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|  | INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR  TERM 2: Chapter 6- Social Change and Social Order in Rural and Urban Society  (GRADE XI) Question Bank & Answer Key NCERT Solutions |

#### **Class 11 Sociology Very Short Answer Type Questions on the sub-topic Social Change**

**Question 1: 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’.

**Question 2: What are the sources of social change?**

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

**Question 3: 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.

**Question 4: 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.

**Question 5: 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.

**Question 6: 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.

**Question 7: 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.

**Question 8: 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.

**Question 9: 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:**

**Question 1 (Read only): Would you agree with the statement that rapid social change is a comparatively new phenomenon in human history? Give reasons for your answer.**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.

**Question 2: How is social change to be distinguished from other kinds of change? (write)**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.

**Question 4: Describe some kinds of environment -related social changes (write)**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.

**Question 5: “Society is not static phenomenon, instead it is subject to constant change.” Discuss. (Read only)**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:**

**Question 1: What are some kinds of changes brought about by technology and the economy?** (write)  
Answer: 1. The combination of technological and economic change has been responsible for immense social changes, especially in the modern period.

2. Technology affects society in a wide variety of ways. As seen above, it can help us to resist, control, adapt to or harness nature in different ways. In combination with the very powerful institution of the market, technological change can be as impressive in its social impact as natural factors like a tsunami or the discovery of oil.

3. The discovery of steam power allowed emerging forms of large-scale industry to make use of 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.

4. Modes of transport like the steam, ship and the railways transformed the economy and social geography of the world.

5. The rail, road enabled the westward expansion of industry and trade on the American continent and in Asia. In India too, the railways have played a very important role in shaping the economy, specially in the first century after their introduction in 1853.

6. Steamships made ocean voyages much faster and much more reliable, thereby  
changing the dynamics of international trade and migration. Both these developments created gigantic ripples of change which affected not only the economy but also the social, cultural and demographic dimensions of world 3 society.

7. Sometimes, the social impact of technological changes become visible only retrospectively. A technological invention or discovery may produce limited immediate effects, as though it were lying dormant. Some later change in the economic context may suddenly change the social significance of the same invention and give it recognition as a historic event. Examples of this are the discovery of gunpowder and writing paper in China, which had only limited impact for centuries until they were inserted into the context of modernizing Western Europe.

8. From that vantage point, given the advantage of enabling circumstances, gunpowder helped to transform the technology of warfare and the paper-print revolution changed society forever.

9. Sometimes changes in economic organization that are not directly technological can also change society. In a well-known historical example, plantation agriculture, that is, the growing of single cash crops like sugarcane, tea or cotton on a large scale created a heavy demand for labour.

10. In India, too, the tea plantations of Assam involved the forced migration of labour from Eastern India (specially the Adivasi areas of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh).

**Question 2: What do you understand by ‘structural change’? Explain with examples other than those in the text. (write)**Answer:

* Structural change refers to transformations in the structure of society- to its institutions or the rules by which these institutions are run.
* For example, the emergence of paper money as currency marked a major change. in the organization of financial markets and transactions. Until this change came  
  about, most forms of currency involved precious metals like gold and silver.
* The value of the coin was directly linked to the value of the gold or silver it contained.
* By contrast, the value of a paper currency note has no relationship to the value of the paper it is printed on, or the cost of its printing.
* The idea behind paper money was that a medium or means for facilitating the exchange of goods and services need not itself be intrinsically valuable. As long as it represents values convincingly i.e., as long as it inspires trust – almost anything can function as money.
* Changes in values and beliefs can also lead to social change.
* For example, changes in the ideas and childhood have brought about many types of social changes. There was a time when children were simply considered small adults. There was no special concept of childhood as such with its associated notions of what was right or wrong for children to do.
* As late as in 19th century, for example, it was considered good and proper that children do work as soon as they are able to. Children were often helping their families at work from the age of five or six; the early factory system depended on the labour of children.
* It was during the 19th and early 20th centuries that ideas of childhood as a special stage in life gained influence and it was unthinkable for small children to be at work. Many countries passed laws banning child labour.

**Question 3: How do demographic factors, education and social legislation cause social change? (write)**Answer:

-Population growth, its size and composition cause social change. When population starts multiplying, unemployment, housing, cleanliness and hygiene, poor economic condition, severe stress due to competition.

Education is one of the core factors which has far reaching consequences on the evolution and progress of individual and society by and large. Modern educational system aims at imparting empirical knowledge. Education enables the members to participate effectively in social domains.­

-Education can bring radical changes in the status of women. Modern education has brought significant changes in customs, traditions, superstitions and beliefs of people in the society.

-Social legislation has brought significant changes in society if it is supported by  
social opinion.

-After independence in India many legislations have been passed. Of the many, a few could bring about significant changes e.g. legislation related to SCs and STs. But there are many which are implemented. It could not bring about significant changes particularly in the rural society like ‘Sharda Act’ related to child marriage.

It is in all these ways that social change is brought about due to demographic factors, education and social legislation.

  