UNIT 2: SOCIAL FORCES BEHIND THE EMERGENCE OF SOCIOLOGY

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2.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will able to–

- identify the influence of French Revolution in the emergence of Sociology
- identify the influence of Industrial Revolution in the emergence of Sociology.

2.2 INTRODUCTION

In the last unit we had read about the intellectual forces which had contributed towards the development of Sociology as a discipline. In this Unit, we will be discussing about two most important events that impacted the human history. These are French and Industrial Revolution. In our discussion we will give stress on the causes and consequence of these revolutions and their impact that led to the emergence of Sociology. French Revolution, which took place in 1789, as mentioned in the previous unit (Unit 1), brought about tremendous changes in the social and political life of the French Society and influenced the other parts of the world. On the other hand the Industrial Revolution, which first started in England and then spread to the other part of European countries like Germany, Belgium, Italy, France etc. and America (particularly Northern America), brought sweeping changes in the field of technological and socio-economic development. Both these events and this impact were integral behind the emergence of Sociology.

2.3 FRENCH REVOLUTION

The French Revolution, which started in 1789 and continued until 1799, was a period of social and political movement, which brought vital change in the socio-economic and political spheres of the country. The revolution provided a new framework for society, as it caused upheaval to the “old regime” based on absolute monarchy, feudal economy, social inequality, alliance of church and the state etc. It created new political ideals, summarized in the French slogan, “liberty, equality and fraternity”. Edward

Royce referred to the revolution as, “a revolt against royal despotism, hereditary privilege, and economic oppression and a revolt in the name of democratic government, political equality, and human rights”.

The French Revolution can be divided into three phases, and each of them can also be said to be “revolution in itself”. The National Assembly (1789-1791) and Legislative Assembly (1791-1792) carried out the first phase of revolution. The first phase was usually referred to as “liberal”, during which the “old regime” or “absolute monarchy” was replaced by “constitutional monarchy”. The second phase started with the formation of “National Convention” (1793-1795). This second phase was marked as most “radical”, being strongly led by the Jacobins faction of the National Convention. During this phase, “constitutional monarchy” was replaced and France was declared a “republic nation”. The third phase of the Revolution can be referred to as the period under “The Directory” (1795-1799), lasted until Napoleon Bonaparte took over the power.



LET US KNOW

Jacobins: An extremist group in the French Revolution. Jacobin club was founded in 1789 and became extremely radical. Helped by Danton, they proclaimed the republic, killed the king and overthrows the committee of public safety. The Jacobins, under the influence of Robespierre caused the Reign of Terror.

2.3.1 Factors of the Revolution

Although there has been scholarly debate on the actual causes of French Revolution, broadly the following factors can be cited as causes for the revolution:

- Firstly, the period that is termed as “old regime” is often referred to as the “Age of Absolutism”. During this period, the Monarchs or the king’s exercised complete authority. Moreover, since the Middle Age, the French society was based on inequality and

hierarchy. People in French society had been divided into three orders or estates: "Clergy", "Nobility" and "Commoners". Each of these estates had specific roles and privileges. The "First Estate" or the "Clergy" consisted of priests and churches. The "Second Estate" or the "Nobility" consisted mostly of the rich landlords. The "Third Estate" or the "Commoners" consisted of everyone else including the middle and the working classes as well as the peasantry. The third estate despite being made up with the overwhelming majority of the French population were in the lowest level of estate hierarchy. However, what made differences among these estates was that, the two estates, "Clergy" and "Nobility", possessed many privileges, including tax exemption while the third estate, provided most of the nation's taxes. Moreover, in France and in some other European countries there was an economic structure known as "Feudalism". Under this system, many nobles (called as *seigneur*) owned land and the peasants used to work in their lands and in return the nobles could tax the peasants who lived on their land.

