4. Processes of Social Change in India

INTRODUCTION

In the previous year you learnt about the concept of social change, its characteristics and factors that bring about change. You will recall the impact of demographic, natural, educational, economic and socio-cultural factors responsible for social change. These are to be borne in mind when we discuss the processes of social change that have influenced Indian society and continue to do so even today.

Activity 1

Identify any four cities and study data about their industrial growth. Present your findings to your class and follow it with a discussion.

4.1 INDUSTRIALISATION

Industrialisation

When we speak of industrialisation as a process of social change, the industrial revolution of the 17th and 18th century Europe comes to mind. It was a process whereby there was a change in the production process as a result of the use of heavy machinery and which led to the decline of guilds on one hand and growth and expansion of factories on the other. This process spread from Europe to other regions of the world.

Definitions of industrialisation

☞ *B. Kuppuswamy :* "Industrialisation means the use of unbiotic power such as electricity and steam for the mass production of goods and easy transportation and communication."

☞ *Fairchild :* "Industrialisation is the process of technological development by the use of applied science, characterized by the expansion of large scale production with the use of power machinery, for a wide market for both."

☞ "Industrialisation is a process of social and economic change whereby a human society is transformed from a State pre-industrial to an industrial."

Characteristics of industrialisation

(1) Growth of industries : This is a significant characteristic of industrialisation. A spurt in the growth of factories and industries is apparant. You will recall learning in Standard XI Sociology, about Industrial Revolution in England, the Feudal system as well as the Guild system. There is necessarily a shift from handmade products which were produced within the environs of one's home or shop, to machine-made products manufactured in factories.

(2) Mechanisation : The development of industries led to the mechanisation of

workplaces. Mechanisation also implied the use of precision techniques and accuracy in production. This in turn led to mass production due to which machine-made goods were much cheaper than handmade products. Workers began to be replaced by machines. Also, mechanisation led to workers feeling alienated from the process of production.

(3) Capital-intensive : When one thinks of industries today, there is intense mechanisation and automation. Due to advances in science and technology, industrial processes are largely automated. The extent of automation would naturally depend on financial resources available.

(4) Labour-intensive : Early industries required skilled and unskilled human workforce to complete various tasks at all levels. The need for skilled workforce demanded skill-specific training of apprentices at the workplace. Later, special institutes came to be established to impart technical education and also for professional education. For example, institutes for management training, colleges and universities offering courses in Engineering, Pure Sciences, Organisational and Industrial Psychology etc.

(5) Division of labour : With changes in the production processes brought in because of industrialisation, various tasks came to be assigned on the basis of specific skills, level of training, specialisation and expertise. This led to differential wage payment and it furthered the formation of economic classes and the subsequent growth of the trade union movement.

Activity 2

Get 4 volunteers from your class to share their experiences (physical environment, economic life, customs, food, religious practices etc.) in a rural village or city, in 5-7 minutes each. They may make a PPT with visuals to support their presentations. Follow up with a class discussion.

| 4.2 | URBANISATION |

Urbanisation

One of the inevitable effects of industrial growth is the emergence of towns, cities that eventually grow into a metropolis. Modern urbanisation was the result of industrialisation. It is the opportunities of work that attracted people to urban areas, thus giving momentum to large scale exodus of people from villages to cities. It led to urbanism – which is a typical feature of urban living.

Definitions of urbanisation

☞ *Anderson :* Urbanisation is a two-way process that involves movement from villages to cities and change from agricultural occupation to business, trade, service and profession and change in the migrants attitudes, beliefs, values and behavioural patterns.

☞ *Thomas Warren :* (in the Encyclopedia of Social Sciences) has defined urbanisation as "the movement of people from communities concerned chiefly or solely with agriculture to other communities, generally larger, whose activities are primarily centred in government, trade, manufacture or allied interests".

☞ *Marvin Olsen :* Urbanisation must consist of an inward flow of large number of people from scattered rural areas to urban communities.

