

Social change subject

Six lecture

"Social development"

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A-Social development: Meaning

Social development is a process that results in the transformation of social structures to improve the capacity of a society in order to fulfill its objectives. It refers to a paradigmatic change within the social and economic structure. Social development attempts to explain the qualitative changes in the structure and framework of society, that help the society to better realize its aims and objectives. When development takes place in progressive way featuring in greater levels of efficiency, quality, productivity, complexity, comprehension, creativity and brings qualitative changes in human existence, it can be termed as social development.

B-Features of Social Development

The International Agencies visualize social development as a progressive process of change resulting in steady improvement in social conditions. The chief features of social development include:

- 1- Promotion of social progress and betterment of human conditions of living by according human beings a life with dignity, equality, respect, mutual responsibility and cooperation.
- 2- Making economic policies and social policies mutually supplementary to each other to maximize development.
- 3- Ensuring social and distributive justice and to achieve maximum sustainable human development.
- 4- Achieving equity and equality for all by ensuring access, opportunity and quality of life to all.

5- Creating an enabling environment for all individuals by enriching and enhancing their capabilities.

6-Empowering the people to make the right choice for themselves.

7- allow the people to enjoy their rights, have access to resources.

8- Providing autonomy to all.

To cite some examples, equitable distribution of societal resources like property, prestige, greater and better access to institutions like education, health, food security, greater enjoyment of freedom and dignity by the people, changes in the stratification system and greater opportunity for social mobility are the examples of social development experienced by a society.

All these require facilitating structural changes to bring welfare for all.

B-Social Development in the United Nation's Agenda

The World Summit for Social Development was held in March 1995 in Copenhagen with the heads of 117 countries. Here, the Governments reached a new consensus on the need to put people at the centre of development. The Social Summit was the largest gathering ever of world leaders. It pledged to make the conquest of poverty, the goal of full employment and the fostering of social integration overriding objectives of development.

Among the ground-breaking agreements made by the world's leaders in the Declaration are ten commitments to:

1- Eradicate absolute poverty by a target date to be set by each country.

2- Support full employment as a basic policy goal.

3- Promote social integration based on the enhancement and protection of all human rights.

4- Achieve equality and equality between women and men.

5- Accelerate the development of Africa and the least developed countries.

6- Ensure that structural adjustment programmes include social development goals.

7- Increase resources allocated to social development.

8- Create "an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable "people to achieve social development.

9- Attain universal and equitable access to education and primary health care.

10- Strengthen cooperation for social development through the UN .

The United Nations General Assembly convened a special session in Geneva in June-July 2000 to assess the achievements made at the end of the last century, where the world leaders distilled the key goals and targets in the Millennium Declaration (September 2000). The Declaration reaffirms universal values of human rights, equality, mutual respect and shared responsibility for the conditions of all peoples and seeks to redress globalization's hugely unequal benefits and governments' commit themselves to fulfilling their obligations after 20 years later.

C- Factors facilitating Social Development

Social development is a process. Different factors can contribute significantly towards it. These factors are :

1- Education and awareness building.

2- A strong political will.

3- An ideology of equality among the people.

4- Initiatives among the people to avail opportunities.

5- Change in cultural values.

When there is a spread of education, there will be a greater awareness among the people. This will enhance their participation in the process of development. They will take initiatives to fight against poverty, inequality and to assert the human rights for all citizens which will trigger the process of social development. A committed government will make reduction of poverty, unemployment, inequality.

When these social maladies will be removed by the will and effort of a government, social development will become a reality. Transformations in the attitude of the people and their practices in the life.

D- Factors Hindering Social Development

There are certain factors which retard social development. Prominent among them are:

- 1- Illiteracy and ignorance
- 2- Lack of political commitment.
- 3- Social cleavages like caste, class, gender, and ethnicity based differentiations and social exclusions etc...
- 4- Apathy of the people.
- 5- Social taboos, cultural conservatism.

The removal of these barriers can promote social development in a country.

Questions:-

- 1- Explain the meaning of the social development?
- 2- What are the chief features of social development (give 5 of them).
- 3- According to the United Nation's Agenda in March 1995 in Copenhagen there are ten commitments for Social Development (mention 5 only).
- 4- What are the factors facilitating Social Development?
- 5- What are the factors Hindering Social Development?
- 6- "when spread the education in any society that will improve the quality of life" ? discuss that and express of your opinion.