- Secondly, the writings of Enlightenment thinkers had great influence during the Revolution. The Enlightenment, as discussed in the Unit 1, was the period of intellectual advancement, which provided a range of new intellectual frameworks about social, political and economic aspects. In this regard, the writings of thinkers like John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Montesquieu, Voltaire and many others, had great influences. It was through their writings that question of "Divine rule "and the issues of equality, liberty and freedom were discussed.
- Thirdly, the most important causes for the Revolution was the financial crisis which France had witnessed. France's involvement in the Seven Years War and support in American Revolution against British left the country with huge national debt and by the late 1780s, the government lay close to bankruptcy. Moreover, the French economy suffered a lot because of

widespread crop failure, during 1787 and 1788. The crop failure resulted in shortages of grain and pushed the food prices high for which the poor section had to suffer a lot. This also became another major factor leading to the Revolution.



LET US KNOW

Seven years War: The war (1756-63) between Prussia, Britain and Hanover on one side and France, Russia and Spain on the other. The war had two main aspects: the rivalry between Austria and Prussia for domination of Germany and the struggle between France and Britain for overseas supremacy.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Fill in the blanks:

a) The National Assembly and ..... carried out the first phase of revolution.

b) Enlightenment was a period of ..... advancement.

2.3.2 Immediate context of the Revolution: Estates General and Rise of National Assembly (1789-1791)

As the French government was going through huge financial crisis, King Louis XVI, brought in a number of financial advisors to review the situation and to overcome the deficit. Finally, the king appointed Charles Alexandre de Calonne as the controller general of finances. He proposed a reform in the taxation system, which included a universal land tax from which the privileged classes would no longer be exempt. That essentially meant that both the first and second estates would have to pay taxes. Accordingly, in order to discuss the proposal it was arranged to summon an assembly of the “notables”. But, the proposal did not succeed, since neither of these estates supported the reforms and suggested to call the

"Estates General". "Estates General" is the representative body of all three estates that had not met since 1614. The schedule for the meeting was fixed on May 5, 1789 at Versailles.

Though the "Estates General" had once important role, now the French society was changing and the importance of Estate General was declining. Right from the very beginning, Estate General or the meeting was troubled, mainly on the issue of 'voting' process. Traditionally, each estate had a single vote. This meant that, despite the third estate consisting of the majority population, they could be outvoted by two other estates, making it two to one. So the members of the third estate wanted change and reform the voting pattern. It was also the period when the questions on the issues of the third estate were raised. Abbe Emmanuel Joseph Sieyes, in a pamphlet entitled "What Is the Third Estate?" published in January 1789 highlighted the importance of the third estate. The idea came to have an immense influence on the course of Revolution, summarized in the words: "*What is the third estate? Everything. What has it been until now in the political order? Nothing. What does it ask to be? Something".*

Thus, the third Estate began to mobilize the population for equal representation in the voting process and the abolishment of the noble veto. In other words, they wanted voting by head and not by status. By the time, the debate over the voting process had erupedt into hostility the third estate declared themselves as "National Assembly" and claimed if to be the true representative body of France. They also invited members of the other estates to join the National Assembly.

The King (Louis XVI) wanted to disband the National Assembly and lock out of its meeting place. In response to it the National Assembly, on 20th of June, moved to a nearby tennis court and swore that they would continue to meet, until they had produced a new constitution. The oath they swore came to be known as the *Tennis court Oath*.

2.3.3 The Bastille Attack

By the time National Assembly continued to meet, for its work on a constitution, at Versailles, fear and violence stormed the capital as the rumours spread that the King was amassing troops against the National Assembly. The gatherings of troops created fear among the people, and in order to counter back, a popular riot was started in the streets of Paris. On July 14, people stormed the city's largest prison, the Bastille, which was also supposed to be the symbol of royal power, in an attempt to ransack for gunpowder and weapons. After a long battle between the crowd and the prison guards, the Bastille fell (on july 14, 1789) and it marked the end of the King's ability to enforce his authority and it became the remarkable symbol of the revolution.

2.3.4 Abolition of Feudalism

Along with the Bastille attack, the revolution quickly spread throughout France. In the countryside, peasants and farmers started revolt against their feudal landlords and tax collectors. Finally, to restore order, on 4th August, the National Assembly abolished feudalism.

