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POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

SEMESTER III

POLITICAL SCIENCE

BLOCK : 2

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

Subject Experts

Prof. Jayanta Krishna Sarmah, Gauhati University

Dr. Shantanu Chakravorty, Cotton University

Dr. Dhruba Pratim Sharma, Gauhati University

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Abhijit Bhuyan, KKHSOU & Jahnabi Devi, KKHSOU

SLM Preparation Team

UNITS	CONTRIBUTORS
9, 11, 12	Banasmita Sarma, Research Scholar, Gauhati University
10	Dr. Pankaj Jyoti Gogoi, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati
13	Tridib Bharali, Research Scholar, KKHSOU
14	Dr. Pankaj Kr. Sarmah, Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit & Ancient Studies University, Nalbari, Assam
15	Jahnabi Devi, KKHSOU

Editorial Team

Content	**:**	Dr. Manashi Sarma, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati.
Language	**:**	Dr. Bipul Das, Dr. Abhijit Bhuyan & Jahnabi Devi, KKHSOU
Structure, Format & Graphics	**:**	Dr. Abhijit Bhuyan & Jahnabi Devi, KKHSOU

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City Office : Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-781 006; Website: www.kkhsou.in

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MASTER OF ARTS
POLITICAL SCIENCE
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INTRODUCTION TO BLOCK- 2

This is the second block of the fourth course or paper of Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University's M. A. Third Semester Programme in Political Science. The fourth course or paper of the MA Third Semester Programme in Political Science is titled "Political Sociology". The second block of this course contains seven units- (Units 9-15).

The course is designed to help the learners to have a deep understanding of the various aspects of Political Sociology. It is desirable that the learners of the Master Degree Programme in Political Science should have thorough knowledge about the different aspects of political sociology. Keeping this in view, this block of the course discusses a range of topics in the field of political sociology with respect to India. Accordingly, the ninth unit of the course discusses the Agrarian Class Structure and Rural Leadership in India. The tenth unit discusses the Urban-Industrial Class Structure and Rise of the Middle Class. The eleventh unit discusses Demographic Change in India. The twelfth unit discusses Migration. The thirteenth unit discusses the problem of Domestic Violence and Legal protection in India. The fourteenth unit discusses issues of Child Labour in India. The fifteenth unit discusses Women Empowerment in India.

While going through the units of the block, you will find that the units are further divided into certain sections and sub-sections, wherever necessary, for your better understanding. Besides, in order to give you additional information on certain relevant topics, you will find a category called "LET US KNOW" after the sections in each unit. Another category that has been included at the end of each section of a particular unit is "CHECK YOUR PROGRESS". The purpose of this category is to help you to assess for yourself as to how thoroughly you have understood a particular section. You may then match your answers with "ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS" given at the end of each unit. The section "FURTHER READING" in each unit contains the names of a few books which you might want to consult if you are interested in learning more elaborately about the concepts discussed in a particular unit. Furthermore, the category called "POSSIBLE QUESTIONS" is intended to give you a hint of the type of questions you are likely to get in the examination.

UNIT 9: AGRARIAN CLASS STRUCTURE AND RURAL LEADERSHIP IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

9.1 Learning Objectives

9.2 Introduction

9.3 Nature of Agrarian Class Structure in India,

9.4 State Intervention in Rural Transformation in Post-independent India

9.5 Changing Dynamics and Emerging Pattern of Rural Leadership in India.

9.6 Let Us Sum Up

9.7 Further Reading

9.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

9.9 Possible Questions

9.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- explain the meaning of agrarian class structure
- explain the nature of the agrarian class structure in India
- discuss the nature of state intervention in rural transformation in post-independent India
- discuss the changing dynamics and emerging pattern of rural leadership in India

9.2 INTRODUCTION

In the post- Independence era, rural India has structured itself into four classes and that is what becomes a part of the system. It can be said that the agricultural field has three classes within itself- landowners, tenants and the labourers; while the fourth class being of the non- agriculturalists. The groups and settlements of people who earn their living mainly by cultivating land and by carrying out allied activities like fishing and animal husbandry are called agrarian societies. Agricultural economics sprang from

the economic activities of agricultural production, agricultural consumption, agricultural investment and agricultural exchange which relates to product pricing of agriculture goods and factor pricing or simply distribution of agriculture goods and services. It is important to note that the activities of production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services are the three vital economic activities of every economy. And, agricultural production is clearly an important economic activity. But, like all other economic activities, it is carried out in a social context or structure as it is governed by social interactions and connections.

9.3 NATURE OF AGRARIAN CLASS STRUCTURE IN INDIA

Persons engaged in agriculture or cultivation of land also deal with each other in different social capabilities and dimensions. Some may cultivate their lands on their own while others may hire labourers or give their land on rent to tenants. They not only interact within their agrarian peasantry class but they also on a regular basis interact with various other classes of people who offer them different types of services necessary for the cultivation of land.

Unlike the modern industrial societies which are fully integrated and internally connected where it is somewhat easy to classify and recognize various class groups, the pre-modern social structures of agrarian societies were diverse and disparate as they are characterized by assortments, multiplicities, and mixtures of various kinds. Along with the division of labour, the notion of surplus value also came into being in the agrarian class structure. The division of labour refers to the division of different kinds of tasks that are carried out by specific individuals or groups as a part of a stable group, arrangement or set-up. So, when a group of workers does different tasks in order to increase production and productivity, we call it a division of labour.

The agriculture sector takes account of all those economic activities where there is the direct use of natural resources such as agriculture, forestry, fishing, fuels, metals, minerals, and so on. Agriculture has become a rather marginal sector of the economy in most developed societies of the West,

providing employment to only a very small proportion of their populations, while in the developing countries, it provides employment to a very large proportion of their populations, and yet the worth, impact and, significance of agriculture has substantially dropped. As a consequence, we need to keep in mind the fact that there is no single model or theory of agrarian class structure that can be applied to all the societies to develop an evocative, expressive, and eloquent understanding of the nature and significance of agrarian social structure , in general, and agriculture , in particular.

The traditional Indian agrarian structure was organised within the framework of the "jajmani system". Under this system, land was owned and cultivated by the caste group called "jajmans" (the patrons). The "kamins" (the manual workers) on the other hand, constituted the caste group which was required to work for the jajmans. The jajmans, in return for the services rendered by the kamins, payed a share from the farm produce to the latter. However, the relationship though was based on reciprocal exchange was determined by the caste system and reinforced caste-based inequalities. The upper caste groups who owned land were undoubtedly more powerful than the manual workers. With the advent of the British, the agrarian class structure underwent a sea change. In places like Bihar and Bengal , full ownership rights were transferred to the zamindars who were only tax collecting intermediaries in the earlier times. A large number of peasants who had been cultivating land now became tenants of the zamindars or the new landlords. The tenants had to pay a fixed amount of cash to the zamindar rather than a share of what was produced. Thus, even when there was a drought or when the crops were destroyed due to bad weather or other causes, the tenants had to pay the amount leading them to a life of poverty and indebtedness.

After gaining independence, the Indian government tried to introduce changes in land relations. The Indian Parliament passed the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950 which abolished the zaminadri syatem and sought to grant the ownership of land to the actual tillers of the land. Land ceiling legislations were also passed in many states to avoid concentring of land in the hands of a few and bring about redistribution of land.

Renowned economist Daniel Thorner put forward the following model of agrarian class structure in India:

(a) Maliks : Their income was primarily from property rights and collected rent from tenants, sub-tenants and sharecroppers.

(b) Kisans: They are peasants who own small plots of land and work with their own labour.

(c) Mazdoors: They do not possess any land of their own. The work in others' land as tenants/sharecroppers or wage labourers.

However, given the complexities of the socio-economic environment in India, it is not always possible to follow the above mentioned classification regarding the agrarian class structure in India. Instead, depending upon ownership of land and the relative size of land holdings, one could classify the Indian agrarian class structure. In this context, a more acceptable classification is that of big landlords (owning large land holdings), big farmers, middle farmers, small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Traditional Indian agrarian structure was organised within the framework of the "jajmani system". (True/False)

.....

Q.2: What is the nature of agrarian class structure in India? Explain.

.....

.....

.....

9.4 STATE INTERVENTION IN RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN POST INDEPENDENCE INDIA

- **Rural Development after Independence**

Rural development has acquired special significance in the countries of the developing world. Since independence, the Government of

India has launched various programmes of 'planned change' encompassing social, economic and political processes. There are two approaches adopted by the government with regard to the patterns of development. These approaches are (a) the 'transformation' approach and (b) the 'improvement' approach.

- **The Transformation Approach**

The 'transformation' approach attaches importance to a radical change in the existing system in terms of scale of operation, production techniques, and socio-legal reforms. Implementation of land reform measures comes within the purview of this approach. So far as the land reform measures are concerned, a large number of tenants or farmers have now become the owners of the land that they are cultivating. The slogan "land to the tiller" has been successfully translated into reality in most of the States of India. The tenancy rights are more secure now. The Zamindari abolition laws have succeeded in eliminating the intermediaries. The evil of absentee landlordism associated with the Indian agriculture has been removed. Co-operative farming has been advocated. Through the Bhoodan movement efforts are being made to provide the landless labourers with land. Efforts are also being made for the compilation and updating of the land records.

- **The Improvement Approach**

The 'improvement' approach seeks to bring about agricultural development within the existing peasant production system. It attaches importance to the programmes of rural development such as the Community Development Programme, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other programmes and agencies related to the process of development in rural India.

According to the Planning Commission, community development is the process of changing the life of a community from backwardness to a new economic and social order through its open efforts. The Community Development Programme undertaken by the government of free India on 2nd October 1952 - the day of

Gandhi Jayanti - constitutes the biggest rural reconstruction scheme. The programme is instrumental in raising the standard of living of the rural people and in reconstructing rural India.

The programme has attained considerable success in the fields of agriculture, education, employment, health services, communication, vocational training, supply of drinking water and social welfare. But it is also true that with the passage of time the Community Development Programme has started losing its importance as it did earlier. It has suffered from several drawbacks. Various factors such as lack of clearly defined priorities, cornering of the benefits by the rich and big farmers, lack of commitment, administrative inefficiency and corruption at the bureaucratic level, etc. contribute to the failure of the programme. Despite these shortcomings, the CDP has contributed a lot in arousing the consciousness and awareness of the rural people about the modern means of agriculture.

The Community Development Programme was launched with a view to obtaining people's participation in the development process. But this objective of the CDP was not materialised. To ensure the involvement of the people in the development of villages, the Government of India appointed a committee headed by Balwant Rai Mehta in January 1957. On the basis of the recommendation of the committee, the Panchayati Raj through the organization of Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad received special attention of the committee.

Panchayati Raj has been viewed as an attempt to implement the process of democratic decentralization. So far as the administrative implication of the Panchayati Raj system is concerned, it has bridged the gulf between the bureaucratic elite and the people. Socially the Panchayati Raj system has generated a new leadership having a modern and pro-social outlook. At the same time, viewed from the developmental angle, the Panchayati Raj system has enabled the rural people to cultivate a progressive outlook. But, the Panchayati Raj institutions are also not free from criticisms. The

important reasons attributed to its ineffectiveness are the structural inadequacies of the institutions, administrative inefficiency and corruption at the level of bureaucracy, absence of conceptual clarity and lack of political will. Despite these shortcomings, it must be mentioned here that the Panchayati Raj Institutions have administered enormous economic funds and resources to accelerate the process of rural development.

It is a fact in case of India that a large proportion of the agricultural land is without irrigation facilities. This vast area naturally falls outside the orbit of green revolution. So far as the dry areas are concerned, the applicability of the new agricultural strategy is simply not available. Besides this, the adoption of new technology is confined only to some developed areas like Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh etc. The states of the Eastern region covering West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa have not been benefitted by such HYV technology. The other parts of the country have remained untouched by the new agricultural strategy.

Some of the programmes launched by the Government of India for rural development and reconstruction are as follows:

- **IRDP:**

The Integrated Rural Development Programme signifies a programme for improving the living standards of the poorest of the poor living in rural areas and for making the process of rural development self-sustaining. It was initiated in the year 1978-79.

It is based on "the local needs, resources endowments and potentialities." Its objective is to enable selected families to cross the poverty line by taking up self-employment ventures.

