

**Subject code 0541 M.Sc P.S**

**Question No 1 Discuss and evaluate classical theories & modern theories of the social scientists and highlight the processes, source, and patterns of social change in Pakistan.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### **1. Social Change and Modernity**

Those who organized the conference on which this volume is based—including the editors—decided to use the terms "social change" and "modernity" as the organizing concepts for this project. Because these terms enjoy wide usage in contemporary sociology and are general and inclusive, they seem preferable to more specific terms such as "evolution" "progress," "differentiation," or even "development," many of which evoke more specific mechanisms, processes, and directions of change. Likewise, we have excluded historically specific terms such as "late capitalism" and "industrial society" even though these concepts figure prominently in many of the contributions to this volume. The conference strategy called for a general statement of a metaframework for the study of social change within which a variety of more specific theories could be identified.

## 2. Theories of Social Change

Change is such an evident feature of social reality that any social-scientific theory, whatever its conceptual starting point, must sooner or later address it. At the same time it is essential to note that the ways social change has been identified have varied greatly in the history of thought. Furthermore, conceptions of change appear to have mirrored the historical

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— 2 —

realities of different epochs in large degree. In his essay for this volume Giesen shows that even though ideas of time existed and evolved over thousands of years—ranging from the identification of time as a period of action and a period of living to the differentiation of time according to hierarchical position (the gods are eternal; empires rise, prosper, and fall; humans have a time lifespan), to the conception of time as progress—stability and order were the norm and changes were exceptional. But in more recent centuries the dominant conceptions of change itself have changed. Social change as a concept for comprehending a continual dynamic in social units became salient during the French Revolution and the industrial revolution in England, both periods of extraordinary dynamism. Comprehensive change became normal, and, accordingly, social philosophers and later sociologists gradually replaced the older ideas of natural constants and the contractual constructions of natural and rational order with conceptions of social change, even though precise formulations were slow to appear. For these thinkers social change was "a property of social order, known as change" (Luhmann 1984, 471). Moreover, in the midst of change observers began to look in retrospect to the dramatic changes that had occurred in earlier epochs, for examples, in the development of the Egyptian Empire or the Western Roman Empire.

The emergence of a "scientific outlook" and scientific methodology in the West as a dominant mode of knowing and validating reality has proved to be a development of revolutionary consequences. It increased man's understanding of uniformities and variations in natural phenomena which in turn enabled him to use it for developing new technologies and to gain control over nature. The new knowledge and the new technologies transformed the preexisting social order in a way that it became conducive for the development of a new intellectual culture. This culture shook the foundations of established cosmologies, and conceptions about nature, man, and social order and gave birth to what are now known as "social sciences." Impressed by the achievements and exactness of natural science

### ***Developments in the Paradigm of Evolutionary Theory***

The lasting attractiveness of the paradigm of evolutionary theory in sociology is a remarkable phenomenon given the controversial history of this perspective in sociology. In very recent times, however, it has been less the evolutionary writings of Spencer (*The Study of Sociology* [1872], *Principles of Sociology* [1876–96]) than those of Darwin that have provided the models for sociologists (Giesen 1980, 10–11; Luhmann, this volume; Giesen, this volume). Recent evidence of the continuing vitality of the evolutionary perspective is found, among North American sociologists, in the works of Talcott Parsons (1961, 1966, 1967, 1971a, 1977), Neil J. Smelser (1959, 1976), and Gerhard Lenski (1970, 1976) and among West German sociologists, in the theories of Jürgen Habermas (1976, 1981) and Niklas Luhmann (1984). The work of Shmuel N. Eisenstadt (1970, 1976) shows a similar influence.

**Question No 02 Differentiate between social planning & social policy also define influencing factors of social change and highlight its relationship with the social transformation in Pakistan.**

### **Social change**

here is a reason why agents of conservatism are often called 'reactionaries'. More often than not, their opposition to progress and reform does not come from a position of strength and is

instead rooted in deep insecurities and fears about change. When religious extremists threaten their opponents with death and hellfire, and trolls on social media cry treason every time their nationalist narrative is challenged, they resort to vituperation and violence precisely because they sense the ground is shifting beneath their feet. Those with unquestioned dominance can afford to ignore and dismiss their opponents; it is the fearful and the uncertain who lash out at the smallest provocation, desperately clinging to last vestiges of their power.

There are subtle changes happening in Pakistan, many of which continue to fly under the radar but which may, over time, have tectonic implications for society in this country. Take, for example, the emerging consensus that, after years of inertia, poverty levels in Pakistan are finally starting to drop. There are numerous indicators that point towards this development, such as rising incomes and increased use of household appliances, and while poverty and inequality are still widespread (and social indicators related to health and education remain dismal), progress seems to be being made. Perhaps more significantly, Pakistan's mythical middle class also appears to be growing, fuelling increases in consumption across the countries towns and cities.

#### Civil Society Organizations and Social Change

Our primary concern in this discussion is to look at the work of NPOs and ask if and how they have any bearing on pro-poor change in Pakistan. Our answer to this question will come in three parts. First, we will attempt to define pro-poor and social change in this section. Second, in Section IV the activities of NPOs will be classified and discussed in terms of these definitions, with a view to understanding how their work has a vertical impact, both to the state and policy level and at the grassroots community level as well. Third, in Section V the lateral linkages of NPOs will be discussed in terms of how they both represent and signify further social change in the country.