Characteristics of urbanisation

(1) Migration to urban centres : The gradual emergence of factories led to the migration of people from rural and tribal

areas, to the factory locations. This in turn, led to gradual increase in the number of families living in and around the factories. Over a period of time, it led to population growth and residences around the factories. Even today, the flux of people from all over the country continuously, is reaching the urban centres in search of work. This movement of people for the purpose of employment has resulted into cities getting overpopulated. Such cities are expanding, turning into metropolises. For example, Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur.

(2) Industrial growth and commutation : Industrial growth is an essential feature of urban centres today. India has had earlier phases of urbanisation. Migration as a result of industrial expansion led to 'spatial segregation', which means, the place of residence and one's place of work drift apart with the passage of time. It is not uncommon to find people in large cities, spending 3-4 hours in commuting to and from the workplace.

(3) Heterogeneity : Urbanisation led to a heterogeneous gathering of people of different gender, sexuality, caste, creed, class, language, and so forth. This heterogeneous co-existence has led to break down of several traditional barriers, where one's contribution becomes more valued.

(4) Urbanism as a way of life : Louis Wirth used the phrase "urbanism as a way of life" to describe what urbanisation *does* to people living in urban areas. They develop a certain way of life which is typical of the urban mind-set: distant, secondary-type relations, calculative, independent, rational, less impact of traditions, family, religion, customs etc.

(5) Civil administration : Urbanisation implies controls and obligations that are not administered by traditional bodies such as panchayats but municipal corporations. Such bodies are responsible for planning, development and redevelopment of urban areas. There are secondary modes of security control. For example, law enforcement systems such as traffic signals, city police, etc.

(6) Specialised division of labour : Skills, training, specialisation and super specialisation carry a special significance in the urban scenario. Division of labour is based on one's skills and expertise. For example, in a factory, different managers are appointed for specific tasks - production, finance, marketing, sales, advertising etc. Even within these specific areas, the work is further divided, based on skills and specialisation.

4.3   MODERNISATION

The term modernisation was coined by Daniel Lerner. When one uses the term modernisation, it may be with reference to an individual or group, or even to society as a whole. There is often a tendency to think of modernisation in economic terms. However, along with the reference to economic life, modernisation can also be understood in terms of social life, technology, polity, culture, education and so forth. Modernisation has led to changes in values, beliefs and norms. Given below are some definitions of modernisation.

Definitions of Modernisation

☞ *Daniel Lerner :* "Modernisation is the current term of an old process of social change whereby less developed societies acquire the characteristics, common to more developed

societies."

👉 ***Rustow and Ward :*** "Modernisation is the application of modern science to human affairs."

👉 ***Alatas :*** "Modernisation is a process by which modern scientific knowledge is introduced in the society with the ultimate purpose of achieving a better and more satisfactory life in the broadest sense of the term, as accepted by the society concerned."

Characteristics of modernisation

(1) Scientific temperament : This refers to the development of a scientific way of understanding and explaining any phenomenon. This may come from an education that is based on scientific methods and an emphasis on the need for empirical evidence in support of given arguments.

(2) Rational outlook : This is linked to the notion of rationalism; the approach and ability to provide logical explanations for any phenomenon. Scientific reasoning explains causal relationships (i.e. cause and effect relationship) between factors. There is a shift to secular and rational values from spiritual-religious values.

(3) Technological advancement : Several definitions of modernisation tend to emphasise on the fact of advancement in the use of technology, which in turn is a characteristic of industrial societies. It calls for precision techniques, specialised skills and accuracy.

(4) Openness to new ideas : There is a willingness to receive new ideas, examine alternatives, find new pathways, to explore creative ways to solve problems. Being 'modern' cannot be limited to only using modern devices or gadgets.

(5) Critical thinking : This refers to the ability of critical evaluation. Persons who claim to be modern are willing to examine daily events, literature, culture, art, customs, beliefs from a critical point of view and be able to explain the constructive and destructive aspects of a phenomenon. Self-criticism, willingness to introspect critically, is also an aspect of critical thinking.

Activity 3

Conduct a 2-minute extempore speech competition in class on the topic: 'Modernisation may be perceived as a challenge in a traditional society.'

