilities to the rural population for its efforts and bringing change in oneself means rural development.
5. Solving problems like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and health of the rural areas by increasing their standard of living and giving stress on overall development of the rural areas does mean rural development.
6. Making proper and sufficient use of the available natural resources to bring about a developmental change in the poorest of the poor section of the rural society is rural development. It is very clear from the above concepts that rural development is nothing but bringing about a developmental change in the financial status of the poorest section of the rural society. For this programs like poverty eradication and employment generation are to be undertaken. Along with this an effort taking society to minimize the minimum needs has to be developed. Rural life, Rural community, Rural areas and their problems and to find a solution to it is very essential and also study the rural development process and to find new avenues for the development and implement it by the rural society is expected.

Following things are to be included while explaining the rural development programs extensively.

1. Fulfilling the minimum needs. In this provision of pure drinking water in each and every village, providing good quality food grains at a reasonable price, providing shelter, rural electrification, educational facilities, health facilities etc are to be created.
2. Creating agro based industries at the village level, creating basic facilities for this industries, providing transport, communication and market facilities.
3. Creating employment opportunities at village level or in the nearby areas and creating permanent productive capital.
4. Creating primary educational facilities at village, hamlets, providing secondary school at the central place in the village, wherever possible providing junior colleges and improving the educational standards of the rural society.
5. Providing library facilities, television sets agricultural extension services for cultural development and social change.
6. Implementing programs to eradicate superstitious beliefs, providing health facilities at free of cost or at subsidized rate, creating health centers to increase capacity of the human resources and make full use of this resource in the development process.
7. Developing independency, cooperation and leadership qualities and try to solve the problems themselves.
8. Developing network of roadways in the rural areas, developing the kutcha roads into permanent pucca roads, developing transport facilities and providing big market facility for the rural agricultural produce in the cities.
9. Developing the available natural resources, and make use of the dormant natural resource for economic development, and reproducing the necessary ingredients.
10. Providing basic facilities and enough capital for developing agriculture and allied agricultural activities and subsidiary occupations.

Check your progress :

- 1) Explain the concept of rural development.

1.3 NATURE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

While clarifying the nature of rural development it is very much essential to understand the sociological (social science) structure and the process of rural development independently.

1.3.1 Rural Development a Social Science

1) Study of the rural community and their problems:-

Here a study of rural environment and the community living in it is done. The social, economical, political and cultural study is taken into consideration in rural environment. We can see the problems like poverty, illiteracy, superstitions, ill health, lack of motivation, fatalist attitude, opposition to the changes to be brought to change the lifestyle or disinterest in changing themselves. An explanation to the above issues is done in the study of social sciences in rural development.

2) Idealistic Discussion

While studying the rural community and their problems what measures are to be adopted is discussed in this issue. Measures such as rural diversification, generating self employment for the unemployed, active participation of the rural people at the grass-root level planning through the medium of gram-sabha, awareness generation through the voluntary organizations, development of the weaker sections of the society through cooperation are suggested. Mahatma Gandhiji's concept of Gram Swarajya and the concept of Decentralization of the democracy the are the ideal concepts for bringing about a change in the rural community. Guidance is given in the social science of rural development to change the present situation to an idealistic situation.

3) Scientific Attitude and Suggested Facets

Suggested facets are more important in the social sciences of rural development because rural development is an action oriented social science. Rural social science was put forward with the objective to solve the problems of the rural community. That is why study of programs whether they are governmental or non governmental is done in this rural social science.

4) Interrelated Scientific Facets

Though rural development is a social science it deals with the materialistic, humanistic, scientific attitude. Agriculture and rural economy, genetical engineering and environmental science are the different facets of this. It considers all the issues of this facet.

Check your progress:

1) Write short note - Rural Development a social Science.

1.3.2 Rural Development a Process

Rural development is an important process to bring about an overall development and change in the rural community. Its nature is as follows:-

People's Agitation:

Community development program was started with the objective of rural development. After few years it became a people's agitation a mass movement. As rural development is a program of the people, by the people and for the people. In the process of rural development rural community should have the attitude of developing or bringing about a change in the society and for bringing about this change there should be spontaneous and active participation of the people. For this Balwantrai Mehta had put forward the concept of Democratic decentralization and three-tier Panchayat Raj system. As per his recommendation the three-tier system of Panchayat raj came into existence. Voluntary organizations also came forward. Co-operative movement made it possible, for the development process to get mobility.

Extensive Objectives:

Objectives of rural development are extensive in nature and include all the facets of rural life. Agricultural development, developing available water resources, Infrastructural development, human resource development, conservation of natural resources and its proper utility, economic development, social change, etc objectives have been put forward. To fulfill this objectives various programs, schemes and projects have been undertaken. As a result the objective of rural development have become of extensive nature.

Processing Industries:

Developing agricultural processing industries, motivating industrialization in the rural areas, establishing industries based on co-operation so that maximum benefit reaches the producer.

Developing Infrastructural Facilities:

Providing transport and communication facilities, provision of drinking water, rural electrification, bringing the level of education to the highest, providing health facilities and creating favorable conditions for the development of human resources.

Check your progress:

1) Rural development is an important process to bring about an overall development. Explain?

1.4 SCOPE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Area wise India is big country. Its area is 32,87,263 sq km. Population of the country is more than 120 crores, but 70% resides in the rural areas. The geographical condition is different everywhere. There is vast diversity in the climate, rainfall, quality of soil, natural resources, various occupations having in the rural areas. The rural areas in different regions have different problems. Many measures had been taken in the post independence period but there was no solution to these problems. As a result rural development has gained importance to solve the problems in the rural areas. Therefore the scope of rural development is extensive. This can be understood from the following points.

To bring about a Change in the Rural Occupational Structure -

Agriculture is the main occupation in the rural areas. Out of the total population 64.5% population is directly engaged in farming. But the majority small farmers and marginal farmers use traditional method of farming due to which they could not progress. Due to unstable economic condition capital investment in the agricultural sector was not possible. As a result agriculture remained undeveloped. Therefore provision of credit supply to the agricultural sector, water facilities, provision of agricultural implements and allied and subsidiary occupation is very important. If the rural population is provided with some occupations they can be a means to generate regular income to the families. So we can say the scope of rural development is extensive with the point of view of rural occupations and industries.

Basic Necessities -

To create favorable conditions for rural development it is essential to provide basic necessities in the rural areas. To develop and provide the facilities like transport, communication, unemployment, markets, electric supply, water supply the scope of rural development has become extensive.

Industrial Development -

The occupation carried on in the rural areas, are of primary sector in nature. The raw material is created from this. But the processing industries on the raw material is maximum in the cities. Therefore the benefits of the production is reached to the traders in the cities due to which the economic condition in the rural areas is not improved. Therefore there is a big chance that, processing on raw material industries should be established in the rural areas itself.

Social Development -

People from different caste and religion reside in the rural areas. Also many traditional, undesirable customs are seen in the rural community. This results in the adverse effects on the progress of the rural community. Rural community is scattered and there are many problems in the backward community staying in the remotest areas. Development of this whole community and include them in the development process is very essential. To solve the basic problems and bring about a social development of this community rural development scope has become extensive.

Developing Human Resource -

Total utilization of the available human resource is possible only if rural human resource is utilized to its full capacity. For this spread of education and provision of higher education is necessary. To develop the skills in the human resource training facilities are to be provided. Health facilities are essential to increase the efficiency and to preserve the human resource. It is then only we can utilize the human resource to its fullest in the development process. Therefore there is an extensive scope in the rural human resource development, which motivates the economic development.

Developing Natural Resources -

Natural resources are available in abundance in the rural areas. As this natural resource is not utilized it is remaining in the dormant state. To develop this natural resource capital is required in large proportion so that it can be used for economic development. To develop the factors like land, water, minerals, animal resources, ocean wealth in proper proportion and make its use in economic development the scope of rural development has to be extensive.

Population Control -

The main obstacle in the rural development is the increasing population at a faster rate. If the population is not controlled development is not possible at any cost. Population control is an important factor so the scope of rural has to be extensive.

Check your progress:

1) Explain the scope of rural development?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

During the British period the self-sufficient villages were ruined which gave rise to many problems. After the Independence Indian government gave more stress on programs for developing rural areas through planning. Before implementing the programs and schemes for rural development some objectives were decided. They are as follows:

1) Increasing the Agricultural Production -

Out of the total population 64.5% population directly depends on agriculture. As majority population is engaged in agriculture it is necessary to increase the agricultural production through agricultural development. The main objective of rural development is to increase the agricultural production by using new technology i.e new techniques of production, providing agricultural loan to increase per acre production.

2) Research and Training -

Establishing research centers, agricultural universities, agricultural colleges for rural development. High yielding variety seeds should be invented through research and that has to reach the producers and also train them in the same, developing agricultural extension services, allied and subsidiary occupations are to be promoted, new technique and technology has to reach the farmers and convince them to use the same.

3) Develop Agricultural Processing Industries -

Raw material processing industries mostly are set up in the urban areas, as a result the farmers have to sell the raw material at a very low rate. The raw material is not sold at a desired and

reasonable rate. Which is again a reason for the farmer's low standard of living. Therefore if the farmer has to be benefited then the processing industries have to be set up in the rural areas than the urban areas. This is also one of the objectives of rural development.

4) Allied activities and Subsidiary occupations -

Out of the total land in the country 77% depends on irrigated water supply. Therefore the unemployment persists for the remaining 8 months other than the rainy season. Therefore the objective of developing allied and subsidiary occupations is taken into consideration so that through this medium employment can be generated.

5) Development of the weaker sections through Co-operation -

To unite the economically weaker sections of the rural society. To stop the ill-treatment given to the small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural laborers and small traders by establishing co-operative societies. This are the objectives to provide the benefits of the new techniques of production to the farmers through co-operation, to establish co-operative credit societies to stop the exploitation of farmers from the moneylenders and to make the weaker section of the rural society powerful through co-operation.

6) Fulfilling the basic necessities of the rural community -

To create a favorable climate to develop the human resources by fulfilling the basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, health, pure drinking water, rural electrification for the overall development of the rural community.

7) Implementing self-employment programs -

Providing facilities like employment training for the rural youths, providing financial assistance to the weaker sections of the society, eradicating poverty by including the weaker sections in the development process.

8) Creating awareness -

To create love and feel proud for the country, equality, unity, fraternity and national integration in the minds of rural community. Creating awareness among the rural community to keep away the distinction between the caste, class, religion, region.

9) More stress on rural industrialization -

Minimizing the distance between the rural thinking and urban thinking. To bring together the rural and urban culture.

10) To raise the standard of living -

They should be provided with income generating sources and to develop the household resources.

11) To remove the supernatural beliefs -

To remove the supernatural beliefs from the mind of the rural community and develop a scientific attitude. To keep away the rural community from the evil or obnoxious traditions and cultures and sow the seeds to develop themselves on their own.

12) Employment generating programs -

Start the employment generating programs at local level and create productive assets (benefits) from it.

Check your progress :

1) Give the objectives of rural development?

1.6 IMPORTANCE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

It is very important to develop a scientific attitude to study rural community in rural development. Through this medium it is possible to study the problems in rural areas and measures can be adopted to solve this problems. Mahatma Gandhi's views are very important with regards to rural development. India is a land of villages and if this villages are not developed then rural development is not possible till then we cannot say country is developed. Out of the total geographical area 80% is rural area. It means we cannot say the country is developed till and until the maximum population living in the maximum geographical area i.e rural is developed. Indian constitution has adopted the objectives of justice and equality. To achieve this objectives rural areas are to be provided with the basic necessities like food, clothing, shelter, education, and health facilities.

To remove the inequality between the economical condition in the rural and urban areas rural development has to be given priority. This is understood by the politicians and planning commission. From the 6th five year plan rural development was given more importance and priority providing more monetary benefits and rural development program was started on a wider

scope. Which resulted in the mobility of rural development process. But still all the rural community problems were not solved.

If and only if the rural areas become self dependent, then in the real sense we can say rural development has taken place. Rural development is important because it will help the rural people to develop themselves and along with it countries economical status will get mobility

Check your progress:

1) Give the importance of rural development?

1.7 PROGRAMS OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

After independence few important rural development programs were implemented. As per changing situations the programs implemented are as follows:-

1) Community development program -

Considering rural community as the centre point in 1952 community development program was started for an overall development of this society. Projects like agricultural development, developing a positive attitude in the rural areas, creating a responsible and constructive leadership in rural development, bringing development in the economic conditions of the people and providing basic necessities in the rural areas and other such programs were undertaken.

2) Sectoral (divisional) development program -

From the point of view of sectoral division these programs were started. Keeping in mind the different problems in different areas individual programs for different areas was started instead of implementing a single program all over the country and through this the problems in the rural areas were solved.

3) Community Development Program -

Different groups and categories residing in different areas have different problems. To solve these problems independent programs are to be implemented for different categories. Problems of small farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, landless labourers, educated unemployment, women and children or a

group were different. So individual programs were set-up for each category.

4) Employment Generation Programs -

Different types of unemployment persist in the form of seasonal unemployment, unemployment, hidden unemployment, or people are engaged in for few days then again they are unemployed. To fulfill the basic needs of the rural population employment has to be generated. For this many employment generation programs had been implemented through which skilled workers could be created.

5) Minimum Needs Program -

Minimum needs program is implemented keeping in view the basic needs of the rural population. This program fulfilled the basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, education, health, drinking water, rural electrification, construction of roads, rehabilitation of the unhygienic rural areas, and other needs and necessities were included while implementing the program. It was an attempt to provide the basic necessities.

5) Integrated Rural Development Program -

This program was implemented with the motive that the weaker sections of the rural society can improve their economic conditions. The weaker sections of the society were provided with financial help so that along with the increase in agricultural production small and cottage industries also were started. This proved very helpful in eradicating poverty to a small extent.

Check your progress :

1) Give an account of different rural development programs implemented.

1.8 SUMMARY

Compared to the urban area rural is vast because 70% people live in villages. Rural area spreads from the hilly areas till the sea shore areas all over the country. Different regions have different problems. Due to belief in the traditional patterns rural community has been deprived of the economic development. It is

for this reason aspects such as nature, scope, objectives, importance and rural development programs have been studied here. Understanding the various problems of the rural areas and try to implement the programs accordingly.

India has given importance to rural development in its economic progress. If villages are developed then in the true sense we can say India has developed. Before the British raj India villages were self sufficient and independent. The administration of the villages was in the hands of experienced village panchas. During the British period the nature of self-sufficient villages in the country came to an end as a result many problems came into existence. After independence many rural development programs were implemented. Specific objectives were decided- what is rural development? Taking into consideration the nature, scope, and other point objectives of rural development were put forward. It is said that there is link between rural development and economic development.

1.9 SELF-STUDY

1. What is rural development? Explain its nature.
2. Give the meaning of rural development and scope of rural development.
3. Explain the concept of rural development and give its objectives.
4. What is the scope of rural development and give its importance?
5. Explain in short the different rural development programs .

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SCHEMES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Unit Structure :

- 2.0 Objectives
- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Different poverty alleviation programs
- 2.3 Some other development schemes
- 2.4 District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)
- 2.5 Different schemes implemented previously were merged with other schemes
- 2.6 Other Programs implemented by the ministry of India
- 2.7 Summary
- 2.8 Self-Study

2.0 OBJECTIVES

- To remove poverty of the rural poor
- To fill the widened gap between rich and poor
- To study the welfare activities
- To overcome the major threat to rural areas
- To enhance the potentialities of rural youths
- To boost the confidence of rural poor

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The main objective of rural development has been to remove poverty of the people and fill the widened gap between the rich and the poor. 'Rural poverty alleviation has been the primary concern in the economic planning and development process of the country. Rural development which encompasses the whole range of improvement in the overall quality of life in the rural areas can be achieved through eradication of poverty in rural areas.' Taking into consideration the planning policy, various schemes of development, especially the agricultural development, the main occupation of the rural people, was introduced.

