

Lesson 27

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

Summary

The changes which took place in the 19th century continued during the 20th century. Changes in demographic patterns, urbanizations etc. continued. There was rise of new social classes like Bourgeoisies and the working class. Changes in the social life of people were also witnessed. There was big gap between the rich and the poor. The city life was full of contrasts. On one hand there are huge apartments and on the other very small dwellings housing more than one family. The structure of family also underwent a change. All these resulted in the growth of popular movements in which people from different sections of the society participated.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

- The pattern of demographic changes continued into the 20th century.
- Sustained growth in world population throughout the 20th century.
- Demographic changes involved changes in patterns of human settlements and in distribution of population as well.

URBANIZATION

Growth of towns and a faster growth of town population as compared with rural population.

Shift of population from countryside to towns because of industrialization and greater economic opportunities in towns.

MODERN CLASS SOCIETY

- Capitalist industrialization resulted in the growth of modern class society
- Two new social classes also emerged, the bourgeoisie and working class.
- Peasants were important component of societies.
- The second half of the 20th century saw the disappearance of the peasantry throughout the western world
- Fall in peasantry resulted in crisis all over the developed nations.
- The **bourgeoisie** emerged as the dominant social class in the 20th century.
- The **middle class** included shopkeepers, managers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, teachers and those in services.
- **Lower middle classes** also came to prominence.

CITY AND SOCIAL LIFE

- The city and the social life have reflected the strong division of the rich and the poor.
- Changes in both nuclear and joint families with the penetration of capitalist industrialization.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND FEMINISM

- Opening of new avenues for women, both of the working class and the middle class.
- Suffragette movements became an important aspect of their assertions for equality.
- Rise of labour and socialist movements

CHANGES IN WORK PATTERNS

- When the factory system developed, work patterns changed.
- Elaborate system of factory discipline, rules and regulations were framed.
- Some of the big firms in the western countries have found that with computers it is possible to work from home and cheaper for them because they need not spend on office maintenance.
- Another set of changes has come from what is called out-sourcing.

Evaluate yourself-

- Q. Analyze the demographic changes in developed countries in 20th century.
- Q. Explain the changes that have taken place in family life during 20th century.
- Q. Analyze the modern society with regard to emergence of new classes.