BLOCK II:
CULTURE

Unit 1 : Culture

Unit 2 : Types of Culture

Unit 3 : Multiculturalism

Unit 4 : Social Change

UNIT- 1
CULTURE

Unit Structure:

1.1 Introduction:

Many a time, we use the word culture very frequently. Culture is the image of a society. As a learner of education, it is very much essential for you to know about the basic concept of culture. Each of us belongs to a particular society and bears some cultural characteristics, which makes us different from others. In the school, we witness variety of culture under one frame. It is one of the important areas of study under the scope of sociological foundation of education. Here, in this unit, we will try to focus on the concept, nature and functions of culture, which will help us to know our culture in a better way and realize the importance of its preservation for future existence.

1.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to–

- *grasp* the concept of culture,
- *identify* the nature and characteristics of culture,
- *know* the primary functions of culture.

1.3 Concept of Culture:

To know about the meaning of Culture, we should first go to the derivation of the word-CULTURE. The word 'culture' has been derived from the Latin word-'cultura' which means to cultivate or cultivating the world. It is also believed that the term has been taken from the verb 'cultivate' and its noun 'cultivation'. On the basis of this derivation, culture means civilizing individual as well as society. The study of human society necessarily leads to the study of its culture. The term 'culture' is very wide. Culture includes all the walks of human lives. It includes modes, behaviors, philosophies, ethics, morals and manners, customs, traditions, religions, and all types of activities of human life. It is the social heritage of individual. It includes all that man has acquired from his individual and social life Culture is the result of socialization that individual goes through since birth. Thus, it can be said that it is the way of life adopted by the person in a social environment. It is essentially a human social product. It is through social interaction that culture is created, transmitted and perpetuated by man in association with others.

STOP TO CONSIDER

- The word "Culture" has been derived from the Latin word-"Cultura"-which means-cultivation or nurture"

- Culture is the way of life.

- It is the product of socialization.

Definitions of Culture:

There is no unison among sociologists and anthropologists regarding the definition of culture. Different sociologist defines it differently. You will be able to grasp the concept of Culture with these following definitions. Some of them are-

According to **Sorokin and MacIver**, "Culture implies man's moral, spiritual and intellectual achievements".

According to **Bogardus**, "Culture is composed of integrated customs, tradition and current behaviour patterns of human group. Culture is the stock in trade of group. It is antecedent complex of value into which every individual is born. It is a medium within which individuals develop and mature".

According to **Mathew Arnold**, " Culture is the way of life, the habits, the manners, the very tone of voices, the literature, the things which give pleasure to community, the word, the thoughts which make the furniture of their minds".

In the words of **Brown,** "Culture is the total behaviour pattern of the group conditioned in part by the physical environment, both natural and manmade, but primarily by the ideas, attitudes, values and habits, which have been developed by the group to meet the needs".

The most comprehensive definition of Culture was given by **Edward Tylor.** He said "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society".

STOP TO CONSIDER

The most comprehensive definition of Culture:

"Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society" by *Edward Tylor.*

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

1. What is your perception regarding culture?

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1.4 Nature and Characteristics of Culture:

After going through the concept and different definitions of culture, we can derive the following nature and characteristics of culture—

- **Culture is learnt or acquired**

Culture is not inherited biologically but learnt socially by man. With the growth and development individual acquires different ideals, attitudes, values, skills, beliefs and other social behavior. Thus, culture is a system of learnt behavior shared by and transmitted among the members of a group or society.

- **Culture is shared**

The culture of man such as customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas, values and moral are all shared by people of a group or society. It is the share perception of people.

- **Culture is transmissive**

Culture is transmitted from one generation to the next. Parents pass on cultural traits to their children and they in turn give them to their children, and so on. Transmission of culture may take place by imitation as well as instruction. Language is the main vehicle of culture and through it's for forms-reading, writing and speaking.

- **Culture is continuous and cumulative**

Culture exists as a continuous process. It is a growing whole which includes the achievement of the past and the present and makes provision for the future achievement of mankind. Culture is cumulative.

- **Culture is dynamic**

Culture changes as society changes. Some culture change rapidly while some others do so slowly. It is dynamic in nature.

- **Culture is integrated**

Different parts of culture join hands to form a whole or integrated culture. It is not an isolated process. It includes all the ways and walks of life.

- **Culture is gratifying**

Culture provides proper opportunities and prescribes the means for the satisfaction of the needs and desires of people. All the biological as well as social needs of people are fulfilled according to the cultural ways. Indeed, culture is defined as the process through which human being satisfy their wants.

- **Culture is adaptive**

The physical environment in which people live makes certain demands for adjustment upon them. A culture can survive only if it can provide the ways to meet people's needs in a changing environment.

- **Culture is unique**

Different societies of the world have different cultural patterns. Culture of each society is unique to the particular society.

- **Culture fulfills demand**

Culture meets the various recurring demands of mankind such as, reproduction, nursing an infant, marriage, cremation, etc. All these demands are met by culture from generation to generation.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What is the derivative meaning of culture?

Que. 2: State the most comprehensive definition of culture.

Que. 3: State two nature of culture.

SELF ASKING QUESTION

Q. Discuss how culture is transmissive.

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1.5 Functions of Culture:

A culture plays vital role in the society. Being an important ingredient of society, culture has following important functions to materialize in a society–

A. Culture treasures knowledge:

The above discussion reveals that culture is transmissive in nature. It helps in transmission of customs, rituals and the knowledge behind everything it bears. Transfer of knowledge becomes possible as a function of culture when a young generation conceives cultural practices from the preceding generation. The young ones of a society see cultural practices being observed. This makes them ask about the rationale and reason behind the acts of their elders. In this way transfer of cultural knowledge takes place.

Besides this, another manifestation of transfer of knowledge in culture is when socialization takes place in a peculiar culture. This socialization transfers the knowledge of that specific culture to the individuals being socialized. Culture transfer knowledge form one society into another society as well. This happens when people from one culture go to live in another culture. They carry with them the cultural knowledge to share with others which might be accepted or rejected.

B. Culture helps to define situation:

The culture of a society plays role in defining a situation. Human being faces several scenarios in a day. Culture defines those scenarios and situation by–

- Giving him knowledge about it
- By teaching him how to behave and act in that situation
- By telling what the situation means to the society
- By giving him a comparative view of situation
- By bringing forth how others act during such situation

Culture defines the situation of any kind like-family situation, wedding ceremony, a funeral, a public gathering etc. Defining a situation by culture helps the culture itself in establishing concrete cultural practices and regulating the social setup. Gradually, the defined situations become customs of a society.

C. Culture determines the behavior pattern:

We know that behavior is manner of action and reaction by human beings in society. Culture in itself is learned and demonstrated behavior which sets the pattern of human conduct. Culture teaches man how to behave for a particular situation.

D. Culture shapes the personality of individual:

Culture is the image of the society. It molds the personality. Its manifestation can be seen in two important cases. First is a child who is brought up in a specific culture. Gradually culture molds him into a person with common behavior and practices in society. Similarly, a person who leaves his country to go and live in abroad for the sake of earning money adapts to the foreign culture. This molds his personality to the new customs and circumstances. He begins to practice the behavior pattern taught to him by the new culture.

E. Culture defines Attitudes, Values and Goals:

Attitudes refer to the tendency to feel and act in certain ways. Values are the measure of goodness or desirability. Goals refer to the attainments which our values define as worthy. It is the culture which conditions our attitude towards various issues such as religion, morality, marriage, science, family planning, prostitution and so on. Our values concerning private property, fundamental rights, representative government, romantic love etc., are influenced by our culture. Our goals of winning the race, understanding others, attaining salvation, being obedient to elders and teachers, being loyal to husband, being patriotic, etc., are all set forth by our culture. We are being socialized on these models.

F. Culture Decides our Career:

Whether we should become a politician, a social worker, a doctor, an engineer, a soldier, a farmer, a professor, an industrialist, a religious leader, and so on is decided by our culture. What career we are likely to pursue is largely decided by our culture. Culture sets limitations on our choice to select different careers. Individuals may develop, modify or oppose the trends of their culture but they always live within its framework. Only a few can find outlet in the culture.

Besides these functions, some other functions of culture include-

- Socialization of human being
- Interpretation of society
- Creates needs and methods to achieve them
- Regulates social relationships

1.6 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the basic concept, nature and characteristics of culture. Thus we can summarize the unit as-

- The word 'culture' has been derived from the Latin word-'cultura' which means to cultivate or cultivating the world.
- According to **Sorokin and MacIver**, "Culture implies man's moral, spiritual and intellectual achievements".
- Some of the nature and characteristics of culture are-it is learnt, it is shared, it is adaptive etc.
- Some of the important functions of culture to materialize in a society are-treasurer of knowledge, definer of situation, molder of personality etc.