The major early programs were -

- Intensive Agricultural Area Program (IAAP)
- Intensive Agricultural District Program (IADP)
- High Yielding Varieties Program (HYVP)
- Rural Industries Projects and Rural Artisans Programs (RIP and RAP)

2.2 DIFFERENT POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS LAUNCHED

Besides the above programs, the central and state governments also launched several poverty alleviation programs for the rural people. They are as follows:

2.2.1 20-Point Program -

This had been a major program of rural development encompassing various aspects of rural people. Former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi introduced this program in July 1975 to reduce poverty and economic exploitation and for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. 'Garibi Hatao' was the slogan given by her during the parliamentary elections.

The important goals of this program were -

Welfare of the rural masses
 Welfare of women and children
 Increase in rural employment.
 Minimum wages to landless labourers
 Uplift of the SC and ST people.
 Making primary education more effective
 Growth of housing facilities
 New programs of family planning
 Extension of primary health facilities

Other programs like drinking water facilities, public distribution system, Increasing power production, etc. were introduced. With the change in the government the program was discontinued. However, the ruling party revised it in 1982 at the centre with an emphasis on eradicating poverty and reducing income inequalities, removing social and economic disparities and thus improving the quality of life.

2.2.2 Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) -

The government at the centre launched the IRDP program in March 1976 as a major tool to alleviate poverty.

Its main feature was to enable selected families to cross the poverty line in a given time-frame by taking up self-employment in various activities like agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, weaving and handicrafts and services and business activities.

The target group consisted of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans having annual income below Rs. 11,000/- defined as poverty line in the Eighth Plan. Among the selected families, it is stipulated that at least 50 percent of assisted families should be from SCs and STs. Furthermore, 40 per cent of the coverage should be of women beneficiaries. In spite of its many important features, the program has also been criticized widely.

The main criticisms against the program are -

1. There was much corruption, misuse and malpractice in the implementation of the program at every level - from selection of beneficiary families to the distribution of loans. Bribing was a sine qua non for obtaining a loan.
2. The poor people were not well conversant about the program. They took less interest in the program because they were afraid of being cheated. Moreover, they were unable to fill up complicated forms and find the 'guarantors' for themselves.
3. The bank officials, through which loans were to be given, were often reluctant towards these poor borrowers.
4. It was found that this scheme also could not make any significant impact in the generation of employment in rural areas.
5. Several studies indicated that IRDP loans neither raised the living standard of the beneficiaries, nor does it had any impact in the alleviation of rural poverty for which this scheme was launched.

2.2.3 Training Rural Youths for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) -

This scheme was launched in 1979 to provide technical skills (training) to rural youths (between 18-35 years) living below the poverty line, to enable them to seek employment in fields of agriculture, industry, services and business activities. As in other schemes of poverty alleviation, in this scheme also, youths belonging to SCs and STs and ex-servicemen, who had passed ninth class, were given priority. One-third seats were reserved for women. The beneficiaries of this scheme after completion of training were absorbed in the IRDP scheme.

According to an estimate, up to 1995-96, about two lakh youths were being trained every year, of whom about 45 per cent became self-employed and 30 per cent got regular employment.

In spite of being a good scheme, it has many shortcomings. For example,

Its coverage is very small in relation to need;

The amount of stipend given to the trainees (about Rs 75 to 200 per month) to motivate the youth is very meagre to join training programme; and Skills imparted in the training are of very low level and not linked with rural industrialization process.

2.2.4 Food for Work Programme (FWP) -

This programme was introduced in 1977 by the then Janata government with the objective to provide employment to the unemployed / underemployed village persons during the slack season. The wages paid to the workers were in kind, i.e., food grains. The works undertaken were flood protection, maintenance of existing roads, construction of new link roads, improvement of irrigation facilities, construction of school buildings, medical and health centres and Panchayat Ghars (community halls) etc.

2.2.5 National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) -

This is redesigned programme of FWP, planned for creating additional employment opportunities in the rural areas with the help of surplus food grains. It was started in 1980 as a part of the Sixth Plan (1980-85). This programme was especially for those rural people who largely depended on wage employment but had no source of income during lean agricultural period. Panchayat Raj Institutions were actively involved in this programme.

Later on, this programme was merged with Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY).

2.2.6. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) -

Special schemes were formulated by some states such as Maharashtra and Gujarat to provide increasing employment opportunities to rural people, especially landless people. Maharashtra started the Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) for the unemployed in rural areas. The Gujarat government's scheme provided for unskilled jobs to the unemployed workers on different projects. This scheme was later on merged into JRY along with NREP.

2.2.7. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) -

This programme came into existence in April 1989 with the merger of the NREP and the RLEGP. Under this scheme, it was

expected to provide at least one member of each poor family (BPL family) an employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work near his/her residence. About 30 percent of the jobs under this programme were reserved for women. The scheme was implemented through Village Panchayats.

2.2.8. Antyodaya Yojana -

The Hindi word 'antyodaya' is a combination of two words - ant meaning end or bottom level and udaya meaning development. Thus, as a whole, it implies the development or welfare of a person standing at the end of the queue (lowest level), that is, the poorest of the poor.

This programme was initiated by the Government of Rajasthan on 2nd October, 1977 for special assistance to persons living below the poverty line (BPL). It was later on picked up by the then Janata government at the centre in 1978. The idea was to select five of the poorest families from each village every year and help them in their economic betterment.

For the selection of beneficiary families, a few economic criteria were laid down, in order of priority -

- 1) Families under severe destitution without any productive assets with no member in the age group of 15-59 years capable of any economic activity;
- 2) Families without any productive assets of land or cattle but having one or more persons capable of working and with a per capita income up to Rs 20 per month;
- 3) Families having some productive assets with per capita income upto Rs 30 per month; and
- 4) Families having per capita income upto Rs 40 per month.

Under this scheme, assistance was given in the form of allotting land for cultivation, monthly pension (Rs 30-40 per month), bank loan for purchasing bullocks, buffaloes, cows, goats and pigs, basket making, carpentry tools, opening a tailor's shop, a tea shop, a barber's shop or a grocer's shop and manufacturing activities like niwar-making, soap-making, etc.

The scheme has seen much ups and downs with many shortcomings, such as delay in the payment of loans, apathy on the part of government officials, etc. 'Antyodaya,' as preached by Mahatma Gandhi, has disappeared into 'ananta' or eternity and is replaced with 'Swantyodaya', meaning one's own development. It places emphasis on 'myself mentality'.

2.2.9 Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) -

After independence, for the development of rural society, particularly to develop the socio-economic life of the rural poor, many schemes and programmes were launched from time to time but unfortunately the fruits of these programmes reached to a very low proportion of these people.

It was estimated about 70 per cent of rural population was still deprived of the basic necessities of life. For the purpose of extending the benefits to rural people, a new scheme was launched and legislation was enacted under the name 'National Rural Employment Guarantee Act' (NREGA).

This scheme was initially started in 200 districts of the country from February 2006 and from April 2008, it has been extended to cover all the districts of the country. The main objective of the scheme is to provide 100 days employment to rural unemployed people. In this scheme, employment to women is also provided.

Like other rural development schemes, this scheme is also plagued with many problems—workers' identification and registration, muster rolls, works attendance, calculations and disbursement of wages and overall transparency. In recent months, people from all circles have also voiced great concern about the rampant corruption in this scheme.

2.3 SOME OTHER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

1) Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Sadak Yojana (PMAGSY) -

It focuses on integrated development of 100 villages with a 50 per cent population of SCs.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme aiming at providing all weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitation in the States and UTs. The respective State Governments / UT Administration are responsible for execution of the projects under the programme.

National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is the Agency responsible for providing management and technical support to the States for programme implementation. The programme guidelines envisage a three tier Quality Control (QC) Mechanism to ensure that the roads constructed under the programme are to the prescribed quality standards. The first two tiers of the (QC) structure are the responsibility of the respective

State Governments and under the third tier, NRRDA engages independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) for inspections of selected road works, at random. The NQMs under the third tier are retired senior engineers of the level of Superintending Engineer and above, empanelled by NRRDA on the recommendation of an independent selection committee.

2) Bharat Nirman Yojana -

It was launched in 2005 for building infrastructure and basic amenities in rural areas. It comprises of six components—rural housing, irrigation, drinking water, rural roads, electrification and rural telephony.

3) Indira Awas Yojana -

It is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman Yojana introduced in 1985-86. It aimed to help build or upgrade the households of people living under BPL.

The genesis of the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) can be traced to the programmes of rural employment, which began in the early 1980s. Construction of houses was one of the major activities under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), which began in 1980, and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP), which began in 1983.

This resulted in the launching of Indira Awas Yojana as a sub-scheme of RLEGP during 1985-86. Thereafter, IAY continued as a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) since 1989. From the year 1993-94, the scope of IAY was extended to cover below the poverty line Non-Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes families in the rural areas. IAY was de-linked from JRY and made an independent scheme with effect from 1st January 1996.

Since 1999-2000, a number of initiatives have been taken to improve the Rural Housing (RH) Programme by making provision for upgradation of unserviceable kutchha houses and by providing credit with subsidy for certain sections of the poor. Emphasis has also been laid on use of cost effective, disaster resistant and environment friendly technologies in rural housing.

4) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) -

It was launched on 3rd December, 2005. The main objective of this scheme was fast track development of cities across the country. It was focused especially on developing efficient urban infrastructure service delivery mechanism, community participation and accountability of urban local bodies and other agencies towards citizen.

5) Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) -

Rajiv Awas Yojana an Indian government centrally sponsored Scheme attempts to help slum dwellers gain appropriate housing and address the processes by which slums are created and reproduced. Indian governments ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation introduced this program. It was run between 2013-2014 and aimed to make India slum free by 2022 by providing shelter or housing to the people free of cost. One million beneficiaries were proposed to be covered under Rajiv Awas Yojana during the 12th Five Year plan. Site selection was to be made by the states in consultation with the centre. Priority was given to the district headquarters, cities of religious heritage and tourist importance. Due consideration was to be given to the place of growth of the city, of slums within the city and predominance of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and minority population and other weaker and vulnerable section of the society.

6) National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) -

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on 25th April 2005, to provide accessible, equitable, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially to the vulnerable groups. The thrust of the mission is to establish a fully functional, community owned, decentralized health delivery system. This is to be established with inter-sectoral convergence at all levels, to ensure simultaneous action on a wide range of determinants of health such as water, sanitation, education, nutrition, social and gender equality. NRHM focuses on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health and adolescent services. It emphasizes on strategies that can improve maternal and child health through a continuum of care and the life cycle approach. Moreover it also focuses on linking of community and facility based care and strengthening referrals between various levels of health care system to create a continuous care pathway.

7) Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihood Mission -

The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India in June 2011, launched national Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). It was meant to eradicate poverty by 2014-15. The World Bank aided this mission in part through investment support. The mission NRLM aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

The agenda set by NRLM is to cover 7 crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self help groups that are self managed and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8-10 years.

In addition to this, the poor would be facilitated to achieve increased access to rights, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment. It is believed that through NRLM the innate capabilities of the poor would be harnessed and would complement them with the capabilities like information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization to participate in the growing economy of the country. This program was renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM) in November 2015.

8) National Food Security Scheme -

On the pattern of MNREGS, the central government brought the National Food Security Act in 2013 to provide guarantee for food to the poor people. This act extends to whole of India and it was to be rolled out by the states within one year of its enactment. In the initial stage, majority of the states were not able to do this because it required computerization of the beneficiaries lists as a prerequisite. 67% of the population gets legal food security. The act provides legal food security to the Indian population (67%). The eligible person gets rice @ Rs 3/kg, wheat @ Rs 2 /kg and coarse grains @Rs 1kg per month subject to maximum 5 kg per month. It guarantees age appropriate meal, free of charge through local anganwadi for children up to 6 months and one free meal for children in age group 6-14 years in schools. Every pregnant and lactating mother is entitled to a free meal at the local anganwadi (during pregnancy and six months after child birth). The beneficiaries covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be getting 35kg per household per month at same rates. Government employees will not get the benefit of this scheme.

2.4 DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DRDA)

The DRDA has been the main organ at the district level to look upon the implementation of different anti-poverty programs. Keeping in view the need for an effective agency at the district level to coordinate the anti- poverty effort, a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme for strengthening the DRDAs has been introduced with effect from 1st April 1999. Accordingly, the administrative costs are met by providing separate budget provisions. This scheme which is funded on a 75:25 basis between Centre and States, aims at strengthening and professionalising the DRDAs.

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DRDA)

1. The DRDAs are not the implementing agencies, but can be very effective in enhancing the quality of implementation through overseeing the implementation of different programs and ensuring

that necessary linkages are provided. It acts as a catalyst in the development process.

2. The District Rural Development Agency is visualised as a specialised and a professional agency capable of managing the anti-poverty programs of the Ministry of Rural Development on the one hand and to effectively relate these to the overall effort of poverty eradication in the District. The role of the DRDA will therefore be distinct from all the other agencies, including the Zilla Parishad.

3. DRDAs are expected to coordinate with the line departments, the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the banks and other financial institutions, the NGOs as well as the technical institutions, with a view to gathering the support and resources required for poverty reduction effort in the district.

4. The DRDAs are expected to coordinate effectively with the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under no circumstances will they perform the functions of PRIs.

5. The DRDAs will maintain their separate identity but will function under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Zilla Parishad. Wherever the Zilla Parishads are not in existence or are not functional, the DRDAs would function under the Collector/District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be.

6. The DRDAs will monitor closely the implementation of different anti-poverty programs of the ministry of rural development by obtaining periodic reports as well as frequent field visits. The purpose of the visit should be to facilitate the implementing agencies in improving implementation process, besides ensuring that the quality of implementation of programs is high.

7. The DRDAs shall keep the Zilla Parishad, the State and the Central Government duly informed of the progress of the implementation of the programs through periodic reports in the prescribed formats.

8. It shall be the duty of the DRDAs to oversee and ensure that the benefits specifically earmarked for certain target groups (SC/ST, women and disabled) reach them.

9. The DRDAs shall take necessary step to improve the awareness regarding rural development and poverty alleviation particularly among the rural poor.

10. The DRDAs will strive to promote transparency in the implementation of different anti - poverty programs.

11. Keeping in view, the substantial investment that are being made in poverty alleviation programs, the DRDAs shall ensure financial discipline in respect of the funds received by them, whether from Central or State Governments.

12. Thus the role of the DRDA is in terms of planning for effective implementation of anti- poverty programs; coordinating with other agencies-Governmental, non-Governmental, technical and financial for successful program implementation; enabling the community and the rural poor to participate in the decision making process, overseeing the implementation to ensure adherence to guidelines, quality, equity and efficiency; reporting to the prescribed authorities on the implementation; and promoting transparency in decision making and implementation.

13. In addition the DRDAs shall coordinate and oversee the conduct of the BPL Census and such other surveys that are required from time to time.

14. The DRDAs shall also carry out / aid in carrying out action research/or evaluation studies that are initiated by the Central / State Governments.

15. The DRDAs should deal only with the anti-poverty programs of the Ministry of Rural Development. If DRDAs are to be entrusted with programs of other ministries or those of the State governments, it should be ensured that these have a definite anti-poverty focus. Entrusting of any program to the DRDAs, other than anti-poverty programs of the Ministry, be it of any other Ministry of Government of India or the respective State Government will have to be done with the approval of the Secretary, Rural Development of the respective State(s), who should examine such request in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.

2.5 DIFFERENT SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED PREVIOUSLY WERE MERGED WITH OTHER SCHEMES

National Food for Work Program was merged with NREGA. Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana was merged with NREGA. Intensified Jawahar Rojgar Yojana 1993 was merged with Employment Assurance Scheme 1996 which was later merged with Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana 2001. IRDP, TRYSEM, DWCRA, Million Wells Scheme, SITRA and Ganga Kalyan Yojana were merged Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Program was merged with Jawahar Rojgar Yojana which was replaced by Jawahar Gram

Samridhi Yojana (1999). Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana was merged with Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (2001).

