

B.A. 4TH SEM (Education)(Gen.)

Paper: Sociological Foundations of
Education(4.1)

Topic: Cultural Change

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Cultural Change

Change is one of the important characteristics of human society. No society is static in the world. According to change in time the society also changes.

The different cultural aspects such as music, art, dance, new architectures also change with dynamic nature of the society.

Kingsley Davis said that cultural changes embraces all changes occurring in any branch of culture and also in forms and rules of social organization.

Causes of Cultural Change

DAVID DRESSLER and DONALD CARNS (in their book ‘The Study of Human Interaction’) has mentioned causes of cultural change as below:

- Members belonging to society adopt some new customs, refuse others and follow other modified versions of still others. This is known as **CULTURAL ECLECTICISM.**

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- These new customs are accepted under two conditions:
 - a. If what they represent is viewed as socially desirable and useful.
 - b. If they do not clash with earlier customs.
 - Changes in culture are always super forced on existing culture especially during cultural contact.
 - For the sake of human survival and to satisfy socially acquired needs, it is necessary to introduce cultural changes.

- Crisis tend to produce or accelerate cultural changes. If the changes are accepted once due to crisis, they tend to continue. For e.g: Participation of women in 2nd World War has resulted women to be in military forces now.
- Cultural change is growing in its total effect. Much is growing and little is lost, like the growth of a tree. Similary culture grows and changes with time but it continues its endurance as long as it goes on.
- Cultural change leads to chain reaction i.e. whenever new change is created and becomes a social necessity , new needs materialize which leads to genesis of desire for still further changes which harmonize or increase the original change.

Factors of Cultural Change

1. **Accumulation** : It is a process through which transmission of culture usually happen when two culture come into contact. Material and non material culture develop according to continuous change of the society through accumulation process .
2. **Diffusion**: Diffusion means the spread of cultural habits from one society to other.



3. **Assimilation**: It is a process in which minority culture absorb into the dominant culture within a particular society.

4. **Accommodation**: It is a process of adjustment of different cultural traits of the society.

Accommodation process can contribute for the cultural change and development of society.

Bibliography:

Prepared with inputs from:

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