INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
Chapter 6- Social Change and Social Order in Rural and Urban Society
(GRADE XI) Question Bank & Answer Key



Subtopics covered in this chapter:

-Introduction to Social change

- environment

- technology & economy

- politics

- culture

- social order

- contestation, crime and violence

- social order and social change in village, town and city

- social order and social change in rural areas

- social order and social change in urban areas



Q1: Define social change or what do you understand by the term social change
Answer: Social change refers to changes that are significant i.e., changes which alter the 'underlying structure of an object or situation over a period of time'.

Q2: What are the sources of social change?

Ans: There are 5 main sources of social change: environment, technological, political, economic and cultural.



Q3: Give the meaning of the term evolution

Ans: Evolution is the name given to a kind of change that takes place slowly over a long period of time. This term was made famous by the natural scientist Charles Darwin, who proposed a theory of how living organisms evolve- or change- slowly over several centuries or even millennia, by adapting themselves to natural circumstances.

Q4: What is revolutionary change? Ans: In contrast to evolutionary change, change that occurs comparatively quickly, even suddenly, is sometimes called 'revolutionary change'. It is used mainly in the political context, when the power structure of society changes very rapidly through the overthrow of former ruling class or group by its changers.

Q5: Give any two examples of revolutionary change Ans: The French Revolution (1789-93) and the Soviet or Russian Revolution of 1917 are examples of revolutionary changes.

Explain how religious beliefs can contribute to social change. Give **one example from India**.
Answer: Religious beliefs influence people's values, norms and behaviour, which can bring changes in social life. For example, the **Bhakti Movement** challenged aspects of the caste system and influenced medieval Indian social structure.

How did the changing position of women contribute to social change? Explain with **two examples**.
Answer: As women entered new areas of work and asserted their equality, their role in society changed. For example, during **World War II**, women worked in factories and operated heavy machinery, strengthening their claims to equality. Their growing importance as consumers also influenced **advertising and media**, which increasingly targeted women.

Q6: Give examples of technological evolution

Ans: The most famous instance of massive and immediately visible social change is the Industrial Revolution. The discovery of steam power allowed emerging forms of large-scale industry to use a source of energy that was not only far stronger than animals or human beings, but was also capable of continuous operation without the need for rest. When harnessed to modes of transport like the steam ship and the railway, it transformed the economy and social geography of the world. Another example closer to home is the case of technological innovations in the textile industry in Britain.

Q7: What is cultural change?

Ans: Culture is a short label for a wide field of ideas, values, beliefs that are important to people and help shape their lives. Changes in such ideas and beliefs lead naturally to changes in social life.

Q8: What do you understand by 'universal adult franchise'?

Ans: 'Universal adult franchise' means 'one person, one vote' principle. It is probably the single biggest political change in history.

Q9: How can technology bring social change?
Answer: Technology refers to the use of sophisticated methods to fulfil material needs which is capable of bringing vast changes in the society.
It changes the simple society into complex one. Social changes due to technology is being labelled as technological revolution.

4mark Questions:

Q1: Would you agree with the statement that rapid social change is a comparatively new phenomenon in human history? Give reasons for your answer. (Read only)
Answer:

- It is estimated that human beings have existed on planet earth for approximately 500.0 (five lakh) years, but they have had a civilized existence for only about 6.0 years.
- Of these civilized years, it is only in the last 400 years that we have seen constant and rapid changes.
- Even within these years of change, the pace has accelerated only in the last 100 years. Because the speed with which change happens has been increasing steadily, it is probably true that in the last hundred years, change has been faster in the last fifty years than in the first fifty.
- And within the last fifty years the world may have changed more in the last twenty years than in the first thirty years.

Q2: How is social change to be distinguished from other kinds of change?
Answer:

- Social change is a general term that refers to almost any kind of change not qualified by some other terms, such as economic or political change.
- Social change refers to changes that are significant, changes which alter the underlying structure of an object or situation over a period of time.
- Social change does not include any and all changes, but only changes which transform things fundamentally.
- Social change remains a very broad term. Attempts to further qualify it by its sources or causes: by its nature, or the kind of impact it has on society; and by its pace or speed.

Q4: Describe some kinds of environment -related social changes
Answer: 1. Nature, ecology and physical environment have always had a significant influence on the structure and shape of society.

