

CHAPTER 2

CULTURAL CHANGES

1. Cultural changes during colonial rule can be understood at two levels—

- efforts of social reformers and nationalists
- Indirect-influence of four processes- sanskritisation, modernisation, secularisation and westernisation.

Social Reform Movements in the 19th & Early 20th Century

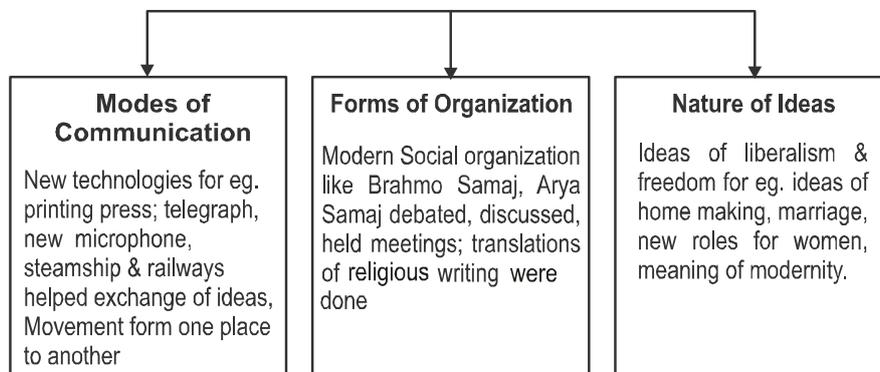
The well known issues or the social evils that plagued Indian society were

- Sati
- Child marriage
- Widow remarriage
- Caste discrimination

Caste discrimination was the central idea of reform for Buddhist, Bhakti and Sufi movements.

- The 19th Century social reform attempts was the modern context and mix of ideas.
- Modern ideas of Western liberalisation and traditional literature were combined creatively.
- Social organisations like Brahma Samaj in Bengal and Arya Samaj in Punjab were set up.

2. Modern Framework of Change in Colonial India according to Sociologist Satish Saberwal



3. Sanskritisation (term coined by M.N. Srinivas) is a process by which some members of a low caste or tribe try to imitate/follow, the customs, ritual, beliefs, ideology and lifestyle of a high, in particular 'twice born' dwija caste.

4. De-sanskritisation is the process where influence of non-Sanskritic castes was found to be dominant instead of high castes.

5. Sanskritisation has been criticised at different levels.

- No structural change only positional change for some individual.
- Assumption of upper castes as being superior hence to be imitated
- justification of the practice of inequality & exclusion as marked privileges of upper castes hence a discriminatory system.
- process that is gendered – though progressive for men, upper caste practices like purdah system, low age of marriage, dowry in place of bride price are regressive as far as women are concerned.
- Erosion of Dalit culture would be an expected outcome.

6. Assertion of Dalit identities in recent years & backward classes movement leading to rejection of upper caste culture.

7. Westernisation

- M.N. Srinivas defines Westernization as the changes brought about in Indian society and culture as a result of 150 yrs of British rule, changes occurring in technology, institutions, ideology and values. He believed as lower castes sanskritised, the upper caste

were westernized by considering the British colonialists as reference group.

- Different kinds of westernization
 1. Emergence of a westernized sub-cultural pattern brought forward by the western educated middle class
 2. General spread of western cultural traits in the fields of food and eating habits, clothes and life-styles due working or serving the british colonialists over a long period.
 3. Impact of westernization can be seen in the fields of art, literature, music, architecture etc.
- In contemporary times, conflicts between generations are seen as cultural conflicts resulting from westernisation.

8. Modernization refers to improvement in technology, production processes; path of development taken by much of West Europe or North America.

- Modernisation assumes that local ties and parochial perspective give way to universal commitments and cosmopolitan attitudes
- a scientific and rational approach develops
- work is based on achievement not birth, individualism is encouraged.

9. Secularisation : In the west-modernization seems to have led to secularization-a process of decline in the influence of religion especially in the public sphere.

10. Rituals have secular dimensions : It provides occasion to socialize with friends and kin, to show off wealth and style to enhance social status.

11. Secularisation of caste

- formation of caste based associations and political parties.
- seeking votes and fielding candidates on caste lines - assertion of rights, by caste based organisations

1 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. The first school for women was opened by----
 - a. Bal Ganga Dhar Tilak
 - b. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - c. Jyoti Ba Phule
 - d. Sayed Ahmed Khan
2. Sanskritisation is a process, that pertains to---
 - a. Political mobility
 - b. economic mobility
 - c. social mobility
 - d. all of the above
3. The path of development called modernization was taken up by---
 - a. Europe or South America
 - b. Eastern Europe or North America
 - c. Western Europe or North America
 - d. All the above
4. When men and women meet for socializing and for showing of family wealth rather than religious celebrations it is known as--- dimension of rituals.
 - a. Cultural
 - b. Social
 - c. Secular
 - d. Political
5. Sufi, Bhakti and Buddhist movements were forms of movements to remove---- discrimination.
 - a. Religious
 - b. economic
 - c. caste
 - d. political
6. Orthodox Hindus often opposed social reform movements and formed their own organizations like the-----
7. Printing press, telegraph and movement of people & goods are the various forms of ----- which were speeded up by new technologies.
8. The grounds of gender and caste was broken up by a Dalit women name ----- when she wrote he rautobiography as a Sanskrit teacher.
9. Sati, caste discrimination, child marriage etc are issues of ----- reform movements of the 19th century.
10. Regional Self-consciousness and pride to be a 'dominant caste' were ideologies of OBCs/Dalits which accelerated with the growth

of ---- movement.

11. The two processes, of cultural change, which are limited by a set of 'modern ideas' are----- and-----
12. Sanskritisation helped in raising the 'status of women'. (correct the statement)
13. According to M N Srinivas when lower castes sought to be westernised, upper castes sought to be sankritised. (correct the statement)
14. We experience 'westernisation' when social relationships are based on truths of utility, calculations and science. (correct the statement)
15. Formation of caste-based associations, and political parties is known as 'popularization of caste' (correct the statement)
16. Colonial impact of modernization can be seen in the field of art, literature, music, & architercture in the Indian society. (correct the statement)

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What were the various social issues taken up by the social reformers in the 19th century?
2. Name some of the modern social organizations formed in 20th century.
3. Why was 'Dharma Sabha' formed?
4. Give the meaning of the terms -
 - (a) Sanskritisation
 - (b) De-Sanskritisation
 - (c) Westernisation
 - (d) Modernization
5. What are some of the basic assumptions of modernity?
6. Examine the relationship of modernisation and secularization.

7. Sanskritisation is a gendered process. Justify.

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Write a short note on secularization of caste.
2. Process of Sanskritisation encourages inequalities and discrimination. Explain

6 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Explain the three aspects responsible for the modern framework of change in colonial India.
2. Examine the different levels at which sanskritisation as a concept has been criticized.