2.6 OTHER PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF INDIA

The Department of Rural Development is implementing a number of programs in rural areas through the state Governments for poverty reduction, employment generation, rural infrastructure habitation development, provision of basic minimum services etc. The important programs presently being implemented by the Department are:

A - PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. It aims to provide all weather road connectivity to eligible unconnected habitation in the States and Union Territories. The respective State Governments / Union Territory Administration is responsible for execution of the projects under the program.

National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), which is under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, is responsible for providing management and technical support to the States for program implementation. The program guidelines envisage a three tier Quality Control (QC) Mechanism to ensure that the roads constructed under the program are to the prescribed quality standards. The first two tiers of the Quality Control structure are the responsibility of the respective State Governments and under the third tier, NRRDA engages independent National Quality Monitors (NQMs) for inspections of randomly selected road works.

B - SWARNAJAYANTI GRAM SWAROJGAR YOJANA (SGSY)

The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) is a major self-employment scheme launched in April, 1999. It is a combination of the IRDP program with allied programs i.e. TRYSEM, DWCRA, SITRA, GKY, MWS. It aims at providing sustainable income to rural BPL families through income generating assets / economic activities so as to bring them above the poverty line. It involves processes like organization of the rural poor (BPL) into self-help groups through social mobilization, capacity building and training, provision of revolving fund, making available credit and subsidy, technology, infrastructure and marketing.

SGSY has being restructured as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). It is a mission mode for targeted and time bound

delivery of results. It understands that poor people have the potential to come out of poverty with proper hand holding, training and capacity building and credit linkage. The SHGs will be given handholding support in the form of internal and external support. External support structure will consist of professional institutions at the state level, district level and sub-district level. The internal support structure will be in the form of SHG federations at the village level and block level and later at the district level.

The NRLM focuses on -

Universal Social Mobilization through formation of SHGs under NRLM, SHG federations will be set up at the village level, blocks and districts and cluster of villages, Universal financial inclusion, Capacity Building and Training through Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), Provision of enhanced Revolving Fund and Capital Subsidy, Introduction of Interest Subsidy, Provide Professional support, Involvement of States for State Specific Action Plan, Special Projects, Improved evaluation and monitoring.

NRLM will have partnerships with: i) Civil Society Organizations ii) Industries iii) Educational Institutions iv) Other Resource Organizations

2.7 SUMMARY

Development of rural areas has always been one of the paramount concerns of the various programs through five years plans. Several rural development programs were launched especially to provide job opportunities to raise their income, improve their standard of living by eradicating poverty. These programs were designed to create socio-economic infrastructure necessary for rapid development of rural areas and to increase income of individual rural people by providing productive job. These programs provided certain economic and social infrastructure, ensuring facilities like roads, electricity, transport, drinking water, medical care, primary-school etc. They have acted as a catalyst in bringing socio-economic changes in rural life. Programs like IRDP, NREP, DDP, RLEGP TRYSEM, Women and children development program were launched to increase the income of rural people.

2.8 SELF- STUDY

- What were the different poverty alleviation programs undertaken to eliminate poverty in the country?
- Answer in detail the District Rural Development Agency.

- Answer in short the different schemes merged into each other.
- Write in detail the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana - SGSY 5) Write short notes on :-

a) 20 point program

- Integrated Rural Development Program - IRDP
- Training for Rural Youth and Self-Employment - TRYSEM
- Food for Work Program - FWP
- National Rural Employment Program - NREP and Rural Landless

Employment Guarantee Program - RLEGP

- Jawahar Rojgar Yojana - JRY and Antyodaya
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - MNREGS
- Bharat Nirman Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana
- Rajiv Awas Yojana
- National Rural Health Mission - NRHM
- National Rural Livelihood Mission - NRLM
- National Food Security Scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Sadak Yojana - PMAGSY

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RURAL SOCIETY

Dr. Dilip S. Patil

Unit Structure :

- 3.0 Objectives
- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Concept of rural society
- 3.3 Factors responsible for the origin of villages
- 3.4 Nature of rural society
- 3.5 Characteristics of rural society
- 3.6 Change in the rural society
- 3.7 Summary
- 3.8 Self Study

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- Can study rural society.
- Can understand the nature of rural society
- Can study the characteristics of rural society
- Can understand the direction of radical change.

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Mahatma Gandhi said that India is a land of villages. Out of the total countries population 68% lives in villages. There are more than 6 lakh villages in India. Due to the different geographical conditions the social and material diversity is found. In olden days due to lack of transport and communication facilities villages were self contained and independent. Villages were the nuclei of ancient India. Rural societies necessities were fulfilled by the local rural people only. Self sufficiency gained firmness because of Balutedari system. Agriculture was the main occupation. Before the Britishers came rural self sufficiency had been there for centuries.

During the British period self sufficiency and independency of the rural areas was destroyed. Lots of changes were there in the social organization. There were changes in the rural society. There was disintegration in the society. Rural society faced with the problems like poverty and unemployment. The rural financial

condition was affected by Industrialization, Urbanization and Westernization.

3.2 CONCEPT OF RURAL SOCIETY

Rural society has thousands of years old history. Rural community means people living in a village and rural society means people in the rural areas. In Indian society village is a very ancient residence. Even the Vedas mention of villages. Rig-Veda has mentioned about village. Ramayana and Mahabharata mention about village. Manusmriti has discussed about the structure of a village. Kautilya arthashastra also has mentioned about the discussion of rural people.

Before the villages emerged India was covered with dense forests. Only wild animals lived in this forests which was not safe for human beings. For safety and security people cleared the forests with each others help and started living together in a community. This is how villages emerged. Because of agriculture a stability came to their life. As a result permanent type of settlement came into being which depended on agriculture and monetary planning.

In the medieval period villages were self sufficient to a great extent. Factors like Caste system, Joint family system, Balutedari system played an important role. In modern times the scene that the rural life has attained self sufficiency, living in one place, living in the same community has changed. Industrialization and Westernization has brought a change in the lifestyle of the rural people.

3.2.1 Definitions of rural society

While studying rural society it is necessary to study a few definitions of villages. What is a village or village community can be understood from the following definitions.

1) T.N. Atre- “The area which has black and fertile soil and suitable for farming operations and there are skilled and experienced farmers and many labourers is called a village.”

2) Anderson- “Rural community resides on the scattered land and village is the centre for all its activities.”

3) T.N.ATRE- “Cultivation means tilling the land and peasant means cultivator and the settlement of cultivators is a village.”

4) Pick- “Rural community is a group of people either related or not related and is like a big family. In this houses are very nearby and

there is agriculture is practiced there. There is barren land spread here and there. Animals are taken for grazing, the border of the village is fixed and people love their land and have a feeling of oneness.”

Check your progress

Q- Explain the concept of rural society by giving some definitions.

3.2.2 Types of rural village

On the basis of stability of the rural community Anderson has given three types of villages. They are as follows:-

1. Transient villages : The village in which the villagers change their residence every now and then or frequently is called a transient village.

For example : Scheduled tribes practicing migratory agriculture, Kadar from south India, Baiga from central part of India.

2. Partial stable villages : The village in which people stay for a specific period in one place then after some period change the place to go to some other area are partial stable villages. For example:- Naga, Gond, Madia community.

3. Stable villages: After the development in agriculture the communities which stayed there permanently and this formed a village. Such villages are called stable villages.

According to Dr Iravati Karve there are three types of villages :

1. Centralized village: Those villages which have stable communities, and the houses are very close to each other, having common village area and the agricultural land is suitable for cultivation. For ex:- Maharashtra plateau region.

2. Scattered village: Houses build on both the sides of the road spread over a long distance. For ex:- Villages in the konkan region of Maharashtra and Kerala state.

3. Small villages: Limited houses make a hamlet and many such hamlets together can be called as a village. For ex:- hamlets.

Check your progress

Q- What are the different types of villages?

3.3 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGIN OF VILLAGES

Rural society has very important place in the Indian society. In the olden days villages were self sufficient and independent. Therefore this was considered to be the golden period of the village society. There are many factors responsible for the origin of villages. These factors are as follows:-

1) Geographical Factors:-

Villages were set up only in those areas where the favorable factors like water, air, climate, land were there. There are few villages where the climate and other factors are not favorable. Villages came into being at a faster rate where the factors like fertile land, the favorable climate, availability of water were available.

2) Economical Factors:-

Agriculture gave stability to the migratory nature of human beings. Villages were settled in places where land was fertile as a result their financial was better than the other regions. Every one preferred to stay in the fertile land region because the society there was financially prosperous.

3) Social Factors:-

Society without any clashes is one of the factors responsible for a healthy society. If the social relations in a society are good and healthy, villages are developed in those areas at a faster rate and their progress also can be very fast.

4) Co-operation:-

Co-operation also is one of the bases of a successful society. These villages can progress to a great extent.

Check your progress

Q- Explain the concept of rural society?

3.4 NATURE OF RURAL SOCIETY

Indian rural society has an hereditary age old tradition. History of emergence of Indian rural society is the history of India. It is because of agriculture people in the ancient days started to live a settled life. In India most of the population lives in villages. Compared to the urban areas the rural life is a little backward. Rural sociology deals the study of rural life style independently. This is the nature of rural life.

The obstacles in the rural societies development are :-

Agriculture depending on the nature and the economic problems created through it, illiteracy, lack of knowledge or ignorance, traditions and customs, superstitions. Solving these problems will help in the rural development. For this study of rural society is very essential. A study of rural society with the following points:- a study of the difference in the rural and urban areas, family system, caste system, class structure, rural education etc means understanding the nature of rural society. Rural sociology has dealt with this topic in detail. While studying this topic following factors have been given priority.

1) Rural Structure:

Based on the geographical factors the study of different types of villages - scattered villages and clustered villages is studied while studying the rural society.

2) Rural social structure:

Different institutions like family institutions, caste structure, marriage institutions have strengthened the rural society. As a result this institutions and their changing nature has importance in rural development.

3) Rural Economic Structure:

Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural society. So rural economic conditions or structure is controlled by agriculture.

4) Characteristic feature of rural society:

Rural society is very different from the urban society. Nature has great effect on the rural society.

This society is different due to the occupational structure practiced i.e agriculture.

5) Rural society and its internal activities:

The factors like communication pattern of the rural society, nature of communication between an individual and group, competitions, conflicts in the rural society are studied here.

6) Rural Reconstruction:

Rural society is faced with problems such as migration, lack of employment opportunities, educational and social problems. Some measures are to be adopted to solve these problems and also rural reconstruction is necessary.

From the above discussion description of rural society can be imagined in detailed. During the British period rural society had a drastic change. Poverty and unemployment came into existence as the handicraft industry was demolished. Along with this it was affected with the problems such as population explosion, illiteracy, customs and traditions, superstitions and indebtedness. After independence many programs for the development of the rural society were implemented ,but they could not get success in that. Today also there are many villages which lack transport and communication facilities. Traditional methods are still in practice in agriculture. Development programs still do not reach these people. Due to subdivision and fragmentation and lack of industries unemployment problem is a very serious issue. Villages are becoming vacant due to migration. A proper decision has to be taken to solve these problems.

Check your progress

Q - Explain the nature of rural study?

3.5 CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF RURAL SOCIETY

Rural society has some specific features due to which it can be distinguished from other societies. Due to these features only villages still has its existence till today. Some features are as follows.

1) Agriculture is the main occupation -

Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural society. As the rural society is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, it is the main source of generating income. Social status, lifestyle level and cultural life depend on agriculture. It means agriculture is the way of living of the rural society. The status of a person depends on the basis of ownership of land pattern. Reputation and honour is related to agriculture.

2) Natural geographical conditions -

Due to agriculture rural society comes in direct contact with the natural geographical conditions or resources. Due to fertile soil, rivers, forest resources rural society gets pure air and water. There is no pollution in these areas. Because of agriculture rural society tries to coordinate with the rural society. MacIver says that the farmer looks upon nature as crop producer, pouring rain, bringing disaster, friend or foe.

3) Small size -

Rural society is small in size if compared to its total land area, population density and agricultural occupation. This society is dispersed in hamlets and small villages. Due to limited job opportunities rural population is migrating to the urban areas on a large scale. As a result we see the small size of the rural community.

4) Social status -

Class and caste structure decides the social status of an individual in the society. Social status in the rural society is based on the caste structure. The effect of class structure is not much in the rural society. Due to caste structure marriages take place in the caste only as per traditions and culture. Even the houses are distributed as per the caste structure. An individual's life is totally under the control of caste structure. Every caste has its own independent and peculiar features. This bond of caste is very strong.

5) Lack of mobility -

Bringing about a change in the caste structure, culture and traditions is termed as mobility. But rural society is dominated by the culture and traditions due to which their life is limited only to a small jurisdiction. The same age old occupation is carried forward generation by generation. Also the quality remains the same. Because of occupational immobility the rural society has the habit of sticking to one job only. They are not ready to leave their job or occupation very easily.

6) Joint family system -

Rural society depends on agriculture and for this man power is necessary. Therefore the joint family system in the rural society.

In this father is the head of the family. Social, mental and economic security is obtained because of joint family system. The joint family system adopts the policy of labour division. Spirit of co-operation is seen over here.

7) Cultural Life -

Rural society has a very rich cultural life. Different games, Bharud (a long intricate story), Kirtan (the narration of a topic punctuated by music), pravachan (an exposition or lecture) are included in this. Village temple is the main centre for all the cultural activities. During the village fair or any festival cultural programs of dance, ballads and folk songs by a poet and a class of mendicants called vasudev perform the cultural functions. It is through these cultural programs cultural tradition is preserved.

8) Status of women in the rural society -

As tradition plays an important role in the rural society the women are deprived of all the powers. Many restrictions are laid on the women. Her limited area is the kitchen and children. As the society is male dominated she has no powers in the decision making. Even though by law she has been given the status of equal rights as per the males, still she is not treated equally. Due to lack of education, early marriage, ill-treatment she has to face many problems. Though she is the helping hand to earn the money she doesn't have the right to utilize the produced product. In a family also she has no rights to take decision, she is of secondary importance.

9) Internal relationship in the rural society -

Rural society is small in size. Therefore a feeling of oneness, affinity, co-operation and brotherhood is developed among the rural society. Social control has great effect on it. People in the village have unity among themselves. It seems as if whole village is one family.

10) Simple and honest life -

Rural people lead a simple and plain life. Their financial status is not so good. Their lifestyle does not show off. Their necessities are limited which results in a simple and leading a quiet life. They have a feeling of brotherhood and sympathy towards each other.

11) Balutedari system -

It was because of Balutedari system rural society gained self sufficiency. Exchange of goods for goods is the feature of Balutedari system. In this system a specific caste gives service to the society and the society in turn provides service to this caste in return by providing him the source of livelihood. Getting service

from others is called Balutedari system. After independence this system has remained only by name.

12) Division of labor -

Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural society. All the people engaged in this occupation are expert in the agricultural operations like cultivating the land, sowing the seeds, tilling the crops, cutting the crops. Women also engage themselves in the agricultural work as soon as they finish their household work. From this we can say that agricultural operations do not need any special training as such. They get this education from the family itself. So special training and skill is not the basis of division of labour, but it is the sex and age factor which is concerned.

13) Poverty and Illiteracy -

Even though primary education is compulsory and free due to poverty and ignorance the percentage of education is very less. Due to lack of education they cannot acquire the skilled training, as a result we find lots of unskilled workers in the rural society. Economic status or the financial condition is not good due to unskilled nature of labour. So the rural society is facing the problems of poverty and indebtedness.