2.3.5 Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen

Shortly thereafter, the National Assembly, on 26th August 1789, introduced the "Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen", which was very much influenced by Enlightenment ideas. It emphasised the "natural and imprescriptible rights of man". These rights included:"liberty, property, security and resistance to oppression", freedom and equal rights, freedom of speech and press, freedom of religion, equal right in making laws, access to public office based on talent and end to exemptions from taxation and so on. The declaration was one of the most important outcomes of the Revolution, as for the first time the masses were granted a rightful place in the respectable political arena of French society.

2.3.6 Working on the Constitution

A series of events, as discussed below, occurred that enhanced the possibility of a new constitution being enacted. The King refused to accept the National Assembly's Declaration of Rights and abolition of feudalism and remained at Versailles. But on 5th October 1789, thousands of women marched to Versailles in order to get the King to accept the National Assembly's measures. The king and his family were brought back to the capital and were essentially imprisoned in the Tuileries Palace.

- **Civil Constitution of the Clergy**: As France still did not overcome its economy crisis, in order to deal with the condition the National Assembly decided to confiscate and nationalize all church property and all the special taxes and powers of the Church were cancelled. The National Assembly also passed the new "Civil Constitution of the Clergy", on 14 July 1790. According to this new law, all the priests would be elected and paid for by the state and they were also made to sign an oath to the new constitution.

  Such measures on church by the National Assembly caused a rift in French society. These measures were seen as anti-church by a significant portion of population, most of whom were devout Catholics.

- **King Attempted to Flee:** At the same time, when the National Assembly was busy restructuring the relationship between the state and the church, Louis XVI and his family attempted to flee France. Since Bastille attack, many among the nobility left France who were later known as *émigrés,* and sought help from other European rulers to counter the revolution. Under such circumstances the King and his family also attempted to escape, but they did not succeed and were caught at the city of Varennes. This attempt to escape further discredited Louis in the eyes of the public.

- **Rift in National Assembly:** While working on a new constitution, there was a rift within the members of the National Assembly. The two most dominant factions were the Girondins (moderates) and Jacobins (radicals). The Girondins took a stance in favour of retaining the constitutional monarchy, while the radical Jacobins wanted to abolish the king and give more power to the people and to support the republic. Moreover, there were the *émigrés* outside the Assembly who wanted monarchy.

  After a long debate and discussion, in September 1791, the National Assembly introduced a new constitution. Under the new constitution, France was a Constitutional Monarchy and the king was made a figurehead with very little power. Finally, the National Assembly decided that it would stop governing France and on 29 September 1791, replaced itself with the Legislative Assembly.

  However, the new constitution was not supported by the Jacobins who wanted complete abolition of the monarchy and thus though the National Assembly or Legislative Assembly did succeed in drafting a constitution, the relative peace was short lived.

2.3.7 War with Neighboring Countries

By the time, the Revolution was on the pace, other European rulers were worried about the situation in France. They were afraid that the revolutionary ideas might spread to their own countries as well. Thus, on 27 August 1791, the monarchs of Austria and Prussia, issued the *"Declaration of Pillnitz",* where they insisted on the return of Louis XVI to the throne and the end of the National Assembly. They also proposed to invade France if the demands were not fulfilled.

In reaction to this Declaration, in April 1792, the Legislative Assembly declared war against Austria. Soon Prussia joined Austria against France. This war later came to be known as the War of the First Coalition. During the war, they wrote the "*Brunswick Manifesto*", promising that if the royal family was not hurt, no civilians would be hurt in the invasion.

Suspicins grew among the French revolutionaries that the king Louis XVI was plotting with the foreign kings to invade France. They were turning against the King while on the other hand, the French were losing the war against the Prussian Army. Finally, on 10 August 1792, a revolutionary group called the 'Paris Commune' attacked the Tuileries, where the King and Queen were living. The King and Queen were taken prisoner.