4.4 GLOBALISATION

Globalisation

The process of globalisation in the Indian context received an impetus in 1991, when Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Finance Minister of India put into effect the New Economic Policy. It was popularly called the 'LPG Policy' – Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. It is a process that 'opened up the skies' for Indian economy. India became part of a wider global economic world where there could be free trade, free flow of capital and resources, free enterprise etc. This economic policy brought in much scepticism and criticism. Globalisation has had several positive and negative consequences. Let us understand the nature of globalisation.

Definitions of globalisation

👉 ***Martin Albrow and Elizabeth King :*** Globalisation refers to "all those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into a single world society".

👉 ***Anthony Giddens :*** "Globalisation

worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa".

👉 **Roland Robertson :** Globalisation is "the compression of the world and the intensification of the consciousness of the world as a whole".

Characteristics of globalisation

(1) Liberal principle : The principle of 'laissez faire' is an integral aspect of globalisation as a process of change. In the economic context it refers to opening up of the economy to private players. This is called the process of **liberalisation**. Such a process brought together people from all walks of life.

> **'Laissez-faire' :** The term is originally a French term which literally translates as "let do". In the context of economics, the term has come to mean free trade and free competition. It is a doctrine that opposed governmental interference in the economic sphere.

(2) Private enterprise : Privatisation is an allied process that accompanies globalisation. It is a process where services which were previously subject to government control, were opened up for private service providers in the fields like healthcare, insurance, radio, television, education etc.

(3) Profit motive : One of the main motives for privatisation is to make profits. With globalisation, there has been a sharp increase in competition in every field. There are more opportunities and options available to aspiring individuals. It has encouraged many service providers to indulge in profiteering. For example, numerous private educational institutions, which operate like business houses.

(4) Marketisation : Globalisation also led to increase in production. This in turn has led to large-scale marketisation. For example, if one goes to a large shopping mart, you will find rows of products of a wide variety. Large-scale markets have provided people with options to choose from. It has indeed resulted in increased consumerism, and thus made us more materialistic.

(5) Interdependence : You have heard the term 'global economy'. How has it affected us all? It has made all people and nations interdependent. We have numerous examples of parts of a product being manufactured in one country and assembled in faraway places.

(6) Knowledge distribution : Globalisation is characterised by sharing of resources. This includes the sharing of technological know-how, made easier by digital transformation across borders. We are familiar with the concept of 'outsourcing'; it is the way by which people go beyond geographical borders: people having required skills and training get opportunities to perform specific tasks, without moving out from their location. For example, Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) in India operating for American, British, Canadian firms.

> ### Activity 4
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> Given below is a way of finding out about people's lives. It is called *narrative research*. It is all about hearing people's stories.
>
> Few volunteers from your class may speak to 1-2 small shops in the area and find out about their business. When did it start? Who started it? Are there changes in their sales? Are there changes in people's behaviour? Are there any problems faced by the sellers? If so, what are they?
>
> Write about their stories in about 200-300 words. Share with your class. See if you can see a pattern of experiences or behaviour.

Digitalisation

Digitalisation is the use of digital technologies for handling data of various nature for various purposes. It involves the process of digital transformation – which is basically a process to "radically improve performance or the reach of business". This term 'digital transformation' was coined by CapGemini (a French data processing company) and the Centre for Digital Business of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. This includes overhauling the process, operations and customer relationships.

Definitions of digitalisation

👉 Digitalisation is the integration of digital technologies into everyday life by the digitisation of everything that can be digitised.

👉 **Brennen and Kreiss :** Digitalisation is "the way in which many domains of social life are restructured around digital communication and media infrastructures".

👉 **Gartner :** "Digitalisation is the use of digital technologies to change a business model and provide new revenue and value producing opportunities".

Characteristics of digitalisation

(1) Computerisation : There is an expansion of the use of computers in all walks of life. Processes which were earlier manual or cumbersome, have now been simplified through programming, information technology and computer science. This has aided the process of computerisation, which in turn has digitised processes for several sectors, for example, education, banking, revenue, taxation, marketing etc.