14) Effect of Culture and Traditions -

Rural society is religious minded. There is more effect of culture and tradition and superstitious beliefs on the rural society. Instead of taking patient to the doctor they take him to the witch doctor. As agriculture depends on nature, to please nature they perform rites and rituals and it has become tradition. They have the feeling that whatever happens good or bad it is god's wish, so they spend more on religious functions.

These are the characteristic features of the rural society. From the above feature we get an idea of the rural life.

15) Lack of Individual Initiative -

Family members have to follow the rigid conditions created by the joint family and caste system. As a result they lack in taking initiative in any of the chores of life.

16) Narrow Mindedness -

The village community been separated and isolated and being left untouched have become narrow minded. They lack the feeling of national consciousness and the spirit of oneness.

17) Lack of Modern Facilities for Recreation -

Villages have no modern amenities for recreation. They don't have movie theatres, social clubs and modern games to play for their children.

18) Inadequate Medical Facilities -

Due to inadequate medical facilities the infant and maternal mortality rate is high. Primary health centres or the medical aid in the rural areas lack modern life saving facilities. trained nurses and doctors are not available in the remotest rural areas.

Check your progress

Q- Specify the features of rural society.

3.6 CHANGE IN THE RURAL SOCIETY

After studying the characteristic features we get an idea of the lifestyle of the rural society. Due to industrialization and urbanization the process of change has started, but at a slower rate. A change began to come in the rural community structure and culture. A description of this changes is given below.

1) Change in the family structure:

Joint family system prevailed in the rural society due to agriculture as the main occupation. Minimum three generations members of the family would work on the farms. Due to modernization nuclear family system came into being in the place of joint family system. The head of the family had to loosen his grip of powers on the family. Lifestyle changed. Self centered nature and hereditary rights gave rise to clashes in the family for the property distribution. This resulted in the separation of views between the family members.

2) Change in the Marriage structure:

The effect of family institution was decreased. As a result an individual's view was given importance while thinking of marriage. Awareness was created among the people regarding the custom of child marriage and widow remarriage. For the want of status lots of expenses are done on the marriage ceremony. Even the dowry system has increased to a great extent in the society.

3) Change in the Caste and Class structure:

In the modern period many changes have come in the caste and class structure. For ex. choosing the occupation or fixing the marriages. Transport and communication has minimized the dependency on one another.

4) Change in Clothing Habits:

A fast Change in the type of clothes worn by the rural folks and also a change in style of dress is seen in the rural areas. Use of readymade garments is now becoming more prevalent.

5) Change in Eating Habits:

Nowadays small hotels, restaurants, tea shops have come up in the rural areas. As a result we can see a change in the food habits in the rural areas.

6) Decline in the Traditional Art:

Folk art, folk music, folk dance, rural theatres are adapting to the modern culture. Mass media like radio, television, etc. accelerate the pace of change in rural culture.

7) Change in the Consumption pattern:

Development of transport and communication facilities has made the villagers to change their consumption pattern.

8) Change in the Vocabulary:

The availability of various facilities and modern amenities have cast influence on the vocabulary and the respective language spoken by the villagers in the rural areas. The villagers are making use of a host of English terms in their conversation.

9) Change in the Economic structure :

In the olden days the economic status of the society was fixed as per the occupation. But due to modernization decision in choosing the occupation, use of modern methods of agriculture a change has come in the financial status of the rural society. Due to population explosion subdivision of land increased at a faster rate. There was an increase in the rural landless labourers. Rich farmers became more rich and poor farmers became more poor.

10) Change in the Rural Political Structure:

Rural politics was dominated by caste structure. Politics was in the hands of higher caste people. But the 73rd amendment act gave rights to women, scheduled caste and tribes, nomadic tribes were given right to participate actively in the Panchayat Raj system i.e they were given reservations in the political system.

11) Change in the Education and Entertainment Field:-

After independence importance of education was spread in the rural areas too. Along with boys girls also started taking education. The percentage of illiteracy decreased due to spread of programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Adult Education.

In olden days rural families were the main center of entertainment. The source of entertainment in the rural areas are

Bhajans, Kirtan, Pravachan, fairs, folk art. Modernization helped to build a bridge between rural and urban society, as a result there was a change in the entertainment pattern. Television, movies were the main source of entertainment.

Formal education has replaced the informal pattern of education. Educational facilities are made available to the rural masses through distance education through television. Through universalization of education, rural masses have access to the different educational institutions irrespective of caste and religion.

12) Technological Changes:

Power and energy have replaced the old traditional use of animal and manual power. They have started using modern equipments running on electricity. Mechanization of agriculture has been useful to speed up the farming operations. Modern inputs have enabled the farmers to improve the agricultural operations. Financial institutions and change in agricultural technology enabled the farmers to raise his standard of living and free themselves from the clutches of village moneylenders and other land grabbers. The availability of electricity in the rural areas benefited the saw-mill owners, flour-mill owners, oil-millers, weavers, cottage industries and handicrafts, jiggery makers, etc.

Natural conditions, westernization, science and technology are the other factors responsible for these changes. This has resulted in the change in lifestyle of rural community.

Check your progress :

Q- Give reasons for the change in the rural society?

3.7 SUMMARY

Rural society in the Indian society has great value. Majority of the population resides in the rural areas. Religious books like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Rigveda have mentioned about rural society. Depending on the population size and occupational pattern different types of villages are set up. The progress of the rural society mainly depends on the geographical factors. Climate, land and water are the main factors. Social institutions, rural structure,

and financial structure is very important in the rural society. Rural society has its own specific features so it is different from the other sector of the society. Agriculture is the main occupation and depending on it are family system, customs and traditions, caste structure also are important for the rural society. Modernization and industrialization developed the rural society at a faster rate. Therefore important changes have taken place in the rural society in the fields of culture, occupation and education.

3.8 SELF STUDY

- Give the special features of the rural society.
- What is rural society and which factors are responsible for its origin?
- Write short notes:-
 - 1) Nature of rural society.
 - 2) Types of rural societies
 - 3) Changes in the rural society.

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RURAL SOCIAL STRUCTURE - FAMILY INSTITUTION

Dr. Pravin T. Sanaye

Unit Structure :

- 4.0 Objectives
- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Rural Social Institutions
 - 4.2.1 Meaning of rural social system
 - 4.2.2 Characteristics of social institutions
 - 4.2.3 Types of Social Institutions
 - 4.2.4 Work done by the social institutes
- 4.3 Family Institution
 - 4.3.1 Definition of a Family
 - 4.3.2 Features of a family
 - 4.3.3 Types of family institutions
 - 4.3.4 Functions of the Family
 - 4.3.5 Changes in the family institution
- 4.4 Summary
- 4.5 Self study

4.0 OBJECTIVES

- Can understand the meaning of rural social structure.
- Can understand the importance of rural social structure.
- Can study the rural family system.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Through different social institutions people in the society are related to the moral values. Social Group is a group of people who through cooperation directly or indirectly come together for doing specific work by contacting each other. Distribution of work (transactions or trade or deals) essential for humans in the social life is distributed amongst different groups. To fulfill the day to day needs of the human society certain social laws by cultures, traditions, ethics, morality were put forward due to which they develop a certain tendency or specific outlook. As the social laws

are inter-related rules having common goal can be put together. A group of rules bound together for specific purpose is called an institution. Every society has social institutions having certain goals. Each and every individual is a member of the social society or institution.

4.2 RURAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

4.2.1 Meaning of rural social system -

The necessary transaction in human society is divided under following heads-economics, politics, religion, education etc. As per tradition different groups are formed for different activities. Therefore by tradition every group or the member has a fixed mode of working or he develops the habit of working in a specific way, which does not change. Social institutions are a group of people who fulfill their duties, which are entrusted to them.

1) In sociology social institutes means- “A collection of traditions and customs and practices related to the needs of an individual or society.

2) According to Kingsley David - “Social institution is a group of tradition, customs and practices one in all revolving around one or many activities.”

3) According to Boguard's - “Social institutions are the behaviour patterns which are prepared carefully to fulfill the needs of the human society.

The nature of social institutions is not the same everywhere. The moral values which are created for activities like procreation, child rearing or child care, production, education, arrangement and so on are preserved as social heritage. This has resulted in the specific behaviour of man and woman in the society. For ex:- Men and Women coming together for procreation and child rearing have to be in certain limitations which is called a sovereign state.

These restrictions go on changing as days pass by. If you have to study the social changes in the society it is essential to study the social institutions. The main objective behind establishing the social institutions is to fulfill the needs regarding the individual or societies existence. Family institutions, marriage institutions, religious institutions together make social structure. Therefore these institutions are the foundations of social institutions. It is possible to keep stability in the society, child rearing, and also possible to keep a check on the groups in the society. Or else we

can say that to fulfill the objectives family, finance, religion, sovereignty and education are seen in the society.

In Indian society caste structure also is the basic institution. Caste structure is the foundation of Hindu society. Joint family system and caste system are very important. Without the study of these foundations the study of Indian rural society is incomplete.

4.2.2 Characteristics of social institutions :

- 1) Social customs together make an institution. Institution is a working factor in the cultural structure. For ex:- It is through marriage institution a family gets its stability and the task of procreation is achieved.
- 2) Institutions are stable in the society. For ex:-Religion.
- 3) Every institution has one or many objectives to fulfill the needs. For ex:- Family institution - procreation and child rearing
- 4) Social institutions have a specific symbol. For ex:- symbol of family is house.
- 5) Every institution has written or unwritten traditions and customs. It is through this the members behaviour is reflected.

In this way the characteristics of the institutions explain the nature of institutions. It is through institution the institutes only; the binding of the organized behaviour is done. Institutions have been developed to fulfill human needs through traditions and customs. For the development of social institutions it is given the base of philosophy. As a result related to every aspect of human social life, different institutions have been emerged in the society.

4.2.3 Types of Social Institutions :

To fulfill the different needs of the society institutions have emerged. The different types of institutions are as follows:-

1) There are two types of institutions based on its emergence.

a) Enthusiasm - Institutions like family, marriage, religion emerged from the traditions and customs.

b) Purposely - Institutions like financial, state and education have come into existence on purpose.

2) There are two types on the working nature of the institutes.

a) Basic Institutions - The well-being of the society depends on the basic institutions like family, marriage, religion, state, education etc.

b) Secondary Institutions - It cannot be said that because of the secondary institutions the well-being of the society is intact. Ex- Entertainment Institution.

c) Working Institutions - The rules for fulfilling specific work under different necessities are put forward through working institutions.

For Ex- The necessities are fulfilled through the family and marriage institutions.

d) Institutes based on Rules and Regulations - Individuals behaviour is controlled by the institutes like religion and judicial.

e) Institutes based on its extension - Based on its extent the institute is divided into two types - world wide extension or limited to a certain extent. The religious institute is a world wide phenomena but caste institute is limited only in India.

Check your progress

Q- State the features and types of social institutes.

4.2.4 Work done by the social institutes :

Behind forming various institutes there is a specific motto. Without this the institute cannot progress. Institute helps in fulfilling the necessities of an individual or society. Different works done by the institutes are as follows:

1) Fulfillment of the needs of the human beings -

Without developing any clashes in the society the human needs are fulfilled. Certain rules are made and followed by the members. As a result a favourable climate is created for the progress of the social progress.

2) Following the culture -

Institutes play an important part in human life. Institution is passed on hereditarily from one generation to other. Along with institute culture is also passed to the next generation.

3) Social control -

From this point of view the institutes perform important duties. Every institute has its own rules. Human beings achieve

their aims and objectives by fulfilling the rules. Therefore there are no clashes in the society. This helps in keeping peace and wellbeing in the society.

4) Creating a favourable atmosphere -

Because of the institution humans can fulfill their needs in a proper manner. The necessities are fulfilled following the rules and regulations of the institution, so there are no clashes. As a favourable atmosphere is created to achieve the objectives helps in the individual and society development.

5) Guidance -

Institutions are very important for the development of society. Institutes always guide the individual to fulfill his necessities, so that he gets a proper direction. Lots of time is saved because of the guidance of the institution.

6) To determine the duties -

An individual has to play different roles in the society. For ex:- member of the family, constituent of society etc. The institute decides which duties are to be performed in each role. Institutes create a favourable atmosphere to perform the duties. As a result a well organized structure comes into existence.

Check your progress

Q- Explain the working of the social institutions.

4.3 FAMILY INSTITUTION

Introduction:

Indian culture has an age-old tradition of thousands of years. In olden days village was the centre of culture and social life. India was invaded many times, many other changes took place but villages remained as they were. This was possible only because of the importance of family institution in the olden days in Indian villages and culture which has been preserved till today. In the characteristics of Indian society rural society, caste system and family system are important. Amongst all the institutions family institution is the basic and primary the most important institution. Family institute includes all the facets. The existence of family

institute is seen in all the stages of human development. Family institution is the primary stage of development. It is due to family institution consistency in the rural society has remained.

The word family has emerged from the word 'Famalus' a Latin word. Family means a group of people includes father, mother and their children. In every society family is the center of other institutions. An individual is born in a family and most of the time he spends in the family only. Family is an unique institution which fulfills the needs of an individual. An individual gets his primary lessons of social life in the family itself. An individual's over all development depends upon the family.

Family institution is one of the best resources for socialization. After the birth of a child he is given the knowledge of basic moral values. The inculcation of moral values is very important if an individual has to be developed to his best. Family institution is the main support of the society. An individual or family feels safe and secure in the family.

4.3.1 Definition of a Family

Different sociologists have put forward different definitions of a family. They are as follows :-

1) MacIver and Page:

"A small group but sufficient and of permanent nature based on the sex relationship to complete the activities like procreation and childrearing is called a family."

2) Dr. D.N.Muzumdar:

"A group of people living in one house, in blood relation, and is concerned for the welfare of each other and is conscious about the duties is a family."

3) Robert Louie:

"Family is a group based on the marriage institution. It includes father, mother and their children."

4) Kibble Young:

"If in a social group one or many males and their one or many females staying with their own or adopted children till the children are small in one place or house is called a family."

5) Thomas:

"Family means a system created for mother father and their children's relationship."

6) Sumner and kaeler:

“Family is a minute social organization. Based on blood relationship two generations are included in this organization.”

On the basis of the above definitions some specific characteristic are observed.

4.3.2 Features of a family

Family institution whether it be rural or urban its basic concepts or features are the same. For ex. common living place, structure, unity amongst themselves etc. But still many differences are seen in the rural and urban families. It can be seen in the working patterns and features. We will study a few features of rural society in this part.

1) Marital Relationships: Family institution is created by the male and female relationship after their marriage. This relationship has consent of the society. The child who has taken birth from this relationship becomes a permanent member of the family. Marriages can be of long term or short term basis. Death or divorce from the partner brings an end to this marriage relationship.

2) Blood Relationship: Each and every member in the family is related by blood. Mother father and children have a blood relation in the same way they are related to other relatives of their parents.

3) Common Residence: Family members stay together. Therefore common residence is an important feature of the rural family institution. The residential abode is big because the size of the family is big. It is seen that three generations stay together in a joint family system.

4) Patriarchal Family System: In rural areas patriarchal system of family is observed. Father is the head of the family. So he is the final authority in taking decisions. Everybody in the family respect and honour him.

5) Joint Family System: Joint family system is observed in rural families. As members of three generations live in the house together the size of these family is very big. The property does not belong to an individual but to everyone in common, so everyone has the right to use it in common. The principle of labour division is accepted.

6) Financial arrangement: Due to joint family system in the rural families the number of members is more. The head of the family has to fulfill the responsibility of rearing up the family, providing the means of livelihood and any means of support to the family. Every member participates in the income earning process. Every member

in the family tries to help the family head to increase the families income by division of labour.

7) Discipline and Interdependence: The eldest member in the family is the head of the family. Everyone obeys his decision as the control of the whole family is in his hands. There is lack of self centered attitude. Discipline and interdependence is seen in this family. Obeying the elders decision is an important part of this society. Discipline and co-operation develops a feeling that family is responsibility of each and every member in the family.