2.3.8 National Convention (1792-1795)

During the war, the Legislative Assembly was losing its power and no single group was controlling Paris or France. The revolutionaries were very angry and violent. There was an urgent need for a new government. In response to it, the Legislative Assembly was replaced with National Convention on 20th September 1792. Under the National Convention France was declared a republic and called to draft a new constitution for it.

- **Execution of the King:** The initial act of the National Convention was to remove the King from the French government. But the King had to suffer because of the "Brunswick Manifesto", as the revolutionaries suspected the war as a conspiracy of the King. Thus, in January 1793, the National Convention voted and found the King guilty and finally on 21 January the King was executed.
- **Jacobins in Power:** Though, the National Convention had both Girondins and Jacobins, they had always been in rivalry as moderate and radical. The situation became much worse when Jean- Paul Marat, one of the Jacobin leaders, was killed by Clarlotte Corday, a young Girondin. The Girondins were soon expelled by the Jacobins who wanted to arrest as many Girondin as possible by July 1793, the coup was completed and the Jacobins began to take power. Now the dominant group in the National Convention was the Jacobins. In the following years, the National Convention also increased the numbers of army and under the initiative called *levee en masse,* all able men

between 18 and 25 age recruited. With the coming of Jaconins in power the revolution entered the most radical phase.

- **Reign of Terror:** The Reign of Terror lasted from the spring of 1793 to the spring of 1794. Reign of Terror was one of the most bloody and violent phase of the French Revolution in which huge number of people labeled as "enemies of the Revolution" were killed. The Reign of Terror spared no one: whether nobles, clergy, or members of the third estate and all those who were suspected as "enemies", were killed.

  By early 1793, Austria and Prussia was be joined by Britain, Holland and Spain against France. On the other hand, the war with Austria and Prussia was causing economic problem and many people wanted a change. Under such circumstances, in the countryside of France, in a place called La Vendee, a "pro-monarchy" revolt broke out. In La Vendee, the people were not happy with the revolutionary government; and therefore in March 1790, they revolted against the government.

  The National Convention, in order to deal with the crisis, formed a Committee of Public Safety. Initially the Committee was headed by Georges Danton and by July 1793, he was replaced by Maximilien de Robespierre till July 1794. Maximilien de Robespierre was one of the most radical Jacobin and it was during his period, that what came to be known as "Reign of Terror". Robespierre believed in inspiring fear among the people for the success of the revolution and whoever broke or suspected of breaking Jacobin's laws, working or suspected of working against Jacobins was labelled as "enemies of Revolution" and was executed. During the Reign of Terror, even many people involved in Jacobins club were executed for mere suspicion. Finally in July 1794, some members of the National Convention turned against him; Maximilien de Robespierre and his supporters too were arrested and executed. The overthrow or reaction against Maximilien de Robespierre and the Committee of Public Safety became known as the "Thermidorean Reaction".

2.3.9 The Directory (1795-1799)

After the reign of terror was over, the National Convention, on August 22, 1795, approved of a new constitution that created France's first bicameral parliament. It was consised of two houses: an upper house (Council of Ancients) consisting of 250 members and a lower house (Council of Five Hundred) consisting of 500 members. Moreover, the executive body was compersed of five officers called the Directory, which was chosen by the parliament. However, though the Directory had no legislative power, it had the authority to appoint people in various other positions of the government.

The Directory era too was marked by inefficiency, financial crises and political corruption. The directors relied mostly on the military to maintain their power and authority in the government. It failed to solve the economic conditions of the country. The new constitution also replaced the universal male suffrage of 1793 with limited suffrage based on property, which irritated the poor class. The directors also ignored the elections which did not go the way they wanted. Under such conditions, the people, especially the Jacobins and royalists, criticized the Directory. Jacobins on one hand wanted a republic, while on the other hand the loyalists wanted a new king by putting Louis XVIII on the throne. They tried to revolt against the Directory, but were suppressed by using army. In 1795, for instance, the army under the leadership of Napoleon Bonaparte suppressed one of such revolt against the Directory.