1.7 Questions and Exercises:

1. What do you mean by culture?
2. Discuss the definition of culture given by Tylor from your own perspective.
3. Discuss some of the important features of culture.
4. How do cultures of one society differ from other?
5. Elaborate the primary functions of culture.

1.8 References and Suggested Readings:

1. C.N. Shankar Rao*: "Sociology-Principles of sociology with an introduction to social thought"*

2. Dash B.N (2006): "*Education and Society*", Dominant Publishers, New Delhi.

3. MahantaN.N(2013): *"Foundation of Education"* Mani Manik Prakash, Guwahati

4. Rai Rumina(2007): *Introduction to Sociology*, Himalaya Publishing House.

5. Ravi. S.Samuel(2015): *Education in Emerging India*, PHI learning private Limited, Delhi.

6   Saikia, Polee (2019) *Sociological Foundations of Education,* DVS Publishers, Panbazar, Guwahati

1.9 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

The word 'culture' has been derived from the Latin word-'cultura' which means to cultivate or cultivating the world.

Answer to question 2:

The most comprehensive definition of Culture was given by **Edward Tylor.** He said "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society".

Answer to question 3:

Two nature of culture are-

1.   **Culture is learnt or acquired**

Culture is not inherited biologically but learnt socially by man. With the growth and development individual acquires different ideals, attitudes, values, skills, beliefs and other social behavior. Thus, culture is a system of learnt behavior shared by and transmitted among the members of a group or society.

2. **Culture is shared**

The culture of man such as customs, traditions, beliefs, ideas, values and moral are all shared by people of a group or society. It is the share perception of people.

Answer to SAQ 1:

Culture includes all the walks of human lives. It includes modes, behaviors, philosophies, ethics, morals and manners, customs, traditions, religions, and all types of activities of human life. It is the social heritage of individual

Answer to SAQ 2:

Culture is transmissive because it is transmitted from one generation to the next. Parents pass on cultural traits to their children and they in turn give them to their children, and so on. Transmission of culture may take place by imitation as well as instruction. Language is the main vehicle of culture and through it's for forms-reading, writing and speaking.

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UNIT- 2

TYPES OF CULTURE

Unit Structure:

2.1 Introduction:

The preceding unit has clarified your idea about culture and its important nature and function. We know that Culture includes all the walks of human lives. It includes modes, behaviours, philosophies, ethics, morals and manners, customs, traditions, religions, and all types of activities of human life. It is the social heritage of individual. To go in depth of culture and the different forms of it, it is essential for you to know the types of culture. This unit will primarily deal with the different types of culture.

2.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to —

- *identify* the different types of culture,

- *know* about material and non-material culture,

- *understand* spiritual and primitive culture,

- *recognize* composite and modern culture.

2.3 Types of Culture:

Culture is a unique possession of man. It is a collection of learned behavior. Culture accumulates thoughts, values and objects. It is the social heritage acquired and preserved by man in the family or society through learning and practice. Culture is practiced by a group rather than an individual only. It preserves different social elements of our past and transmits it from one generation to the other. The purpose of culture is to give the society by conscious process of learning and experience, patterns of behaviour which are found useful for harmonious existence and smooth functioning in all occupations and interactions and thereby individual and group survival and perpetuation. It is the integrated social, biological, and ethnic, modes of behaviour of a group or a society. Culture has many forms. Its forms has its own characteristics. These forms and types are the reflection of culture from different dimensions. The important types of culture are-

A. Material Culture

B. Non-Material Culture

C. Primitive Culture

D. Modern Culture

E. Composite Culture

The following sub-section of this unit will cover the details about these types of culture.

2.3.1 Material Culture and Non-Material Culture:

- **Material Culture**

It is one of the important types of Culture. We know that culture refers to the way of one's life. As the name signifies, material culture refers to the *material object* used by people as a part of their lifestyles. It includes all the made-made things and objects which human society has created for its physical welfare in terms of peace and war. Items such as clothes, utensils, home, roads, ornaments, TV, radio, various machines, gadgets and various means of transport and communication are some examples of material culture. Thus it can be said that all the physical aspects of a culture that help to define the behaviour and perception of a group is defined as material

culture. It also includes home, neighborhood, cities, schools, churches, temples, and means of production, tools, industries etc.

- **Non-Material Culture or Spiritual Culture**

While discussing the material culture as types of culture, it is essential to resent Non-material culture too. It includes beliefs, traditions, customs, values, ideals and language, habit system of the society. The non-material culture consists of abstract creation of man like symbols, language, literature, social institutions, custom and tradition.

Non-material culture is a complete different concept than material culture. Where material culture includes all the man-made physical objects, non-material culture stands for the abstract ideas and modes of thinking that creates a culture. It includes laws, rules, language, ideas, beliefs, values, virtues, habits, rituals etc. It is completely internal in nature. We cannot see or touch them, but can only practice and follow. It does not include any external object or artifacts. Non-material culture exists entirely in the symbolic realm in our life and society.

SELF ASKING QUESTION

1. Differentiate between material culture and non-material culture.

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One another important types of culture is spiritual culture. The word spirituality refers to the idea of an ultimate or alleged immaterial reality. It opens up an inner path enabling a person to discover the essence of his/her being. As such the simple meaning spiritual culture refers to the spiritual value and beliefs hold by the individual. It refers to the spiritual values, beliefs, tradition adopted and shared by the individual members of the society. Spirituality and culture are interwoven. It is essential for all us to know that among the different aspects the *three significant aspects of culture are— material, religion and spiritua*l. The religion, the tradition and the creed in

which people live and are brought up influence their behaviour, attitude and values. The organized religious beliefs which influence the lives of people are known as spiritual culture. These are the inner experiences acquired and shared by individual within particular spiritual environment.

Spiritual culture is considered as a philosophy adopted and originated by man that gratifies their self and leads to self-realization. It is the means to practicing and purifying the mind and sense of people. It is medium of acquiring the godliness within oneself. It is the scientific method of experiencing the inner self. Spiritual culture refers to the personal experience and way of life. It directs man to nature and God.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Material Culture:

- Material culture is the physical aspect of tradition or culture in the objects and architecture that surround people.

- It includes usage, consumption, creation, and trade of objects as well as the behaviors, norms, and rituals that the objects create or take part in.

Non-Material Culture or Spiritual Culture:

- The non-material culture consists of abstract creation of man like symbols, language, literature, social institutions, custom and tradition.

- Spiritual culture is considered as a philosophy which provides the means and method of practicing self-realization.

2.3.2 Primitive Culture and Modern Culture:

- **Primitive Culture**

Besides the material and non-material culture as types of culture, in the discussion of the culture, the two other terms or approaches often used by the anthropologists and sociologists are-Primitive Culture and Modern or Advanced Culture.

The word "primitive," had originated from the Latin word 'primitivus' which means 'first of its kind'. The primitive culture is also known as traditional culture. As the name suggests, it refers to the culture prevalent during the primitive times. The values, beliefs, tradition, customs adopted and followed by the people of primitive age are simply known as primitive culture. The primitive culture basically includes the non-urban or tribal culture which is characterized by superstitions and strange practices. The people of primitive ages are characterized by lack of written language, relative isolation, small population, relatively simple and rare social interaction and institution. The people belonging to the primitive culture are very much close to the nature, their life styles, beliefs, tradition were based on the laws of nature. The member of the primitive culture lacks intellectual complexity, technical advancement and economic progress, formalized legal system or government. The lives of the members of the primitive culture are determined and controlled by nature instead of government. As such the natural world played an important role in everyday life of the primitive man. Most primitive cultures were composed of one of three different types of societal structure- Band, Clan, or Tribe. The Archaic culture, the Paleolithic culture, Mesolithic and Neolithic ages or cultures are the best examples of primitive culture.

With changes of time, the life styles of people started changing. People started taking and adopting new ideas of life which leads them to the modern culture. But the primitive culture has still some impacts on the modern culture. For example, some of the African people still follow the primitive life; they live in forest, wear old cloths as worn by their ancestors.

Characteristics of Primitive Culture:

The following are the characteristics of Primitive Culture—

- The primitive culture basically includes the non-urban or tribal culture which is characterized by superstitions and strange practices.

- One of the important features of primitive culture is that it lived in close contact with the environment/ nature.

- They are characterized by lack of written language, relative isolation, small population, relatively simple social institution.

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- Primitive culture is characterized by lack of cities and formalized legal system or government.

- This culture lacks the intellectual complexity, technical advancement and economic progress.

- Life of the people of the primitive culture is nature bound, they are controlled and directed by the nature.

- Religion in primitive cultures was often nature based.

- Most primitive cultures were composed of one of three different types of societal structure- Band, Clan, or Tribe.