IRDP employs the cluster approach to select villages for implementing various components of the programme- the antyodaya approach to select beneficiaries within the selected villages. The antyodaya approach makes sure that the poorest of the poor are selected first. The central and state government provides financial

resources for the programme and lay down broad guidelines for its implementation. However, the main administrative unit of its implementation is the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs). At the Block level a number of extension officers are provided for programme implementation.

IRDP has also suffered from some drawbacks such as widespread corruption, and lack of integration, etc. Despite these drawbacks, it cannot be denied that the Integrated Rural Development Programme has attained considerable success in terms of the number of beneficiaries covered and the amount of subsidies and loans disbursed.

- **NREP:**

National Rural Employment Programme was launched in October, 1980 as a centrally sponsored scheme on 50:50 sharing basis between centre and states. Generating additional gainful employment opportunities, creating durable community assets and improving the overall quality of life in rural areas constitute the three -fold objectives of the programme. The programme is implemented through DRDA. It has been merged with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna from April, 1989.

- **TRYSEM:**

The scheme of Training Rural Youth for Self- Employment was initiated in August, 1979, with the primary objective of providing technical skills to the rural youth to enable them to seek employment in fields of agriculture, industry, services and business activities.

- **RLEGP:**

Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme was launched on 15th August, 1983 to generate additional employment in rural areas particularly for the rural landless workers. Under this scheme, employment is given to at least one member of every landless family upto 100 days in a year. So far as this programme is concerned, preference in employment is given to the landless labourers, women, SCs and STs. Financed exclusively by the Central Government, the

programme undertakes several activities such as construction of wells, roads, houses, social forestry, etc.

- **JRY:**

Jawahar Rozgar Yojna was launched in April, 1989. It is pre-eminently a wage employment programme. Under the scheme, it is expected that at least one member of each poor family would be provided with employment for 50 to 100 days in a year at a work place near his / her residence. About 30 per cent of the jobs under this scheme are reserved for women. The scheme is implemented through Village Panchayats.

These are some schemes adopted by the Government for attempting to transform the rural structures.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3: Write the full form of NREP.

.....

.....

Q.4: In which year was the Community Development Programme launched ?

.....

9.5 CHANGING DYNAMICS AND EMERGING PATTERN OF RURAL LEADERSHIP IN INDIA

Age has been an important variable in the Indian tradition of leadership. In the past, Indian village community leadership has been the monopoly of the old people who dominated the rural power structure because of their vast experience, maturity etc. Traditionally, the patterns of rural leadership indicated that there was a great respect for age and maturity. The rural leadership arose due to prestige of any sort, social or economic status, heredity, senority, etc. Before independence, there were informal leaders, who belonged to mainly the higher privileged castes, which did not have numerical strength but were dominant in all aspects of life.

But at present, the composition and functions of leadership have undergone great changes with the growth of new institutions and with the introduction of new strategies regarding rural reconstruction. In India, the process of modernisation has , to some extent, changed the old values of traditional Indian society. Therefore, due to these changed circumstances, the persons in the younger age groups can discharge leadership functions more efficiently and effectively. Thus, a kind of shift has been noticed in the traditional pattern of power structure in rural India. It is evident that the majority of rural leaders belong to the middle age group, though a considerable number of them belong to the young age group also. Again, with the expansion of economic activities, spread of modern education, land reform policies of the government and establishment of democratically instituted panchayati raj institutions, etc. have also contributed to the emergence of a new rural leadership India which is relatively democratic in outlook rather than entirely feudal in nature. The new leaders are young, educated and mostly belong to the middle-class agriculturists and are also successful in political mobilisation through which they gain positions at village Panchayats and cooperatives. New leaders are more receptive in adopting innovations and tend to be more cooperative with the government officials in implementing various community development programmes. Simultaneously, due to the functioning of the electoral system in India in the post-independent period, political parties try to appease those groups which are numerically stronger are, at times, appeased more by the political parties and accordingly, local leaders with the ability to mobilise the members of their respective communities have emerged in rural areas.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.5: Write briefly about the changing pattern of rural leadership in India.

.....

.....

.....



9.6 LET US SUM UP

- Traditional Indian agrarian structure was organised within the framework of the "jajmani system". Under this system, land was owned and cultivated by the caste group called "jajmans" (the patrons). The "kamins" (the manual workers) on the other hand, constituted the caste group which was required to work for the jajmans.
- The jajmans, in return for the services rendered by the kamins, payed a share from the farm produce to the latter.
- With the advent of the British, the agrarian class structure underwent a sea change.
- In places like Bihar and Bengal , full ownership rights were transferred to the zamindars who were only tax collecting intermediaries in the earlier times. A large number of peasants who had been cultivating land now became tenants of the zamindars or the new landlords.
- After gaining independence, the Indian government tried to introduce changes in land relations. The Indian Parliament passed the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950 which abolished the zaminadri syatem and sought to grant the ownership of land to the actual tillers of the land. Land ceiling legislations were also passed in many states to avoid concentring of land in the hands of a few and bring about redistribution of land.
- Renowned economist Daniel Thorner put forward a model of agrarian class structure in India.
- However, given the complexities of the socio-economic environment in India, it is not always possible to follow the above mentioned classification regarding the agrarian class structure in India. Instead, depending upon ownership of land and the relative size of land holdings, one could classify the Indian agrarian class structure. In this context, a more acceptable classification is that of big landlords (owning large land holdings), big farmers, middle farmers, small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers.
- Rural development has acquired special significance in the countries of the developing world. Since independence, the Government of

India has launched various programmes of 'planned change' encompassing social, economic and political processes. There are two approaches adopted by the government with regard to the patterns of development. These approaches are (a) the 'transformation' approach and (b) the 'improvement 'approach.

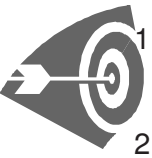
- The 'transformation' approach attaches importance to a radical change in the existing system in terms of scale of operation, production techniques, and socio-legal reforms. Implementation of land reform measures comes within the purview of this approach.
- So far as the land reform measures are concerned, a large number of tenants or farmers have now become the owners of the land that they are cultivating. The slogan "land to the tiller" has been successfully translated into reality in most of the States of India. The tenancy rights are more secure now.
- The 'improvement' approach seeks to bring about agricultural development within the existing peasant production system. It attaches importance to the programmes of rural development such as the Community Development Programme, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other programmes and agencies related to the process of development in rural India.
- Some of the programmes launched by the government for rural development include IRDP,NREP, TRYSEM, RLEGP, etc.
- Age has been an important variable in the Indian tradition of leadership. In the past, Indian village community leadership has been the monopoly of the old people who dominated the rural power structure because of their vast experience, maturity etc.
- A kind of shift has been noticed in the traditional pattern of power structure in rural India. It is evident that the majority of rural leaders today belong to the middle age group, though a considerable number of them belong to the young age group also.
- Again, with the expansion of economic activities, spread of modern education, land reform policies of the government and establishment of democratically instituted panchayati raj institutions, etc. have also

contributed to the emergence of a new rural leadership India which is relatively democratic in outlook rather than entirely feudal in nature.

- The new leaders are young, educated and mostly belong to the middle-class agriculturists and are also successful in political mobilisation through which they gain positions at village Panchayats and cooperatives.
- Simultaneously, due to the functioning of the electoral system in India in the post-independent period, political parties try to appease those groups which are numerically stronger are, at times, appeased more by the political parties and accordingly, local leaders with the ability to mobilise the members of their respective communities have emerged in rural areas.



9.7 FURTHER READING



1. Abraham M. Francis (1974). *Dynamics of Leadership in Village India*. Allahabad: Indian International Publication
2. Adisehiah S. Maleom , Mukherjee Pranab (1994). *Decentralised Planning and Panchayati Raj*. New Delhi : Concept Publishing Co.
3. Annamalai V. (1996). *Formation and Transformation of Power in Rural India*. New Delhi : Discovery Publishing House.
4. Bandyopadhyay D. and Mukherjee Amitava (2004). *New Issues in Panchayati Raj*. New Delhi : Concept Publishing Co.

9.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: True

Ans. to Q. No. 2: The traditional Indian agrarian structure was organised within the framework of the "jajmani system". Under this system, land was owned and cultivated by the caste group called "jajmans" (the patrons). The "kamins" (the manual workers) on the other hand,

constituted the caste group which was required to work for the jajmans. The jajmans, in return for the services rendered by the kamins, payed a share from the farm produce to the latter. However, the relationship though was based on reciprocal exchange was determined by the caste system and reinforced caste-based inequalities.The upper caste groups who owned land were undoubtedly more powerful than the manual workers. With the advent of the British, the agrarian class structure underwent a sea change. In places like Bihar and Bengal , full ownership rights were transferred to the zamindars who were only tax collecting intermediaries in the earlier times. A large number of peasants who had been cultivating land now became tenants of the zamindars or the new landlords. The tenants had to pay a fixed amount of cash to the zamindar rather than a share of what was produced. Thus, even when there was a drought or when the crops were destroyed due to bad weather or other causes, the tenants had to pay the amount leading them to a life of poverty and indebtedness. After gaining independence, the Indian government tried to introduce changes in land relations. The Indian Parliament passed the Zamindari Abolition Act, 1950 which abolished the zaminadri syatem and sought to grant the ownership of land to the actual tillers of the land. Land ceiling legislations were also passed in many states to avoid concentring of land in the hands of a few and bring about redistribution of land.

Renowned economist Daniel Thorner put forward the following model of agrarian class structure in India:

(d) Maliks : Their income was primarily from property rights and collected rent from tenants, sub-tenants and sharecroppers.

(e) Kisans: They are peasants who own small plots of land and work with their own labour.

(f) Mazdoors: They do not possess any land of their own. The work in others' land as tenants/sharecroppers or wage labourers.

However, given the complexities of the socio-economic environment in India, it is not always possible to follow the above mentioned classification regarding the agrarian class structure in India. Instead,

depending upon ownership of land and the relative size of land holdings, one could classify the Indian agrarian class structure. In this context, a more acceptable classification is that of big landlords (owning large land holdings), big farmers, middle farmers, small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: 1952

Ans. to Q. No. 4: Integrated Rural Development Programme

Ans. to Q. No. 5: Age has been an important variable in the Indian tradition of leadership. In the past, Indian village community leadership has been the monopoly of the old people who dominated the rural power structure because of their vast experience, maturity etc. Traditionally, the patterns of rural leadership indicated that there was a great respect for age and maturity. The rural leadership arose due to prestige of any sort, social or economic status, heredity, senority, etc. Before independence, there were informal leaders, who belonged to mainly the higher privileged castes, which did not have numerical strength but were dominant in all aspects of life.

But at present, the functions of leadership has undergone a change with the growth of new institutions and with the introduction of new strategies regarding rural reconstruction. In India, the process of modernisation has to some extent changed the old values of traditional Indian society. Therefore, due to these changed circumstances, the persons in the younger age groups can discharge leadership functions more efficiently and effectively. Thus, a kind of shift has been noticed in the traditional pattern of power structure in rural India. It is evident that the majority of rural leaders belong to the middle age group, though a considerable number of them belong to the young age group also. Again, with the expansion of economic activities, spread of modern education, land reform policies of the government and establishment of democratically instituted panchayati raj institutions, etc. have also contributed to the emergence of a new rural leadership India which is relatively democratic in outlook rather than entirely feudal in nature. The new leaders are young, educated and mostly belong to the middle-class agriculturists and are also successful in

political mobilisation through which they gain positions at village Panchayats and cooperatives. New leaders are more receptive in adopting innovations and tend to be more cooperative with the government officials in implementing various community development programmes. Simultaneously, due to the functioning of the electoral system in India in the post-independent period, political parties try to appease those groups which are numerically stronger are, at times, appeased more by the political parties and accordingly, local leaders with the ability to mobilise the members of their respective communities have emerged in rural areas.



9.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: Explain the factors responsible for change of rural leadership structures in India.

Q. 2: Explain the rural leadership structures in India in the colonial period and post-colonial period?

Q. 3: What kind of leadership has emerged in recent times in India at the grassroots level?

Q. 4: What are the various kinds of schemes adopted by Government for transforming and developing rural structures?

Q. 5: Write a note on Community Development Programme.

Q. 6: How do you analyse education and political mobilisation as factors responsible for changing dynamics of leadership pattern at the grassroots level in India?

