

APPENDIX

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Details of Theories and Approaches of Social Change.

1. The Cultural Lag Theory - Social change is generally indicative of progress but there are differential rates at which the material and non-material aspects of a culture change. The rate of change in the material sphere is fast and it takes some time before the other non-material spheres catch up.

2. The Progress Theory - It is advanced by the schools of social behaviourism and positivistic organisms and includes the cyclical theories of change. (These theories will be discussed afterwards).

3. The Functionalism Theory - This theory deals with the society as an equilibrium and contemporary functionalism is considered to be a modified form of organism. It is because of the combination of historical and theoretical considerations that they have been placed in an ambiguous position while accounting for social change. The basic nature of the functionalistic theory places it towards an evolutionary position. Yet the disasters faced by them have been so fresh that a rehabilitation is difficult.

Persons conceive of a society as a system surrounded by the other three systems - personality, the organism and the culture. A society is said to be in equilibrium when it maintains the boundaries with these three systems and boundary breaking is social change.

4. Theory of deterioration - According to Hindu mythology man originally lived in a perfect state of happiness in golden age of 'Satyug', subsequently deterioration began to take place with the result that man reached an age of comparative degeneration. The modern age is the age of 'Kaliyug' wherein man is deceitful, treacherous, false, dishonest, selfish and consequently unhappy.

5. Cyclic Theory - Another ancient notion of social change side by side with the afore mentioned one is that human society goes through certain cyclic changes of days and nights and of climates. Some sociologists believe that society has a predetermined life cycle and has birth, growth, maturity and decline. Modern society is the last stage. It is its old age, But since history repeats itself, society after passing through all the stages, returns to the original stage where the cycle again begins. This concept is found in Hindu mythology, according to which 'Satyug' will start when 'Kaliyug' is over.

6. Stage Theory - According to this theory, society gradually moves to an even higher stage of civilization and that it advances in a linear fashion and in the direction of improvement. There can be three stages of social change; the Theological, the Metaphysical and the Positive. Man has passed through the first two stages even though in some aspects of life they still prevail, and is gradually reaching the positive stage. In the first stage man believed that supernatural powers controlled and designed the world. He advanced gradually from belief in festishes and delites to monotheism. This stage gave way to the Metaphysical stage during which man tried to explain phenomena by resorting to abstraction. In the positive stage man considers the search for ultimate cause of hopeless and seeks the explanatory facts that can be empirically observed. This implies progress which will be assured if man adopts a positive attitude in the understanding of natural and social phenomena.

7. Telic Theory - Social change can be brought about by means of conscious and systematic efforts. The progress can be achieved by means of purposive efforts or conscious planning. Through education and knowledge intellect can assert itself over the emotion so that effective planning is made possible. Natural evolution is a slow process whereas

intelligent planning, accelerates the process of nature. Progress can be achieved through the control of reasons and therefore rational elements in our nature must be developed so that it may be utilised as a factor in the evolutionary process.

8. Deterministic Theory - According to this theory there are certain forces, social or natural or both which bring about social change. It is not reason or intellect but the presence of certain forces and circumstances which determine the course of social change. Social change is automatically determined by economic factors, conscious efforts and rational planning have very little chance to affect change unless and until the folkways and mores are ready for it.

9. Theories of Causation. These major theories can be grouped on the basis of four factors. Theories that explain social change in terms of feature or features of the natural environment constitute theories based on "Geographical determinism". Theories that explain social change on the basis of traits, or characteristic of the human organism are referred to a "Biologic determinism." Theories that consider economic factors such as production, demand and supply as the basis of social change are referred to as "Economic determinism." Cultural determinism refers to theories that seek to explain social change as a result

of some element or elements of cultural heritage.

10. Theories of Process - These theories of social change have been grouped into :

(a) Linear theories conceive of social change as unfolding line. The concept of evolution is of the basic influence in the formulation of this theory.

(b) Trend Model is another way of expressing the linear theory. Social change is characterised by an over all trend that exists in spite of minor fluctuations and variations. The trend of movement of society is Gemeinschaft to Gesellschaft or communal to associational society. The sacred traditional orientation of communal society in its trend gives way to associational society that is characterised by secularism, rationality and a more pragmatic approach.

11. Theories of Functional Analysis - Social change is conceptualized as a social function, rather than engage in the formulation of theories of social change, sociologists instead follow the approach of studying change as a class of social phenomena. Following this approach, efforts are to identify, describe and measure social change to be able to identify the social and other environmental conditions that underlie it. The phenomena comprising social change are thus subjected to study and analysis as other social phenomena that are the subject of sociological study.