**Role of Education in Social Change**

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**ABSTRACT**

Education is regarded as the most powerful instrument for cganging the Society.Change is a continuous process. All things, ideas, civilization, cul- ture and principles of the world are changeable. The situation that existed ten years before, does not exist to-day and it will not be so ten after. There will be a change in it. Change is law of life.

By social change we mean those activities which change the form of society. Weapons, language etc., are different means which continuously change because man remains continuously busy in his defence, and in increasing his comforts and expressing his ideas. Through them social form continues to change. New words are coined for newer inventions. Similarly, new words are created for explaining new ideas. Thus social changes take place. Cultural change is all the more comprehensive than social change. Besides the above things, it also includes art, science and techniques. Three characteristics may be observed in the study of change-- (1) Changeable object, (2) The object that remains constant, (3) The quantity of that time in which the process of change takes place.

**INTRODUCTION**

The main quality of human life is - not to be as the same forever. In other words, some or other changes go on happening in his life forever. The man is a unit of society. So the changes in his life also effect the society. In other words, the changes happening in human life also bring a change in society. Due to this reason only, this society was not in such a form many years ago, as to its present form in society.

In brief, change is a universal law. No part of human society is of such type which may not be facing some or other changes. No society can be called stable or permanent. It is sure that in some society this change takes place rapidly while in someone very slowly. We cannot think of any such society in which there is neither any change nor there may be any activeness. Really the nature of the world is changeable. The structure of society, as it was a hundred years ago, that is not so today and which is at present; will not continue in future.

It is clear with the above description that the process of change goes on impressing all things of the world and even the society does not escape from it. In other words, every institute of society, its culture, civilization, traditions, conventions and committees etc. are effected by the process of change. For example- there will be found enough difference between the social system of vedic age of India and the present system.

At first, we shall think about the meaning of the word- 'Change'. Fichter has defined-'Change' in this way, "Briefly, difference in earlier stage, is called change." In this meaning-the position or condition which was present earlier, if there is any difference later on, then the meaning of that social change is from the change in relation to social group or change taking place in society. In brief, the name of change in Social institutes, rules, work methods, conventions, values and ideas is social change.

Different scholars have defined social change as follows :

(1) "Social change is a term used to describe variations or modiification or any aspect of social processes,social inter-action or social organization change**. – Sir Jones**

(2) ) "Cultural change is social change, since all cultural is social in its origin, meaning and usage." **-Dawson and Gettys**

(3) "It is the change in these social relationship which alone we shall regard as a social change." -Dawson and Gettys -**Maciver and Page**

**Characteristics of Social Change**

The following are the characteristics of social change :

**I. Social Change is Related to Communal Change** - The relation of social change is not with the changes taking place in the life of a special person or special community but it is with the changes, happening in the life of the whole community. In other words, when the relations, customs, social laws and manners of thinking of most of the members of a community are changed, it is called social change.

**2. Social Change is a Universal Fact**- Social change takes place in all the societies of the world without any exception. It means- social change happens from initial societies upto all the most modern societies.

**3. No Foretell can be made about Social Change**- Any kind of foretell cannot be made about social change. That is to say the social change is uncertain. No person can claim as which change would surely take place in any society ? Possibility can be expressed about change but not foretell it surely.

**4. Social Change is a Compulsory Law**-Social change is a compulsory and essential incident. There can be difference in the quantity of change in various societies, but the possibility of its total absence cannot be expressed.

**5. The Speed of Social Change is Inequal**– We have described above that there is change in every society compulsorily, but this fact is also considerable that the speed of change is not the same in cvery society or in different aspect of the same society.

**6. Social Change is a Complicated Fact**- The nature of social change is very complicated, because it cannot be measured. According Lo MacIver-"Social change is more related with multiplying change and since the measurement of multiplving facts is not possible, their complicacy too is very much increased.'

**Role of Education in Social Change**

Education has been regarded as a strong means of social change. Society has made educational arrangement steady so that expected changes may be brought out. For these changes, the efforts of education are used as follows:

(1) Education brings change in human conduct, life style, thinking, habits and thinking-power and turning them towards required direction, enlightens the path of social change.