Q. 7: Explain how the state has the state intervened in the process of rural transformation in post independent India?

Q. 8: Mention the various schemes adopted by Government of India aimed at developing the rural structure in India. Analyse their aims and objectives.

*** ***** ***

UNIT 10: URBAN -INDUSTRIAL CLASS STRUCTURE: RISE OF MIDDLE CLASS

UNIT STRUCTURE

10.1 Learning Objectives

10.2 Introduction

10.3 Emergence of the Urban Middle Class in India

10.4 Role of the Urban Middle Class and its Impact on the Indian Society

10.5 Future of the Urban Middle Class in India

10.6 Let Us Sum Up

10.7 Further Reading

10.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

10.9 Possible Questions

10.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this chapter you will able to :

- trace the origin of Indian middle class
- discuss the salient features of urban middle class in India
- explain the role of the urban middle class in the Indian society
- critically examine the features of the urban middle class in India

10.2 INTRODUCTION

This unit introduces you to a very significant aspect of the Indian society i.e., urban industrial class structure with special reference to the role of the urban middle class in India. Both the processes of industrialization and the emergence of the middle class are the fundamental features of a modern society. As we all know, the British colonial masters introduced modern ideas, institutions and infrastructure for the sake of colonial economy in India. Hence, it is the colonial modernity that paved the way for the emergence of the middle class in India. In every society, the middle class plays a very significant role in the socio-political, economic and cultural

life. Aristotle says that political community is best governed by the citizens of the middle class. In the modern times, it is Karl Marx who elaborately discussed the concept of class as a fundamental category of social analysis. While discussing class, Marx primarily focused on two antagonistic classes i.e, the bourgeoisie and working class in an industrial capitalist society. He did not extensively use the term middle class, rather he used the term petty bourgeoisie to refer to the class or strata between bourgeoisie and the working classes. However, he very categorically observed that the increasing size of the middle classes is an important feature of the development of capitalism. With this backdrop, the present unit makes an attempt to understand the emergence of urban middle class in the context of India and its role in the contemporary Indian society.

10.3 EMERGENCE OF THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS IN INDIA

In Europe, the middle class as a social category came into being mainly due to the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century which brought about mechanical, economic, technical changes in the society. It is essential to note that middle class is not a homogenous category. Theoretically, the middle class can be classified as old middle class that includes small producers, artisans, independent professionals, etc., and new middle class comprising clerical, supervisory, technical workers, teachers, government officials and so forth. In case of India, the factors responsible for the emergence of middle class are different from those of Europe. In India middle class emerged because of the intervention of British colonialism for two hundred years that caused changes in land, legal, socio-economic and political arena followed by the introduction of modern western education, capitalist enterprise, improved transport and communication system and commercial progress. Needless to say that this educated middle class in the later phase played a significant role in the national struggle for India's independence. However, the middle class activities in colonial India were mainly confined to the socio-cultural arena. These classes could not expand much in the economic arena, as this domain was directly controlled by the colonial

masters. B.B. Misra has categorized the colonial middle class into four groups according to the role played by them in the colonial economy:

i. Commercial Middle Class: The commercial middle class consisting of middle men and brokers who were found engaged in the foreign companies and in the indigenous mercantile and banking houses in the latter part of the eighteenth century.

ii. The Money-lender Class: The money-lenders, banias and the creditor class emerged because of a new monetized economy introduced by the British colonial policy.

iii. The industrial middle class: The industrial middle class, which is small in number constituting of basically the English civil servants were the first who initially invested money in small industries particularly in Bengal and Mumbai.

iv. The Educated middle class: The educated middle class basically comprised professionals who emerged with the introduction of western education.

After the achievement of independence, initiatives have been taken for accelerating the process of industrialization under the direct control of the state. The economic model adopted during the Nehru era which is well known as the Nehruvian model of development was basically an import substituting industrialization. The idea was to industrialize rapidly by setting up public sector enterprises in heavy industries and discouraging the entry of foreign capital in the domestic economy. The leading role of the public sector in industry, infrastructure, transport, telecommunication, mining, banking, insurance etc., ultimately led towards the consolidation of a developmental state that became the steering wheel of economic planning and development. The rapid industrialization was considered as the key to the removal of poverty and promotion of welfare for the people. Many theorists have argued that although the Indian state constitutionally adopted a liberal democratic character, it was necessarily different from that of the advanced capitalist democracies of Europe or North America. Because, the Indian capitalist class in the immediate aftermath of independence could not acquire that much of social power to exercise its hegemony. In such a

situation, the state remained as a relatively autonomous entity and was able to balance the interests of different classes. Analyzing the class character of the Indian state, Pranab Bardhan argued that the Indian political space was mainly contested by three dominant classes i.e., capitalists, rich farmers and the bureaucratic managerial class. The strong, interventionist and developmental state required a large number of technocrats and bureaucratic managerial class to run its business and those classes mainly came from urban middle class people. The urban middle class exercised its influence over both the central and the state government through the electoral mobilization of political parties and social movements. Apart from bureaucracy, it also largely influenced print and visual media, judiciary and other dominant regulatory bodies.

The process of economic liberalization in the 1990s has brought certain structural changes to the Indian middle class. Leela Fernandes has argued that the shift from a state managed economy to a liberalized economy has restructured the Indian middle class at two levels. Firstly, it has marginalized the traditional middle classes who were basically associated with state enterprises, public sector industries and so on and secondly, it has created a new middle class who are benefited from the process of economic liberalization particularly the urban youth professionals who have been able to benefit from sharp rises of multinational corporations and subsequently of Indian companies. This new middle class basically consists of the industrial, bureaucratic and IT (Information Technology) sector elites. Scholars like Bhagavan Prasad divides this new middle class into four groups on the basis of occupation :

1. Salaried persons including administrative employees both institutional and government officials.
2. Independent professionals including medical practitioners, lawyers, teachers, journalists and other consultants.
3. Non-salaried such as private business houses, entrepreneurship etc.
4. Retired persons and widows from wealthy families.

Income, social status, consumerism, lifestyle are the key criteria to categorize these new middle classes in India. A few characteristic features of the new urban middle class can be identified as follows:

1. **Proficiency over English:** Proficiency in English has become the popular idiom of the newly emerged urban middle class in India. Today, India is the second most significant English speaking country after USA. The middle class mainly the IT sector professionals are increasingly seen to aspire international job opportunities and have developed a global worldview while embracing technological advancement and advanced language skill.
2. **Consumerist culture and lifestyle:** The urban middle class is perhaps the most significant consumer of high end goods, such as the latest model cars, air conditioners, mobiles, designer clothes and much more. Today, consumption has become the way of life of the urban middle class. The idealized image of the urban middle class in print and visual media is that of an affluent consumer who has finally achieved the ability to exercise choice through consumption.
3. **Technology-savvy knowledge society:** The urban middle classes are often known as the knowledge class because of their specialized advanced education and technological expertise. The Indian IT industry has become the new hope of the Indian middle class. The IT entrepreneurs and professionals are considered as heroes of the new middle class.
4. **Career oriented class:** The urban middle class has gradually become more obsessed with their career growth and material prosperity. Their value system is gradually oriented towards material wellbeing and prosperity.
5. **More globalised rather than localized:** The new urban middle class undoubtedly has become an integral part of the process Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization (LPG). Thus, they are becoming increasing globalized and well connected with the fast moving world through electronics and technology. They maintain a professional lifestyle and are exposed to the global culture, a modern

world view, international education and global market economy. At times, the urban middle class has also become a melting pot of cultures mingling global and local cultural and political influences.

6. **Increasingly depoliticized class:** The activities of the urban middle class are confined to the arena of the civil society outside the domain of formal electoral politics. They often avoid the old politics of political parties and social movements and have steadily withdrawn from the participation in electoral politics. Thus, the gradual depoliticization has become the defining feature of the urban middle class.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: "Political community can be best governed by the citizens of middle class."- Who said this ?

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Q.2: Karl Marx used the term……to refer to the class or strata between the bourgeoisie and the working class. (Fill in the Blank)

Q.3: Mention two characteristic features of the new Indian middle class.

.....

.....

Q.4: Mention the three dominant classes of the Indian society in the aftermath of independence.

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10.4 ROLE OF THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS AND ITS IMPACT ON THE INDIAN SOCIETY

The urbanized middle class historically played a very significant role in the process of modernization and democratization of Indian society. As stated earlier, the emergence of the urban middle class is basically the product of the colonial economy that brought about significant changes in the Indian

society in the nineteenth century. B.B. Misra has categorically mentioned that the first generation of the Indian middle class who took advantage of the changing situation in the colonial economy belonged to the high caste groups as they already occupied higher traditional, social, economic and political positions. They shifted to urban centres and received education and also took new profitable occupations. They mainly remained confined to the urban centres specifically to the presidency towns because of concentration of wealth and educational institutions. This educated middle class people provided leadership in the public sphere and visualized the nationalist discourse of modern India. The colonial masters introduced modern English education system only to generate a class that would help them in the process of consolidation and expansion of colonial rule. They believed that modern education would lead to the creation of a class that would be Indian in blood but English in taste and intellect. However, those middle class people mainly belonged to the service sector and literary class who gradually became the articulate section of the Indian society particularly the writers and the native intellectuals, whom we now call the first generation of Indian nationalists. They were gradually engaged in social reform movements and started submitting petitions to the colonial state for bringing certain transformations in the Indian society. In the later period too, the leadership of the nationalist organizations like the Indian National Congress or the Muslim League came from the literary or professional middle classes. Hence, the nationalist thought during the anti-colonial movement reflected the dynamics of both socio-religious nationalism as well as representative citizenship oriented towards urban based discourse of civic nationalism. However, the rise of Gandhi's influence in the nationalist movement gradually changed its orientation and converted it into a mass movement. The state and middle class relationship became more prominent in the early decades of post-independent India. As stated earlier, the historical relationship between state and middle class politics played a central role in shaping the direction of economic development. The state directly or indirectly contributed to the expansion of middle class interests. The urban middle class mainly controlled the public institutions such as state bureaucracy and organized industry. The connections between urban middle class and the state in post-independent India were first consolidated through

the structure of state bureaucracy. The basic structure of the colonial authority i.e., Indian Civil Service was retained and expanded into the Indian Administrative Service. The Indian Administrative Service remained as the central structure of the bureaucracy of the post-colonial state basically comprising the English educated segment of the middle classes. Pranab Bardhan has rightly noted that "the role of professional middle class and white-collar workers in controlling networks of patronage through the distribution of economic resources and benefits transformed this section of middle class into one of the dominant propriety classes that shaped the state directed model of the Indian political economy. At the same time, India had also witnessed a significant development of local industrial capitalism and the leading classes associated with it, particularly the big bourgeoisie, industrial working class and urban middle class."

It is important to note that Indian democracy itself is a product of middle class politics that often converts popular aspirations into political goals. Middle class often acts as mediator between the state and the masses and as a manager of the ruling powers. Middle class activism has always been seen in the domain of civil society, a sphere outside the arena of formal politics of the state. Many scholars called the civil society as a creative society, a site of public debates, on questions of culture, nation and civic life. However, it should be kept in mind that state- middle class relationship is not always collaborative in nature. Sometimes it is also marked by certain internal contradictions. When demands come from previously marginalized groups like low caste groups, ethnic and religious minorities for attaining access to middle class membership, there occurs some internal conflict within the middle classes on caste, religion and ethnic lines. After the liberalization process of the Indian economy in the 1990s, the nature of urban Indian middle class has undergone certain changes. The process of globalization has generated a lot of debate about the changing role of the urban middle class in the Indian society. It has been claimed that the size of the middle class has grown up to twenty percent of the total population of India. Some others put this figure at thirty percent. Indian middle class has emerged as a prominent consuming class in the global market economy. The urban Indian middle class has been portrayed in popular media as a sizable market for the global

multinational corporations. It is the urban middle classes that have been benefited much from the process of globalization. The urban middle class which once played a historic role in running the developmental autonomous state in the Nehruvian phase has declined in the present phase of economic globalization and has become merely a consuming class. Pavan K. Varma in his book The Great Indian Middle Class (1998) has argued that with the process of globalization, the social and moral responsibility of the middle class to the nation as a whole has gradually declined.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.5: Middle class has been seen in the domain of……..(Fill in the Blank)

Q.6: Mention two important domains where the urban middle class influences much in the post independent period.