2. This was particularly true in the past when human beings were unable to control or overcome the effects of nature. For example, people living in a desert environment were unable to practice settled agriculture of the sort that was possible in the plains, near rivers and so on. So, the kind of

food they ate or the clothes they wore, the way they earned their livelihood, their patterns of social interaction were all determined to a large extent by the physical and climatic conditions of their environment.

3. Sudden and catastrophic events such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, or tidal waves (like the tsunami that hit Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Andaman Islands and parts of Tamil Nadu in December 2004) can change societies quite drastically. These changes are often irreversible, that is, they are permanent and don't allow a return to the way things were.

4. There are numerous instances of natural disasters leading to total transformation and sometimes total destruction of societies in history. Environmental or ecological factors need not only be destructive to cause change, they can be constructive as well. For example- the discovery of oil in countries of the middle east.

Q5: "Society is not static phenomenon, instead it is subject to constant change." Discuss.
Answer: Social change is inevitable in social life and relationship. Evolutionary theories views society as moving in a definite direction and cause changes. Social changes may occur in the internal or external aspects of the structure of society.

External change also referred exogenous change relate to changes in forms of family, marriage, class, caste and kinship etc.

Internal changes also referred to as endogenous change relate to changes in the norms and values of the society.

The rate of change of internal aspects is always slow because the social norms, values and belief gradually become part of the core of personality.

6 marks questions on Social change:

Q1: What are some kinds of changes brought about by technology and the economy?

Technological and economic changes have brought about **significant social changes**, especially in the modern period. Some major changes are:

1. **Industrialisation:** The discovery of **steam power** enabled large-scale industries to use a continuous and powerful source of energy, replacing dependence on human and animal labour.
2. **Changes in transport: Steamships and railways** transformed the economy and social geography by making the movement of people and goods faster and more reliable.
3. **Expansion of trade and migration:** Improved transport encouraged the growth of **international trade and migration**, creating economic, social, cultural and demographic changes.

4. **Transformation of warfare and communication:** Inventions such as **gunpowder and paper** had limited impact initially but later became historically significant when combined with changing economic and social conditions.
5. **Changes in agriculture and labour: Plantation agriculture** involving cash crops such as tea, sugarcane and cotton created a huge demand for labour and altered patterns of migration.
6. **Impact in India:** The **railways** played an important role in shaping the Indian economy, while tea plantations in Assam led to the **forced migration of labour**, especially from Adivasi areas of eastern India.

Thus, technology and economic organisation can transform not only the economy but also the social, cultural and demographic structure of society.

Q2: What do you understand by 'structural change'? Explain with examples from the text.
Answer:

Structural change refers to transformations in the **structure of society**, including its **institutions and the rules by which they function**. It can occur due to changes in economic systems, values and beliefs.

1. **Change in financial institutions:** The emergence of **paper money** brought a major change in the organisation of financial markets and transactions.
2. **From precious metals to paper currency:** Earlier, coins were made of **gold and silver**, and their value was linked to the metal they contained.
3. **Trust-based currency:** Paper money has no intrinsic value. Its value depends on **trust and acceptance** as a medium of exchange.
4. **Change in ideas about childhood:** Social change can also result from changing **values and beliefs**. Earlier, children were often viewed as **'small adults'** rather than as a separate stage of life.
5. **Child labour:** During the 19th century, children often worked from a very young age, and the **early factory system depended heavily on child labour**.
6. **Recognition of childhood:** During the **19th and early 20th centuries**, childhood came to be recognised as a special stage of life. This led to **laws banning child labour** in many countries.

Thus, changes in institutions, values and beliefs can bring about significant structural changes in society.

Q3: How do demographic factors, education and legislation cause social change?
Answer:

1. - **Demographic factors:** Changes in **population size, growth and composition** influence society. Rapid population growth may lead to **unemployment, housing problems, poor sanitation and increased competition** for resources.
2. **Education:** Education promotes **knowledge, awareness and social participation**. It can change traditional **customs, beliefs and superstitions** and improve the **status of women**.

3. **Social legislation:** Laws can bring social change by **prohibiting harmful practices and protecting disadvantaged groups**. In India, laws relating to **SCs and STs** have contributed to social change.
4. **Role of social acceptance:** Legislation is more effective when it is supported by **social opinion and acceptance**. For example, laws against **child marriage** had limited impact where traditional practices continued to be strongly followed.