8) Preserving the Tradition and Culture: A drastic change has taken place in the Indian society due to modernization, but the rural society is far away from these changes. The rural society has preserved the culture by protecting the traditions, practices, conduct agreeable to the shastras behaviour, ceremonies and observances. The old and the eldest member is paid great respect in the family. His experience and knowledge is sought for the business.

9) Medium of Socialization: The family is the best medium of socialization. The family is the first school of an individual. The basic moral values are inculcated on the child's mind in the family only. An individual gets his trade or business education in the family itself along with the moral values. Every member in the family teaches the child about discipline, feeling of co-operation, respecting the elders etc. which are apart of socialization.

10) Dominance of the family: In a rural society family is more important than the individual. Family represents each and every individual of the family. The prestigious families in the village gains importance from the political point of view. Families decision is important regarding this matter. In the olden days each and every family is involved in the decision making process.

11) Including all the facets: Family institution considers all the facets of life. It is found in all the stages of human life. Every individual in the family has an emotional relationship with each other. Therefore the family really has a feeling of homeliness.

Changes are occurring due to industrialization, education, globalization and modernization. But still in modern times family institution plays an important role in the society.

Check your progress

Q- Give the definitions and features of family institution.

4.3.3 Types of family institutions

Family institution has given a specific shape to human life. Individual is related to the society because of emotional relationship, co-operation and socialization. Family system also helps in the economical benefit to the family. Family institution is the foundation of basic moral values. Rural life is centralized around the family institution. Therefore family institution is considered important in rural society.

If we observe the family institutions in human life we see some special characteristics based on their structure. On that basis family can be categorized in the following ways:-

1) Number of members in the family: There are two types of families based on this structure:-

- a) Joint Family system-
- b) Nuclear family system-

2) Based on the sex determination of the head of the family:

There are two types based on this structure:

- a) Matriarchal Family-
- b) Patriarchal Family-

1) Number of members in the family: Details of this structure is as follows:-

a) Joint Family System- As agriculture is the main occupation of the rural areas joint family system has become a special feature of rural life. As maximum labour was necessary for agricultural operations and to fulfill this need there was no other alternative than the joint family system. It is said that joint family system is "favourable for human life." The concept of joint family system will be clear from the following definitions:-

1) Dr. Iravati Karve: Joint family is a group of people which lives under one roof, consume the food prepared at one fire place(Chula).The property is of the whole family, participate in the rites and rituals performed by the family and are related to each other by a specific relation.

2) Dr M.N.Shrinivas: Joint family includes husband and wife, their married children ,their children and the young girls to be married or who have not married.

There are two types in joint families based on Race and Brotherhood. The racial family includes grandmother-grandfather, mother-father and their grand daughters and grand sons. The brotherhood family includes married brothers and their families. Other than this a joint family also includes widows, abandoned wives, or aunts and their children.

**A) Features of Joint Family System -
The Head of the Family or The Doer -**

The head of the joint family is called the doer. Father in a patriarchal family and mother in the matriarchal family is the head of the family. The head of the family exercises control over the family by maintaining discipline and observing rules and regulations. He takes decision regarding the labour division in the family and welfare of the family members. He has a high status in the family.

Common Fire Place -

In joint family system food for everyone is cooked in common kitchen. Therefore Dr. Iravati Karve and Shri S.C.Dube has accepted the feature of common kitchen. There are no different kitchens for different families in a joint family. Food is cooked in common kitchen and common fire place.

Common Place of Dwelling -

In a joint family all the members stay under one roof. As a result we can see common kitchen, common place of eating food, common property. Living in one place creates an emotional feeling and togetherness.

Common Property -

In a joint family everyone has the ownership on the ancestral property whether it is movable or immovable property. Every member has the right to enjoy the benefits of the property. Every individual works to put an additional income in the property. The head of the family has special rights to property. Family is looked upon as the trustee of the property. The feature of this family system is that it fulfills the needs of the family members and giving financial security to the members.

Common Adoration & Worship -

Because of religious worships and adorations an emotional bonding is created between the family members. In a joint family during festivals, ceremonies and functions also worship -adoration of god is done along with day to day worship of god. They have a

common deity and is worshipped with great devotion and faith. Emotional unity and a sense of responsibility is developed through worship.

Big Size -

Dr Desai says, "Joint family includes members of more than three generations." and Iravati Karve says, "Joint family is a group of relatives." As the number of members in the family is more it is big in size.

Joint family system in rural societies proves to be beneficial. Child rearing is done very easily and effectively in a joint family system. During emergency members are protected and showed proper direction to develop a good citizen.

Check your progress

Q- Give the types of family system and state their features.

B) Nuclear Family:

There was a change in the rural economy at a faster rate. Due to industrialization, urbanization, and modernization joint family system came to an end to a great extent and nuclear family system came into existence. Nuclear family is small in size and limited to husband, wife and their children. As both are working, they share the responsibility of the house. Individual development is achieved as they have the freedom to think and take decisions.

Features of Nuclear Family System:

Good Family Relations:

The number of members in the family is limited , so the relations are very close among the family members. They have the feeling of love, affection and affinity towards each other. As the members are less they don't hate or envy each other.

Financial independence:

In a joint family system the principle of common property and usage is there the members don't have the freedom to use it individually. But in nuclear family they are independent of using the money. Income source and income, utilization, savings etc are at the personal level. An individual can spend the earned income on his family itself. Therefore that individual is satisfied. They work hard to raise the income level.

Personality Development:

In a nuclear family an individual has a choice to choose education of his liking and progress through it. He can participate in the fields like arts and sports. As an individual has freedom of taking decisions he can develop his personality.

Limited in Size:

Nuclear family is small in size. As there are no child marriages and due to extended age limit of marriage the process of procreation or the time of procreation has decreased. A family size is based on the families income. The concept of "Small Family Happy Family" is accepted the number of children is less in this type of families.

2) Based on the sex determination of the head of the family -

Based on families formal power, dwelling information of the patriarchal and matriarchal families is as follows:-

A) Patriarchal Family -

In this system all the powers rest with the father. Wife goes to stay with husband in his house and becomes a part of his lineage. The genealogical table continues from the husbands side. The elder child inherits the property from his father. In this family system women folk is given secondary status or very less importance. Male plays an important part in the income generation process, while the female has to look only after the kitchen and children. Indian society is dominated with the patriarchal family system. Father has total control over the family. Even the relatives of mother are given less importance.

B) Matriarchal Family -

In this system the women has control over the family. The family is recognized by the lineage of the woman. The daughter inherits the property from her mother. In this system the husband goes to stay at his wife's house. The husband's participation in the income earning process is negligible. Father has less importance in the family. All the power resides with mother only. Family's genealogical table continues from the mother's side. Matriarchal family system is seen in the Nair's in the south and a few scheduled tribes. The relatives of father are given less importance.

The reason behind the matriarchal family system is given that they have to keep the race in the pure form also stop the transfer of property etc. But in the modern age this system does not have much importance.

Check your progress

Q- Give the information regarding the nuclear ,matriarchal and patriarchal family system.

4.3.4 Functions of the Family

The family system has great importance in the human society. Due to family system the society has gained stability. Even though changes are taking place in the functions of the family system, there is no change in the basic structure of the family. Functions of the family can be given as follows:-

1) Families important function of production -**a) Sex -**

Having sexual satisfaction is one of the important need of the human race.

This is fulfilled through the family. This relationship is accepted by the society. Therefore this family institution is said to be based on sexual relationship.

b) Procreation -

This is another important function of the family system. Procreation takes place in the families based on sexual relationship. For social stability and existence of the society this is an important aspect.

c) Child rearing -

If the work was limited only to procreation then the family system would not have gained much importance. Along with procreation family performs another important function of child rearing and child caring. Child is dependent on elders for a longer period so the entire family and other relatives take care of the child from his childhood till he becomes independent.

Psychological function -

An individual gets satisfaction and protection in the family. Because of love and respect for each other he gets mental satisfaction. In a family process of humanism is generated due to the traditions, culture and practices. Personal development is possible in a family only. A physical and mentally weak person gets protection in the family. He gets strength to face any situation in life. As a result an individual can lead a well settled life.

Socialization -

Children are introduced to traditions, customs and basic moral values. A child is given lessons of mental, social and linguistic skills which are important for personal development which help them to be successful in life. A feeling of hope and desire is created so that he can lead a hopeful life and be an important constituent of the society. Family controls the important social incidents of an individual. Social culture is transferred from one generation to another because of family only.

Finance function -

Finance function is important function to fulfill the basic needs of the members in the family. Since ancient period the finance function of the family institution is continuing non stop. Agriculture is the center of income generation. Before industrialization the family institution was self sufficient in case of finance. Occupational education and income generation and such other things are learnt in the family itself.

Entertainment -

Due to lack of transport and communication ancient villages were separated. As a result they lacked alternative resources and means of entertainment. Entertainment is an individual's social necessity, so it is fulfilled from the rural family. This need was fulfilled through small incidents like telling stories, singing songs, playing different games, imitating each other, sharing experiences of the elderly people.

Rural family institution performs the above mentioned function. This shows the place of family institution in human life. Overall development of an individual and the process of humanism is possible because of family only. Even though there are changes in the family structure nowadays, still family institution is still important.

Check your progress

Q- Give the characteristic features of family institution.

4.3.5 Changes in the family institution

Ancient Indian rural family system was based on specific economic situation and occupation. In the middle of 19th century because of industrialization a drastic change came in the rural

family system. There was a change in the financial status. Joint family disintegrated and nuclear families came into existence. Along with the change in the family size, there was a change in the family structure and functions also. The factors responsible for this change are as follows:-

1) Industrialization -

Due to industrialization the traditional occupations were destroyed as a result people started migrating towards cities in search of jobs. In industries in the urban areas people started getting employment and the labour paid to them was high. So the rural families started migrating to cities. Joint family system disintegrated due to factors like space to live in, rising expenditure, freedom of an individual.

2) Effect of Westernization -

Because of industrialization-urbanization and modernization took place at a faster rate. Society had an effect of westernization. Even the rural society was affected. Due to an individual's freedom the self-centered tendency developed. Preference was given to materialistic happiness. Features like sacrifice, fulfilling the duties, and co-operation started to disintegrate. It was due to westernization the joint family system was disintegrated.

3) Women's Education -

In the rural areas the jurisdiction of woman was limited to kitchen and children. She didn't have any status in the family. After independence the thought of women education spread. There was a change in her work. She stepped out of the circle of tradition and culture. She started to progress by working equally with the males to earn money. As a result she could participate in the decision making process. She took the decision regarding the size of the family. Women education made lots of changes in the family system.

4) Occupational Dynamism -

Every individual's occupation was fixed in the olden rural family system. Individual had no freedom to choose his own occupation. Family was related to agriculture and house hold industries. Occupational dynamism got its mobility because of industrialization, equality and freedom, urbanization and education.

5) Urbanization -

In the ancient rural families all the needs of an individual were fulfilled in the family itself. Due to urbanization there was a change in the functions or working of the rural families. The needs, were fulfilled in a family, but nowadays to fulfill these needs in a better way many individual institutions are created.

6) Self centered thought -

In a joint family the head of the joint family controlled the family. Uniformity was seen in the family. But in the modern times self-centered thoughts for self-benefit started emerging in the minds of people. The feeling of affection towards the family started decreasing. As the individuals got equal chance in education and service self-centered nature was nurtured and families started disintegrating.

7) Social Change and Rules -

Due to social changes joint families responsibilities were minimized due to the establishment of educational institutions, Occupational training institutes, child caring centers, entertainment sources. Rules like inheritance of property, child marriage act, widow remarriage act came into existence. Share in the property was possible through law. Now the people did not feel the need of staying together. Rules like life insurance, pension after retirement of service for social security were made so that the families individual responsibility was minimized and this paved the way for disintegration of family.

In the process of urbanization there were changes in the rural society life and also in the rural families. The head of the family lost his importance due to individualism, personal freedom, ambition gained importance. There was a split in living together. The bond of deep affection started to loosen. Distribution of property started. Due to different occupations individual's ambitions, aspirations increased. Individual families started migrating in the cities taking their property share. As a result Indian rural families started disintegrating.

Check your progress

Q- Discuss the factors responsible for the changes in the family institutions.

4.4 SUMMARY

Institutions are studied in social science by considering the framework of rules. From the point of view of fulfilling the basic needs institutions are very important. Study of every individual

institution its meaning, features, and functions is mainly done in these institutes. When studied in detail we know the importance of these institutions. In the social institutes family institute has existed from ancient period. Its nature is different in the scheduled tribes, urban and rural community. Joint family and nuclear family are two types of families.

Matriarchal and patriarchal families are seen in the society. Family institution emerges from the marriage. Social stability is preserved because of families. Changes in the family institution came because of industrialization, urbanization, spread of literacy, freedom to choose occupation, and individualism.

4.5 SELF STUDY

- Give the meaning of social institutions and state their different types.
- State the different functions of social institutions.
- State the functions of family.
- Write in detail the types of families.
- Write short notes on.
- Importance of social institutions
- Changes in the family institutions
- Importance of family institutions
- Joint family system

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RURAL SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS - CASTE SYSTEM AND CLASS STRUCTURE

Dr. Pravin T. Sanaye

Unit Structure :

- 5.0 Objectives
- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 Caste structure
 - 5.2.1 Definitions of caste
 - 5.2.2 Characteristics of caste
 - 5.2.3 Importance of caste
 - 5.2.4 Functions of the Caste
 - 5.2.5 Demerits of caste institution
 - 5.2.6 Changes in the Caste System
- 5.3 Rural class structure
 - 5.3.1 Nature of class
 - 5.3.2 Characteristics of Class System
 - 5.3.3 Difference between caste and class
 - 5.3.4 Class Structure in Rural Society
- 5.4 Factors of Transformation of Caste into Class in Rural Society
- 5.5 Summary
- 5.6 Self study

5.0 OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the caste structure.
- Will come to know the rural class structure.
- Can understand the reasons behind the change in the caste and class structure.

5.1 Introduction

Indian society is divided into small and big groups because of caste. Caste is a unique feature of Indian society. Caste system is comprehensive and basic institution. Indian society is divided into

upper class and lower class. Caste controls all the social factors of an individual from his birth till death. Caste principle's regulates or controls the economic life, social life, and religious behaviour of the society. It has given shape to the Indian society. Some diligent people have expressed their views on caste.

They are as follows:-

Racial discrimination prevailed during the Veda period also. In Rig-Veda while describing a male in a certain Vedic hymn it is said that Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras were formed from the face, hands, thighs and legs of lord Brahma respectively. In the same way a person could get membership of other Varna's based on his quality and destiny. Birth was not the base of membership. Untouchability also could not be seen.

In the post Vedic period Brahmins started performing yagnya. They got higher class status along with the right of doing religious work. Kshatriyas had the responsibility of defense, Vaishyas had the responsibility of food grain production and trade. The ignoble were included in the Shudras. Today there are more than 3000 caste and sub castes in India. The status of an individual is based on caste structure and class structure also is based on caste. Caste plays an important role in the personal life of an individual. Therefore to understand the Indian society it is necessary to study the features of caste system and the working of the caste system.

5.2 CASTE SYSTEM

The word caste has emerged from the Portuguese word 'Casta' and Latin word 'Castus'. It means the group by birth and the group by race.

Social scientist have given different definitions of caste. They are as follows.

5.2.1 Definitions of caste

1) Muzumdar and Madan:

"Caste is a closed class."

2) Charles kule:

"A race based on class is a caste."

3) Mac Iver and page:

"When a status is pre-decided and there can be no change in the status acquired by destiny, then the rigid class structure formed is called a caste."