Napoleon Bonaparte became a popular figure for the Directory and was given command of French forces to fight the neighbouring countries. In the following years the French army, especially those led by Napoleon Bonaparte, seemed unstoppable. Napoleon's army invaded Italy, won battles against Austrian troops and reached as far as Egypt before facing a deflating in 1799.

While back in France, the Directory was constantly being criticized for its widespread corruption and inability to solve the

country's economic problems. With the political upheaval in the country Napoleon abandoned the troops in Egypt and returned to France where he led a coup against the Directory. On 9 November 1799, he overthrew the Directory. By now the French Revolution was over, a new government was formed called Consulate, headed by three consuls, of whom Napoleon was declared the "first consul". Napoleon, quickly took control over the entire government and France entered the period of military rule.

Although the French Revolution was a controversial topic and opinions vary over its significance and impacts; what change the French Revolution brought about was the "outlook". It questioned the "divine right" of the monarchy, questioned the privileges of the clergy and the nobility, raised the question on inequality, freedom etc. The changes that France underwent throughout the Revolution were of great significance. They provided a broad framework for the Sociologists to study the society.

2.4 INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution, which was an important period in economic history of Europe, took place in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The Industrial Revolution was first started in England and it had spread incrementally to other European countries like– Germany, France, Belgium, Italy etc as well as to America (particularly Northern America). The term 'Industrial Revolution' was widely popularized in late 19th century by economic historian Arnold Toynbee, to refer to the social, demographic, economic and technological changes that Britain had witnessed. Broadly speaking, although there is much debate and disagreement over the nature of Industrial Revolution, it refers to the transformation from a predominantly agricultural based economy to an industrial or factory economy, transformation from a rural to an increasingly urban and industrial society, transformation from handicraft or human labour to increasing use of machines, advancement in communication and transportation, mass production and so on.

Britain is referred to as the "first industrial nation" and for this a numbers of factors are cited as its causes: Firstly, availability of natural resources, such as iron ore and coal. *Secondly*, availability of navigable rivers and natural harbours, which played a vital role for domestic and overseas trade. *Thirdly*, Britain was also world's leading colonial power that provided a strong economy and served for raw materials as well as a marketplace for the manufactured goods. *Fourthly*, Britain also experienced a revolution in energy, as they switched from animal power to waterpower to steam power (steam engine was an important source of power in the Industrial Revolution) in a few short years. *Lastly,* but not the least, Britain passed through the stage called "agricultural revolution" (discussed below), which also stimulated and proved crucial for industrial revolution. Some of the important aspects of industrial revolution are discussed below:

2.4.1 Innovations

Industrial revolution was the period where we can see advancement in the field of science and technology, particularly only the use of new materials (iron, steel etc.), use of new energy sources (coal, steam engines etc.) or innovation of new machines. The major change could be seen in the field of textile, as no other industries had advanced so quickly as the textile industries. Some of the major innovations in the textile included James Hargreaves's "spinning jenny" which could produce several spools of thread simultaneously. Later "spinning jenny" was improvised by Samuel Compton's "spinning mule", which combined spinning and weaving in one machine. Another major innovation in the field of textile was Edmund Cartwright's "power loom", which was mechanized and run by steam power for fast weaving. With such inventions, textiles could be produced in factories rather than at home with minimum human labour and with much greater speed, efficiency and profit.

It is important to note that the advancement in technology, particularly in the field of textile, had reverse impact on the traditional textile workers. The workers who used to work in their own home

using simple tools like spinning wheel operated by hand became inefficient in front of the new machines and failed to compete. Thus, in response to such changes, there was a revolt known as “Luddite movement”, led by a section of workers later called “luddites”. The luddites were textile workers or self-employed weavers who feared the end of their trade and in consequence to live without work because of advancements in machines. Thus, they revolted against the newly developed technologies.

