



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

OVERVIEW OF THE 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 and what are its sources?

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

Q2: 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.

Q3: What is revolutionary change with examples? 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. The French Revolution (1789-93) and the Soviet or Russian Revolution of 1917 and industrial revolution are examples of revolutionary changes.

Q4: Give two examples of technological revolution

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** that massively impacted the Indian handloom industry.

Q5: 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 are being labelled as technological revolution.

Q6: What is cultural change? Explain it with an example.

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. For example-

Q7: What do you understand by ‘universal adult franchise’? Why was it considered a significant social change?

Ans: ‘Universal adult franchise’ means ‘one person, one vote’ principle. It is probably the single biggest political change in history because it served as a powerful norm that exerted pressure on every society and government. Governments in order to appear legitimate must seek approval of its citizens and this has brought about massive social changes in its wake.

Q8: How is social change to be distinguished from other kinds of change? (4mks)

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.

Q9: Describe some kinds of environment -related social changes (4mks)

Ans: **Nature, ecology and physical environment have always had a significant influence on the structure and shape of society.** 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.

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. There are numerous instances of **natural disasters leading to total transformation and sometimes total destruction of societies in history.**

But 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.

Q10: "Society is not static phenomenon, instead it is subject to constant change." Discuss. (4mks)

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 slower because the social norms, values and belief gradually become part of the core of personality.

Q11: What are some kinds of changes brought about by technology and the economy? (6mks)

Answer: The combination of technological and economic change has been responsible for immense social changes, especially in the modern period.

-Technology affects society in a wide variety of ways. 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 disasters like a tsunami (destructive) or the discovery of oil (constructive).

Example 1- 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. Modes of transport like the steamship and the railways transformed the economy and social geography of the world.

Example 2-The **railroad enabled the westward expansion of industry** and trade on the American continent and in Asia.

Some later change in the economic context suddenly changed the social significance of the same invention and gave 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.

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.

Question 12: What do you understand by ‘structural change’? Explain with examples other than those in the text. (read only)

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.

Q13: Explain how religion brings about a change in the socio-cultural aspects of society (4marks)

Answer: Some scholars have tended to define civilizations in religious terms and have seen history as the process of interaction between religions.

Take the most famous example of Max Weber's study on 'The Protestant Ethic and the spirit of capitalism' where he showed how the religious beliefs of some Protestant sects helped establish the capitalist social system. Weber's study shows the impact of cultural values on economic and social change.

In India too, we find many examples of religion bringing about social change. Among the best known are the impact of Buddhism on social and political life in ancient India, and the widespread influence of the Bhakti Movement on medieval social structure including the caste system.

However, as with other important factors of social change, religion too is contextual i.e. it is able to produce effects in some contexts but not in others.

Q14: What is meant by social order and how is it maintained? (6marks)

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.

Q15: What is authority and how is it related to domination and the law? (4marks)

Ans: **Authority is defined by Max Weber as legitimate power**, that is, 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.

Q16: How are a village, town and city distinguished from each other? (4marks)

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

Q17: What are some features of social order in rural areas? (6marks)

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'.

Q18: What are some features of social order in urban areas? (6marks)

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.

Q19: 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 ghettos 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 outskirts of a city having low population density and smaller population. It is located in the metropolitan area

Q20: 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 21: 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.