4) M.N. Srinivas:

Caste is a racial group residing in local areas. They have their own traditional occupation. Caste occupies a special place in the local and social circle. In this system an individual is born in a specific caste and as per the caste he gets the status and accordingly he has to play his role.

5) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar:

“Inter-caste marriages have maintained the caste as it is for centuries.”

6) Dr. Iravati Karve:

“A family or group acquiring one common name together is a caste and caste means expanded family.”

From the above definitions it is clear that the status of an individual, occupation, selecting the marriage partner are fixed by birth and no one had the freedom to change it. Caste system decided the life style, dress, food, and dignity an individual. Till today caste system is very strong in rural areas. Individuals life is controlled by the cast.

The caste system is not clarified only by the definitions. Therefore Hatton, N.K.Datt, and Dr. Ghurye has put forward some characteristics of caste. They are as follows:-

5.2.2 Characteristics of caste :**1) Division of society in sections:**

Because of caste system society is divided into many sections. This created a difference in the occupational pattern, culture and tradition due to which each section or group had its own identity. Every caste had its own identity and lifestyle. Social scientist have defined them as cultural group as the tradition was passed from one group to another group. The caste Panchayat was created to maintain its unique features. This resulted in more bonding of the caste groups. Sub-caste were created from the main caste which later on became a separate caste group. Therefore Dr.Ghurye has said that society has been divided into small and large groups.

Superior and Inferior:

Caste system is like a declivity. It is narrow at the top and broad at the bottom. In the higher or superior class the members in the family is less but in the middle and low caste or inferior class the number of the family members is more. Superior class has the power in their hands and they also enjoy the privilege of special rights. Different caste groups with different works came into existence - the Brahmins were supposed to do the work of learning and teaching, the security part rested with the kshatriyas and the

trade and commerce was done by the vaishyas and the remaining services were given to the shudras. Caste was determined by birth so it was not possible to change the status acquired by an individual acquired by birth.

Rules regarding Marriage:

Caste is considered as an inter marital group. Restrictions have been put up on marriage by the caste. An individual by rule of the caste has to marry in the caste itself. If he marries outside the caste he and his family was boycotted from the caste. Preserving the superiority of the caste was the motive behind this rule. Caste has preserved its purity and superiority by marrying in the caste itself and by restricting the marriages outside the caste they tried to stop the formation of sub-caste. Because of the inter-caste marriage every group preserved its identity.

Restrictions on the selecting the trade or business:

Every caste had its own fixed trade. Business was a matter of tradition so they were restricted to do the same business as per tradition of the group. An individual had no freedom to choose the business of his liking or the art which he had. The status of an individual depended on the type of work or business he did. As the caste system is decided in the descending order the trade done by the superior class was of the superior quality. The caste got its name from the trade they were practicing and the skill was maintained up to the caste only and its secrecy was maintained. Agriculture and the enrolment in the army was free for all. But mostly there was no change in the trade or occupation. As a result the person got financial security by the business or occupation.

Restrictions on Social Relations:

Caste has totally controlled an individual's whole life. There were strict restrictions on the social relations. The shadow or touch of an inferior caste was forbidden. There were limitations on the person's behaviour or thinking. Food and water was also not allowed to be taken from an inferior caste person. These rules were strictly followed. The lower caste group had to keep some distance while speaking to a Brahmin.

Social and Religious Restrictions:

As per the descending order of the caste structure they gain their status in the society. Because of this the inferior or the lower class were forbidden from the social and religious rights. There were strict restrictions on their food, clothing, where to live in the village. It was a rule that the lower class people should stay outside the village only. They were not allowed to take water from the village well. They had tie a broom to their waist to clean the path they used or they had to keep a horn along with them.

The lower class people were not allowed to do any religious rites or learn any Vedas or religious books. The Brahmins got protection from the kings because of their superiority.

Because of these characteristics caste system had great importance in the Indian social life. There were changes in this system as the years passed by.

Check your progress

Q- Give the characteristic features of the caste.

5.2.3 Importance of caste :

Caste system is one of the most important social institution of the Indian society. Caste system has done very important job to preserve the Indian culture for a longer period. Importance of caste can be understood from the following points.

- 1) Caste is the main pillar of the Indian social institution. On the basis of caste only the grading of high and low caste and accordingly their status in the society is decided.
- 2) Even though the grading was done on the basis of caste still co-operation or helping each other was the main thing. So the owners used to help their workers from the lower class in one or the other form or financial help.
- 3) As the caste institution had fixed the occupational pattern every individual had a fixed work so that there was no unemployment. There was no competition in any of the occupations like the present age.
- 4) Inter - caste marriage system prevailed because of the caste system. Caste is also called inter marriage group. This has preserved the race and traditional cultures and qualities of the specific group.
- 5) Because of the specialization of the labour in the caste system the traditional occupational skills could be preserved.

6) Because of the caste institution only the rural culture could create stable moral values which were preserved and are still being followed.

7) Every caste needs other castes help so they used to give shelter to each other. By service and co-operation they developed a feeling of social unity and compassion for each other.

8) Discipline and unity remained forever in the caste because of the strict rules and restrictions of the caste institution.

Check your progress

Q- Importance of caste institution.

5.2.4 Functions of the Caste

Because of the caste system only the social structure of the society remained stable and strong for centuries. An individual's social status is recognized by his caste and his work. According to Hutton caste control an individual's life from his birth till death. Caste has created a coordinated social structure. An individual's life is shaped by the caste only. Functions of the caste institutions are as follows:-

1) Financial functions -

A) Ease and Assurance of Occupation:

Every caste had its own fixed occupation. The training of the traditional occupations was given in the family itself. Because of the assurance of job there was no competition amongst themselves nor there was the problem of unemployment. Caste had created financial stability in the society.

B) Division of Labour:

An individual got the occupational training in the family itself. By practice they acquired great skills in that particular occupation. As the occupations were fixed automatically there was a division of labour. The division of labour system was working very effectively because every individual did the work assigned to him. Balutedari is one of the best example of division of labour.

C) Social and Financial Security:

Due to job assurance they did not face with the problem of unemployment. Caste was termed as an occupational group. As

the occupation was passed on from one generation to another the people enjoyed the benefit of social and financial security. Social status of an individual was based on the caste. The feelings of hatred and jealousy were not there as they had no freedom to change the caste and occupation.

Caste institution is termed as social insurance. Due to traditional occupations an individual gets social and financial security even in the crisis of becoming physically handicapped, ill or in the old age.

2) Social Functions of the Caste

A) Assurance of social status -

Superiority and inferiority are the features of the caste. Social status is fixed by the caste. As the caste of an individual is based on the birth his social status is decided by caste and not by the situation.

B) Support of Marriage Institution -

An individual had to marry in the same caste as they had no permission to marry outside the caste. Inter - caste marriages were forbidden by the society. Therefore it is said that caste is the basis or support of marriage institution. This rules are followed not only in the but sub-caste also.

C) Control on the Behaviour of an Individual -

An individual has to behave as per the rules made by the caste. It is seen that caste controls the behaviour of an individual. People not following the rules were punished severely. The society followed these rules strictly. Caste institution used to follow controlled functions like give and take, proper - improper fine to the individual or the whole family.

D) Creating Rural Leadership -

Rural leadership is related to the caste. In the olden days individuals political life was controlled by the caste. Villagers accepted his decision without any objection. Even today caste plays an important role in the rural political life.

E) Protecting the society and culture -

Caste institution protected the society and culture. Caste institutions remained intact in India though it was invaded many a times. They were not destroyed as time passed away. Small groups were bonded together because of caste system. Caste institution works as a protective cover for the society. Because of social function a specific structure of work was created. In the same way an individual's status and his place in the society was decided by the caste.

3) Function of the caste for the community

1) Protecting the religious feelings -

Every caste has its own established observances of the family and it is observed by the individuals. Religious feelings are developed from this observances. Basic moral values are preserved and an individual becomes good natured. This is passed from one generation to another. Caste has preserved the religion.

2) Preserving the Race -

Inter-caste marriage rule is followed strictly. Because of inter-caste marriage blood relation are preserved and a good society is emerged.

3) Occupational Skills -

Caste preserved its occupational skill. The skill was passed to the future generation. Similar occupation with similar rules bring about an unity in the caste.

Because of the caste system an individual gets mental security and society gets stability.

Check your progress

Q- Explain the working of caste institution.

5.2.5 Demerits of caste institution :

Caste institution has played an important role in the in the social and financial structure. As time passed by there were many changes in the caste institutions. But there were certain demerits also.

They are as follows.

1) Demerits created from the financial point of view

A) Harmful for working alertness -

Even though the people had skill of other occupations, they could not practice other castes occupation as the castes had fixed occupation. It means the caste system and its rules were hindrances in the working. Restrictions on choosing the occupation was one of the greatest demerit of the caste system.

B) Harmful for financial development -

Because of caste system feeling of community development disappears from the minds of the people. The only thought they have in their minds is to develop their own caste, do something for the well being of their own community in the caste. It means the rules and the regulations in the caste are the obstacles in the working efficiency of the people. The main demerit of this was that they had no freedom to choose their occupation.

C) Unequal distribution of money and labour -

Because of the caste system the lower caste group was allotted the more laborious work, but in return they would get very less income. The higher caste people got less tedious but more income earning jobs. For ex- the family priest, one who has studied shastras, one who gives discourse rule over and exploit the inferior class people. The result was that the inferior class found it difficult to fulfill their basic needs.

2) Social Demerits**A) Domination of the superior class -**

The main demerit of the caste system was that the superior class started dominating and exploiting the inferior class. The lower class had to do the laborious work. Due to this corruption, adultery, and economical exploitation increased.

B) Increase in Untouchability -

Caste system lead to the problem of Untouchability. In Hindu religion few caste recognize themselves as superior caste while others are considered as inferior class. Superior class have exploited the Scheduled class people by putting restrictions on them. As a result the Hindu religion was divided into touchable and untouchables and there were clashes amongst them.

C) Underdeveloped personality of an Individual -

Every individual was dominated by the caste which compelled him to continue his traditional occupation. The education system, marriage institution was also controlled by the caste system.

These restrictions were hindrances for an individuals all-round development and ability.

D) Encouragement to accept a new religion -

Due to caste system the inferior group had been deprived of their rights for a long time. The higher class started exploiting the lower class. One who disobeyed the caste rules were asked to pay the penalty, were punished or boycotted from the caste. This resulted in an ill faith in the religion by the lower class group.

People from other religion took benefit of it and started converting the people on a large scale.

E) Harmful for the Social Unity -

Caste system divided the society into many groups. Groups were divided into higher class and lower class, and a hatredness towards the lower class was developed. This was harmful to the social unity.

3) Other Common Demerits

A) Harmful to the Cultural Unity -

A feeling of superiority and inferiority developed amongst the people. Give and take of things became impossible amongst each other. Every caste wanted to be different from others which resulted in the hatredness. Therefore even though the culture of the society was same, the cultural unity could not be seen.

B) Harmful to the Nation -

Clashes amongst the different caste increased because of the formation of the sub-castes. A feeling of hatredness developed amongst the higher caste. They started demanding for their rights. This was supported by the political leaders, and this proved to be harmful to the national integrity.

C) Clashes amongst the castes -

Because of the unequal distribution of castes there was an increase in the feeling of hatredness and clashes among the different castes. A particular caste came very close to each other while the other caste were ill-treated. Partiality and obstinacy developed for their own caste group without thinking of justice or injustice on the other caste.

The above demerits are found in the caste system. In modern times it is seen that we cannot see casteism but caste distinction still is on the increase.

Check your progress

Q- Give the demerits of caste system.

5.2.6 Changes in the Caste System

Indian caste system has remained stable for thousands of years due to its strong base. But due to science and technology in the modern age some changes are seen in the caste system. Transport and communication has brought mobility in the Indian society. Changes in the caste institution took place at a faster rate. Following are the reasons for this change.

Industrialization:

Industrialization brought about a change in the caste system. It is seen that people from many caste and religion work together in a factory which results in the formation of a group of class. The feeling of superiority and inferiority is totally forgotten and the rules regarding food and other aspects has to be kept aside. This results in the change in the caste system.

Urbanization:

In ancient India the handicraft industries was the main source of income and there was great demands for these goods. But due to industrialization process during the British period there was a decline of handicrafts industries. Big cities were developed and people migrated to these cities in search of work. As the population in these cities increased people had to live in a congested area. Due to this it was difficult to follow the rules of the caste. Marketing system, entertainment sources, hotels brought about restrictions on the caste rules and regulations and as a result there was a change in the caste system.

Education:

In the modern age people from all categories got opportunity to get education. Narrow mindedness was eliminated from the minds of the people. They adopted new modern thinking. Students from all caste were studying together under one roof due to which the caste distinction lagged behind. Being educated even the people from inferior caste could gain higher position in the offices and could extend their contacts due to which again caste distinction was eliminated from the society.

Increasing effect of Class Structure:

Because of industrialization traditional occupations started to come to an end. People migrated to cities in search of jobs. The class structure was more effective in the cities than the caste structure so people left their traditional occupations and started doing other than the jobs they were doing to earn money and earned status in the society according to their income in the society. Class structure brought a change in the caste system of the society.

New Laws:

Occupation and social status was controlled by the caste system. After independence constitution adopted the principle of equality. People were independent of adopting any type of occupation. By law everyone had to follow the same rules and regulations. This resulted in a real change in the caste system.

It is very clear that above factors have brought changes in the caste system. In the ancient and medieval period caste system has played an important role in the society. Even though there are changes in the caste system rural society and its system is still based on the caste system.

Check your progress

Q- Factors responsible for the change in the caste system.

5.3 RURAL CLASS STRUCTURE

After studying the definitions and features of the caste system it is clear that Indian class structure was based on caste system. This type of society structure is unique. It doesn't mean that there is no class structure in the society and culture in other parts of the world. Open grading and close grading are the two types of social grading. Race, caste, social status come under closed grading while distribution through class system comes under open grading. An individual's social status was decided and known by his deeds only after industrialization, individuals education, income, social status by the end of 19th century. This was the period when class structure emerged in the real sense. Group of people having equal status is called a class. This class have the same behaviour basic values and income level is equal. Compared to other classes one is superior while other is inferior. Each class tries to maintain its status and level.

5.3.1 Nature of class

The nature and difference of the class structure can be understood from the definitions given by the social scientists.

Mac Iver and page : "Social class is that group of people which is characterized by social status and is distinguished very easily from the other class."

Augburn Nimkoff: "Basic characteristic of the social class is that one social class as per its social status is either superior or inferior." Ginsberg: "Class is such a group of people which has common lifestyle, common thinking, common feelings and tendency based on common inheritance, wealth, education and occupation and this or the other reasons this members come together and consider each other of the same community."

From the above definitions some characteristics are understood.

5.3.2 Characteristics of Class System

1) Feeling of Superiority-Inferiority:

Every society has many groups and people having equal status are in a group and they compare themselves to the other groups and decide for themselves whether he is superior or inferior. In class system superiority or inferiority is very dominant. Because of this feeling they are different from other classes. Every class has affection for its own class. Superior class people have higher status and inferior class people have secondary status.

2) Birth is not the criteria for class:

Though birth decides the caste of an individual his class is not decided by birth. In class system an individual's social status depends on his capacity matters and not birth. Because of an individual's capacity he can see himself in the higher-class category. There is mobility in the class structure. So an individual from the inferior class can reach the higher-class category on his own if he has the capability, while an individual from the higher class can come to the lower class category because of his deeds. So we can say birth is not the criteria for class but the social and financial status.

3) Instability of the class:

According to Ginsberg the pillars of class structure are education, occupation and wealth. As these factors are changeable class is an unstable group. The reason is that an individual's education and economic conditions can change, which results a change in his status. Rich people can either become very rich or poor while poor people can become rich or can come in the category of middle class earning people.