- **Modern Culture/ Advanced Culture**

The modern culture is opposite to the primitive culture that we have discussed so far. Modern culture is the result of development and upliftment of the primitive culture. It refers to the most civilized way of life. The development of modern culture took place with the growth of human societies. The shift from rural life to urban life is at the core of the development of modern culture. Therefore, modern culture can be regarded as the consequence of drastic changes and improvement in the lifestyle of primitive time. It is marked by improvement as well as changes in the life-styles of people. Change is the motto of modern culture. This change in man, in their ideas, thoughts, lifestyles are brought by advancement of science and latest by technology. With the development of ideas, philosophy and thought people started to lead a more comfortable and developed way of life which gratify their social as well as personal needs. These have brought changes in the socio-economic life of people. People have started realizing the economic necessity of life that leads them to form structured business life as well as they also realized the essence of a more structured boy of authority for controlling the socio-economic as well as political lives of people leading to the development of Government. All these development and change has given birth to modern culture. People started to value their personal life and stresses on the comfort ability of their personal life.

Modern culture creates its own environment. It is built upon knowledge. Thus, it can be said that modern culture is that the means that has developed the way of life of people which has emerged as an

advancement or change over the traditional culture. It is the root of changes in society.

Modern Culture stands for–

- The modern culture is opposite to the primitive culture.

- The modern culture can be regarded as the consequence of drastic changes and improvement in the lifestyle of primitive time.

- The motto of modern culture is change.

- It adds new technologies, things and ideas at an increasingly rapid rate.

- Modern culture is built upon knowledge.

- The shift from rural life to urban life is at the core of the development of modern culture

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STOP TO CONSIDER

- The word "primitive," has been derived from the Latin word 'primitivus' which means "first of its kind,"

- The Archaic culture, the Paleolithic culture, Mesolithic and Neolithic ages or cultures are the best examples of primitive culture

- Modern culture is the result of development and upliftment of the primitive culture. It refers to the most civilized way of life

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SELF ASKING QUESTION

2. Differentiate between Modern culture and primitive culture.

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2.3.3 Composite Culture:

This is an important area under the study of culture. It refers to a wide and comprehensive kind of culture. The word 'Composite' generally means 'made up of various parts'. Thus, from that perspective, composite culture refers to the combination of different cultures. It means the fusion or amalgamation of different cultures and traditions forming a new and distinct cultural tradition. The composite culture emphasizes on the comprehensive and complex culture.

Composite culture includes different caste, sub-caste, ethnic groups and religions, tradition leading to form a new culture. Composite culture mitigates the sharp differences among innumerable cultures within a country or nation. India is best example of composite culture. It can be regarded as the result of co-existence of the multi religious or ethnic communities. In a composite culture all communities share their custom, music, language, dress and arts. In other words they share their ways of lives. It is the process through which cultural exchange takes place. Composite culture thus can be termed as cultural complex. It is platform where people belonging to one cultures can give and take the culture of others. Composite culture for many times serves as the means of development of new ideas, theories of humanity.

Characteristics of Composite Culture:

On the basis of the concept, the following characteristics can be drawn–

- It means the fusion or amalgamation of different cultures and traditions forming a new and distinct cultural tradition.

- It can be regarded as the result of co-existence of the multi religious or ethnic communities.

- In a composite culture all communities share their custom, music, language, dress and arts in other words they share their ways of lives.

- Composite culture mitigates the sharp differences among innumerable cultures within a country or nation.

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CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What are the important types of culture?

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Que. 2: State some examples of material culture.

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Que. 3: What is non-material culture?

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Que. 4: What is the derivative meaning of "primitive"?

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Que. 5: State some examples of Primitive Culture.

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Que. 6: What is composite Culture?

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2.4 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the basic types of culture. Thus we can summarize the unit as–

- Culture has many forms. Its forms has its own characteristics. These forms and types are the reflection of culture from different dimensions.

- The important types of culture are- A. Material Culture, B. Non-Material Culture, C. Spiritual Culture, D. Primitive Culture, E. Modern Culture F. Composite Culture

- Material culture refers to the *material object* used by people as a part of their lifestyles. It includes all the made-made things and objects which human society has created for its physical welfare in terms of peace and war.

- Non-material culture too includes beliefs, traditions, customs, values, ideals and language, habit system of the society. The non-material culture consists of abstract creation of man like symbols, language, literature, social institutions, custom and tradition.

- Spiritual culture is considered as a philosophy adopted and originated by man that gratifies their self and leads to self-realization.

- The primitive culture basically includes the non-urban or tribal culture which is characterized by superstitions and strange practices.

- Modern culture is the result of development and upliftment of the primitive culture. It refers to the most civilized way of life.

- Composite culture includes different caste, sub-caste, ethnic groups and religions, tradition leading to form a new culture. Composite culture mitigates the sharp differences among innumerable cultures within a country or nation

2.5 Questions and Exercises:

1. What are the basic forms of culture?

2. Differentiate between material and non-material culture with suitable examples.

3. What do you mean by Spiritual culture?

4. How would you differentiate between primitive and modern culture?

5. Discuss composite culture with its basic features.

2.6 References and Suggested Readings

1. C.N. Shankar Rao: *"Sociology-Principles of sociology with an introduction to social thought"*

2. Dash B.N(2006): "*Education and Society*", Dominant Publishers, New Delhi.

3. MahantaN.N(2013): *"Foundation of Education"* Mani Manik Prakash, Guwahati

4. Rai Rumina(2007): *Introduction to Sociology*, Himalaya Publishing House.

5. Ravi. S.Samuel(2015): *Education in Emerging India*, PHI learning private Limited, Delhi.

6. Saikia, Polee (2019) *Sociological Foundations of Education,* DVS Publishers, Panbazar, Guwahati

2.7 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

The important types of culture are- A. Material Culture, B. Non-Material Culture, C. Spiritual Culture, D. Primitive Culture, E. Modern Culture F. Composite Culture

Answer to question 2:

Some examples of material culture are- clothes, utensils, home, roads, ornaments, TV, radio, various machines, gadgets and various means of transport and communication

Answer to question 3:

The non-material culture consists of abstract creation of man like symbols, language, literature, social institutions, custom and tradition.

Answer to question 4:

The word "primitive," had originated from the Latin word 'primitivus' which means 'first of its kind'.

Answer to question 5:

The Archaic culture, the Paleolithic culture, Mesolithic and Neolithic ages or cultures are the best examples of primitive culture.

Answer to question 6:

Composite culture includes different caste, sub-caste, ethnic groups and religions, tradition leading to form a new culture. Composite culture mitigates the sharp differences among innumerable cultures within a country or nation

Answer to SAQ 1:

Material culture refers to the ***material object*** used by people as a part of their lifestyles. It includes all the made-made things and objects which human society has created for its physical welfare in terms of peace and war. Items such as clothes, utensils, home, roads, ornaments, TV, radio, various machines, gadgets and various means of transport and communication are some examples of material culture

Whereas, non-material culture is a complete different concept than material culture. Where material culture includes all the man-made physical objects, non-material culture stands for the abstract ideas and modes of thinking that creates a culture. It includes laws, rules, language, ideas, beliefs, values, virtues, habits, rituals etc. It is completely internal in nature.

Answer to SAQ 2:

The primitive culture basically includes the non-urban or tribal culture which is characterized by superstitions and strange practices. The people of primitive ages are characterized by lack of written language, relative isolation, small population, relatively simple and rare social interaction and institution. The people belonging to the primitive culture are very much close to the nature, their life styles, beliefs, tradition were based on the laws of nature.

Again, modern culture can be regarded as the consequence of drastic changes and improvement in the lifestyle of primitive time. It is marked by improvement as well as changes in the life-styles of people. Change is the motto of modern culture.

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UNIT- 3

MULTICULTURALISM

Unit Structure:

3.1 Introduction:

From the discussion made in the previous unit, you must have acquired the idea that culture is a very comprehensive concept. It cannot be confined into one particular area of life. There are various types or approaches of culture in the form of material culture or non-material culture, primitive and modern culture and so on. Though we find variations in the forms of culture, but they cannot be isolated from each-other. They are inter-related. For example, in our Indian Society, many of our culture reflects the primitive tradition, values and ideas. We cannot abandon the old culture directly as they provides us base for our present cultural existence. Similarly, material culture and non-material culture depicts the same picture, though we are making use of material culture in the form of roads, buildings, it has its base on ideas, believes and tradition. This combination of different cultures goes to refer a new concept in the field of sociology of education, i.e. **multiculturalism**. In this unit, we will be dealing with this concept of culture

as well as cover the relationship between culture and personality. Besides, emerging concept of cultural change along with its nature and factors will be discussed here in this unit.

3.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to —

- *grasp* the concept and nature of multiculturalism,

- *find out* how culture influences in the personality formation of an individual,

- *understand* the meaning of cultural change,

- *list out* the causes of cultural change.