.....

.....

10.5 FUTURE OF THE URBAN MIDDLE CLASS IN INDIA

Today the urban middle class is one of the fastest growing segments of the Indian population. They played a vital role in India's economic growth and constitute a sizable portion of the global work force particularly in the IT sector and other related industries. Their increasing consumption habit, economic mobility has assigned them a significant place both in the Indian as well as in the global society. However, the process of globalization has also adversely affected the role of the middle class in a developing society like India. It needs to be mentioned that middle class is not merely an economic category connected to consumption and income. Middle class is also a sociological category that has been playing a historical role in settling values and norms in the society. The universal values like justice, equality, representation, rights through affirmative actions have often been articulated by the middle class and it has put pressure on the state for the protection and promotion of those values in the society at large. In the contemporary scenario, a large segment of the Indian middle class seems to have withdrawn from this historic role and has emerged as an economically

upwardly mobile consumerist and self-conscious category. Decline of the middle class as a sensitive democratic force articulating and representing the larger interests of the society will be a serious challenge for Indian democracy. Besides, India along with other developing countries have witnessed a brain drain of skilled workers where highly educated and qualified professionals are migrating to developed countries for higher wages, better life styles, prospects and more celebrated careers. This will create a vacuum in the skilled labour force in the developing countries like India in the days to come. A more self-centered world view of the middle class has also enormously affected the community and family structure, particularly the children and elderly persons at home. Thus, the middle class in contemporary India is in a critical state of transition. On the one hand, the Indian middle class has emerged as one of the economically celebrated social groups in the globalized world, on the other hand, it has failed to provide its historic leadership to various sections of the Indian society. While globalization and neo-liberal policies are economically benefiting the middle class, these will also bring serious challenges to the socio-cultural dynamics of the Indian society in the days to come.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.7: Who is the author of the book The Great Indian Middle Class?

.....

Q.8: The process of globalization marked the distinction between traditional middle class and …….. (Fill in the Blank).



10.6 LET US SUM UP

- Middle class referred to the class or strata between the bourgeoisie and working class. It includes middle income groups like small producers, artisans, independent professionals, technical workers, government officials, etc. Emergence of middle class is a significant feature of modern industrial capitalist society.

- In case of India, the colonial modernity particularly the introduction of English education paved the way for the emergence of middle class. They provided leadership in the social reform movements as well as nationalist struggle for India's independence.
- After the achievement of independence in India, the state-middle class relationship became more significant. The technocrats and bureaucratic managerial class played a crucial role in running the functions of the autonomous developmental state in the Nehru era.
- Role of urban middle class is also very significant in democratic politics. The urban middle class activism has been seen in the domain of civil society, a sphere outside the arena of formal politics of the state. Urban middle class also plays a pivotal role in settling universal values like justice, equality, representation, rights etc.
- The process of liberalization and globalization in the 1990s has brought structural changes to the urban middle classes in India. It has brought sharp distinction between traditional middle classes who are basically associated with state enterprises and public sector industries and the new middle class who are associated with the global corporate economy.
- In the post reform period the size of the Indian middle class is highly increasing and the Indian middle class market has emerged as a lucrative arena for global multinational corporations.
- Urban middle classes have often portrayed as a sizable consuming class in the global market economy.
- The process of globalization also adversely affected the role of the middle class in the Indian society. Although it has become an economically celebrated class yet its social role is declining as a value settler and a mediator between the ruling class and the masses.



10.7 FURTHER READING

1. Misra, B.B. (1963). The Indian Middle Classes: *Their Growth in Modern Times*. Londin. Oxford University Press.

2. Fernandes, Leela (2006). *India's New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform*. London. University of Minnesota Press.
3. Varma, Pavan. (1998). *The Great Indian Middle Class*. New Delhi. Viking Publisher.
4. Jayal, Niraja Gopal; Mehta Pratap, Bhanu (eds) (2010). Oxford *Companion to Politics in India*. New Delhi. Oxford University Press.



10.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: Aristotle

Ans. to Q. No. 2: Petty bourgeoisie

Ans. to Q. No. 3: a. New middle class is the most significant consuming class of high end goods.

b. The activities of the urban middle class are confined to the arena of the civil society outside the domain of formal electoral politics.

Ans. to Q. No. 4: a. Capitalist class

b. Rich farmers

c. Bureaucratic managerial class

Ans. to Q. No. 5: civil society

Ans. to Q. No. 6: a. Bureaucracy

b. Mass media both visual and print

Ans. to Q. No. 7: Pavan Varma

Ans. to Q. No. 8: new middle class

10.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: Discuss the role of colonial modernity in the process of emergence of the middle class in india.

Q. 2: Write briefly about the rise of the urban middle class in India after independence.

Q. 3: Discuss the impact of globalization on the Indian urban middle class.

Q. 4: Write a brief note on the relationship between middle class and civil society.

*** ***** ***

UNIT 11: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

11.1 Learning Objectives

11.2 Introduction

11.3 Meaning and Nature of Demographic Change in India

11.4 Factors responsible for Demographic Change in India

11.5 Impact of Demographic Change in Socio-Economic and Political spheres

11.6 Let Us Sum Up

11.7 Further Reading

11.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

11.9 Possible Questions

11.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit , you will be able to:

- explain the meaning of the concept of demography
- explain the nature of demographic change in India
- discuss the factors responsible for demographic change in India
- analyse the impact created by demographic changes in socio-economic and political spheres

11.2 INTRODUCTION

The term "demographic change" is most commonly used to refer to shifts in population structure. Demographic changes create an impact in the socio-economic and political spheres. Several factors are responsible in bringing about democratic changes. At the same time, different societies experience different levels of demographic changes depending upon the level of development in which the particular society finds itself in.

11.3 MEANING AND NATURE OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN INDIA

The word "demography" is of ancient Greek origin and it literally means "describing the population". It is used to describe the size, composition and structure of populations. The term "demographic change" is most commonly used to refer to shifts in population structure.

All the societies, at one time or another, move from a near-equilibrium condition of high mortality and high fertility towards a presumed low-fertility and low-mortality equilibrium is termed as 'demographic transition' and the concept was pioneered by American demographer F.W.Notestein. Since 1950, demographic transition has occupied centre stage in demographic analyses and, therefore, the progress in demographic transition need to be understood and interpreted correctly. The contemporary theory of population change revolves around the concept of the classical demographic transition model enunciated by Notestein. However, a perfect portrayal of demographic transition is required to investigate the impact of demographic changes on social, economic and political structures of nations. A largely acceptable characterization of demographic transition consists of five components: mortality decline, natural increase in population size, fertility decline, urbanization and population aging. For instance, the conception of a shift from a regime of negligible population growth characterized by high birth and death rates to one of equally little growth based on low birth and death rates, during which there is a rapid increase in numbers due to the demographic gap, the lag of fertility decline behind the mortality decline. Although, this conception is only a rough generalization, it has such wide applicability that it has become a central axis of conceptualization about population trends. Numerous studies have assessed demographic transition in terms of fertility, mortality and health trends and transition on the global scale.

India accounts for nearly about 17% of the world's population and is experiencing rapid demographic changes. It has wide implications not only for the country but also for the whole world. The country exhibits one of the highest demographic heterogeneities ever experienced anywhere in the

world at the regional and state levels. Demographic changes taking place across the country are often accompanied by substantial socio-economic changes. It may be stated that India experienced a rapid increase in population all through the second half of the past century. Such kind of growth in population was considered to reflect the failure of the family planning programme adopted by the country. But it has been seen that India's population growth started to slow down since 1991. But although the growth rate declined compared with the previous decade, yet the annual addition to the population remained nearly the same. It is true that the ultimate population size of India will critically depend on all the anticipated changes to family, mortality and migration. It is possible that the current fertility transition and its future trends may completely redefine the ultimate size of India's population.

It is very clear that the demographic character of India's population is changing rapidly. India is now entering the final stages of demographic changes. The classical demographic changes that is underway in India reflects the scenario where the mortality rates fall while the birth rate remains high. It may be mentioned here that the country experienced a negative population growth between 1911 and 1921 because of the recurrence of plague, cholera and influenza epidemic.

As defined by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) , "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the

share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working age share

of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)." As per Census of India, 2011, India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25 and more than 65% below the age of 35.

Thus, India being home to a sizeable section of working-age population, the country can reap immense benefit from its demographic dividend if gainful and sustainable employment opportunities could be created for each hand in the working age group.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: A word derived from the ancient Greek work "demography" literally means "describing the population. (True/False).

.....

Q.2: The term 'Demographic Transition' was pioneered by whom?

.....

11.4 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN INDIA

Let us try to analyse the demographic change in India and the factors responsible for the same in the context of the five-stage Demographic Transition Model (DTS) (Source: https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Sociology/Book%3A_Sociology_(Boundless)/17%3A_Population_and_Urbanization/17.2%3A_Population_Growth/17.2E%3A_Demographic_Transition_Theory) :

Stage 1

In stage one, pre-industrial society, death rates and birth rates are high and roughly in balance. An example of this stage is the United States in the 1800s. All human populations are believed to have had this balance until the late 18th century, when this balance ended in Western Europe. In fact, growth rates were less than 0.05% at least since the Agricultural Revolution over 10,000 years ago.

Population growth is typically very slow in this stage, because the society is constrained by the available food supply; therefore, unless the society develops new technologies to increase food production (e.g. discovers new sources of food or achieves higher crop yields), any fluctuations in birth rates are soon matched by death rates. It may be mentioned here that India experienced a negative population growth between 1911 and 1921 because of the recurrence of plague, cholera and influenza epidemic.

Stage 2

In stage two, that of a developing country, the death rates drop rapidly due to improvements in food supply and sanitation, which increase

life spans and reduce disease. The improvements specific to food supply typically include selective breeding and crop rotation and farming techniques. Other improvements generally include access to technology, basic healthcare, and education. For example, numerous improvements in public health reduce mortality, especially childhood mortality. In India, with the launch of the Community Development Programme in 1952 and the Green Revolution in the 1960s there was a gradual decrease in the mortality rate in India.

Stage 3

In stage three, birth rates fall. Birth rates decrease due to various fertility factors such as access to contraception, increases in wages, urbanization, a reduction in subsistence agriculture, an increase in the status and education of women, a reduction in the value of children's work, an increase in parental investment in the education of children and other social changes. Population growth begins to level off. The birth rate decline in developed countries started in the late 19th century in northern Europe. While improvements in contraception do play a role in birth rate decline, it should be noted that contraceptives were not generally available nor widely used in the 19th century and as a result likely did not play a significant role in the decline then. It is important to note that birth rate decline is caused also by a transition in values; not just because of the availability of contraceptives. In India, family planning has brought down rates of population growth to some extent. Improvements in primary health and family planning and other elements of reproductive health care has resulted in lower birth and death rates, increased life expectancy and reduced infant mortality.

Stage 4

During stage four there are both low birth rates and low death rates. Birth rates may drop to well below replacement level as has happened in countries like Germany, Italy, and Japan, leading to a shrinking population, a threat to many industries that rely on population growth. Sweden is considered to currently be in Stage 4. As the large group born during stage two ages, it creates an economic burden on the shrinking working population. Death rates may remain consistently low or increase slightly due to increases in lifestyle diseases due to low exercise levels and high

obesity and an aging population in developed countries. By the late 20th century, birth rates and death rates in developed countries leveled off at lower rates. India has not yet reached this stage.

Stage 5 (Debated)

In the fifth stage, birth rate decreases lower than the death rate, causing population to decrease. Japan, Portugal , etc. are possible examples if this stage.

The United Nations Population Fund (2008) categorizes nations as high-fertility, intermediate-fertility, or low-fertility. The United Nations (UN) anticipates the population growth will triple between 2011 and 2100 in high-fertility countries, which are currently concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. For countries with intermediate fertility rates (the United States, India, and Mexico all fall into this category), growth is expected to be about 26 percent. And low-fertility countries like China, Australia, and most of Europe will actually see population declines of approximately 20 percent.

Some other factors responsible for demographic change in India at present are as follows:

Globalisation:

In the era of globalisation, it is argue that international trade contributed to the divergence in the timing of the demographic transition and the emergence of sustained economic growth across countries. The expansion of international trade enhanced the specialization of industrial economies in the production of industrial, skill-intensive, goods. The associated rise in the demand for skilled labour has induced a gradual investment in the quality of the population, expediting a demographic transition, stimulating technological progress and further enhancing the comparative advantage of these industrial economies in the production of skill-intensive goods.