One of the most integral and game changing innovations of Industrial revolution was the steam power, which could be used to operate machineries and transportation. In the early 1700s, Thomas Newcomen developed a steam engine which was primarily used to pump out water from the mines. Later, by 1770s, James Watt improvised Newcomen’s work and made it more efficient that could power machines in the factories, locomotives and ships.

Development, in iron and steel industry also played an important role in the Industrial revolution. During this period, there was development in the production of cast iron and steel and in the process of refining them. For instance, in the early 18th century, Abraham Darby discovered a less expensive, easier and more efficient method to produce cast iron i.e. using coke-fuelled furnace instead of charcoal fired; while in the 1850s, Henry Bessemer developed the first cheap process for steel production. Both iron and steel became essential materials, used for making everything from tools and machines, to ships, buildings and other infrastructures.

2.4.2 Transportation and Communication

With the innovations, increased production and high demand for manufactured goods, there was also increase in demand for transportation system to move raw material and finished products. Demand for transportation, during 18th century, were met with the contraction of canals and improved road system; while with the introduction of railway lines and steam driven boats or ships, transport

system was radically improved. In this regard innovations of steam and coal engines had major impacts; since prior to the advent of steam engine, the goods were carried through horse drawn wagons and by boats or sail ships, along canals and rivers, which were time consuming and labour intensive. However, with the introduction of steam boats, ships and railroad, transportation of raw materials and finished industrial products, was done easily and in high speed. Moreover, improvement in communication, like telegraph, served faster exchanges of news and commercial information than ever before.

2.4.3 Agricultural Revolution and Industrial Revolution

Before the advent of the Industrial Revolution, most people resided in small, rural communities where their daily existence revolved around farming. As farming was the major occupation, it dominated the British economy for centuries. 'Agricultural Revolution' in Britain, was a period, during 18th and early 19th centuries, of technological improvement in farming which brought increase in productivity and prosperity for the farmers. It was during the 'agricultural revolution' that new tools, harvesting techniques and fertilizers were introduced, for instance, the introduction of Jethro Tull's mechanical 'seed drill' in 1701. Earlier, the common method of sowing seeds was broadcasting (evenly throwing) by hand and lightly harrowing the soil to cover the seed. Jethro Tull's 'seed drill' was an improvised technique as it distributed the seeds evenly across and at the correct depth in a plot of land. Another important farming tool was the introduced by Dutch and its improvised version of Joseph Folijambe's cast iron plough, which was lighter than the traditional plough and was easier to be pulled by minimum number of oxen or horses. Among others, the most important innovation during the agricultural revolution was in case of 'crop rotation' system. Earlier, mainly during the middle age, the farming was done in "open field system" (discussed in the next paragraph) and usually had two or

three field crop rotation system, while one field was left fallow or unplanted to recover its plant nutrients. For example, in 'three field crop rotation', two fields would be cultivated with say *wheat* and *oats* while the third field being left fallow and accordingly the fields were rotated every year. The new pattern, introduced during agricultural revolution, was 'four field crop rotation' system. In this new pattern, there was no requirement to keep a field to lie fallow. It was achieved with the introduction of crops like *turnip* and *clover*. In 'four field crop rotation', four fields were cultivated respectively with say *wheat, oats, turnip* and *clover* (turnip and clover help to recover nutrients in the soils) and every successive years the crops were rotated. Thus, in the process, it was no longer necessary to leave a field fallow, since the turnip and clover recover nutrients, for which soil was left fallow in the traditional practice. The new patterns of crop rotation increased crop and livestock yields by improving fertility of the land and reducing fallowness. Overall, the agricultural revolution, improvised the farming techniques, which resulted in increased agricultural production and prosperity among the farmers. And this, in turn, meant that the typical English family did not have to spend almost everything it earned on bread or food; instead it could purchase manufactured goods. As a result, there was a rising demand for better clothing or household goods, which also stimulated urban industries. Some wealthier families even provided capital for industrial enterprises.