3.3 Concept and Meaning of Multiculturalism:

Like the concept of composite culture, there is one another area under the study of culture and that is Multiculturalism. While studying sociology of Education, it is essential for you to acquire the knowledge of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is a context or situation where all the different cultural or racial or ethnic groups in a community have equal rights and opportunities, where every culture is equally valued. The term itself indicates its meaning-multi-culture, meaning combination of different cultures. Multiculturalism can be described as a mixed ethnic community characterized by multiple cultures. Multiculturalism is also known as 'ethnic pluralism'. It is the collaboration of different ethnic or cultural group. In the context of multiculturalism different culture get a collective identity without sacrificing their particular identity. Sociologists use the concept of multiculturalism to describe one way of approaching '**cultural diversity'** within a society. It refers to the unity of different cultures irrespective of its diversity.

A significant view of multiculturalism is that the different cultures, races, and ethnicity, particularly those of minority or disadvantaged groups, deserve special welcome and acknowledgement of their differences within a dominant culture. Thus it can rightly be said that 'multiculturalism' is the co-existence of different cultures. The different racial, linguistic, religious,

or cultural groups are manifested in customary behaviours, cultural assumptions and values, patterns of thinking, and communicative styles.

Regarding multiculturalism, **Charles Taylor** remarked that if we cannot contribute to our inheritance we must at least ensure that diversity that exists survives and does not perish. Multiculturalism advocates that the presence of several cultures contributes to the "overall' richness of society.

Diane Ravitch "Successful multiculturalism builds the bonds of community that lead to interracial, interethnic friendships."

Again, A. E. Barnes defined "Multiculturalism is a term that has come to serve as shorthand for a host of different and not necessarily related cultural and educational issues. Arguments relating to gender studies, ethnic and racial studies, affirmative action, freedom of speech on campus, compromise and corruption among educational administrators have all been aired under the title, multiculturalism."

Nature of Multiculturalism:

The following can be drawn as the characteristics/ nature of Multiculturalism-

- Multiculturalism reflects a positive endorsement of communal diversity.

- It usually arises from racial, ethnic and language differences. Hence, multiculturalism is more a distinctive political stance than a coherent and programmic political doctrine.

- Multiculturalism begins with the assumption that minority cultural groups are disadvantaged in relation to majority.

- It is the collaboration of different ethnic or cultural group. In the context of multiculturalism different culture get a collective identity without sacrificing their particular identity.

- Multicultural theorists advance *two broad sets of arguments in favor of communal diversity*, one based upon its benefits to the individual and the other based upon its benefits to society.

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- For the individual, multiculturalism recognizes that human beings are culturally embedded and derive their understanding of the world and sense of personal identity from the culture in which they live and develop. Distinctive cultures therefore deserve to be protected or strengthened, particularly when they belong to minority or vulnerable groups.

- This leads to the idea of minority or multicultural rights, including the right to representation, the right of respect for cultural, and usually religious, practices that may otherwise by prohibited by law or regulations, and the right to recognition through the preservation of symbols that help to promote collective esteem.

- For society, multiculturalism brings the benefits of diversity, a vibrancy and richness that stems from cultural interplay and encourages tolerance and respect for other cultures and religions, while at the same time strengthening insight into one's own culture.

- Multicultural theorist considers recognition of different cultural identities as first step towards recognition of specific needs of minorities.

- Multiculturalism argues different measures to ensure cultural diversity, for example, recognition and respect to cultures, different set of rights to minorities such as self-government rights and representation rights.

STOP TO CONSIDER

- Multiculturalism is a context or situation where all the different cultural or racial or ethnic groups in a community have equal rights and opportunities, where every culture is equally valued. Multiculturalism can be described as a mixed ethnic community characterized by multiple cultures.

- 'Multiculturalism' is the co-existence of different cultures, where culture includes racial, linguistic, religious, or cultural groups.

- The best example of the city where multiculturalism exists is New York.

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3.4 Relationship between Culture and Personality:

Under the study of culture, many a time, a generally aroused and discussed topic is on role of culture on personality. The discussion made till now on culture must have clarified your concept on it. We know that culture is an integral part of society. Society cannot exist without culture. In-fact, it is the mirror of society. Both our individual and social life is influenced by culture. The psychological foundation course has must have given you the idea about one of the most important aspect of human life, i.e. personality. Culture and personality are interrelated. This interrelationship between these two is a much talked and discussed area by sociologists as well as educationist. As both these area come from different discipline, why the concept of "Personality' is attached to culture? Is Culture and personality correlated? If so how? The following discussion will answer to this question.

There exists intimate relationship between culture and personality. Culture plays a pivotal role in shaping the personality of an individual. Culture, as you have come to know from earlier discussion, connotes everything that is acquired by the individual as social beings. Again, the personality of an individual is the combination of all the socio-cultural, psychological characteristics. Thus, it can be said that the personality of an individual is the product of the culture, because it refers to the 'whole' of an individual. This 'whole' includes all physical and psychological characteristics of individual. This includes the way or lifestyles of people which is the 'culture' itself. Personality is the social heritage of the individual. In any particular society, every individual becomes conscious of its total social heritage and whatever he experiences and understands as a unity in such heritage expresses itself as his 'personality'.Personalityis much wider than that of individual or individuality; it explains, first, the social heritage of the individual and, secondly, the very aggregate or substance of his psychological processes.

The role of Culture in framing the personality of an individual can be presented as follows—

- In their view of psychologists, the basic personality type found among most of the members of a particular society is the result of the culturally similar early childhood experiences, and they are not of instincts or inherent 'drives'. The child is not born in a vacuum but

in a cultural context which affects his mental make-up, habits and attitudes.

- The environmental characteristics including those of physical environment or the material culture including-house, neighbors, school and psychological environment or the non-material culture including the belief, tradition, custom determine the personality of the individual to a great extent.

- The habits and attitudes of children which shape their personality is the result of their cultural context.

- The culture of the particular age is reflected in its arts, music and other recreational activities which have great significance on the personality of the individual of that age.

- The culture of a society always changes with the changes of time. These changes influence their attitude, expectation of the individual which determines their personality.

- Culture influences the values, ideals and philosophy of life of individual, which itself is the culture. This philosophy directs, mold and control the life of people, influencing their personality.

- One of the most crucial determinants of personality is social structure which is formed and regulated by the cultural environment.

- The cultural ideals, values and patterns of a society determine the educational pattern which is again one of the key determinants of personality.

- Culture helps the individual in refining the physical, intellectual and moral aspects of one's personality.

- The various cultural activities provide the children with the platform for refinement of their innate potentialities leading to self-development.

- The social heritage acquired by the individual from their ancestors' i.e. the culture determines their social behaviour which is one of the integral aspects of personality.

- As the child grows up into the consciousness of 'self in society, he develops that 'self in the context of the culture that the society possesses and it necessarily follows that the processes that begin with the consciousness of the 'self and culminate in the power of the 'self" to exercise control over it in terms of the demands of its society.

Thus the above discussion reveals that Culture plays a crucial role in the determination of personality. It is the culture which provides individual the context for molding a desirable personality. As and when, an individual is consciously introduced to his culture, he becomes socialized, and he becomes aware of his obligations towards society. An individual may be socialized by being introduced to his social environment, which may mean either that he has been made aware of his culture or that he has developed his individual reflexes towards his culture.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What is Multiculturalism?

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Que. 2: Fill in the blank-

Multiculturalism is also known as …….....................................………

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Que. 3: State two nature of multiculturalism?

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Que. 4: Briefly state how culture shapes personality.

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Space for Learner

3.5 Concept of Cultural Change:

We know that culture is dynamic in nature and thus it undergoes through changes. Again, it is a continuous and cumulative process. So, it modifies the changes and adopts which is best for it. As such it can be remarked that whenever a change takes place in the context of culture, it is known as *cultural change*. It is a concept that denotes some internal and external factors leading to change in the cultural pattern of societies. In the words of **Kingsley Davis**, the cultural change is that which "embraces all changes occurring in any branch of culture including art, science, technology, philosophy etc. as well as changes in the forms and rules of social organization." Thus, we can say whenever there is a change in the dominion of culture, it is known as cultural change. It causes through inventions, advancement of science and technology, knowledge explosion, changing concepts of societies and values, new forms of music, arts and crafts, change in thoughts etc. This change may include both material and non-material culture. It is important to mention here that change in any aspect of culture affects it as a whole, because culture is integrated by nature.

Again, in the word of **David Dressler** and **Donald Carns**, " Cultural changes is the modification or dis-continuance of existing 'tried' and 'tested' procedures transmitted to us from the culture of the past, as well as the introduction of new procedures".