The decline in gender gap:

The rise in demand for human capital and its impact on the decline in the gender wage gap during the nineteenth and the twentieth century have contributed to the onset of the demographic transition. In particular, the rise in women's relative wages during the process of development, its positive impact on female labour force participation, and its adverse effect

on fertility rates have been at the center of a complementary theory of the demographic transition that generates the relationship between income per capita and population growth.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3: In India, with the launch of the ..... in 1952 and the Green Revolution in the 1960s there was a gradual decrease in the mortality rate in India. (Fill in the Blank)

Q.4: In which stage of the Demographic Transition Model (DTS) the death rates drop rapidly due to improvements in food supply and sanitation, which increase life spans and reduce disease.

.....

11.5 IMPACT OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SPHERES

India is often characterized as an emerging economic super power. The process of integration of India into the global market is progressing fast and India is one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. India has several strengths which can be fully exploited in the coming decades. The relatively young population which is still growing at about 2 per cent per annum can be considered as an important asset. This asset can generate huge demographic dividend in the coming decades. India can become the principal supplier of skilled workers to developed countries experiencing acute labour shortage. It can contribute to provide a potential for the smooth transition of India into a world economic power. The high quality engineering and management talent of India is also a matter of appreciation. But at the same time, there is another side to this picture. India has a large population of poor and destitute people in the whole world. India also accounts for the one of the largest number of illiterate people and the largest number of unemployed in the world. It has the largest number of anaemic women and children, and high infant/child and maternal mortality rates. The country must also try to address these problems for improving the overall quality of life of its population in a sustained and consistent manner.

The gains of economic development though have benefited the middle classes in general as consumers, yet, socially backward classes have gained only marginally from economic development which may not be sufficient for them to improve their social skills to enable them to earn more.

At the time of independence, considerable disparities existed in economic and social development of different regions of the country existed. One of the main objectives of the planning process initiated in the early 1950s was to reduce these regional differences and to achieve, regionally balanced development. Various policy instruments including direct public investment by the government in infrastructure, guided private investment and building up of capacity enhancing institutions have been tried to achieve this objective. These policies were continued during the first three decades of planning. Though these measures were not highly successful, they ensured that disparities were not getting aggravated during this period. With the initiation of economic reforms in the early 1980s which culminated in full-fledged deregulation, liberalization and globalization in the early 1990s, the role of the government in investment decisions has diminished. Private investment became the principal engine of economic development. Private investments flowed to those regions where conditions are favourable to achieve maximum return on investment.

Differential economic performance of the last two decades has contributed to the increase of regional disparities in the country. Broadly speaking, while the western and southern States have experienced faster economic growth, the northern and eastern States lagged behind. On the other hand, population growth continues to be significantly higher in the lagging regions as compared to the forward regions. As a result, the per capita income differentials have been widening even further. Thus, while the economic centre of gravity has been shifting in the south-westerly direction, the demographic centre of gravity has been moving in the opposite direction. Another dimension of the same problem is that while more and more employment opportunities are created in the developed regions of the country, the labour force growth is much higher in the backward regions. This will necessarily imply that large scale migration in search of employment will take place from the backward regions to the developed regions. This

will have adverse implications socially as well as economically. Apart from the social and cultural dislocation of the migrants, the response of the recipient community also may have adverse social impact on the migrants.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.5: Write briefly about the impact of demographic change in the socio-economic and political spheres.

.....

.....

.....

.....



11.6 LET US SUM UP

- The word "demography" is of ancient Greek origin and it literally means "describing the population". It is used to describe the size, composition and structure of populations. The term "demographic change" is most commonly used to refer to shifts in population structure.
- India accounts for nearly about 17% of the world's population and is experiencing rapid demographic changes. It has wide implications not only for the country but also for the whole world. The country exhibits one of the highest demographic heterogeneities ever experienced anywhere in the world at the regional and state levels.
- Demographic changes taking place across the country are often accompanied by substantial socio-economic changes. It may be stated that India experienced a rapid increase in population all through the second half of the past century. Such kind of growth in population was considered to reflect the failure of the family planning programme adopted by the country. But it has been seen that India's population growth started to slow down since 1991. But although the growth rate declined compared with the previous decade, yet the annual addition to the population remained nearly the same.

- It is true that the ultimate population size of India will critically depend on all the anticipated changes to family, mortality and migration. It is possible that the current fertility transition and its future trends may completely redefine the ultimate size of India's population.
- It is very clear that the demographic character of India's population is changing rapidly. India is now entering the final stages of demographic changes. The classical demographic changes that is underway in India reflects the scenario where the mortality rates fall while the birth rate remains high. It may be mentioned here that the country experienced a negative population growth between 1911 and 1921 because of the recurrence of plague, cholera and influenza epidemic.
- India being home to a sizeable section of working-age population, the country can reap immense benefit from its demographic dividend if gainful and sustainable employment opportunities could be created for each hand in the working age group.
- All the societies, at one time or another, move from a near-equilibrium condition of high mortality and high fertility towards a presumed low-fertility and low-mortality equilibrium is termed as 'demographic transition' and the concept was pioneered by American demographer F.W.Notestein.
- Since 1950, demographic transition has occupied center stage in demographic analyses and, therefore, the progress in demographic transition need to be understood and interpreted correctly. The contemporary theory of population change revolves around the concept of the classical demographic transition model enunciated by Notestein.
- However, a perfect portrayal of demographic transition is required to investigate the impact of demographic changes on social, economic and political structures of nations. A largely acceptable characterization of demographic transition consists of five components: mortality decline, natural increase in population size, fertility decline, urbanization and population aging.
- The demographic change in India and the factors responsible for the same in the context of the five-stage Demographic Transition Model (DTS).

- In stage one, pre-industrial society, death rates and birth rates are high and roughly in balance. It may be mentioned here that India experienced a negative population growth between 1911 and 1921 because of the recurrence of plague, cholera and influenza epidemic.
- In stage two the death rates drop rapidly due to improvements in food supply and sanitation, which increase life spans and reduce disease. In India, with the launch of the Community Development Programme in 1952 and the Green Revolution in the 1960s there was a gradual decrease in the mortality rate in India.
- In stage three, birth rates fall. Birth rates decrease due to various fertility factors such as access to contraception, increases in wages, urbanization, a reduction in subsistence agriculture, an increase in the status and education of women, a reduction in the value of children's work, an increase in parental investment in the education of children and other social changes. In India, family planning has brought down rates of population growth to some extent. Improvements in primary health and family planning and other elements of reproductive health care has resulted in lower birth and death rates, increased life expectancy and reduced infant mortality.
- During stage four there are both low birth rates and low death rates. Birth rates may drop to well below replacement level as has happened in countries like Germany, Italy, and Japan, leading to a shrinking population, a threat to many industries that rely on population growth.
- In the fifth stage, birth rate decreases lower than the death rate, causing population to decrease. Japan, Portugal , etc. are possible examples if this stage.
- The United Nations Population Fund (2008) categorizes nations as high-fertility, intermediate-fertility, or low-fertility. The United Nations (UN) anticipates the population growth will triple between 2011 and 2100 in high-fertility countries, which are currently concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. For countries with intermediate fertility rates (the United States, India, and Mexico all fall into this category), growth is expected to be about 26 percent. And low-fertility countries like China, Australia, and most of Europe will actually see population declines of approximately 20 percent.

- Some other factors responsible for demographic change in India include globalisation and the decline in gender gap.
- India is often characterized as an emerging economic super power. The relatively young population which is still growing at about 2 per cent per annum in a world inhabited by nations can be considered an important asset. This asset can generate huge demographic dividend in the coming decades. India can become the principal supplier of skilled workers to developed countries experiencing acute labour shortage. It can contribute to provide a potential for the smooth transition of India into a world economic power.
- At the same time, India has a large population of poor and destitute people in the whole world. India also accounts for the one of the largest number of illiterate people and the largest number of unemployed in the world. It has the largest number of anaemic women and children, and high infant/child and maternal mortality rates. The country must also try to address these problems for improving the overall quality of life of its population.
- Differential economic performance of the last two decades has contributed to the increase of regional disparities in the country. Broadly speaking, while the western and southern States have experienced faster economic growth, the northern and eastern States lagged behind. On the other hand, population growth continues to be significantly higher in the lagging regions as compared to the forward regions.
- Another dimension of the same problem is that while more and more employment opportunities are created in the developed regions of the country, the labour force growth is much higher in the backward regions. This will necessarily imply that large scale migration in search of employment will take place from the backward regions to the developed regions. This will have adverse implications socially as well as economically. Apart from the social and cultural dislocation of the migrant, the response of the recipient community also may have adverse social impact on the migrant.



11.7 FURTHER READING

1. Gupta, Ashwani (2016). *Changing Demographics in India's Northeast and Its Impact on Security*. KW Publishers Pvt Ltd.
2. Chandana, R.C. (1994). *A Geography of Population: Concepts, Determinants and Patterns*. New Delhi, Kalyani Publishers.

11.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: True

Ans. to Q. No. 2: F.W.Notestein

Ans. to Q. No. 3: Community Development Programme

Ans. to Q. No. 4: Second

Ans. to Q. No. 5: India is often characterized as an emerging economic super power. The relatively young population which is still growing at about 2 per cent per annum can be considered as an important asset. This asset can generate huge demographic dividend in the coming decades. India can become the principal supplier of skilled workers to developed countries experiencing acute labour shortage. It can contribute to provide a potential for the smooth transition of India into a world economic power. The country must also try to address these problems for improving the overall quality of life of its population in a sustained and consistent manner.

Differential economic performance of the last two decades has contributed to the increase of regional disparities in the country. Broadly speaking, while the western and southern States have experienced faster economic growth, the northern and eastern States lagged behind. On the other hand, population growth continues to be significantly higher in the lagging regions as compared to the forward regions. As a result, the per capita income differentials have been widening even further. Thus, while the

economic centre of gravity has been shifting in the south-westerly direction, the demographic centre of gravity has been moving in the opposite direction. Another dimension of the same problem is that while more and more employment opportunities are created in the developed regions of the country, the labour force growth is much higher in the backward regions. This will necessarily imply that large scale migration in search of employment will take place from the backward regions to the developed regions. This will have adverse implications socially as well as economically. Apart from the social and cultural dislocation of the migrants, the response of the recipient community also may have adverse social impact on the migrants.



11.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: What are the basic factors which are responsible for demographic change in a territory?

Q. 2: Analyse the major impact of demographic change over India's economy and polity?

Q. 3: What are the circumstances responsible for India's demographic change?

Q. 4: Write about the socio-economic consequences of demographic changes in India?

Q. 5: Is migration a major issue leading to India's demographic change in a huge manner?

Q. 6: Explain the factors responsible for demographic change in India.

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UNIT 12: MIGRATION

UNIT STRUCTURE

12.1 Learning Objectives

12.2 Introduction

12.3 Meaning and Nature of Migration

12.4 Rural-Urban Migration

12.5 Inter-State Migration

12.6 Impact of Migration

12.7 Measures to Check Migration in India

12.8 Let Us Sum Up

12.9 Further Reading

12.10 Answers to Check Your Progress

12.11 Possible Questions

12.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- analyse the meaning and nature of Migration
- focus on the concept of rural-urban migration which is a vibrant issue now-a-days
- describe the causes of inter-state migration
- analyse the consequences of migration in India and all over the world
- explain the measures to check the migration in India.

12.2 INTRODUCTION

India has a long history of migration. More than a century ago, large numbers of Indian migrants - many of them involuntary ones - moved to Africa, the Caribbean and within the Indian subcontinent itself. Some of the top destinations of Indian migrants in more recent decades include Persian Gulf countries, North America and Europe. India has been among the world's top origin countries of migrants since the United Nations started

tracking migrant origins in 1990. The number of international Indian migrants has more than doubled over the past 25 years, growing about twice as fast as the world's total migrant population. Nearly half of India's migrants are in just three countries: the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan and the United States. About 3.5 million Indians live in the UAE, the top destination country for Indian migrants. Over the past two decades, millions of Indians have migrated there to find employment as labourers. Pakistan has the second-largest number of migrants, with 2 million.