(2) Frequent change : Digitalisation had led to frequent changes in business models due to growth in newer technologies. Have you heard of the use of AI or Artificial Intelligence for various purposes such as production, manufacturing, surgery, robotics, designing?

(3) Speed and accuracy : Digitalisation has escalated the speed of the processes with a far greater extent of accuracy. For example data mining, data processing, data analysis, data management enables faster speeds, higher degrees of accuracy and these in turn aid the process of enhanced efficiency in various sectors – governance, medicine, trade, commerce, banking, insurance, real estate, stock markets, communication and transportation systems.

(4) Technology driven : Needless to say, digitalisation is based on technology, innovation, research and development. You might recall the days when one used 386 and 486 microprocessers in the 1980s; and today we talk of fifth generation microprocessors; in the world of mobile technology one is now shifting to 5G technologies.

(5) Spurred creativity : The need for instant data and quick solutions to problems, has encouraged human minds to invent, innovate, patent and create. For example even in the field of education, we are working towards integrating technology for the purpose of education in the 21st century. In the context of pilot training, we have simulators to enable the trainees get a feel of the real cockpit experience before they graduate to actually flying aeroplanes. It would have had to be a creative mind that invented the cockpit simulator.

(6) Importance to customers : Digitalisation is finally meant to have utility

value to the end users, i.e. the clients who are recipients of such processes. For example, for filing Income Tax returns, obtaining both Birth and Death certificate from the Municipal Corporation, for On-line admission, for declaration of Election results, etc – all of these processes make use of digitalisation and it has radically transformed the processes, compared to those used just a few decades ago.

Activity 5

Identify any three Higher Secondary School teachers in your locality or school. Collect information about (a) the subject they teach, (b) their qualifications (c) number of years of teaching experience, (d) whether they have computers in their school/college, (e) whether they use computers and if yes, for what purpose? Report your findings in class.

4.6 IMPACT OF PROCESSES OF SOCIAL CHANGE ON INDIAN SOCIETY

We have learnt about the processes of industrialisation, urbanisation, modernisation, globalisation and digitalisation. Although industrial development, urban growth and modernisation got a boost with the effects of British rule on Indian society, the processes of globalisation and digitalisation are relatively recent. These processes are not uniformly spread across the length and breadth of the country.

Let us examine some aspects of their impact.

(1) Impact of Industrialisation : The process of industrial growth led to large-scale emergence of factories. This in turn resulted in migration to places nearer the factory sites, leading to the growth of towns, which soon became cities and then metropolitan cities. With the growth of cities we have the breakdown of joint families and the shrinking size of families. The advantages of the joint family system are not always available in nuclear homes. Likewise, some disadvantages of large-size families may not be found in smaller homes.

(2) Impact of Urbanisation : In terms of the hold of customs, traditions, religion on people's behaviour, this too has diminished. The urban environment and way of life is more materialist, radical, commercial, individualist and non-conforming. Urbanisation has led to the notion of being "lonely in a crowd". The challenges of urban living are quite different from the environment in a traditional society.

(3) Impact of Modernisation : The role of education in demolishing obsolete notions, beliefs and superstitions have paved a way for developing a scientific temperament. The debate of tradition versus modernity still continues.

(4) Impact of Globalisation : In post-1991 India, the impact of the world economy on Indian society has brought about numerous changes too. India is now an integral part of the global economy. Globalisation had led to criss-crossing between nations in terms of knowledge, technical expertise, know-how, human resources etc. We are beset with the positive and negative impact of globalisation.

Activity 6

'Globalisation has a positive effect on Indian society.' Form two teams of four students each, and conduct a class debate. The teacher may prepare a black board summary of the learning points. It can be followed by an open discussion of observations made by students.

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(5) Impact of Digitalisation : This is also the era of computerisation and digitalisation. The impact of changes resulting from these two processes have had far-reaching changes in

Indian society in terms of access to knowledge, artificial intelligence, e-governance, e-commerce, e-learning, e-trade, e-shopping etc., the list is endless. The click of a button can open up a range of options to the user through a very simple procedure. While digitalisation has speeded up the processes of data mining and data management, it has also led to various challenges such as the impact of big industries on smaller ones; the impact on marketing, consumer behaviour, effect on educational and job prospects, greater accountability and its effects, questions relating to individual privacy in the web-world, etc. A result of digitalisation has been an increase in social networking.