Briefly, it indicates to any change that takes place in the realm of culture. For example, invention and popularization of the automobile, the addition of new words to our language, changing concepts of property and mortality, new forms of music, art or dance, new styles in architecture and

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sculpture, new rules of grammar or meter, the general trend towards sex equality, etc., all represent cultural changes. Nearly all important changes involve both social and cultural, material and non-material aspects.

All cultures change, although they do so in different ways and it different ways and at different rates. Culture is normally regarded as conservative, especially in its non –material aspects. For example, people are reluctant to give up old values, customs and beliefs in favour of new ones. Changes in one area of culture affect in some way or the other, some other parts of culture. This is so because culture is strongly integrated. Further, one change may lead to another. Some of the basic changes, for example, the ways in which a society earns its living or conducts its economic activity and exploits the environment, can affect almost all the other cultural elements.

3.5.1 Nature of Cultural Change:

On the basis of the above concept and definitions, the following characteristics of cultural change can be derived-

- Changes in the culture of society is called cultural change.

- Cultural change is a concept that denotes some internal and external factors leading to change in the cultural pattern of societies.

- Sources of Cultural Change are- Discovery, Invention, Diffusion, Acculturation and Assimilation.

- When new things are added to material culture every day, and they affect nonmaterial culture as well, it leads to cultural change.

- It is a change that occurs over time to the shared way of life of a group.

- It emerges with the experiences of the society, traditional culture, organization, super culture or sub-culture.

- It is the reconstruction of the cultural concept of a society.

- It places stress on the social and cultural capital determinants of decision making and the manner in which these interact with other factors.

- Changes in one area of culture affect in some way or the other, some other parts of culture.

- Change in any aspect of culture affects it as a whole, because culture is integrated by nature.

- It is widely observed that even if the people accept the new customs and practices, they do not completely abandon their traditional culture

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STOP TO CONSIDER

Sources of Cultural Change are- Discovery, Invention, Diffusion, Acculturation and Assimilation.

3.5.2 Factors of Cultural Change:

Culture is evolving concept, so it goes on changing. But, it is essential for all of us to know the factors or causes that lead to cultural change. David Dressler and Donald Carns have made the following observations with regard to the causes of cultural change.

- **Confrontation with existing culture**: Sometimes members of a society are often confronted by customs that differ from those which they have learnt to accept. In such a situation they adopt some of the new custom, reject others, and follow modified versions of still others. This might called be cultural eclecticism.

- **Flexibility with new customs**: New customs and practices are likely to be more readily adopted under two conditions- (i) if they represent what is viewed as socially desirable and useful, and (ii) if they do not clash with pre-existed and still valued customs and practices.

- **Superimposition of culture**: Changes in culture are always superimposed on existing culture especially during culture contact.

- **Relative:** Changes in culture are always relative. We do not have a "changed" culture but only a "changing culture". Cultural changes normally emerge gradually but continuously. Hence we find a co-existence of old and new customs in the same society.

- **Essence of particular culture:** All the cultural changes are not equally important. Some changes are introduced to culture because they are considered necessary for human survival. Some other changes are accepted in order to satisfy socially acquired needs not essential for survival. Still it could be observed that some cultural changes originally meet neither a "survival need" nor an "acquired need" of people. Example: New ways of disposing of the dead. It is a fact of common observation that crisis, they tend to persist. Example: women were accepted in defense industry during the Second World War, and even now they continue to be there.

- **Cumulative:** Cultural change is cumulative in its total effect. Much is added and little is lost. Its growth is like the growth of a tree that ever expands but only loses its leaves, sometimes its limbs from time to time, as long as it survives.

- **Social Necessity:** Cultural Change leads to chain reaction. Whenever a change is incorporated into the culture and becomes defined as a 'Social necessity'. New needs emerge, generating the desire for still further changes to complement or supplement the original change.

Besides these causes, some of the other factors are also responsible for cultural change. These are as follows-

- **Invention:** the process of creating new cultural elements has given us the telephone, the airplane and the computer and many more. Each of these elements of material culture has had a tremendous impact on our way of life.

- **Discovery:** It is another cause of cultural change which involves recognizing and understanding more fully something already in existence perhaps a distant star or the foods of another culture or women's political leadership skills.

- **Diffusion**: It indicates the spread of cultural traits from one society to another. Because new information technology sends information around the globe in seconds which leads to cultural diffusion.

- **Contact:** The contact between two societies generally leads to change the culture of both the societies through the process of "cultural diffusion" and "acculturation".

- **The geographical and ecological factor:** The geographical and ecological factor which is a natural or a physical factor is also responsible for cultural change. The climate or rainfall, attitude of the place, closeness to the sea decides the culture and lifestyle of the people. Any change in the physical features will automatically lead to a change in their culture, habits and way of living.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 5: What is cultural change?

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Que. 6: State the definition of **Kingsley Davis** of on cultural change.

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Que. 7: Write any two natures of cultural changes.

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Que. 8: State some factors of cultural changes.

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SELF-ASKING QUESTION

1. Discuss two common factors of cultural change.

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3.6 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the concept of multiculturalism, role of culture on personality and one of the significant area of culture i.e. cultural change. Thus we can summarize the unit as-

- Multiculturalism is a context or situation where all the different cultural or racial or ethnic groups in a community have equal rights and opportunities, where every culture is equally valued.

- Regarding multiculturalism, Charles Taylor remarked that if we cannot contribute to our inheritance we must at least ensure that diversity that exists survives and does not perish. Multiculturalism advocates that the presence of several cultures contributes to the "overall' richness of society.

- Some of nature of multiculturalism are- Multiculturalism begins with the assumption that minority cultural groups are disadvantaged in relation to majority and it is the collaboration of different ethnic or cultural group. In the context of multiculturalism different culture get a collective identity without sacrificing their particular identity.

- There exists intimate relationship between culture and personality. Culture plays a pivotal role in shaping the personality of an individual.

- Personality is the social heritage of the individual. In any particular society, every individual becomes conscious of its total social heritage and whatever he experiences and understands as a unity in such heritage expresses itself as his 'personality'

- Cultural change is a concept that denotes some internal and external factors leading to change in the cultural pattern of societies.

- In the words of Kingsley Davis, the cultural change is that which "embraces all changes occurring in any branch of culture including art, science, technology, philosophy etc. as well as changes in the forms and rules of social organization."

- Factors of Cultural Change are- Confrontation with existing culture, Flexibility with new customs, Diffusion etc.

3.7 Questions and Exercises:

1. What is your perception on multiculturalism?

2. How would you co-relate culture and personality?

3. What is meant by cultural change according to your view?

4. Do you support cultural change? If yes, justify your view.

5. Discuss the causes that lead to cultural changes in society.

3.8 References and Suggested Readings:

1. C.N. Shankar Rao*: "Sociology-Principles of sociology with an introduction to social thought"*

2. Dash B.N(2006): "*Education and Society*", Dominant Publishers, New Delhi.

3. MahantaN.N(2013): *"Foundation of Education*" Mani Manik Prakash, Guwahati

4. Rai Rumina(2007): *Introduction to Sociology*, Himalaya Publishing House.

5. Ravi. S.Samuel(2015): *Education in Emerging India*, PHI learning private Limited, Delhi

6. Saikia, Polee (2019) *Sociological Foundations of Education,* DVS Publishers, Panbazar, Guwahati

3.9 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

Multiculturalism is a context or situation where all the different cultural or racial or ethnic groups in a community have equal rights and opportunities, where every culture is equally valued.

Answer to question 2:

Multiculturalism is also known as 'ethnic pluralism'

Answer to question 3:

Two nature of multiculturalism are-

- Multiculturalism begins with the assumption that minority cultural groups are disadvantaged in relation to majority.

- It is the collaboration of different ethnic or cultural group. In the context of multiculturalism different culture get a collective identity without sacrificing their particular identity.

Answer to question 4:

Personality is the social heritage of the individual. In any particular society, every individual becomes conscious of its total social heritage and whatever he experiences and understands as a unity in such heritage expresses itself as his 'personality'. As such we can say that culture plays a significant role in shaping personality of an individual.

Answer to question 5:

Whenever a change takes place in the context of culture, it is known as *cultural change*. It is a concept that denotes some internal and external factors leading to change in the cultural pattern of societies.

Answer to question 6:

In the words of **Kingsley Davis**, the cultural change is that which "embraces all changes occurring in any branch of culture including art, science, technology, philosophy etc. as well as changes in the forms and rules of social organization."

Answer to question 7:

Two nature of cultural changes are-

- Changes in the culture of society are called cultural change.

- Cultural change is a concept that denotes some internal and external factors leading to change in the cultural pattern of societies

Answer to question 8:

Some factors of cultural changes are-

- Confrontation with existing culture, Flexibility with new customs, Diffusion etc.