12.3 MEANING AND NATURE OF MIGRATION

The term migration generally refers to the process of a person or people travelling to a new place or country, usually in order to find work and live there temporarily or permanently. Migration is a way to move from one place to another in order to live and work. Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job, shelter or some other reasons is called migration. Migration from rural areas to urban areas has increased in past few years in India. Nowadays, many people decide to migrate to have a better life. Employment opportunities are the most common reason due to which people migrate. Except this, lack of opportunities, better education, construction of dams, globalization, natural disaster (flood and drought) and sometimes crop failure forced villagers to migrate to cities. People who move from one place to another in search of work or shelter are called migrants. Most of the times migrants people are not skilled or educated, therefore they usually employed as daily wagers (workers who are paid at the end of each day, for their services). Daily wagers do not get enough money for the survival of their families and suffering from many problems such as they do not have enough food to eat, sanitation, hygiene, a proper place to live etc. Migration is becoming a very important subject for the life of cities. Many opportunities and attraction of big cities pull large numbers of people to big cities. Migration can have positive as well as negative effects on the life of the migrants. There are some positive and negative impacts of migration.

Positive Impact:

- Unemployment is reduced and people get better job opportunities.
- Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people.
- It helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which helps to improve brotherhood among people.
- Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region.
- Children get better opportunities for higher education.
- The population density is reduced and the birth rate decreases.

Negative Impact:

- The loss of a person from rural areas, impact on the level of output and development of rural areas.
- The influx of workers in urban areas increases competition for the job, houses, school facilities etc.
- Having large population puts too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services.
- It is difficult for a villager to survive in urban areas because in urban areas there is no natural environment and pure air. They have to pay for each and everything.
- Migration changes the population of a place, therefore, the distribution of the population is uneven in India.
- Many migrants are completely illiterate and uneducated, therefore, they are not only unfit for most of the jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills.
- Poverty makes them unable to live a normal and healthy life.
- Children growing up in poverty have no access to proper nutrition, education or health.
- Migration increased the slum areas in cities which increase many problems such as unhygienic conditions, crime, pollution etc.

- Sometimes migrants are exploited.
- Migration is one of the main causes of increasing nuclear family where children grow up without a wider family circle.

India as one of the oldest civilizations and land of opportunities has been remained an attraction for visitors, traders, students and warriors from all over the world since very long. But, it had attained a new form and increased enormously in scale during the colonial period. Thereafter, in the light of remarkable changes and developments brought in the social, economic and political set up and advancement in the technological sector during the last decades of 20th century, the trends of migration from and in India turned to be more dynamic than ever before. The expansion of means of communication and transportation also provided impetus to the movement of people in India not only to the international streams but also within the country. Internal migration in our country was far more contextual in terms of the number of people who moved from one state to other or rural areas to the urban for better future. Indians for a number of centuries had been emigrating to promote trade, political and religious links with several countries. The trends and implications of migration from India varied from time to time. The tradition of out-migration of Indians could be traced back to 268-231 B.C. when emperor Ashoka sent messengers across the world to spread the message of peace given by Lord Buddha (Sahai and Chand 2004:59). However, systematic migration flows from India to various parts of the world were noted during the last two centuries and the origin of modern-day emigration was started in the 18th century under the British rule. During colonial period, the process of international migration from India had entered into a new phase. The Britishers after abolishing slavery system in the Empire replaced black slave labour with the Indian labour to work on plantations and in mines. The first batch of unskilled Indian labourers was transported to Mauritius for sugar plantation. Afterwards, more such labour force was recruited on contract to work on tea, rubber, sugarcane and palm plantation and in mines.

The countries where Indian labourers migrated were West Indian colonies, Fiji, South Africa, Mauritius, Malaysia, Singapore, Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and Burma. Apart from labour migration to the British colonies, a big number of Indians was also migrated to the advanced industrial countries like United Kingdom (UK) in Europe in the early 19th century and to North America in the 20th century. Migration of people from different countries, more significantly from neighbouring countries, to India was associated with the democratic polity, liberal society, religious freedom and developed economy coupled with more job avenues. Since 1947 the number of legal as well as illegal immigrants in India was been increasing over the decades. But, an instant increase in the number of foreign migrants in the country was noted during 1991-2001.

By the end of 2006, a huge number of people from Bangladesh, Tibet and Sri Lanka were recognized as refugees by the Indian government and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and were given shelter in India. A major part of them comprised the Chakma and Jumma refugees from Bangladesh. They were from tribal community consisting Buddhists and Hindus living along with the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) of Bangladesh.

Internal migration of people from one part to other within India was very limited before the arrival of Britishers. It was because of two major reasons. First, people were used to engage in agro-based rural socio-economic operations by which they were satisfied in fulfilling the needs within their own villages. Second, lack of improved transportation and communication facilities discouraged them to migrate from their native places. But the developmental changes brought up by the Britishers in production and economic systems, starting of railways and improving communication and other transportation facilities pushed the internal as well as international migration in India. Earlier migratory trends in India were primarily towards the eastern parts of the country.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: What do mean by migration?

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.....

Q.2: What two positive and two negative impacts of migration?

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.....

12.4 RURAL -URBAN MIGRATION

Rural-urban migration is a form of so-called internal migration which means a movement within a country and which stays in contrast to international or intercontinental migration. It refers to the movement of people from the countryside respectively the rural areas into the cities, often the metropolitan cities of a country. This change of residence is often connected with the migration of labour and a career change from primary to second or third sector. It is obvious that these developments always show two sides: one side or the area of destination gains population whereas the other side respectively the area of origin loses people. One always has to keep that in mind because interaction, networking and communication between both sides are absolutely necessary in trying to achieve a balanced development of both rural and urban areas. There are different reasons that cause rural-urban migration in developing countries - they are the so-called push and pull factors. They can be seen as a simultaneous analysis of factors that force migrants out of rural areas (push-factors) and factors that attract migrants to urban areas. Factors and determinants of migration are rather diverse and they can be split up in economic and non-economic reasons. It may be stated that economic push factors include unemployment or underemployment in rural areas, low wages and no assets as well as lack of land, which is sometimes due to inheritance systems that split the land among a large number of people, making it less productive. At the same time, non-economic push factors play an additional role and mainly include a poor

rural infrastructure in general, i.e. poor living conditions referring to housing, education possibilities and healthcare; furthermore aspects of agricultural change like modernization of farming, new techniques and machines as well as economic reforms in general cause less demand of labour in the agricultural sector and therefore it causes people to search for new job opportunities; additional factors that act as push factors are natural disasters, drought or famine, war and conflicts that in most of the times affect rural areas by destroying most of their belongings and farm land and affects their livelihood. It can also be stated that economic pull factors include factors that attract people to move into the cities which are mainly the counterparts of the push factors: rural migrants hope for employment and higher wages in the cities caused by a higher demand of labour there in general, due to economic growth. Besides this, non-economic pull factors include social factors such as the hope for better healthcare and education provision or the urban facilities and way of life in general as well as factors like protection from conflicts etc.

With these push and pull factors in mind one can imagine that there are crucial changes and results in both areas of origin and destination caused by these movements from the countryside to the city. The increasing numbers of people moving towards the large urban areas cause three things to happen.

Firstly - urban growth which means that towns and cities are spatially expanding. They cover an increasing area of land, mainly because there aren't enough housing facilities in the city itself so that new incomers often have to move to shanty towns that are increasing in size and number.

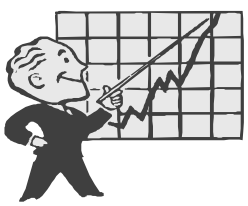
Secondly - urbanization which refers to the fact of a significant increase in the proportion of people living in cities in the total population.

Third - rural depopulation which usually means that large numbers of working age people migrate from the countryside to earn more money in the city. But then they leave behind the very old and the very young, causing further problems in rural development as the young, skilled adults are missing.

12.5 INTER-STATE MIGRATION

Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi-permanent residence. Along with fertility and mortality, migration is a component of the population change. The term "in migration" and "out migration" are used for movement between areas within a country (internal migration). The parallel terms "immigration" and "emigration" are used to refer to moves between countries (international migration).

There has been a basic difference in the processes of migration in developing countries from that of the developed countries. In developing countries like India, migration mostly takes place not due to the so called pull forces of the destination place as usually happens in case of developed countries, but because of poverty, unemployment, natural calamities and underdevelopment at the origin place. Migration in developing countries is still viewed as a survival strategy. Poverty and prosperity both are responsible for inducing migration. While the former is mostly true in developing countries, the latter kind of migration is found in developed countries. Interstate migration can be a source of population gain or loss for a state or territory. For a large country like India, the study of movement of population in different parts of the country helps in understanding the dynamics of the society better. At this junction in the economic development, in the country, especially when many states are undergoing faster economic development, particularly in areas, such as, manufacturing, information technology or service sectors, data migration profile of population has become more important. Opportunities in urban areas for employment, education, etc. have been a pull factor attracting migrants from rural to urban areas and from smaller towns and cities to larger urban areas. There is also migration in the opposite direction from urban to rural areas due to various reasons.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3: Write two pull factors that attract migrants from rural to urban areas.

.....

12.6 IMPACT OF MIGRATION

A significant component of any assessment is to look at how immigration has affected social relationships within society. At one level, the impacts that have been felt in Jobs, public services etc. Migration is one of the common trends in these days. In the same way, agricultural labour migration is also common in these days. Labourers face so many problems in their living condition and these problems pull them from their native place and migrate to other places where they get good employment and income opportunity. Migration has continues to have a major impact on human societies. The effects of migration are seen in both the societies that people leave called "sending societies?, and those in which they settle, called "receiving societies?. These societies are not always countries or nation. People may for instance, move from a rural society, such as a village, to an urban one, such as a city, within the same country. The impacts of these internal moves may be serious for the villages as international movements are for notion.

DEMOGRAPHIC COSEQUENCES: Migration may have profound effects on the size, structure and growth patterns of population. Migration effects on both populations and the patterns of population. It effects on both population of the places that people leave and on the populations of those in which they settle. These effects vary with different types of migration and length of migrants stay in places. The absence of large number of either men or women may have a limited impact on the sending society in short term but if they are absent for longer periods of time, their absence will have significant effects on population growth rates in the medium and long terms.

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES: Migration may have importance on the cultures and societies. It effects on the cultures of both the places that migrants leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migrants and the lengths of time involved.

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES: Migration can have an impact on politics in both the places which people leave and those to which they move. Governments will have to make policies to attract migrants, to persuade migrants to return, or to limit migration to ensure that they have access to skills that they need. These are political effects vary with different types of migration.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES: Migration can have significant effect on economy also. Migration impacts on the economies that people leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migration and length of time involved.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4: Write the social and political consequences created by migration of people from one place to another?

.....

12.7 MEASURES TO CHECK MIGRATION IN INDIA

There are various socio-economic factors which work as push and pull factors of migration in India. However, the following measures can check the migration of rural people towards urban areas in India:

- There should be proper and adequate medical facility in the villages with reputed doctors.
- The Govt. should provide with proper Banking facilities in each villages. Provisions should be made for economic empowerment of the people.
- The primary school should be well structured and skilled teachers should be appointed. Besides these, there should be adequate high schools and colleges for the local people.
- There should be proper electric supply.
- There should be proper transportation and market facilities from rural to urban areas which will check the migration of rural people towards cities.

- Frequent occurrences of natural calamities like flood, erosion etc. force many people to migrate to other places. Therefore, proper care should be taken well in advance to mitigate such problems which will control migration.
- The government should arrange various awareness programmes among the rural people to make them aware about the Govt. schemes. Besides these, the government should adopt different schemes which provide employment opportunities to the youths.



12.8 LET US SUM UP

- Migration generally refers to the process of person or people travelling to a new place or country, usually in order to find work and live there temporarily or permanently.
- Migration is a way to move from one place to another in order to live and work.
- Migration can have positive as well as negative effects on the life of the migrants.
- Rural-urban migration is a form of so-called internal migration which means a movement within a country and which stays in contrast to international or intercontinental migration.
- Opportunities in urban areas for employment, education, etc. have been a pull factor attracting migrants from rural to urban areas and from smaller towns and cities to larger urban areas.
- Internal migration often involves longer working hours, poor living and working conditions, social isolation and poor access to basic amenities.
- Most migrant labourers in India are employed in the unorganised sector, where the lack of regulation compounds their vulnerability; they are largely ignored by government and NGO programmes.
- Legislation regarding migrants fails because regulatory authorities are over-stretched; the state sees migrants as a low priority; and migrant workers have little support from civil society.