2.4.4 Enclosure Movement

Migration was one of the most important features of the Industrial Revolution. The revolution witnessed huge migration from the countryside to the industrial centres in search of work. This migration was partly because of loss in "jobs", as many people lost their traditional occupations, for instance the weavers, whose work proved less efficient with the coming of new machines. Migration was also partly due the impact of a government policy, called the "Enclosure Acts", for which, large number of farmers lost their land

and had to move out to the industrial centres and became industrial workers. Enclosure Acts, majority of which were passed between 1750 to 1860, were a series of Parliamentary Acts, under which large number of “open field” and “common” land were enclosed. In the traditional agricultural practice known as “open field system”, each village would have two or three large fields divided into many narrow strips of land. Accordingly, individual families, often known as tenants, cultivated these strips. In addition to these open fields, in the “waste” lands or unproductive fields, like fens and marshes, the people had traditional and collective rights or access for pasture animals, collecting firewood, harvesting meadow grass etc. However, the British government came with the idea of enclosing the lands, claiming that large fields could be farmed more efficiently than the individual plots or strips for better raising of crops. Under the Enclosure Acts, the lands or strips were enclosed usually with walls, fence or hedges around it and converted into large fields; along with this the common lands were also enclosed. The lands seized by the acts were then consolidated into individual and privately owned farms, with large, politically connected farmers receiving the best plots of land. On the other hand, there were the displaced people, who failed to afford the legal and other associated costs of enclosure acts. They were deprived from the traditional right over the common and open field, in some extant, which they enjoyed for generations. Although, as compensation, the displaced people were offered with small alternative land, they were of inferior quality. Moreover, the displaced people allocated with small plot of land found hard to compete with large landowners and as a result many lost their land because of failing in business. Thus, the farmers, who lost their land, were left hardly with any other options rather than to join the industries as labourers. In the process, a huge migration took place from the countryside to the industrial cities. This whole migration process can be termed as ‘enclosure movement’.

2.4.5 Factory System

The most important outcome of the Industrial Revolution is the "factory system". Due to population explosion and production demand, England faced increasing pressure to produce more manufactured goods. Prior to industrial revolution, the widespread manufacturing process was carried out in homes known as "putting out system" or "domestic system". In this system the merchant would "put out" or deliver the raw materials to the rural producers, who usually worked in their own homes or in some workshops, used their own tools (for example, spinning wheel or single loom in case of textile); maintained their own working schedules and so on. The finished products were then returned to the merchants for which the workers were paid with "wages".

However, with the increase in demand for more production and introduction of new machines, the "putting out system" became ineffective, as it failed to compete with the efficiency of the new machines. As a result, the "putting out system" was replaced by "Factory System". The factory system brought tremendous changes in the economic activities: Firstly, in factory system the manufacturing process is mainly based on power driven machineries, which also resulted in mass production. Secondly, the independent workers, who used their own tools and managed own schedule, became industrial labourers. The employers provided the tools and other requirements and the labourers had to maintain the time schedules set by the employers. In other words, the workers had no control over the production process. Thirdly, the location of work also changed. Previously the works were done in individual households but now the works were done in the factories or industries for which the workers had to move from home to the factories.

2.4.6 Exploitation

It is important to note that the Industrial Revolution was also marked by the emergence of "capitalism", the economic system in

which maximizing the capital or profit was the main motive. Initially, as migration continued, there was huge unemployment partly because of loss in jobs and partly due to enclosure acts. Under such circumstances they hardly had any other options rather but to join the industries as labourers. Moreover, there was no major law to regulate the industries; for instance, there were no laws to prevent child labours in mines or factories. Since there was high demand for employment accompanied by absence of laws, the factory owners were free to set the terms of work. The workers had little or no bargaining power for higher pay, fairer work hours or better working conditions while, by any means the factory owners tried to maximise their capital or profits. In such a setting, the workers were exploited in various forms: the workers were paid less to keep the production cost down; the workers had to work for longer hours under difficult conditions and so on.