Answer to SAQ 1:

The interrelationship between culture and personality can be elaborated as-

- In their view of psychologists, the basic personality type found among most of the members of a particular society is the result of the culturally similar early childhood experiences, and they are not of instincts or inherent 'drives'. The child is not born in a vacuum but in a cultural context which affects his mental make-up, habits and attitudes.

- The environmental characteristics including those of physical environment or the material culture including-house, neighbors, school and psychological environment or the non-material culture including the belief, tradition, custom determine the personality of the individual to a great extent.

- The habits and attitudes of children which shape their personality is the result of their cultural context.

Answer to SAQ 2:

Two common causes of cultural change can be discussed as–

- **Diffusion**: It indicates the spread of cultural traits from one society to another. Because new information technology sends information around the globe in seconds which leads to cultural diffusion.

- **Contact:** The contact between two societies generally leads to change the culture of both the societies through the process of "cultural diffusion" and "acculturation".

- **The geographical and ecological factor:** The geographical and ecological factor which is a natural or a physical factor is also responsible for cultural change. The climate or rainfall, attitude of the place, closeness to the sea decides the culture and lifestyle of the people. Any change in the physical features will automatically lead to a change in their culture, habits and way of living.

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UNIT- 4
SOCIAL CHANGE

Unit Structure:

4.1 Introduction:

The meaning of change is known to all. No one of us wants to be same always. It is natural, weather in men or any process or system associated with the lives of men. We can witness no. of changes in the norms, tradition, dressing sense, marriage system prevalent in the society. Society is dynamic, it keeps changing. The life-style one used to follow earlier has drastically changed. This is the result of change. The changes brought to society are simply known as social change. This is one of the most discussed and researched area under sociology of education. Here this unit will concentrate on the concept, nature and the factors responsible to being changes in the society. Moreover, various theories of social change and role of education in the arena of socio-cultural change will be covered.

4.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to–

- *grasp* the concept and nature of social change,

- *list out* the causes of social change,

- *explain* different theories of social change,

- *realize* the role of education in bringing socio-cultural changes.

4.3 Concept and Nature of Social Change:

When individuals come into contact and interact with other people or environment besides the usual surroundings, change takes place. Individuals do not interact in the same way in two different occasions. In each new human relationship there is some novelty, some change. *The change in social setting may be termed as social change*. Change reflects the dynamic nature of the society. Thus the term 'social change' is used to indicate the changes that takes place in the society due to human interaction. Society is a "Web of social relationship" and hence "social change" which obviously means a change in the system of social relationship.

According to **Maclver and Page** "social change refers to a process responsive to many types of changes, to change in the manmade conditions of life, to change in the attitudes and beliefs of men, and to the change that go beyond the human control to the biological and physical nature of things." This means social change takes place everywhere, some changes are manmade and in some changes man has no control.

Again, **Greth and Mill** said "By social change we refer to whatever may happen in the course of time to the roles. The institution or the orders comprising a social structure, their emergence growth and decline." So it appears that time plays a very important role in the process of change. Besides change takes place in both directions— i.e. in growing and in declining direction.

According to **M.E. Jones**, "Social change is a term used to describe variations in or modification of, any aspects of social processes, social patterns, social interactions or social organizations," so social change means

variation or modification. This modification takes place in all social aspects i.e. in process, patterns and interactions or organization.

In the words of **Ginsbert** "By social change, I understand a change in social structure e.g. the size of the society, the composition or balance of its parts or types of its organization." During social change status of people also changes. People take different position according to the need of the hour.

Social change may take place both in structure and in function. Change in social structure takes place at a slower pace than change in function. When the entire structure of the society or any organization changed by religious or political or any kind of national revolution, it is called *structural change*. When change takes place in man's dress, behaviour, ways of living, food habit due to educational or cultural impact it is called *functional change*.

Many sociologists identify social change with cultural change. **Dowson and Getty** have said, "Cultural change is social change since all culture is social in its origin, meaning and usages.

Society can be divided into two types (i) Open society and (ii) Closed society. The rate of change also depends upon the types. Open society is a dynamic society. Here change in structure takes place rapidly. Along with the change in structure the role and status also fluctuates. The change can be measured. Some such changes are— place of residence, employment, educational attainment, occupation, level of income etc.

Closed society is static in nature. Here roles and status remain substantially same from generation to generation.

- **Nature and Characteristics of Social Change**

On the basis of concept and different definitions, put forwarded by eminent sociologists, the following nature of social change can be derived–

1. Social change is a continuous process. The pace of change may be rapid or slow but it cannot be stopped. The present state of the society is the outcome of change.

2. Change does not take place in vacuum. It works in and through a medium. Here the medium is environment i.e. social change takes place in geographic, or physical and cultural context.

3. Social change means human change.

4. Change takes place in attitude, behaviour, interest etc. People affect change and themselves affected by the change. From this point of view change is very important both for man and the society.

5. Social change is the result of a number of factors. Though the change is initiated by a single factor at the later stage a number of factors are associated with the process. These factors can be named as social, cultural, biological, physical, scientific and technological. This shows the mutual interdependence of the social system.

5. Social change acts in a chain system. Change in one aspect leads to a series of changes in other aspects. For example, change in the status and privilege of women in the society resulted in a series of changes in home, family relation, structure, economic status, political rights etc.

6. Social change may take place both in planned and unplanned way. The changes that triggered by human efforts are planned change. On the other hand change caused by natural calamities such as flood, earthquake, volcanic eruption are unplanned change.

7. All social changes are not of same nature. Some changes may bring immediate results while other may take years together to produce results.

4.4 Factors and Causes of Social Change:

The above discussion must have clarified your concept regarding social change. But, it is very much essential to identify the factors or causes that lead to social change. The following discussion will help you in this regard. Society is in a state of continuous change. Various factors, both internal and external acts as catalyst to effect change. These factors can be classified as physical, biological, cultural and technological. These are regarded as the potential factors of social change.

o **Physical Factors:**

Physical factors include everything that are on the surface and beneath the earth. These includes surface of the earth, mountains, rivers, seas and oceans, plants and animals, mineral etc. All these have profound influence on the life of human beings and society. Social change is sometime conditioned by physical factors. Rate and direction of social change depends to a great extent upon physical factors. For example, the rate and direction of social changes in the polar region and desert are at slow pace than other regions.

o **Biological Factors:**

Biological factors also contribute to social change. Plants and animals constitute man's non-human environment. Man depends upon plants and animals to meet their basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. Biological factors also influence in determining the numbers, the composition, birth and death rate, fertility rate, and the heredity quality of the successive generations. In animal as well as in plant kingdom heredity is the cause of variation. Biological factors like the size and composition of population produce social change. High birth and dearth of means of livelihood compels people to migrate from village to towns and cities and thus causing change in both places. Hence the increase or decrease rate in population, change in the ratio of man and woman, change in death and birth rate affect the social system.

o **Cultural Factors:**

Cultural factors is also very much influencing in bringing social change. Culture of a society includes customs, traditions, values, beliefs, ideas and ideologies, morals, manners, folk ways and mores, institutions etc. Ideas and ideals, ideologies and philosophies change with time and in turn initiate change in the social order. Cultural change involves social change because culture and society are closely related. Culture gives speed and direction to social change. Man's ways of behaving, living, thinking and acting are very much influenced by the change in social values. Culture is not static, it is dynamic. It undergoes changes due to a number of factors such as immigration, foreign invasion, international trade and contacts, exchange of cultural delegations, foreign rule and more recently by globalization. Culture

not merely responds to the outside influence but it also acts as force to direct social change. Culture gives cues and direction to social behaviour. Culture cannot remain constant and it can never develop in isolation. In the process of social change culture brings change in social order.

o **Technological Factor:**

Technology is the result of human efforts. Technological factors have profound influence on the life of individual and society. Technology wants to make human life comfortable by meeting its needs and satisfying its wants. As a result technology changes the life style of an individual. When scientific knowledge is applied to the problems of human life it becomes technology. In the present era technology is fast growing. By utilizing goods produced by technology man evokes social change. A single technological invention, may have a number of social effects. Television for example, has influenced our mode of entertainment, education, policies, lifestyle, dress, food habits, sports, literatures, attitude, knowledge etc. which in turn change the social order.

o **Causes of Social Change:**

Besides these factors, sociologists have identified some of the causes of social change that can be discussed under different heading. Social change is a complex phenomenon. Owing its complexity it is not possible to single out a cause of social change. Several factors or causes come together to produce some result.

Harry M. Johnson classified the causes of social change into three types

(i) Causes of social change are inherent either in social system in general or a particular kind of social system,

(ii) Impact from the social environment of the social system and

(iii) Social change may also be due to the impact from the nonsocial environment.

According to him these factors combine in various ways and one change may lead to a series of change.