As Gazdar and Sayeed have noted in the first paper of this series, the poor are not a well-defined social category. They are certainly the subject of much research and policy inputs, the most important recent examples of which are the Pakistan Poverty Assessment report and the current Poverty Alleviation Strategy unveiled by the government. As poverty is on the increase, policy and programme planners are looking for solutions. Among these, working with the private sector to share the burden of health and education services, and closer collaboration with NGOs have been advocated and partially implemented for the last few years. This initiative began with the Social Action Programme scheme during the 1990s, an effort to coordinate and integrate social sector activities. Yet without measurable success, or possibly due to inadequate study of such efforts, it remains unclear just how effective civil society is in poverty alleviation in Pakistan

**Question No 3 How do you see that contemporary media and modern technology are the prompting factors in speeding up social change in our society? Explain this with help of charts, plans, graphs, labels, maps, pictures and images.**

### **Technology and Social Change**

**Technology** is the application of scientific knowledge to the making of tools to solve specific problems. Technological advances such as automobiles, airplanes, radio, television, cellular phones, computers, modems, and fax machines have brought major advances and changes to the world. Indeed, 20th century technology has completely—and irreversibly—changed the way people meet, interact, learn, work, play, travel, worship, and do business.

### **Technological information increases exponentially:**

The entire database of scientific knowledge doubles every several years. This “technological explosion” is due in part to an “Information explosion,” as well as to advances in storage, retrieval, and communication of data. In other words, a cycle occurs: Improvements in technology lead to increases in knowledge and information and, thus, to uncovering the means

to create better technology. Consequently, sociologists are concerned with how technological societies will be forced to adapt to the social changes that improvements in technology will continue to bring.

### **Computer technology**

In the 1990s, people witnessed an explosion of computer technology—both in America and around the globe, which has in turn led to a change in how and where people work. **Telecommuters** are employees of agencies or business firms who work full-time or part-time at home instead of in the office. They connect to their offices via electronic networking: phone, computer, e-mail, and fax. Telecommuting allows employees to work under supervisors in another state or country. This form of employment especially helps disabled individuals who are unable to leave home or travel to an office, as well as working parents of young children.

**The Internet**—the world's largest computer network—has revolutionized electronic networking. The number of people using the Internet continues to double annually, with at least 50 percent of all Americans “online” in 2000.

The Internet originally developed from a system built by the U.S. Defense Department to permit governmental work in the aftermath of a nuclear attack. Although originally only those with governmental or university positions could access the Internet, now virtually any home can purchase World Wide Web service. Net-surfers can telecommute, read articles, check stock prices, conduct research, comparison price, shop from home, meet others in chat rooms or on bulletin boards, take college courses, and even earn an accredited degree.

## Biotechnology

Recent decades have produced dramatic—though controversial—scientific advances in **biotechnology** (the application of technology to the practice of medicine). Advances in such areas as reproductive technologies, surrogate parenthood, sex preselection, and genetic engineering have raised difficult political, ethical, and moral questions.

### Reproductive technologies and sex preselection

Not every couple wanting to conceive can do so. If they fail to conceive after one year or more of trying, the couple is considered infertile. At any one time, up to 20 percent of couples in the United States may be infertile.

In many cases, doctors can successfully treat infertility:

- **Fertility drugs** (ovulation-stimulating hormones) can help when the woman's inability to ovulate causes the infertility.
- **Artificial insemination**, which involves collecting and introducing sperm into the vagina using a syringe, proves particularly useful when the man possesses a below-normal sperm count.
- **In vitro fertilization**, or the “test-tube baby” method, involves fertilizing an egg outside the woman's body and implanting it into the uterus. This procedure is useful when the woman has blocked fallopian tubes.

- **Gamete intrafallopian transfer** (“GIFT”) involves taking eggs from the woman's ovaries, mixing them with the man's sperm, and then inserting them into the fallopian tube. In this procedure, fertilization takes place inside the woman's body rather than outside. To date, couples in the United States have produced over 20,000 babies using alternatives such as these.

## Causes of Social Change

Changes to technology, social institutions, population, and the environment, alone or in some combination, create change. Below, we will discuss how these act as agents of social change, and we'll examine real-world examples. We will focus on four agents of change that social scientists recognize: technology, social institutions, population, and the environment.

### Technology

Some would say that improving technology has made our lives easier. Imagine what your day would be like without the Internet, the automobile, or electricity. In *The World Is Flat*, Thomas Friedman (2005) argues that technology is a driving force behind globalization, while the other forces of social change (social institutions, population, environment) play comparatively minor roles. He suggests that we can view globalization as occurring in three distinct periods. First, globalization was driven by take advantage of these power sources expanded the most, and exert control over the politics of the globe from the late fifteenth century to around the year 1800. The second shorter period from approximately 1800 C.E. to 2000 C.E. consisted of a globalizing economy. Steam and rail power were the guiding forces of social change and globalization in this period. Finally, Friedman brings us to the post-millennial era. In this period of globalization, change is driven by technology, particularly the Internet (Friedman 2005).



## The Darker Side of Technology: Electronic Aggression in the Information Age

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) uses the term “electronic aggression” to describe “any type of harassment or bullying that occurs through e-mail, a chat room, instant messaging, a website (including blogs), or text messaging” (CDC, n.d.) We generally think of this as cyberbullying. A 2011 study by the U.S. Department of Education found that 27.8 percent of students aged twelve through eighteen reported experiencing bullying. From the same sample 9 percent specifically reported having been a victim of cyberbullying (Robers et al. 2013).

### Social Institutions

Each change in a single social institution leads to changes in all social institutions. For example, the industrialization of society meant that there was no longer a need for large families to produce enough manual labor to run a farm. Further, new job opportunities were in close proximity to urban centers where living space was at a premium. The result is that the average family size shrunk significantly.

### Population

Population composition is changing at every level of society. Births increase in one nation and decrease in another. Some families delay childbirth while others start bringing children into their folds early. Population changes can be due to random external forces, like an epidemic, or shifts in other social institutions, as described above. But regardless of why and how it happens, population trends have a tremendous interrelated impact on all other aspects of society.