- International migrants have mainly come from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab, and have consisted of people with professional expertise of technical qualifications migrating to industrialised countries; and skilled and semi-skilled workers migrating to the Middle East.
- In Kerala, remittances made up 21 per cent of state income in the 1990s, and emigration appears to have increased the wealth of the state.
- There are various socio-economic factors which work as push and pull factors of migration in India.



12.9 FURTHER READING

1. Amin, S. (1974), *Modern Migration in Western Africa*. London: Oxford University Press.
2. Banerjee, B. (1986), *Rural to Urban Migration and the Urban Labour Market*. Delhi: Himalaya Publishing House.
3. Bilsborrow et al. (eds.) (1984), *Migration Surveys in Low Income Countries*. London: Croom Helm.
4. Bulsara, J.F. (1964), *Problems of Rapid Urbanization in India*. Bombay: Popular Prakash an.
5. Caldwell, J. C. (1969), *African Rural-Urban Migration: The Movement of Ghana's Towns*. Canberra: Australian National University Press.
6. Chattopadhyaya, H. (1987), *Internal Migration in India: A Case Study of Bengal.* New Delhi: K.P. Bagachi & Company.

12.10 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: The term migration generally refers to the process of a person or people travelling to a new place or country, usually in

order to find work and live there temporarily or permanently. Migration is a way to move from one place to another in order to live and work.

Ans. to Q. No. 2: Positive Impact:

- Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people.
- Children get better opportunities for higher education.

Negative Impact:

- The loss of a person from rural areas, impact on the level of output and development of rural areas.
- The influx of workers in urban areas increases competition for the job, houses, school facilities etc.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: Opportunities in urban areas for employment, education, etc. have been a pull factor attracting migrants from rural to urban areas.

Ans. to Q. No. 4: SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES**:** Migration may have importance on the cultures and societies. It effects on the cultures of both the places that migrants leave and those in which they re-settle. These effects vary with different types of migration, the skills of the migrants and the lengths of time involved.

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES**:** Migration can have an impact on politics in both the places which people leave and those to which they move. Governments will have to make policies to attract migrants, to persuade migrants to return, or to limit migration to ensure that they have access to skills that they need. These are political effects vary with different types of migration.



12.11 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

A) Very Short Questions.

Q. 1: State the meaning of migration.

Q. 2: What do you mean by seasonal migration?

B) Short Questions (Answer each question in about 150 words)

Q. 1: Differentiate between internal and international migration.

Q. 2: Write about seasonal migration from a particular area or village.

Q. 3: Briefly explain the various measures to check migration in India.

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

Q. 1: What is migration? Explain the positive and negative impacts of migration.

Q. 2: Describe the socio-political and demographic consequences of migration.

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UNIT 13: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LEGAL PROTECTION IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

13.1 Learning Objectives

13.2 Introduction

13.3 Meaning and Nature of Domestic Violence

13.4 Factors Responsible for Occurrence of Domestic Violence

13.5 Measures to Stop Domestic Violence in India: Legal Provisions

13.6 Let Us Sum Up

13.7 Further Reading

13.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

13.9 Possible Questions

13.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the meaning and nature of domestic violence
- examine the factors responsible for occurrence of domestic violence
- discuss the numerous legal provisions to check domestic violence in India.

13.2 INTRODUCTION

Gender crimes are not a recent phenomenon. Crimes against women have been committed since ancient period. Violence to wives, the central concern here, is found in all societies and across all economic and age groups. Any traditional custom that place women in subordinate positions within society or in the family has the potential to turn violent. The putative sacredness of a traditional marriage, rigid ideas of conjugality, and patriarchal traditions of family structure take precedence over concerns for women or children. It has been observed that whenever male authority is threatened the lives of women, and children become redundant and are considered dispensable.

Prejudice towards women is entrenched in Indian culture. But, by no means is this unique to India. Prejudice towards women is common in other societies. Women are devalued, subordinated and mistreated daily. Crimes against women occur every single day around the world with forensic precision. According to the October 2002 World Health Organization Report on Violence and Health, it is estimated that interpersonal violence results the death of one person every minute somewhere across the world. Police records in India reveal that a woman is raped every 34 minutes, molested every 26 minutes, kidnapped every 43 minutes and killed every 93 minutes. In this unit we shall discuss the problem of domestic violence against women in detail.

13.3 MEANING AND NATURE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- **Meaning**

  The problem of violence against women is not new. Violence against women can be categorized under the following;

  - **Criminal Violence:** This includes violence like rapes, abductions and murders etc.
  - **Social Violence:** Forcing the wife/daughter-in-law to go for female foeticide, eve-teasing, refusing to give a share to women in property, forcing a young widow to commit sati, harassing the daughter-in-law to bring more dowry etc. falls under this category.
  - **Domestic Violence:** This particular violence against women include dowry-deaths, wife battering, sexual abuse, maltreatment of widows and/or elderly women etc.

Domestic violence is therefore the violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It may be termed **intimate partner violence** when committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same-sex relationships,

or between former spouses or partners. Domestic violence can also involve violence against children, parents, or the elderly. Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence.

The first known use of the term domestic violence in a modern context, meaning violence in the home, was in an address to the Parliament of the United Kingdom by Jack Ashley in 1973. Traditionally, domestic violence was mostly associated with physical violence. Terms such as wife abuse, wife beating, and wife battering were used, but have declined in popularity due to efforts to include unmarried partners, abuse other than physical, female perpetrators, and same-sex relationships. Domestic violence is now commonly defined broadly to include "all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence" that may be committed by a family member or intimate partner.

Now, let us look at some of the definitions of domestic violence which would in turn help us to understand the meaning of the term more clearly.

According to The **United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, domestic violence is "Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation."

The **U.S. Department of Justice** defines domestic violence as "A pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone."

According to the online portal **'Arizona Coalition- To End Sexual and Domestic Violence'**, Domestic violence is not physical violence alone. Domestic violence is any behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner, girl/boyfriend or intimate family member.

Abuse is a learned behavior; it is not caused by anger, mental problems, drugs or alcohol, or other common excuses.

The **Centre for Family Justice**, explains, "Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that is a pervasive life-threatening crime affecting people in all our communities regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, social standing and immigration status."

According to **National Council for Single Mothers and their Children**, "It is a pattern of abusive behavior through which a person seeks to control and dominate another person."

The Research Centre for Women Studies, SNDT, Mumbai, elaborates the term as "all acts perpetrated in the private domain of the hoe to secure women's subordination and which is rationalized and sanctioned by the prevailing gender ideology. It is thus seen as going beyond the legal definition of physical assault, to include, psychological and sexual violence."

- **Nature**

  Abuse can take on many forms. It has different natures. Some types are more subtle than others and might never be seen or felt by anyone other than the woman experiencing the abuse. The abuser uses a combination of tactics that work to control the victim. The abuse also usually increases in frequency and severity over time. The Missouri Coalition- against Domestic and Sexual Violence has made an attempt to understand the nature and the dynamics of domestic violence.

  (a) Physical Abuse

  Physical abuse is easier to recognize and understand than other types of abuse. It can be indicated when the batterer;

  - Scratches, bites, grabs or spits at a current or former intimate partner.
  - Shakes, shoves, pushes, restrains or throws her.
  - Twists, slaps, punches, strangles or burns the victim.
  - Throws objects at her.
  - Subjects her to reckless driving.
  - Locks her in or out of the house.

- Refuses to help when she's sick, injured or pregnant, or withholds medication or treatment.
- Withholds food as punishment.
- Abuses her at mealtime, which disrupts eating patterns and can result in malnutrition.
- Abuses her at night, which disrupts sleeping patterns and can result in sleep deprivation.
- Attacks her with weapons or kills her.

(b) Sexual Violence and Abuse

Sexual violence and abuse can be extraordinarily difficult for victims to talk about because of the ways in which this type of violence often is perpetrated. Sexual violence or abuse can be indicated when the batterer;

- Is jealous or angry and assumes she will have sex with anyone.
- Withholds sex and affection as punishment.
- Calls her sexual names.
- Pressures her to have sex when she doesn't want to.
- Insists that his partner dress in a more sexual way than she wants.
- Coerces sex by manipulation or threats.
- Physically forces sex or is sexually violent.
- Coerces her into sexual acts that she is uncomfortable with.
- Inflicts injuries that are sex-specific.
- Denies the victim contraception or protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

(c) Psychological Abuse

It is the abuser's use of physical and sexual force or threats that gives power to his psychologically abusive acts. Psychological abuse becomes an effective weapon in controlling a victim, because she knows through experience that her abuser will at times back up the threats or taunts with physical assaults. Psychological abuse can be indicated when the batterer;

- Breaks promises, doesn't follow through on agreements or doesn't take a fair share of responsibility.
- Verbally attacks and humiliates his partner in private or public.
- Attacks her vulnerabilities, such as her language abilities, educational level, skills as a parent, religious and cultural beliefs or physical appearance.
- Plays mind games, such as when he denies requests he has made previously or when he undercuts her sense of reality.
- Forces her to do degrading things.
- Ignores her feelings.
- Withholds approval or affection as punishment.
- Regularly threatens to leave or tells her to leave.
- Harasses her about affairs he imagines her to be having.
- Stalks her.
- Always claims to be right.
- Is unfaithful after committing to monogamy.

(d) Economic Abuse

Economic abuse can be indicated when the batterer;

- Controls all the money.
- Doesn't let her to work outside the home or sabotages her attempts to work or go to school.
- Refuses to work and makes her support the family.
- Ruins her credit rating.



LET US KNOW

In 1983 and 1986, amendments were made to the existing Criminal Law to take onboard the category of 'cruelty to wives' in terms that were diffuse or incomplete in definition, difficult to implement within the procedures of criminal law, and easy to circumvent. For instance, 'cruelty', was defined as the causing of 'grave injury or danger to life, limb or death,' thus

leaving outside ambit the mundane non-physical forms of violence of everyday life.

Another problem is that in the amendments domestic violence is dubiously sutured to dowry demand and harassment, with the result that often in the perception of the police and the legal machinery, a claim to cruelty cannot by definition be made unless appended to the claim to dowry harassment. It is almost as though it is only by invoking the criminality of dowry and related violence that an intervention into the sacralized space of the family can be justified.

It is only since the 1990s that domestic violence has been specifically highlighted as an endemic and pervasive reality of women's lives as well as a fundamental violation of their rights. Globally, the Vienna Congress on Human Rights (1994) and the Fourth World Conference of Women at Beijing (1995) included this issue as a critical area of concern.

Apart from identifying women's abuse as a human rights issue, these also called for a crucial redefinition of what constitute violence against women in their intimate relationships. And indeed, there has been a radical redefinition and elaboration of the paradigm over the past few years both by international bodies and by Indian feminist forums such as the Lawyers' Collective Women's Rights Initiative (LSWRI).



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: When violence committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, it is called ….. (Fill in the blanks)

Q.2: What is Domestic Violence?

.....

.....

Q.3: State the defination of domestic violence provided by the Centre for Family Justice.

.....

.....

13.4 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR OCCURRENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are two main factors which could be held responsible for domestic violence. One is the family and other the caste, class and community.

- **The Family as the Site of Violence**
  - In a study of domestic violence in the Indian context, Malavika Karlekar, abstracts certain generic characteristics of the family and the "naturalization" of violence within it. Whether the basic family unit is joint or nuclear, it is the ground for the play of power and powerlessness along the lines of gender and age. Violence understood not only as physical harm but also as discrimination, deprivation, denial of access to resources, intimidation, exploitation, and other means whereby economic and social inequality is perpetuated as the tool that reproduces the inherently hierarchical structure of the family. Those most vulnerable to familial violence are children, women, and the aged.
  - Family as one of the prime site of domestic violence means that an inclusive understanding of domestic violence must take into account not only inter-spousal violence but also the very real practice of child and elder abuse within the home. However, while any child is vulnerable to violence, the girl-child may be more discriminated against. A differentiation must also be made between the violence perpetrated against old males and females.
  - For the women, the abuse suffered in old age might differ from with her experience of violence as a child in the natal home and as wife in the conjugal home. Elder female might be seen to be disempowered by age and loss of status as they are no longer perceived as being economically "productive". As such, violence in old age signals for men the loss of the patriarchal power that they once exercised within the same familial structure. One could refer to this process as a "feminization" in

status and therefore, a greater vulnerability to abuse.