SUMMARY

- Indian society has undergone many changes. Sociologists have studied these changes and identified concepts to explain these changes.
- Industrialisation is a process whereby human energy to produce was replaced by mechanical process and machines to enable higher production.
- Urbanisation is the process of migration of people from rural to urban areas. Louis Wirth refers to 'Urbanism as a way of life'.
- Modernisation is the process where there is the use of scientific and rational thinking that is deep seated.

- Globalisation is basically an economic process that has opened the markets to a global economy.
- Digitalisation is a process of the impact of computers on various aspects of life.
- The impact of these processes are far reaching and wide – on family, religion, traditions and customs, lifestyle, occupations, understanding of gender, emergence of economic disparity among classes.

EXERCISES

Q.1 (A) Complete the following statements by choosing the correct alternative given in the bracket and rewrite it.

(1) The use of computers to streamline job applications is called ___ .
(industrialisation, globalisation, digitalisation)

(2) An urban way of life is characterised by ___. (cohesiveness, uniformity, impersonality)

(B) Correct the incorrect pair and rewrite it.

(i) Competitive market - Computerisation

(ii) Growth of cities - Urbanisation

(iii) Increase in production - Industrialisation

(iv) Radical transformative use of technology - Digitalisation

(C) Identify the appropriate term from the given options in the box and rewrite it against the given statement.

Urbanism, Industrialisation, Digitalisation

(1) The FYJC On-line Admission process in metropolitan cities.

(2) Mechanisation of the process of production.

(D) Correct the underlined words and complete the statement.

(1) The Industrial Revolution took place in the <u>sixteenth</u> century.

(2) The LPG Policy was started by <u>Smt. Indira Gandhi</u>.

Q.2 Write short notes.

(1) Negative effects of digitalisation
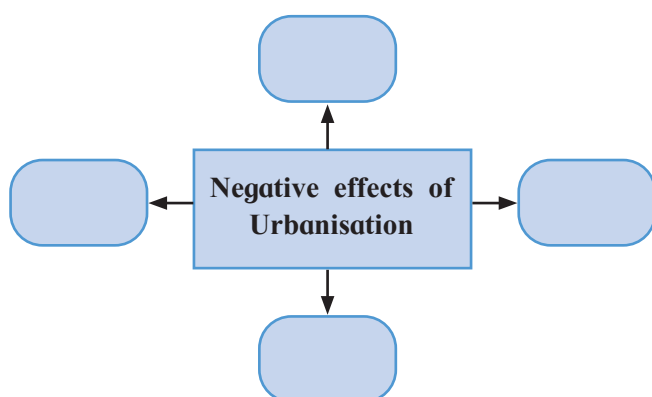
(2) Consequences of industrialisation

Q.3 Write differences.

(1) Industrialisation and Urbanisation

(2) Modernisation and Globalisation

Q.4 Explain the following concepts with examples.

(1) Digitalisation

(2) Urbanisation

Q.5 (A) Complete the concept map.

(B) State whether the following statements are True or False with reasons.

(1) The clothes one wears is indicative of an individual's level of modernisation.

(2) Urbanisation can have negative effects on our social relationships.

Q.6 Give your personal response.

(1) Shagufta Ranawat and her joint family have been living in Nagpur city for almost three generations. Their grandchildren are uninclined to want to settle down in their grandparent's village. Give two possible reasons for the grandchildren's views.

(2) Some people feel insecure about digitalisation processes, for example, in banking or online purchasing. Why do you think this is the case?

Q.7 Answer the following question in detail. (About 150-200 words)

'The World Wide Web is a source of information and misinformation.' Discuss this statement with regard to the impact of internet on:

(i) Parents

(ii) Children

(iii) School

Activity

Hold a class discussion at the end of each process of change, to discuss the positive and negative impact of each process. Develop a flow chart or concept map for each process of social change.

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