Limited Social Relations:

In a class there is a feeling of superiority and inferiority. Individual has affection for his class. As a result he has limited

relations with the other class in the society. People from the same class are invited for the social and cultural functions. The feeling behind this is that we are different from others.

A Well Designed Lifestyle:

Level of the people having same income group is at the same level. Their way of living is the same. For ex- their residence, clothing pattern, food, children's education, likes-dislikes. An individual tries to maintain Marital relations and Business relations in their respective class only. As a result classes have a specific framework of lifestyle.

Check your progress

Q- Explain the characteristic features of class structure.

5.3.3 Difference between caste and class

Difference in the caste and class structure is seen in its definitions only. The social class which, has birth as its base is termed as caste. While the social class having common status is termed as caste. Caste and class are the two types of social standardization. There are basic differences in these two types.

- 1) Caste is the unique feature of Indian society and its membership is acquired by birth, while class system is seen everywhere and its membership is acquired by an individual's capability.
- 2) An individual cannot change his caste. Caste is not based on economic condition but related to religious factor. But everyone has the right to change to change his class. Class is based on economic conditions and is free from religious bias.
- 3) There are restrictions on inter-caste marriage and traditional occupations in the caste, while in the class structure there are restrictions on the marriage institution. In the same way an individual can choose his an occupation of his choice.
- 4) There are restrictions on the marriages amongst each other and they lack mobility is its feature. There are no restrictions in the marriages amongst each other and mobility is the feature of class.

5) The caste Panchayat has total control over the caste. Caste comes under closed standardization while there is no such standardization in the class structure.

From the above differences it is clear that caste is acquired by birth and class gives importance to self ability. The above features of caste are becoming extinct, due to which the basis of caste have disappeared.

Check your progress

Q- Distinguish between caste and class.

5.3.4 Class Structure in Rural Society

Though the caste controls the Indian rural society we can't say it as a classless society.

In the rural society the economic conditions and status is not equal. In the same way every class has its own lifestyle, traditions and customs. Accordingly everyone behaves in the society. In the rural society relationship depends on the superiority and inferiority of the individuals. Because the lifestyle, traditions and cultures, afflictions are same of the people in the same class. That is the reason why they are more attached to their class.

Before the Britishers came Indian society was self-sufficient and independent. The caste and family institution dominated rural society. In the British period the self-sufficiency of the villages was destroyed. Because of industrialization rural society also started experiencing change. It affected the social strata. But in this transformation process the main occupation of the society remained the same that was agriculture. As seen in the urban society the class discrimination i.e. higher class, medium and the lower class, is seen in the rural society. But the rural stratification is based on agriculture. Following classes are seen in the rural society.

1) Zamindars and the Big Land Holders:

Zamindars and the big land holder's come in the category of the rich and well to do class. This category owns more than 50 acres of land though they are few in number i.e. just 1% of the rural society. They dominate the fields like politics, economics and

social. This class has the power in its hands and also is rich and has status in the society. This society leads a modern lifestyle and enjoys the benefits of all the urbanized modern facilities to a great extent. Some of the Zamindars are heirs of the Watandars and Inamdars of the medieval period. After independence the government made land ceiling act to remove the inequality of the distribution of land. But due to the loopholes in the laws it made the Zamindars possible to keep maximum land under their control resulting in the inequality of distribution of wealth in the rural society.

2) Money Lenders and Traders:

Money lenders and traders are dominant in the rural society. Money lenders lend money in return to the land kept as pledge. Rural society depends on this type of money lending or loan as they get it on demand. To repay the loan the farmers have to sell their produce to the money lender. The money lenders purchase the produce from the farmers at a low rate and sell it to others at a very high price. As a result the picture seen in the rural society is of rich money lenders and poor farmers. The traders lend the money to the farmers before the harvesting season. So after the harvest farmers have to sell the produce to the traders only at the price he gives for the produce. A new class of money lenders and traders is dominating the rural society.

3) Medium Land Holders:

A Farmer having a land holding of more than 5 acres comes under this category. Around 50-55% farmers come under this category. Farming is not beneficial as more of the land is dry due to lack of irrigation facilities. The agricultural production of these farmers is less than the big land holders. Even though they don't get more economical benefit from this occupation but their condition is well to do.

4) Small Farmers:

A Farmer having a land holding of less than 5 acres is included in this category. Most of the farmers have a land holding of one acre or less than that. Less income is generated with the minimum land holding. As a result it is very difficult to fulfill the basic needs of the family. Therefore they don't have any alternative than to take loan from the money lenders. The economical condition of this category is not so good, so many a times they have to work as labourers in others fields. They have an inferior status in the agricultural occupation. Indebtedness is seen more in this category.

5) Landless Labourers:

This is the last category of the rural class structure. Percentage of landless agricultural labourers is the highest in the

rural areas. As they don't own land they have to work on the other people's farms. Some of labourers work at the Zamindars place permanently, while some work temporarily. Labourers working permanently live in a very bad condition or else we can say they live in poverty. Their status is of like a labourer who is compelled to labour without any remuneration. Temporary labourers condition also is not so good but it is much better than the permanent labourers. Temporary labourers have independence to choose the work. In rural areas the agricultural labourers have work only in the season. In the drought and famines conditions they don't have work during the season also. As a result their condition deteriorates further. Their status in the society is of very low class. Ignorance, illiteracy, unemployment and lack of proper and nutrition are the characteristics of the landless agricultural labourers and are mainly found in the rural areas.

The caste structure is more powerful than the class structure in the rural areas. The caste system dominates the class system. This is the reason why we find that the higher class people are of superior caste, while lower class people are of inferior class.

Check your progress

Q- Explain the class structure in the rural society.

5.4 FACTORS OF TRANSFORMATION OF CASTE INTO CLASS IN RURAL SOCIETY

(1) Government policy -

According to Breeman it is the policy of government to pauperise the agricultural labour. The green revolution, white revolution, irrigation and electric supply have gone mostly in favour of the big farmers. In fact, the benefits of development programmes have been largely cornered by the big landowners. It is due to the government policy that agricultural capitalism has increased. Breman also says that the nationalist movement before independence and the heading political parties have also promoted agricultural capitalism.

(2) Correlation between caste and class:

Rural caste and class have been analysed from both Weberian and Marxian perspectives. But if one tries to apply only Marxian perspective to understand the class structure, he cannot do so successfully. Caste and class are a mixed phenomenon in India's rural society. Gail Omvedt argues that there are feudal forces in caste and as a result of it the former landlords, zamindars and jagirdars have come out as capitalist peasants. It means that the former higher castes have become today higher classes.

Despite this difference in findings which is of degree, the fact remains that rural castes are definitely transforming into classes. Another difference is that Omvedt considers caste as a feudal organisation and its change into class is capitalistic.

(3) Dominant castes replaced:

It was in sixties that M.N. Srinivas gave the concept of dominant caste. But, it has lost much of its relevance today. The big landowners, who have migrated to urban and industrial communities, have taken to new sources of income or have been deprived of land due to ceiling legislations.

Their dominance in the village has been weakened by several forces. K.L. Sharma says that the power wielded by the former elites such zamindars and jagirdars has decayed because of the abolition of feudal system.

On the other hand, members of the weaker sections have got new power from democratic institutions. The new empowerment of weaker sections has brought these sections in close competition with the former power elites. The empirical reality is that the dominant castes have now been deprived by their traditional power of ruling over the village or maintaining the ongoing of the rural system. The dominant castes thus are replaced by new power elites.

(4) Caste, land and politics make class:

Caste is not only a system of hierarchy; it is also related to land and politics. Viewed from this perspective, the idea of a class is also inherent in a caste. Land involves an interaction between the landowner and the actual cultivator.

The power is also inherent to the caste. In the changing scene, therefore, when we analyse caste, we must take into consideration the relationship of caste hierarchy, the notion of purity and pollution in relation to land owned by a particular caste and its power structure.

When the land and power undergo change, resultantly the caste structure also witnesses certain changes and these changes relate to class. In the contemporary politics of competing demands of each caste group, naturally the caste, assumes the role of a class.

Thus, political and economic considerations turn a caste into a class.

Thus, both caste and class are resources for gaining access to political power. Once political power is gained, it proves to be a further resource for the consolidation and improvement of status and class positions. This is how the relationship between land, caste and politics is found in Indian villages today.

When a caste becomes a class, the class conflict which emerges is basically caste war.

(5) Capitalist mode of production: (Turned caste into class)

Admittedly, the agricultural production in rural India has increased tremendously during the last fifty years. Green revolution has come. Green revolution means use of chemical fertilisers and high yielding varieties in farm production. Actually, green revolution coupled with the introduction of new technology have revolutionised the mode of production in agriculture.

Advanced technology, new yielding varieties and chemical manure can be fruitfully employed by only big farmers who have capacity to invest in agricultural production. This innovation in agriculture has changed the total mode of production resulting in the emergence of capitalism in agriculture. This form of capitalism has changed the rural caste system into rural class system. Analysing the shift from caste to class in agrarian society, K.L. Sharma very rightly observes:

The capitalistic mode of production in agriculture has not only polarised the rural class structure further in terms of the rich and the poor, the dominant and the weak, the upper and the lower segments of society, their relationship with the state is also being redefined in favour of the beneficiaries of the state's policies and programme.

(6) Some new emerging agricultural classes in rural India:

We have argued in the- preceding pages about the social formations which have transformed the caste into class. Such a process has been enquired into by a large number of rural sociologists and sociologists. Notwithstanding this, some of the social scientists who have worked exclusively on agricultural classes have brought out a new classification of agricultural castes.

These classes do not intervene in the caste structure of rural society. The castes work independently in the villages. In the field of agricultural production or in peasantry as a whole there are some classes. These classes are agricultural classes. In other words, landholdings have never been even in rural India. Differences in the size of land have created diverse agricultural classes in rural society.

5.5 SUMMARY

Caste system is the main pillar of the rural society. After the conversion of Varna system into caste system there was a division of the society into different groups. Superior and inferior structure came into existence because of caste structure. The superior class exploited the inferior class, but the social and economic functioning of the caste system was important. Caste system gave a proper lifestyle and shape to the society. Industrialization and spread of education brought about great changes in the caste system. Even though the closed structure of the caste system is outdated, still the caste system plays an important role in the rural society up-to-date.

Class system is of the type of open structure type. Because of the class system society is divided into higher, medium, lower class groups. Class structure is based on the economic status, education and self capability. Class has mobility due to which circulation is possible in the society. The inferior class can reach the status of the superior class if he has the capacity and capability. In rural areas class structure is based on the agricultural occupation and land holdings. Zamindars and landlord's, medium landholder's, small landholder's, and landless agricultural labourers is the class system found in the rural areas. There is basic difference in the caste and class structure. Caste structure is based on closed structure and class structure is based on open structure type.

5.6 SELF STUDY

- Give the different functions of the caste.
- Give the importance of caste and its demerits.
- Give detailed information of the class system of the rural society.
- Write short notes on.
 - Changes in the caste system
 - Caste and class
 - Features of the class structure
 - Nature of the class

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SOCIAL CHANGE

Dr. Pravin T. Sanaye

Unit Structure :

- 6.0 Objective
- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Prominent theories of social change
- 6.3 Nature of Social Change
- 6.4 Factors of Social Change
- 6.5 Obstacles in the path of Social Change
- 6.6 People's Participation for Social Change
- 6.7 Public Opinion
- 6.8 Summary
- 6.9 Self-Study

6.0 OBJECTIVES

- To understand the Concept of Social Change.
- To study the Nature of social Change.
- To study the Factors of Social Change.
- To study the Obstacles in the path of Social change.
- To study the People's Participation for Social Change.

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Social Change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include change in nature, social institution, social behaviours or social relations. Social change may refer to the notion of social progress or socio-cultural evolution, the philosophical idea that society moves forward by dialectical or evolutionary means. It may refer to a paradigmatic change in the socio-economic structure, for instance a shift away from feudalism towards capitalism. Accordingly it may also refer to social revolution, such as the socialist revolution presented in Marxism, or to other social movements, such as Women's suffrage or the civil rights movement. Social change may be driven by cultural, religious, economic, scientific or technological forces. The village social life has its own peculiar characteristics. The village social life norms strengthen the authoritarian and hierarchical norms in

administration. The village social life, which is based on the hierarchical exchange relations greatly influence the behavior of civil servants in public organizations. Sociologists think that to define Indian villages, its population, physical structure and modes of production are definitely important. Usually, a village has less than five thousand individuals. It is rightly said 'India is a country of villages'. Agriculture is the main occupation of the Indians and majority of people in India live in the villages. Our villages help in strengthening our social bonds and bringing stability to our society in many ways. Our villages also help our society in another way namely that of preserving our culture. The Indian rural society has undergone considerable change in the recent past, particularly since the independence as result of series of the land reform legislations that have accelerated the pace of this change. India has a rich cultural heritage and is a land of diversities. The diversity in social life is reflected in multi-social, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-caste nature of the society. The important features of the Indian social structure are predominant rural habitation in small villages, multi-religious and multi-caste social identities and important role of family in the social life. In recent years, the communal organizations have become very active in social life resulting in communal clashes in different parts of the country.

6.2 PROMINENT THEORIES OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Change comes from two sources. One source is random or unique factors such as climate, weather, or the presence of specific groups of people. Another source is systematic factors. For example, a successful development has the same general requirements, such as a stable and flexible government, enough free and available resources, and a diverse social organization of society. So, on the whole, social change is usually a combination of systematic factors along with some random or unique factors. There are many theories of social change. Generally, a theory of change should include elements such as structural aspects of change (like population shifts), process and mechanisms of social change, and directions of change.

Hegelian: The classic Hegelian dialectic model of change is based on the interaction of opposing forces. Starting from a point of momentary stasis, Thesis countered by Antithesis first yields conflict and it subsequently results in a new synthesis.

Marxist: Marxism presents a dialectical and materialistic concept of history. Humankind's history is a fundamental struggle between social classes.

Kuhnian: The Philosopher of Science Thomas Kuhn argues in 'The Structure of Scientific Revolutions' with respect to the Copernican Revolution that people are unlikely to jettison an unworkable paradigm, despite many indications that the paradigm is not functioning properly, until a better paradigm can be presented.

Heraclitan: The Greek Philosopher Heraclitus used the metaphor of a river to speak of change thus, "On those stepping into rivers staying the same other and other waters flow". What Heraclitus seems to be suggesting here, later interpretations notwithstanding, is that, in order for the river to remain the river, change must constantly be taking place. Thus one may think of the Heraclitan model as parallel to that of a living organism, which, in order to remain alive must constantly be changing. A contemporary application of this approach is shown in the social change theory Seed-Scale which builds off of the Complexity Theory Subfield of Emergence.

Daoist: The Chinese philosophical work Dao De Jing uses the metaphor of water as the ideal agent of change. Water, although soft and yielding, will eventually wear away stone. Change in this model is to be natural, harmonious and steady, albeit imperceptible.

Check your progress -

Q- Write short note on Prominent theories of social change

6.3 NATURE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behavior, or social relations. Social change may refer to the notion of social progress or socio cultural evolution, the philosophical idea that society moves forward by dialectical or evolutionary means. It may refer to a paradigmatic change in the socio-economic structure, for instance a shift away from feudalism and towards capitalism. Accordingly it may also refer to social revolution, such as the socialist revolution presented in Marxism, or to other social movements, such as women's suffrage or the civil rights movement.

Social change may be driven by cultural, religious, economic, scientific or technological forces. Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include change in nature, social institutions, social behavior, or social relations. All these changes are interdependent. Change in any of the either there would be a change in the other.