Internal Causes of Social Change:

1. **Conflict and Strain:** In all social systems conflict of interests and views are always present. No society is free from conflict. Any attempt to solve conflict requires some kind of compromise. This brings some changes in the society.

2. **Social Problems:** Societies are over burdened with a number of problems such as caste, prejudices, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, poverty, beggary, economic disparity, encroachment, clearance of slum areas etc. An effort to solve these problems sometime creates conflict. Any effort to resolve these conflicts often requires change of attitudes, value system, moral system, which ultimately brings some changes in the society.

3. **Revolution:** Intense conflict and strain sometimes leads to revolutions. These revolutions bring social changes. Revolution may take place in different fronts e.g. political, economic, social etc. Green revolution has made a noticeable contribution in the economic front of India which ultimately contributed to social change.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What is social change?

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Que. 2: State the definition of social change as given by MacIver and Page.

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Que. 3: What is structural change?

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Que. 4: State two characteristics of social change.

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Que. 5: What are the biological factors of social Change?

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Self-Asking Question

1.   Discuss the internal causes of social changes.

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4.5 Theories of Social Change:

The major sociological theories of change can be classified in various ways. Among them the most significant are those of Comte, Spencer, **Hobhouse and Marx**, Spengler, Pareto, and Sorokin. In this unit, we shall try to cover a few of the theories of social change in terms of-

A. Evolutionary Theory

B. Cyclical Theory

C. Functionalists Theory

D. Conflict Theory

All these theories will be discussed in detail under the following sub-sections.

4.5.1 Evolutionary Theories:

The notion of social evolution was taken from the theories of biological evolution. Spencer propounded an analogy between social and organic growth and between society and an organization. The theories of social evolution are composed of one or more of the following principles "change, order, direction, progress and perfectibility. The principle of change

states that the present system is the outcome, of more or less continuous modification from its original state. Some evolutionists add to the principles of change the notion that change must have an order.

Other evolutionists combine the principles of change and order with the principle of direction, thereby suggesting that there is a natural linear order of change in a social system. ***The evolutionary process of change implies, that every society goes through distinctive and successive states of existence and orientation.*** Comte, for instance, proposed a directional theory of society. He suggested that a society evolves from a theological orientation, to a metaphysical orientation to a positivistic orientation. ***Durkheim*** classified societies into simple societies united by similarity of their members he called mechanical solidarity and complex societies based on specialization and functional interdependence of members what he called organic solidarity. This also suggests a directional evolutionary pattern.

It has been pointed out that it is sometimes difficult in evolutionary theory, to differentiate simple direction from progress. The common theme in much of the evolutionary literature is that society's progress over time, to a point where they industrialize and develop in the path and manner of western nations.

4.5.2 Cyclical Theories:

Another theory of social change is cyclic theory. The basic premise of the cyclical theories is that cultures and civilizations pass through stages of change, starting and often ending with the same stage. This passing through stages is called a cycle. The cycle when completed, repeats itself over and over again. The ancient civilizations in Greece, China and India for instance, can be explained by the principle of cycles.

Some cyclical theorists are pessimistic in that they think that decay is inevitable. Oswald **Spengler (1945)** believed that every society is born, matures, decays and eventually dies. The Roman Empire rose to power and then gradually collapsed. The British Empire grew strong, and then deteriorated. Spengler believed that social change may take the form of progress or of decay, but that no society lives forever. **Pareto (1916**)

presented in his theory of the circulation of elites, an interpretation of history according to which social change is brought about, by the struggle between groups for political power. His theory was inadequate in that it was based on a limited instance of the circulation of elites in ancient Rome. His conception of political change ignored the growth of democratic government in modern times.

More recently **Sorokin (1975)** has presented theories which have some features of the cyclical perspective. Sorokin's theory is based on the principle of immanent socio-cultural change. This implies that any socio-cultural system i.e. society and civilization alters by virtue of its own forces and properties. This principle is interlinked to another principle, namely, the principle of limited possibilities of change. There is a limit to the number of alterations that can develop in a system. For example, there is a limit to the new forms of change, and to new patterns of behavior, that can emerge in a society. The system simply runs out of combinations in due time. If it does not die, it eventually starts running through the changes again. Thus, there is "recurrence" or "rhythm" in the histories of socio-cultural systems.

Sorokin also makes a distinction between *three broad types of culture-ideational, idealist and sensate-*which he conceives as succeeding each other in cycles, in the history of societies. Ideational culture is spiritualistic, mystical and indeterminate. Sensate culture is the realm of science and of direct sensory experiences. Idealistic culture has certain characteristic of both the ideational and sensate cultures. Sorokin's work is especially noteworthy not only because it contains a mass of historical analogies and comments on particular social transformations, but also because it saw societies as 'changing' rather than necessarily progressing or decaying

4.5.3 Functionalists Theories:

Structural functional theories have its roots in the work of the early sociologists especially Durkheim and Weber. Among contemporary scholars it is most closely associated with the work of Parsons

Structural functionalists believe that society like the human body is a balanced system. Each institution serves a function in maintaining society.

When events outside or inside the society, disrupt the social order, social institutions make adjustments to restore stability. They also argue that change generally occurs in a gradual, adjusted fashion and not in a sudden violent, radical fashion. Even changes which appear to be drastic have not been able to make a great or lasting impact on the core elements, of the social and cultural systems. Change according to them comes from basically three sources:

Ø   Adjustment of the system to exogenous change e.g. war, conquests

Ø   Growth through structural and functional differentiation e.g. changes in the size of population through births and deaths

Ø   Innovations by members of groups within society e.g. inventions and discovery in a society.

The most important and basic factor making for social integration and stability, according to this school of thought, is value consensus.

Critics have pointed out that the amount and kind of changes that can be explained, with the help of the structural functionalist perspective is limited. This view neglects revolutionary changes which are profound and sudden. It also overlooks the possibility of a society going through long periods of malintegration, as during times of economic recession.

4.5.4 Conflict Theories:

The conflict theory takes the principle of dialectic or opposites as central to social life. Conflict theory also has its origins in early sociology, especially in the works of Marx. Conflict theorists do not assume that societies smoothly evolve to higher or complex levels. According to this theory, every pattern of action, belief and interaction tends to generate an opposing reaction. Modern life is full of examples. The legalization of abortion has provoked the anti-abortion movement. The feminist movement has stimulated a reaction from men and women. The liberalization of sexual mores has led to open denunciation. The basic premise is that one of the outcomes of conflict among groups is social change. The greatest limitation of this approach is that it lays too much emphasis on conflict, as the most important factor of change.

In more recent sociological writing, there is yet another perspective of social change called the 'development perspective'. The development perspective grew from three main sources of-

Ø From the study of economic growth, economists and to a great extent other social scientists, view quantitative growth in the economic sphere of life, as an important indicator of a country's progress. For example, they point out that a country's prosperity can be measured in terms of GNP (Gross National Product) or per capita income.

Ø From the categorization of all societies into technologically advanced, and less technologically advanced. Sometimes, the emphasis is on industrialization and consequently societies that are highly industrialized, are seen to be more developed than societies which are basically agricultural.

Ø From the comparison of the capitalist countries with the socialist or communist countries.

Many social scientists have compared the socialist economy and social organization with Western capitalist economy and organization. The development approach to social change, brought into sharp focus, the need for formulating a broad comparative perspective, which would take into account the complex and diverse relationships between developing countries, between technologically advanced countries, and between technologically advanced countries and developing nations.

Thus, it can be said from the above discussion of the various perspective that no single theory can account for the complexity of social change.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 6: What is the idea of evolutionary theories regarding social change?

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Que. 7: Fill in the blank

Structural functional theories has its roots in the work of the early sociologists especially _____ .

Que. 8: What is the principle of conflict theorists?

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4.6 Education as an Instrument of Socio Cultural Change:

Education is considered as one of the powerful instrument of bringing socio-cultural changes. Before going to reflect on the role of education in socio cultural change, let's focus on how education and social change is interrelated.

Education and Social Change:

Education is regarded as an important and powerful instrument of social change and development. Education not only brings change in the society but also help in the process of modernization. Education initiates social change by changing the attitude and outlook of people of the society. Education also brings changes in pattern of social relationship and thereby brings change in the society. Education also brings changes in the life and life style of the receiver and ultimately contributes to social change.

In ancient time education was not regarded as an instrument of social change rather a means of social control. At that time the duty of the school was to transmit a way of life to student. But in recent years the attitude has changed considerably so the duty of the school is to impart practical knowledge. Such as knowledge about science, technology and other types of specialized knowledge. In ancient time Indian education was always related with religion. As the people are not free and allowed to question the dogmas of religion the role of education as an instrument of social change was negligible. Modern education is secular. It is independent of religious control. Instead of transmitting the way of life to the younger generation as in the past the chief objective of education is to prepare the way for the development of science and technology.