(2) Transfering the culture of society after making its selection and cleansing it, education brings about cultural change. Social change takes place only due to cultural change.

(3) Acquainting the general-public about evils and evil-customs spread in society, education creates public-opinion against them. Due to that public-opinion, the spread evils and evil customs are driven out.

(4) Education makes the view-point of persons-generous and wide-spread, so that they may accept freshness without hesitation.

(5) Education saves us from blind-support of superstitions and religious conventions, instigate it to think in right direction, thinking scientifically and making an analysis of it.

(6) Education makes scientific progress with new inventions by which social change seem around.

(7) Education effects the economic condition of society due to which social changes are seen. (8) Education removes the obstacles coming in the path of social change and provides rapidity-to the speed of change.

(9) Creating social-workers for social changes, education hands over the responsibility of social new-awakening, social service and public-awakening to them.

(10) Public-view point is developed by store of knowledge through education, their manners and conduct of change.

(11) Narrow minded feelings of persons are removed by education. They learn to live with the feeling of co-operation with one another and work throwing a glance on the feeling of wide national and social welfare. For example-a lesson of national unity can be taught in relation to racialism, provincialism, regionalism and language-dispute.

(12) Defending the eternal values of society, education prevents the society from proceeding on the path of downfall.

(13) By making a critical review, evaluation and criticism of changes taking place in society, education fastens the speed of change and provides them the expected direction.

Thus, we see that change will have to be brought in education-system to bring a social change so that the process of modernisation may run rapidly. For this education must have to accomplish the following works :

**1. Formation of Social Values**-The education which should be arranged for social change, that should be such, which may refresh the culture of society. The evils spread in culture may be removed and selection of those values may be made which are useful and punctual. This should also be the aim of education, that may provide proper direction to society by creating fresh values in the present context.

**2. Motivation for Change** -Education is a means of motivation for change of proper system. Education is highly important for a society of existence and welfare. When society feels the need for a change, changing process becomes easy and faster. Therefore, such changes and improvements must have to be made in education, which may prove helpful and conducive of social change.

**3. Understanding of Scientific Developmen**t-A person gets the knowledge of events occured in national and international fields of science and of their progress, through new discoveries and inventions. On the basis of this newness, a person analyses his or her superstitions and conventions so that the evil customs, conventions and other evil traditions might be finished and the society may proceed towards modernisation.

**4. Education for Public Awakening** - Education is also a means of awakening public-mentality. A person is made conscious and alert by it so that he or she may progress walking, foot to foot, with the world and with this progress, he or she may be able to defend the eternal values.

**5. Development of Social Education**-Today such kind of education is needed for change in society which, removing the evil customs and cevils spread in society, may attract the mind of society towards healthy traditions, methods and policies.

**6. Training of Social Workers**-Education should be in the form of a torch bearer of the changing process, after providing training to social workers. It is essential in educational system that selected candidates should be trained as social workers. Thus, education should be the providing element of social leadership.

**7. Development of Human Characteristics** -It is necessary for social change that there should be adjustment of social and creative qualities in a person. These qualities may be found in courage, acceptance, logic, self-analysis and thinking. Social change is impossible without having a knowledge of these qualities; as- persons hesitate in accepting freshness in the lack of courage. They cannot adopt that originality even in acceptance. So education develops these merits, In the position of freshness, the ideas and view-points of a person are widened. They become free of narrow mindedness.

**Conclusion**

Change is a continuous process. By social change we mean those activities which change the form of society. Weapon, language etc. are the means which continuously change. New inventions are made for man's progress and happiness. Education and social change closely-related. Education should make the outlook of man liberal and wide. Education should encourage new inventions, discoveries and re- search for the good of man and society. All institutions-political, scientific, religious and vocational take the help of education for change. Education has led to cultural and material progress. Language is the strongest medium that helps in human progress. Education should base human piogress on old traditions and cus- toms. Preservation and transmission of culture is an important function of education. Nothing should be allowed blindly. Education should re- form the old according to the new needs.

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