6.4 Factors of Change

1) Physical Environment:

Major changes in the physical environment are very compelling when they happen. The desert wastes of North Africa were once green and well populated. Climates change, soil erodes and lakes gradually turn into swamps and finally plains. A culture is greatly affected by such changes although sometimes they come about so slowly that they are largely unnoticed. Human misuse can bring very rapid changes in physical environment which in turn change the social and cultural life of a people. Deforestation brings land erosion and reduces rainfall. Much of the wasteland and desert land of the world is a testament to human ignorance and misuse. Environmental destruction has been at least a contributing factor in the fall of most great civilization. Many human groups throughout history have changed their physical environment through migration. In the primitive societies whose members are very directly dependent upon their physical environment migration to a different environment brings major changes in the culture. Civilization makes it easy to transport a culture and practice it in a new and different environment.

2) Population changes:

A population change in itself is a social change and also becomes casual factor further in social and cultural changes. When a thinly settled frontier fills up with people the hospitality pattern fades away, secondary group relations multiply, institutional structures grow more elaborate and many other changes follow. A stable population may be able to resist change but a rapidly growing population must migrate, improve its productivity or starve. Great historic migrations and conquests of the Huns, Vikings and many others have arisen from the pressure of a growing population upon limited resources. Migration encourages further change for it brings a group into a new environment subjects it to new social contacts and confronts it with new problems. No major population change leaves the culture unchanged.

3) Social Structure:

The structure of a society affects its rate of change in subtle and not immediately apparent ways. A highly centralized bureaucracy is very favorable to the promotion and diffusion of

change although bureaucracy has sometimes been used in an attempt to suppress change usually with no more than temporary success. When a culture is very highly integrated so that each element is rightly interwoven with all the others in a mutually interdependent system change is difficult and costly. But when the culture is less highly integrated so that work, play, family, religion and other activities are less dependent upon one another change is easier and more frequent. A tightly structured society wherein every person's roles, duties, privileges and obligations are precisely and rigidly defined is less given to changes than a more loosely structured society wherein roles, lines of authority, privileges and obligations are more open to individual rearrangement.

4) Attitudes and Values:

To people in developed nations and societies change is normal. Children there are socialized to anticipate and appreciate change. Societies differ greatly in their general attitude toward change. People who revere the past and preoccupied with traditions and rituals will change slowly and unwillingly. When a culture has been relatively static for a long time the people are likely to assume that it should remain so indefinitely. They are intensely and unconsciously ethnocentric; they assume that their customs and techniques are correct and everlasting. A possible change is unlikely even to be seriously considered. Any change in such a society is likely to be too gradual to be noticed.

A rapidly changing society has a different attitude toward change and this attitude is both cause and effect of the changes already taking place. Rapidly changing societies are aware of the social change. They are somewhat skeptical and critical of some parts of their traditional culture and will consider and experiment with innovations. Such attitudes powerfully stimulate the proposal and acceptance of changes by individuals within the society. Different groups within a locality or a society may show differing receptivity to change. Each and every changing society has its liberals and its conservatives. Literate and educated people tend to accept changes more readily than the illiterate and uneducated. Attitudes and values affect both the amount and the direction of social change. No society has been equally dynamic in all aspects and its values determine in which area-art, music, warfare, technology, philosophy or religion it will be innovative.

5) Cultural Factors

Cultural Factor influences the direction and character of technological change. Culture not only influences our social relationships, it also influences the direction and character of technological change. It is not only our beliefs and social institutions must correspond to the changes in technology but our beliefs and social institutions determine the use to which the technological

inventions will be put. The tools and techniques of technology are indifferent to the use we make of them. For example the atomic energy can be used for the production of deadly war weapons or for the production of economic goods that satisfy the basic needs of man. The factories can produce the armaments or necessities of life. Steel and iron can be used for building warships or tractors. It is a culture that decides the purpose to which a technical invention must be put. Although technology has advanced geometrically in the recent past, technology alone does not cause social change. It does not by itself even cause further advances in technology. Social values play a dominant role here. It is the complex combination of technology and social values which produces conditions that encourage further technological change. For example the belief or the idea that human life must not be sacrificed for wants of medical treatment, contributed to the advancement in medical technology. Thus cultural factors play a positive as well as negative role in bringing about technological change.

Cultural factors such as habits, customs, traditions, conservatism, traditional values etc may resist the technological inventions. On the other hand factors such as breakdown in the unity of social values, the diversification of social institutions craving for the new thoughts, values etc may contribute to technological inventions. Technological changes do not take place on their own. They are engineered by men only. Technology is the creation of man. Men are always moved by ideas, thoughts, values, beliefs, morals and philosophies etc. These are the elements of culture. These sometimes decide or influence the direction in which technology undergoes change. Men are becoming more and more materialistic in their attitude. This change in the attitude and outlook is reflected in the technological field. Thus in order to lead a comfortable life and to minimize the manual labor man started inventing new techniques, machines, instruments and devices.

6) Technological Factors:

The technological factors represent the conditions created by man which have a profound influence on his life. In the attempt to satisfy his wants, fulfill his needs and to make his life more comfortable man creates civilization. Technology is a byproduct of civilization. When the scientific knowledge is applied to the problems in life it becomes technology. Technology is a systematic knowledge which is put into practice that is to use tools and run machines to serve human purpose. Science and technology go together. In utilizing the products of technology man brings social change. The social effects of technology are far-reaching. According to Karl Marx even the formation of social relations and mental conceptions and attitudes are dependent upon technology. He has regarded technology as a sole explanation of social change. W. F. Ogburn says technology changes society by

changing our environment to which we in turn adapt. These changes are usually in the material environment and the adjustment that we make with these changes often modifies customs and social institutions. A single invention may have innumerable social effects. The loss of human freedom and the large-scale destruction of human beings are due to the increasing use of certain types of technology which has begun to threaten the life support systems of the earth as a whole.

Check your progress

Q- Explain in detail the factors of social change.

6.5 OBSTACLES TO SOCIAL CHANGES IN INDIA

It is true that Indian society is changing and certain directions of social change and development are clearly apparent, but still we have not been able to achieve all those goals which we wanted to achieve. There are many reasons behind this obstacles. Some western scholars like Gunnar Myrdal suggest that the main cause of India's economic weakness is not lack of technical skills among the people but rather lack of initiative, of interest in improving their status, and of respect for labour. Such views are illogical, biased, and vigorously challenged by Indian and some western scholars like Morris (1967), Milton Singer (1966, 1969), T.N. Madan (1968), Yogendra Singh (1973), and S.C. Dube (1982). Number of studies in rural India have shown keen desire on the part of the villagers for improvement. They are willing to work hard, change their harmful customs, eschew temptations, and rise above human fallibilities. The obstacles to developmental efforts are not human factors but political environment, social structures, and economic handicaps.

1. Forces of Tradition

Change in a society is possible only by promoting attitudes of acceptance towards new ways of doing things. Sticking to the traditions & cultures and refusing to accept new ideas act as a barrier to social change. The degree of cultural accumulation and the amount of contact with other societies determine the nature and extent of social change within a society.

Isolated societies experience little change, whereas societies which meet different people from different cultures experience rapid social change. People refuse to intermingle easily & freely and decline to share other peoples traditions, customs, knowledge, technology and ideologies in a society which does not want to change or accept change. This is because they believe that their traditions are sacred and the merit of traditions are derived from transmission from a sacred orientation.

The possibility of invention and the introduction of new traits from other cultures is limited by the degree of cultural accumulation. which depends upon the willingness to discard traditions which are dysfunctional and non-utilitarian. What transpires through contacts with other cultures is diffusion, the source of most social change.

Traditional norms perform a stabilising function in the society. Traditionally transmitted norms are accepted because they fill the need to have rules in a given situation. The role which traditional norms play in an economically and technically changing society depends, on the place which tradition-oriented behaviour holds in society. In traditional society, traditional values are given importance because they have been transmitted from the past. But in modern society, the conditions for change are welcomed because they offer solutions to present problems.

2. The Values:

The role played by values in social change is a controversial topic. Hegel felt that social change was a result of the unfolding of ideas. Marx felt that values had no effect on long-term social change. He felt that social change was exclusively a result of the interplay of economic forces and was manifested in class struggle. Most of the Indian sociologists agree that values influence both individual and collective behaviour and thereby influencing social processes. They also feel that values are the result of change and should not always be considered as a primary factor in the social change. The values of caste system like hierarchy, pollution, endogamy, etc. were a great barrier in changing Indian society.

Geographical mobility and consequently social mobility became possible only when technology and industrialisation were accepted by common people. Hard work and social change was also prevented by fatalism. Previously famines, floods, earthquakes, poverty, unemployment were all considered to be the result of God's wrath. But now in industrial societies, people have proved that some control over nature is possible and undesirable situation is a challenge to man's ingenuity.

Belief in the superiority of one's culture (Ethnocentrism) prevents people from accepting things / innovations from other

cultures. Ethnocentrism is so deeply embedded in the minds of Indians that they easily fall victim to evaluating others in terms of their own views even when they are sensitive to the philosophy of cultural relativism. Pride and dignity prevent people from accepting things / innovations suggested by others and discard them.

Caste System:

Caste system has been a great obstacle in achieving both justice and prosperity. Kingsley Davis said that the conception of hereditary occupation is exactly the opposite of the idea of open opportunities, free competition, increasing specialization and individual mobility associated with dynamic industrial economy.

Caste and sub-caste membership is one of the basis of the formation of factions. In rural areas factionalism is an important factor in the failure of development projects. In many areas where farmers belong to one caste, other castes do not wish to cooperate as it will not be directly beneficial to them. In areas where farmers are the ruling group, the development programme likewise fails to gain widespread acceptance. Any project that apparently aids one caste is opposed by all other castes who are either jealous of their position in society or eager to defend their own position at everyone else's expense. Like caste factions, the intra-caste factions also act as a barrier to social change.

Earlier, restrictions of caste system on interaction with people of other castes did not permit mobility and industrialisation. Today its use in politics has prevented rulers to function in constructive ways. William Kapp has also pointed out that Hindu culture and Hindu social organisations are determining factors in India's low rate of development. Milton Singer's contention is that there is no considerable evidence to indicate that Hindu culture and caste system have had any dampening effect on India's development. He describes Kapp's conclusions as largely speculative extrapolations derived from misunderstood scriptural concepts.

Illiteracy, Ignorance and Fear:

Ignorance caused by illiteracy creates fear which resists social change. Customary ways of doing things are preferred as they have been tried but new is unknown so it has to be avoided. Opinion about trial in villages or in simple societies is not so rationalistic.

People become accustomed to change and hostility to change tends to break down, if inventions are determined by the existing material culture and are frequent. But if material culture inventions are not frequent, change may be rare and feared. Educated people generate new ideas, desires, inventions, etc.,

along with developing means to achieve them. While illiteracy promotes hierarchy, education insists on the idea of equality and rationality.

5. Population Explosion:

The nation's potential for achieving the set goals is handicapped by explosion in our population. About 46,500 persons are added to our existing population every day, or 17 million persons every year, or 170 million people in a decade. The large and increasing population thus checks our efforts to contain poverty and bring about rapid development.

The Power Elite:

In our country government has been a principal agency of social change. Government agencies have stimulated and directed a good part of social change. The development of a society depends upon the type of political elite. So in government the innovative and reformist functions depend upon the power elite. Some are committed to community welfare, but many function on the grounds of vested interests.

Check your progress

Q- What are the obstacles in the path of social change?

6.6 PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

In general participation refers to people's involvement in particular projects or programmes. Participation means an overall development strategy focusing on the central role that people should play in all spheres of life. People's participation has become the central issue of current period and it means that people are closely involved in the economic, social and cultural and political processes that affect their lives. People have constant access to decision making and power. Participation is an essential element of human development. People in some cases may have complete and direct control over these processes while in other cases the control may be partial or indirect. Human development involves widening peoples choice and greater participation enables them to gain access to a much broader range of opportunities.

People can participate as individuals or groups. As an individual in a democracy he may participate as a voter, political activists, in the market as an entrepreneur or worker. They often participate more and more effectively through group action as members of a community organization or a trade union or a political party. Since participation requires increased influence and control, it also demands increased empowerment in economic, social and political terms. All these 3 forms of participation are interlinked and without one another they are incomplete. In economic terms it is being able to engage freely in any economic activity. In social terms it means being able to join fully in all forms of community life without regard to religion, colour or sex or race. In political terms it is the freedom to choose and change governance at every level from top to bottom.

Greater participation has an important part to play there. Participation from the human development perspective is both a means and an end. Human development stresses the need to invest in human capabilities and then ensure that those capabilities are used for the benefit of all. It helps to maximize the use of human capabilities and is a means of increasing levels of social and economic development. Human development is also concerned with personal fulfillment. So active participation which allows people to realize their full potential and make their best contribution to society is also an end in itself.

Many new windows of opportunities are opening. The rising environmental threat is reminding humanity of both its vulnerability and its compulsion for common survival on a fragile planet. Participation is a process and not a event. It will proceed at different levels for different regions and countries and its forms and extent may vary from one stage of development to another. The implications of widespread participation are profoundly embracing every aspect of development. Markets need to be reformed to offer everyone access to the benefits they can bring. Governance needs to be decentralized to allow greater access to decision making. Community organizations need to be allowed to exert growing influence on national and international issues. We must realize the fact that human development is the development of the people and for the people.

Check your progress

Q- Participation is an essential element of human development - explain.

6.7 PUBLIC OPINION

The word public is generally used to refer to a large group of people or is sometimes used as synonym for crowd. The members of the public need not gather together in one place. They may be dispersed and unknown to each other. According to Parker and Anderson a public is that form of collectivity that includes a number of dispersed and non-organized individuals who are faced with an issue about which there may be differences of opinion.

According to Kimball Young, "An opinion is a belief somewhat stronger or more intense than a mere notion or impression but less stronger than positive knowledge based on complete or adequate proof". Opinions are beliefs that one holds on issues and imply careful thought and consideration. They are based on some kind of information or evidence and not necessary that opinions should always be correct.

According to John Dewey, "Public opinion is judgment that is formed and entertained by those who constitute the public and is about public affairs".

Morris Ginsberg says, "By public opinion is meant the mass of ideas and judgments operative in a community which are more or less definitely formulated and have a certain stability and are felt by the people who entertain or hold them to be social in the sense that they are result of many minds acting in common".

The welfare of society is an essential characteristic of public opinion. Public opinion has a cultural base. The culture of a society influences public opinion. Public opinion is but concerned with a matter of public importance and not concerned with the interests of a particular group of people. Public opinion is for social welfare. Public opinion is arrived at after careful thought. It is the tentative deliberative adjustment of public to a situation. It is a cooperative product and is the logical view of things in a society.

Check your progress

Q- Explain how public opinion is important for the development of a society.

6.8 SUMMARY

Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behaviours, or social relations. Social change may refer to the notion of social progress or socio-cultural evolution. Social change may be driven by cultural, religious, economic, scientific or technological forces. Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behaviours, or social relations. As far as direction of social change in India is concerned, there has been considerable cultural continuity along with change based on imbibing modern values, practices and institutions. Traditional patterns have not been held static and modern behaviour is commonly fitted into long-standing pattern of action.

6.9 SELF-STUDY

1. Explain social change and the effects of it on the society?
2. Explain the factors of social change?
3. Discuss the obstacles coming in the path of social change?
4. Explain the need of people's participation in social change?
5. Write short note on Public Opinion.

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**Modified Pattern of Question Paper for Semester End Assessment implemented
from 2020-2021 For Rural Development courses at F.Y.B.A.**

Duration of examination = 3 hours

Total Marks = 100 (per semester)

All 5 questions carry 20 marks and are compulsory.
There will be internal choice in each Question.

Q1.Attempt any two questions (module 1)
20 marks

- A
- B
- C

Q2.Attempt any two questions (module 2)
20 marks

- A
- B
- C

Q3.Attempt any two questions (module 3)
20 marks

- A
- B
- C

Q4.Attempt any two questions (module 4)
20 marks

- A
- B
- C

Q5.Attempt any two questions (module 1 ,2,3,4. One question from each module)
20 marks

- A
- B
- C
- D