Thus, demographic changes, education and social legislation are important factors responsible for social change.

O4. **What is meant by social order and how is it maintained? (6mks)**

Ans: Social order, is the tendency within established social systems to **resist and regulate** change. Social order prevents, discourages, or at least controls change.

-In order to **establish itself as a strong and viable social system**, every society must be able to reproduce itself over time and maintain its stability. **Stability** requires that things continue more or less as they are – that people continue to follow the same rules, that similar actions produce similar results, and more generally, that individuals and institutions behave in a fairly predictable manner.

-The **ruling or dominant groups in society generally resist any social changes** that may alter their status, because they have a vested interest in stability. On the other hand, the **subordinated or oppressed groups have a vested interest in change**.

-While **socialization** does take on much of the burden of producing social order, it is never enough by itself. Thus, most modern societies must also depend on some form of power or coercion to ensure that institutions and individuals conform to established social norms.

Q5. What is authority and how is it related to domination and the law? (4mks)

Ans: **Authority is defined by Max Weber as legitimate power**, i.e. power considered to be justified or proper. For example, a police officer, a judge, or a school teacher all exercise different kinds of authority as part of their jobs. This authority is explicitly provided to them by their official job description. There are written documents specifying their authority, and what they may and may not do.

- A **law is an explicitly codified norm or rule**. Law forms the formal body of rules according to which society will be governed. Laws apply to all citizens. Whether or not an individual agrees with a particular law, it has binding force on all citizens, regardless of their beliefs.

- **Domination** works through power, but much of this power is actually legitimate power or authority and a large part of which is codified in law.

Q6. How are a village, town and city distinguished from each other? (4mks)

Answer: Villages are a unit of the rural community, where rural life upholds itself and perform its functions. It is simple community based on agriculture. Villages are the end product of nomadic ways of life based on hunting, gathering food and transient agriculture to a more settled form of life. Social changes are slow and gradual.

In contrast, a city has a large population, high density of population, heterogeneity predominantly engaged in non-agricultural occupations. Their life is complex and multidimensional. These are mostly commercial hubs. Social changes in cities are quick and drastic.

A town on the other hand is different from a city in terms of its administrative definition. A town and city are basically the same sort of settlement, differentiated by size- a town being much smaller than a city.

Q7: What are some features of social order in rural areas? (6mks)

Answer: • **Villages are small in size so they usually permit more personalized relationships**; it is not unusual for members of a village to know all or most other members by sight.

• The **social structure in villages** tends to follow a more **traditional pattern**: institutions like caste, religion, and other forms of customary or traditional social practices are stronger here. • For these reasons, unless there are special circumstances that make for an exception, change is slower to arrive in villages than in towns.

• The **subordinate sections of society have much less scope for expressing themselves** in rural areas than their counterparts in cities. The lack of anonymity and distance in the village makes it difficult for people to dissent because they can be easily identified and 'taught a lesson' by the dominant sections.

• **The relative power of the dominant sections is much more** because they control most avenues of employment, and most resources of all kinds, so the poor have to depend on the dominant sections since there are no alternative sources of employment.

• If there is a strong power structure already in place in a village, it is very difficult to dislodge it. **Change in the sense of shifts in power are thus slow and late to arrive** in rural areas because the social order is stronger and more resilient.

• However, **communication links of other sorts (road, rail) have also generally improved** over time so that a few villages can really claim to be 'isolated' or 'remote'.

Q8: What are some features of social order in urban areas? (6mks)

Answer: • **High population density** places a great premium on space and creates very complex problems of logistics. It is the **primary task of the urban social order to ensure the spatial viability** of the city.

• This means the **organization and management of things like: housing and residential patterns**; mass transit systems for transporting, large number of workers to and from for work; arranging for the coexistence of residential, public and industrial land-use zones.

• All the **public health, sanitation, policing, public safety and monitoring are needs of urban governance**. These function as a huge undertaking in itself and present formidable challenges of planning, implementation and maintenance.

• The **divisions and tensions of class, ethnicity, religion, caste** and so on are also present and active.