2.4.7 Growing Cities and Slums

One of the important and lasting features of Industrial Revolution was "Urbanization" or rise of cities. Prior to the revolution the majority of the population lived in rural areas, but with the establishment of industries and the onset of huge migration, many small towns turned into large cities. For instance, Manchester was such a place, which rapidly turned into a large city in course of the Revolution. Manchester City was an ideal place for the building industries, as it was near to Atlantic port (Liverpool) and the coalfields of Lancashine. Therefore, Manchester quickly became one of the leading industrial cities, drawing migrants from countryside to the city.

The growth of cities had impacts, mostly in the slums, where the working class lived. The slums or the working class neighbourhoods as a whole overcrowded. They were dirty and polluted leading to serious health issues such as spread of diseases. Most of the scholars disagree that there was improvement in the standard of living for all. Although the standard of living improved for certain

sections, it certainly did not improve for the working class or the labourers.

Thus, remarkable changes occurred in the society as a result of the Industrial Revolution. But as a reaction to the changes or in their efforts to analyse the changes, the sociologists offered a bunch of theories relating to issues such as division of labour, capitalism, bureaucracy, migration, exploitation and so on. The major classical figures were Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Georg Simmel.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.2: a) When did the reign of terror started?

.....

b) Which is the first country to witness the Industrial Revolution?

.....

c) Who introduced the mechanical seed drill?

.....



2.5 LET US SUM UP

- French Revolution had brought a tremendous change in social and political life of French Society and influenced the other parts of the world.
- The most important causes for the revolution was the financial crisis which France had witnessed.
- The Industrial Revolution took place in the late 18th and 19th centuries.
- The Industrial Revolution was first started in England and it spread incrementally to other European countries like- Germany, France, Belgium, Italy etc as well as to America.
- Industrial Revolution refers to the transformation from a predominantly agricultural based economy to an industrial or factory economy.

- It also involved transformation from handicraft or human labour to increasing use of machines, advancement in communication and transportation, mass production.
- Industrial revolution was the period where we can see advancement in the field of science and technology, particularly only the use of new materials (iron, steel etc.),
- Industrial Revolution witnessed use of new energy sources (coal, steam engines etc.) or innovation of new machines.
- Advancement in technology, particularly in the field of textile, had reverse impact on the traditional textile workers.
- The workers who used to work in their own home using simple tools like spinning wheel operated by hand became inefficient in front of the new machines and failed to compete.
- Innovations led to increased production and high demand for manufactured goods,
- "Luddite movement", led by a section of workers later called "luddites" emerged against the new technology.
- Improvement in communication, like telegraph, helped to exchange news and other commercial information faster than ever before.
- Technological improvement also led to Agricultural Revolution.
- Since machines could perform the task of a lot of people, many agricultural labourers were compelled to migrate to find work.
- High demand for employment led to exploitation of the workers by the owners of the factories.
- Increased population led to the growth of slums.
- Thus, Industrial society led to remarkable changes in society.
- In the wake of these changes some social thinkers like Karl Marx, Max Weber, Emile Durkheim and Georg Simmel tried to analyse the society scientifically.



2.6 FURTHER READING

1) Royce, Edward (2015); *Classical Social Theory and Modern Society: Marx, Durkheim, Weber*; London: Rowman & Littlefield.
2) Thompson, E. P. (1963); *The Making of the English Working Class*; United Kingdom: Vintage Books.
3) Dwyer, P. G. and Peter McPhee (Eds.) (2002); *The French Revolution and Napoleon: A Sourcebook*; London: Routledge.



2.7 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: a) Legislative Assembly b) intellectual

Ans. to Q. No. 2: a) 1793 b) England c) Jethro Tull



2.8 MODEL QUESTIONS

A) Short Questions: (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q.1: What were the major events under National Assembly during the French Revolution?

Q.2: Where were the major factors that led to a revolution in the field of textile industry during Industrial Revolution ?

B) Long Questions: (Answer each question in about 300-500 words)

Q.1: Discuss the main causes of French Revolution.

Q.2: Discuss the factors leading to Industrial Revolution.

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