

FEATURES OF INDIAN SOCIETY

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Abstract

In the recent past, India's rural society has undergone significant changes, particularly since Independence, as a result of a series of land reform laws that have accelerated the pace of this shift. India is a land of diversity and has a rich cultural heritage. In the multi-social, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-caste nature of society, diversity in social life is reflected. Multi-religious and multi-caste social identities and the significant role of the family in social life are the important characteristics of the Indian social structure: prevalent rural housing in small villages.

Keywords: Diversity, Rural, Society, Human, Village.

I. INTRODUCTION

Collecting was the primary source of food for the earliest human groups. The skills and knowledge of agriculture were gradually acquired by man. People started to lead a settled life with the growth of agriculture and human cultures became more stationary. The rise of the village meant that man went from the nomadic mode of collective life to the settled mode. India is a nation of villages. The overwhelming majority of villages, with only around five hundred people each, are small. The view of Mahatma Gandhi that India lives in villages are still fine, from the demographic point of view at least. Social life in the village has its own unusual traits[1]. The norms of village social life perpetuate the patriarchal and hierarchical norms of administration. The social life of the village, based on hierarchical relations of trade, profoundly influences the conduct of civil servants in public organizations. Sociologists agree that its population, physical structure, and modes of production are certainly important for defining an Indian village. A village typically has less than five thousand people[2].

'India is a country of villages' is correctly mentioned. Agriculture is the Indians' main profession, and most of India's people live in villages. Our villages help to reinforce our social ties and to bring prosperity in many ways to our society. Our villages also enable our society to maintain our identity in a different way. In the recent past, India's rural society has

undergone significant changes, particularly since Independence, as a result of a series of land reform laws that have accelerated the pace of this shift. India is a land of diversity and has a rich cultural heritage. The diversity in social life is reflected in the multi-social, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-caste nature of the society. The important features of the Indian social structure are- predominant rural habitation in small villages; multi-religious and multi-caste social identities and important role of family in the social life[3].

A. Major Features of Rural Society

The village is the oldest permanent human group. Basically, all early cultures had a rural character. Bogardus writes, "In the rural community, human society has been cradled." The rural community simply means a group composed of individuals living in a small geographic area who have common desires and common ways to fulfill them. There are various components of each community, such as individuals, groups, organizations, organizations, and societies. At this point, the best analogy one can think of is that of an organism that as a whole has numerous components working together[4]. As every other system, such as the solar system, society is a system. An Indian village not only plays a prominent but also a predominant role in our social set-up since about 87 percent of our total population resides in villages. There are first two peculiar characteristics in the primitive village culture, the role played by kinship and second its collectivist basis. In the primitive village culture, the bond of kinship and close links of the inhabitants with the land generated a high sense of community feeling[5].

B. Features of Indian Society- Urban

The essence of urban society, as expressed in the ideas of modern city urban thinkers, has significantly contrasting differences in their views. As a combination of power, space, market and cultural traditions, each place has its distinctive urban characteristics defined by variables. There has been economic growth as a consequence of development of science and technology. Urbanization is produced by urban communities as a result of industrial growth. Every country has an urban culture of its own. There are some features of the city in each village, while every city has some village characteristics. Different criteria are used to decide a community as urban. Some of them are, for example, population, legal limits, types of occupations, social organizations. The city in the words of Louis Wirth refers to "a relatively large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous individuals[6]."

C. Major Features of Urban Society:

City and rural comparisons. It refers to a process that envisages the settlement of land, the agglomeration of diversity, the complete transformation of the economy from the agricultural to the industrial sector, from the commercial sector to a broader political-civic life dependent on modern living institutions. It is a heterogeneous urban society. It is noted for its variety and complexity. It is governed by secondary relationships. Urban culture is far away from the

natural world and from humanity. Mass education in the city is widespread. "It is a "Multi-Group Complex Society"[7].

D. Forms of Diversity In India

Unity means unity or a sense of awe-ness; through the ties of constructed systems, norms and values, it tightly keeps together the different relationships of ethnic groups or institutions in a dovetailed manner. India's roots of diversity can be traced in a number of ways, with racial backgrounds, sects, castes, tribes, cultures, social traditions, cultural and subcultural values, political philosophies and ideologies, geographical differences, etc. being the most evident[8].

The tribal groups in India are the smallest in geographical distribution and population strength. They cover only 8.8 percent of the Indian population (1991 census). Not only should we regard linguistic diversity as a human resource, but both the decrease in the number of languages and the emerging pattern of nonlinguistic supremacy over small languages should also be conceived as a challenge to our plural life. It must be acknowledged that linguistic diversity does also need to be preserved, also in the most ecological sense, like biodiversity[9].

E. Development of Languages during the British rule in India

In all its moves, the British Government was careful and well planned. The British Raj was keen on creating regional languages, but they wanted a common language for the purposes of administration. The key cause of the slow pace of growth of the nationalist movement was primarily due to language diversity. The nation was in its worst condition since Independence. Everywhere, there was chaos and uncertainty. It was time for a national language to be selected. But in India, at least a hundred languages have been spoken.

F. Post-Independence Period

After India attained its independence, policies had to be formulated for the administration of the newly born nation. While forming the constitution of India, the leaders of the nation had to come up with a national language. They decided on Hindi as the national language and the use of English for official purposes.

G. The Present situation

While the situation has changed since the early fifties, no major improvement has occurred. Because of the diversity of languages, India still faces issues. The lack of a standardized language structure is one of the foremost issues. Of the 114 officially recognized languages and 216 (1991 Census) mother tongues in India, a national language was selected, but only 28 percent of the population speaks that language. In India, people have a sense of belonging rather than the country as a whole to a particular language speaking group[10].

II. CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

There has been economic growth as a consequence of development of science and technology. Urbanization is produced by urban communities as a result of industrial growth. Every country has an urban culture of its own. There are some features of the city in each village, while every city has some village characteristics. Different parameters are used to assess an urban environment. For starters, some of them are population, legal limits, types of professions, social organizations. In Louis Wirth's words, the city refers to "a comparatively large, dense and permanent settlement of socially heterogeneous people."

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