• **Lack of housing for the poor leads to homelessness**, and the phenomenon of 'street people' – those who live and survive on the streets and footpaths, under bridges and flyovers, abandoned buildings and other empty spaces. It is also the leading cause for the **emergence of slums**.

• Because of the **absence of 'settled' property rights** of the kind seen elsewhere, slums are the natural **breeding ground for 'dadas' and strongmen** who impose their authority on the people who live there.

Q9: Explain why urban areas can be a site for communal tensions? (2mks)

Ans: • Residential areas in cities all over the world are almost always segregated by class, and often also by race, ethnicity, religion and other such variables. Tension between such identities cause these segregation patterns and are also a consequence.

• For example, in India, communal tensions between religious communities, most commonly Hindus and Muslims, results in the conversion of mixed neighbourhoods into single-community ones.

Question 10: Explain the phenomenon of 'gated communities' found in Indian cities.

Ans: The worldwide phenomenon of 'gated communities' is also found in Indian cities. This refers to the creation of affluent neighbourhoods that are separated from their surroundings by walls and gates, with controlled entry and exit. Such communities also have their own parallel civic facilities, such as water and electricity supply, policing and security.

Q11: Explain in brief the following concepts

-**Authority**: It refers to a person who has inherent power to give reward and punishment. According to Max Weber, authority refers to legitimate power.

-**Traditional authority**: It emphasizes social values, beliefs and continuity. Family based on kinship are its example. It maintains the social order and brings desired changes according to social demands.

-**Conformity**: It is a type of social influence in which individuals change their attitude or behaviour in order to adhere to existing social norms.

- **Ghettoisation**: It is the process of creation of ghettoes through the conversion of mixed composition neighbourhoods into single community neighbourhoods.

- **Contestation:** It refers to broad forms of insistent disagreement. It is a situation in which people tend to protest against or refuse to conform to existing social norms.

-**City:** A city is the core of metropolitan area. It has a large population, high density of population, heterogeneity, predominantly engaged in non-agricultural occupations.

- **Suburb**: It is a community situated just on the outskirt of a city having low population density and smaller population. It is located in the metropolitan area

Social Change: MCQ's

1. According to the text, how has the sociological perspective on history shifted regarding the role of monarchs?

A) Individual actions of kings and queens are considered entirely irrelevant to history. B) History is now written without any reference to political leadership. C) Monarchs are now viewed as the sole architects of social change.

D) Monarchs are seen as representatives of broader social, political, and economic trends.

2. In the context of the US-Japan relationship following World War II, what was an immediate social consequence of warfare and occupation?

A) The immediate rejection of all American industrial techniques by the Japanese.

B) The implementation of land reform in Japan under US occupation.

C) The immediate adoption of Japanese management principles by the US.

D) The total isolation of Japan from global industrial trends.

3. How did the relationship between Japanese and American industry change between the 1970s and 1990s?

A) American industries forced Japan to restructure its management principles.

B) Japan became entirely dependent on American heavy engineering.

C) Both nations abandoned car manufacturing to focus on electronics.

D) Japanese industrial technology and production organization decisively altered the US industrial landscape.

4. The text cites the Indian independence movement and the 2006 Nepali movement as examples of:

A) The failure of social change to occur through political means.

B) The strengthening of monarchical rule through social movements.

C) Domestic political changes that have enormous social impact.

D) International warfare leading to technological seeds of change.

5. From a sociological perspective, how is political change generally defined in the text?

A) As the maintenance of divine right for the ruling elite.

B) As a process that occurs independently of economic trends.

C) As the redistribution of power across different social groups and classes.

D) As the simple replacement of one king with another.

6. Which of the following best describes the historical limitations of the franchise before it became universal?

A) It was restricted to specific racial, ethnic, or high-status social groups and property owners.

B) It was available to all men regardless of class, but denied to women. ,

C) It was mandatory for all citizens under monarchical rule.

D) It was granted to all working-class people but denied to the wealthy.

7. Why is universal adult franchise considered a 'powerful norm' in modern society, according to the text?

A) Because it has successfully abolished all social and economic inequalities.

B) Because it forces governments to at least appear to seek the approval of the people to be considered legitimate.

C) Because it is the only way that kings and queens can claim divine right.

D) Because it ensures that elections can never be manipulated.

*Kindly refer to the MCQ's discussed and posted in class group for other sub sections.

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