In recent years man's life has remarkably changed as a result of education. Education not only enables an individual to participate effectively in the society but it also contributes for the progress and development of the society. Modern education by affecting the age old customs and traditions, manners and morals, folkways and mores, religious beliefs has changed the attitude and outlook of people. It has widened the vision and narrow outlook and removes prejudice, superstition and unnecessary and unreasoned fears.

Change does not take place with equal rate and speed in all areas of life. Generally change takes place at faster rate in material culture than in non-material culture. In this context it should be noted that education alone cannot be used as an instrument to bring social change. Because education always operates in context with other social institutions and also constrained by them.

Different category and level of education do not provide the same competency to bring social change. In developing countries where most of the people are illiterate, primary education enables them to do things which were not possible before that. Literacy helps people to read, write and count. No one can deny that education plays an important role in the process of social change. So it is now widely accepted that utmost importance should be attached to education so that the process can dedicate itself to perform the task of social change. The role of education as an agent or instrument of social change and development is widely recognized today. It can bring about a change in the pattern of social relationship and thereby it may cause changes. Education can initiate social change by bringing about a change in the outlook and attitude of man.

Education and Socio Cultural Change:

As we know that change is natural. Everything is changing. It can be considered as the law of nature. To follow the rate of change of time, changes must be brought to the context where people live, experience and share their lives. One cannot live with the old traditions, custom which don't have prevalence in the changed time. Changes must be brought to society, to the context of life i.e. the culture. Society and culture are the two sides of

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the same coin. Changes in one aspects leads to the changes in the other. There are many factors which are responsible for bringing changes in society. But; Education is one of the pivotal factors. Education is the power of knowledge. It is considered as the instrument of socio-cultural changes. It can initiate social change by bringing changes in the attitudes of man.

The role of education in bringing social –cultural change can be presented in the form of following points-

Ø Educational helps in removing the social evils like early marriage, child labour, dowry system, drug-addiction by creating awareness among them. Thus lead the society towards progress.

Ø Education plays vital role in making people alert about rapid growth of population which creates a large number of problems in the country. Education hence helps in controlling the rapid growth of population by its educational plans and programmes.

Ø The role of education has another point of significance in terms of the social upliftment as it helps the individual to develop their personality, determined by the culture of the very society in shish he grows.

Ø Education has created much significance to a radical improvement in the status of women. Modern educated women no more tolerate the double standard of morality. Particularly mass education in civilized societies has festered the sense and feeling of equality.

Ø Modern Education has change our traditional attitude and outlook. It has affected our customs and traditions, manners and make a better society with the cultural heritage which is transmitted to him from his parents and fore-fathers by education.

Ø Education as an instrument of social change not any helps in the growth of a scientific spirit in the younger generation but also paved the way for helping in the advancement of technology and industry.

Ø Education plays a great role in getting occupations which one is the key determinants of general social status.

Ø Education increases political awareness among people. This would bring about wider political changes with the increased organized

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participation of people in national politics. This will help in removing the democratic violence, caste, discrimination among people.

Ø Education has to be given right direction for pleasure and satisfaction by utilizing progress and development. Its aims are to be determined and representation of the society have to come for performing this task.

Ø Education provides opportunities to the people to educate themselves by removing darkness and ignorance from their mind. It widens people vision and removed narrowness. Higher education has brought about more refined behaviour

Ø Education enables the youth of the society to invest their learning for economic efficiency.

Ø Education is the means which makes people aware of different socio-cultural issues

Ø It widens people's vision towards life, their way of living.

Ø It is the agent which faster the sense and feeling of equalization in culture

Ø It teaches people to tolerate and give respect to individuality and culture of others.

Ø It enables people to visualize life from a more scientific perspective.

SELF-ASKING QUESTION

1. Discuss how education and social change are interrelated.

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4.7 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the concept of social change, different theories of social change and how education plays an important role in socio-cultural changes. Thus we can summarize the unit as-

- The change in social setting may be termed as social change. Change reflects the dynamic nature of the society.

- Society is a "Web of social relationship" and hence "social change" which obviously means a change in the system of social relationship.

- In the words of **Ginsbert** "By social change, I understand a change in social structure e.g. the size of the society, the composition or balance of its parts or types of its organization."

- Society can be divided into two types (i) Open society and (ii) Closed society. The rate of change also depends upon the types.

- Social change means human change.

- Factors of Social Changes include- Physical factors, Biological factors, Cultural factors etc.

- Some of the internal Causes of Social Change are- Conflict and Strain, Social problems, Revolution etc.

- The major sociological theories of change can be classified in various ways. Among them the most significant are those of Comte, Spencer, Hobhouse and Marx, Spengler, Pareto, and Sorokin.

- The evolutionary process of change implies that every society goes through distinctive and successive states of existence and orientation.

- The basic premise of the cyclical theories is that cultures and civilizations pass through stages of change, starting and often ending with the same stage. This passing through stages is called a cycle.

- Structural functionalists believe that society like the human body is a balanced system. Each institution serves a function in maintaining society.

- According to conflict theorists, every pattern of action, belief and interaction tends to generate an opposing reaction. Conflict theorists do not assume that societies smoothly evolve to higher or complex levels.

- Education is regarded as an important and powerful instrument of social change and development. Education not only brings change in the society but also help in the process of modernization.

- Society and culture are the two sides of the same coin. Changes in one aspects leads to the changes in the other. There are many factors which are responsible for bringing changes in society. But; Education is one of the pivotal factors.

4.8 Questions and Exercises:

1. What is your understanding about social change?

2. What are the factors responsible for social change?

3. Differentiate between social change and cultural change.

4. Discuss the theories of social change with its relevance.

5. Explain how education plays the pivotal role in socio-cultural changes.

4.9 References and Suggested Readings:

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4.10 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

Thus the term 'social change' is used to indicate the changes that takes place in the society due to human interaction.

Answer to question 2:

According to **MacIver and Page** "social change refers to a process responsive to many types of changes, to change in the manmade conditions of life, to change in the attitudes and beliefs of men, and to the change that go beyond the human control to the biological and physical nature of things."

Answer to question 3:

When the entire structure of the society or any organization changed by religious or political or any kind of national revolution, it is called structural change.

Answer to question 4:

Two characteristics of social change are-

1. Social change is a continuous process. The pace of change may be rapid or slow but it cannot be stopped. The present state of the society is the outcome of change.

2. Change does not take place in vacuum. It works in and through a medium. Here the medium is environment i.e. social change takes place in geographic, or physical and cultural context.

Answer to question 5:

Biological factors also contribute to social change. Plants and animals constitute man's non-human environment. Man depends upon plants and animals to meet their basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing. Biological factors also influence in determining the numbers, the composition, birth and death rate, fertility rate, and the heredity quality of the successive generations. In animal as well as in plant kingdom heredity is the cause of variation.

Answer to question 6:

The evolutionary process of change implies that every society goes through distinctive and successive states of existence and orientation.

Answer to question 7:

Structural functional theories has its roots in the work of the early sociologists especially <u>Durkheim and Weber.</u>

Answer to question 8:

According to conflict theorists, every pattern of action, belief and interaction tends to generate an opposing reaction. Conflict theorists do not assume that societies smoothly evolve to higher or complex levels

Answer to SAQ 1:

Internal Causes of Social Change are–

1. **Conflict and Strain:** In all social systems conflict of interests and views are always present. No society is free from conflict. Any attempt to solve conflict requires some kind of compromise. This brings some changes in the society.

2. **Social Problems:** Societies are over burdened with a number of problems such as caste, prejudices, juvenile delinquency, unemployment, poverty, beggary, economic disparity, encroachment, clearance of slum areas etc. An effort to solve these problems sometime creates conflict. Any effort to resolve these conflicts often requires change of attitudes, value system, moral system, which ultimately brings some changes in the society.

3. **Revolution:** Intense conflict and strain sometimes leads to revolutions. These revolutions bring social changes. Revolution may take place in different fronts e.g. political, economic, social etc. Green revolution has made a noticeable contribution in the economic front of India which ultimately contributed to social change.

Answer to SAQ 2:

Education is regarded as an important and powerful instrument of social change and development. Education not only brings change in the society but also help in the process of modernization. Education initiates social change by changing the attitude and outlook of people of the society. Education also brings changes in pattern of social relationship and thereby brings change in the society. Education also brings changes in the life and

life style of the receiver and ultimately contributes to social change. In recent years man's life has remarkably changed as a result of education. Education not only enables an individual to participate effectively in the society but it also contributes for the progress and development of the society. Modern education by affecting the age old customs and traditions, manners and morals, folkways and mores, religious beliefs has changed the attitude and outlook of people. It has widened the vision and narrow outlook and removes prejudice, superstition and unnecessary and unreasoned fears.

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