

Factors of Social Change

Lesson No.	Title	Activity
17	Factors of Social Change	Prepare a document outlining any three important factors that helped in the change and development of the country.

Summary

Society is dynamic and it gets changing continuously. Social change occurs due to various factors such as demographic, technological, cultural, political, economic and educational. These factors often act in concert resulting in changes either in a serial manner or something in parallel too.

Understanding broad factors of Social Change

- Change is a continuous process. Change takes place in all societies at all points of time. Sometime, the change is sudden as when a revolution occurs to replace the old order. At other times, change is gradual
- Social change occurs due to various factors. These can be broadly classified as: (I) **Endogenous**-refers to internal factors, refer to infrastructural facilities their distribution among people and their access to them.

(II) **Exogenous: This** refers to external factors of change. These factors can be beyond human control like diseases and unexpected changes in technology.

Various major factors that cause social change are: a. demographic b. technology c. cultural d. political e. economic f. education

Factors of Social Change

Demographic Factors

• Demographic factors mean the factors that are associated with the change in the numbers and composition of the population. Change in the size of population has deep impact on the economic life of the people which in turn may further affect other aspects of life. Increase in population creates problems of unemployment, malnutrition, poverty and accommodation. Hence, the balance between the size of population and natural resources of a country is important.

Technological Factors

• Technological advancement is one of the important causes of change in the society. Social change is more rapid in technologically more advanced societies. Technological innovation, discoveries and diffusion accelerate the pace of social change in a traditional society. Due to advancement in technology, simple division of labour in traditional societies has changed into complex form of division of labour. With industrialization, production moves out of households to factories and the occupational structure of workforce changed from largely agrarian to an increasingly larger industrial workforce.

Cultural Factors

• New cultural values and belief system can also produce social change. While materialistic changes, such as new technology, are easily adopted but changes in the non-materialistic aspects of society, such as culture, are very slow. Diffusion also takes place through mass media as it transmits and diffuses information to a large number of people. It has accelerated the process of change by spreading the elements of individual cultures to people far away and thus resulted in a form of cultural modernisation.

Political Factors

Political factors such as elections, legislations and public opinion etc. also play a crucial role in bringing about social change. Laws act as an instrument of socio-economic and political change in the society. However, laws alone cannot change long established belief systems and traditions in a given society. Mobilization of public opinion is also essential for the laws to be effective.

Economic Factors

Economic factors also influence the quantity and direction of social change. Karl Marx believed that social change results from the class struggle of bourgeois and proletariat. Marx was of the view that a revolution carried out by the workers against the capitalists would end the ills of capitalism and would lead to the establishment of a socialist society. Industrialization and Green Revolution also had far reaching effects across society.

Education

Education plays an important role in social change. It transmits traditions, culture, knowledge and skills from one generation to another; New ideas and values are initiated by it and become the goals for the young generation to pursue and achieve. Education also brings political awareness. Through education, governments try to communicate their national goals to the citizens in order to ensure cohesiveness and unity.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Discuss the demographic factors of social change.
2. What is cultural lag?
3. What do you understand by Green Revolution?
4. Explain Marxian view of social change.
5. Discuss the role of technology in bringing about social change