- To this extent, all violence within the family is gendered. And, even we isolate wife-abuse as the object of analysis, it is important to keep in mind the range of violence of which it represents one stage.
- The perpetrators of violence often include female affine (a relative by marriage) such as the mother-in-law or sister-in-law. The politics of the household cannot be seen simply as a struggle between oppressing men and victimized women. As the household constitutes the site for struggle over resources and power, women themselves may be inserted into a hierarchical based on age, marital status, maternal status, the ranking among daughters-in-law and so on.
- The differential access to power and resources would lead to a re-division of household labor among women, relationships of bitterness between them, and re-entrenching of patriarchy as the more privileged of the female members function as the substitute (and often, violent) agents of male hegemony and control.

- **Caste, Class and Community as the Site of Violence**
  - When we discuss the pervasiveness and historical persistence of violence against women, it is necessary to recognize the historical contingency of patriarchal forms and practices. Patriarchal arrangements are subject to constant reconstitution because of their fundamental implication in the historical articulation and re-articulation of class, caste, and community. Gender inequality does not function in isolation but is intricately related to other forms of social hierarchy.
  - As a prominent thinker Sangari (a prominent scholar) puts patriarchies as being simultaneously located in specific modes of production, in class structure and mobility, in particular forms of class-caste status with custom, tradition or religion.

- Such a perspective helps us to open up the family as the site of violence and to situate its politics within a larger family moving towards caste, class and community. Thus, rearticulating of caste, class or community identities would inflect the specific forms and intensities of private and public violence against women at specific historical junctures.
- Economic pressures too, play a part. Deorala, the town where Roop Kanwar was burnt, now boast a thriving "sati industry". Equally, the conservative Muslim backlash during the **Shah Bano case** reveals the anxiety of a community that perceives itself to be in crisis and seeks to assert its integrity through an intensification of its indigenous patriarchal practices.
- To take another example, the spread of the practice of dowry within the middle-classes, even to communities where it did not earlier exist, calls for an analysis of new trajectories of class mobility and changing middle class aspirations in a context of high capitalism and an ethos of consumerism.



Shah Bano case: This is controversial case of alimony and maintenance in Muslim. This case in fact highlights how people use religion as a tool for their own personal vendetta.

Therefore, theorizing of domestic violence, then, must centrally involve the identifying and analysis of old and emerging forms of vulnerabilities that undermine women in the contemporary context. It must move beyond the merely "domestic" to address the ambiguities and contradictions generated at the interface of different structures and relations of oppression and their specific implications for women in a climate of growing gendered violence.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4: Caste, class and community are also factors of domestic violence. (True/False)

.....

Q.5: Muslim backlash during the ..... reveals the anxiety of a community that perceives itself to be in crisis and seeks to assert its integrity through an intensification of its indigenous patriarchal practices. (Fill in the blank)

Q.6: Write briefly about family as the site of violence against women.

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13.5 MEASURES TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN INDIA: LEGAL PROVISIONS

There are varied consequences of domestic violence depending on the victim, the age group, the intensity of the violence and frequency of the torment they are subjected to. Living under a constant fear, threat and humiliation are some of the feelings developed in the minds of the victims in a situation of domestic violence. The consequences of the domestic violence in detail can be broadly categorized under - the Effect on the victim himself/herself and the family, effect on the society and the effect on nation's growth and productivity. Therefore, it is of utmost important to find measures to check domestic violence.

To stop domestic violence there is urgent need of awareness and detection of such cases. Education and awareness too play a very important role in this regard. But, along with that legal provisions are of utmost importance. Let's look at the situation in India and how the state has tackled the menace.

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to protect women from domestic violence. It was brought into force by the Indian government from 26 October 2006.
- The Act provides for the first time in Indian law a definition of "domestic violence", with this definition being broad and including not only physical violence, but also other forms of violence such as emotional/verbal, sexual, and economic abuse.
- It is a civil law meant primarily for protection orders and not meant to penalize criminally. The Act does not extend to Jammu and Kashmir,

which has its own laws, and which enacted in 2010 the Jammu and Kashmir Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2010.

- Primarily meant to provide protection to the wife or female live-in partner from domestic violence at the hands of the husband or male live-in partner or his relatives, the law also extends its protection to women living in a household such as sisters, widows or mothers. Domestic violence under the Act includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse whether physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the woman or her relatives would also be covered under this definition.

The salient features of the Protection from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 are as follows;

- The Act seeks to cover those women who are or have been in a relationship with the abuser where both parties have lived together in a shared household and are related by consanguinity, marriage or a relationship in the nature of marriage, or adoption; in addition relationship with family members living together as a joint family are also included. Even those women who are sisters, widows, mothers, single women, or living with them are entitled to get legal protection under the proposed Act.
- "Domestic violence" includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic. Harassment by way of unlawful dowry demands to the woman or her relatives would also be covered under this definition.
- One of the most important features of the Act is the woman's right to secure housing. The Act provides for the woman's right to reside in the matrimonial or shared household, whether or not she has any title or rights in the household. This right is secured by a residence order, which is passed by a court. These residence orders cannot be passed against anyone who is a woman.
- The other relief envisaged under the Act is that of the power of the court to pass protection orders that prevent the abuser from aiding or committing an act of domestic violence or any other specified

act, entering a workplace or any other place frequented visited by the abused, attempting to communicate with the abused, isolating any assets used by both the parties and causing violence to the abused, her relatives and others who provide her assistance from the domestic violence.

- The Act provides for appointment of Protection Officers and NGOs to provide assistance to the woman, medical examination, legal aid, safe shelter, etc.
- The Act provides for breach of protection order or interim protection order by the respondent as a cognizable and non-bailable offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees or with both. Similarly, non-compliance or discharge of duties by the Protection Officer is also sought to be made an offence under the Act with similar punishment.



LET US KNOW

Many have however also criticized the Protection from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 as having too little force, serving chiefly as a civil, rather than criminal, law- requiring a further offense by the accused respondent (such as violating a Protection Order issued under this law) before triggering criminal law sanctions against the respondent (such as arrest and imprisonment). However, groups involved in drafting the law believed this would provide more rapid and flexible relief for the victim.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.7: "Domestic violence" includes actual abuse or the threat of abuse that is physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic. (True/False)

.....

Q.8: The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 came into force on …….. (Fill in the blank)

Q.9: State one criticism regarding the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

.....

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13.6 LET US SUM UP

- Gender crimes are not a recent phenomenon. Crimes against women have been committed since antiquity. Violence to wives, the central concern here, is found in all societies and across all economic and age groups.
- Prejudice towards women is entrenched in Indian culture. But, by no means is this unique to India. Prejudice towards women is common in other societies. Women are devalued, subordinated and mistreated daily. Crimes against women occur every single day around the world with forensic precision.
- Domestic violence is the violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. It may be termed intimate partner violence when committed by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner, and can take place in heterosexual or same-sex relationships, or between former spouses or partners.
- The Missouri Coalition- against Domestic and Sexual Violence has made an attempt to understand the nature and the dynamics of domestic violence which categorized it as Physical Abuse, Sexual Violence and Abuse, Psychological Abuse, and Economic Abuse.
- There are two main factors which could be held responsible for domestic violence. One is the family and other the caste, class and community.
- Domestic violence in order to check first need a lot of awareness and detection of such cases. Education and awareness too plays a very

important role in this regard. But, along with that legal provisions are of utmost importance.

- The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to protect women from domestic violence. It was brought into force by the Indian government from 26 October 2006.



13.7 FURTHER READING

1. Ahuja, R. (2011). *Social Problems in India*. New Delhi: Rawat Publication.
2. Bhattacharya, R. (2013). *Behind Closed Door- Domestic Violence In India*. New Delhi: Sage Publications.
3. Chatterji, S.A. (1997). *The India Women's Search For an Identity*. New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House.



13.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: intimate partner violence

Ans. to Q. No. 2: Domestic violence is the violence or other abuse by one person against another in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: The Centre for Family Justice, explains, "Domestic abuse is a pattern of coercive, controlling behavior that is a pervasive life-threatening crime affecting people in all our communities regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, social standing and immigration status."

Ans. to Q. No. 4: True

Ans. to Q. No. 5: Shah Bano case

Ans. to Q. No. 6: The perpetrators of violence often include female affine such as the mother-in-law or sister-in-law. The politics of the household cannot be seen simply as a struggle between oppressing men and victimized women. As the household constitutes the site

for struggle over resources and power, women themselves may be inserted into a hierarchical based on age, marital status, maternal status, the ranking among daughters-in-law and so on. The differential access to power and resources would lead to a re-division of household labor among women, relationships of antagonism between them, and re-entrenching of patriarchy as the more privileged of the female members function as the surrogate (and often, violent) agents of male hegemony and control.

Ans. to Q. No. 7: True

Ans. to Q. No. 8: 26 October 2006.

Ans. to Q. No. 9: Many have criticized the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 as having too little force, serving chiefly as a civil, rather than criminal, law-requiring a further offense by the accused respondent (such as violating a Protection Order issued under this law) before triggering criminal law sanctions against the respondent (such as arrest and imprisonment).



13.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: The Act against Domestic Violence provides for appointment of Protection Officers and NGOs to provide assistance to the woman. (True/False)

Q. 2: Define Domestic Violence in your own words.

Q. 3: Describe in brief the nature of domestic violence.

Q. 4: Explain the different types of abuses melted towards women.

Q. 5: Describe in your own words the contemporary domestic problems of women in Indian society.

Q. 6: Explain the legislative measures to counter domestic violence in India.

Q. 7: Critically discuss the caste, class and community as the site of violence against women.

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UNIT 14: ISSUES OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

14.1 Learning Objectives

14.2 Introduction

14.3 Nature of Child Labour in India

14.4 Forms of Child Labour in India

14.5 Factors responsible for the emergence of Child Labour in India

14.6 Constitutional provisions to combat Child Labour in India

14.7 Let Us Sum Up

14.8 Further Reading

14.9 Answers to Check Your Progress

14.10 Possible Questions

14.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the nature and forms of Child Labour in India
- examine different factors responsible for the growth of Child Labour in India
- analyze the existing constitutional provisions to combat Child Labour in India.

14.2 INTRODUCTION

One of the most pressing social problems that the human community has been facing worldwide is the problem of child labour. According to 2016 International Labour Organisation (ILO) report, almost 40 million children between 5 to 14 years of age work as modern slave and 152 million work as a labour in developing countries. In 2000, there were 211 million children worked as domestic workers and other forms of labour. The ILO's data shows the increased numbers child labour in the present century. According to ILO's estimation, 61 percent of the total child labour population is concentrated in Asia, 32 and 7 percent are in Africa and Latin America respectively. Almost

half of the total numbers of children are working in hazardous condition which increases their vulnerability. The issue of child rights is directly related with these sorts vulnerabilities against the children. The 2016 ILO's report which was published in 19th September, 2017 describes the scale and key characteristics of child labour in the world, as well as changes in the global child labour situation over time. The problem of child labour remains an endemic and unending issue both in economic and social reform mechanism of the government as well as non-governmental organisation.

International Labour Organisation has been working significantly since the time of its inception and remains committed to the cause for which it was established. ILO has adopted 12 major Conventions in the process of preventing child labour. In 1990, International Labour Organisation took a serious step and established International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). This particular programme basically stressed on focusing the issue like worst abuses, hazardous work, forced labour, condition of street children etc. In June 17, 1999 International Labour Organisation adopted a landmark treaty on Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention which came into force on November 19, 2000. This treaty provided for the prohibition on exploitative practices such as slavery, sale and trafficking of children, bondage, child prostitution etc. It also highlighted the issue of forced recruitment of children in armed conflict. International Labour Organisation insists on educational practices to be available for each and every category of children. According to ILO's International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour, free and compulsory education upto minimum age for entering into employment is a key tool in preventing child labour. In the context of such gravity of the problem, in this unit we shall discuss the issues of child labour in Indian context.

14.3 NATURE OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

Child labour, especially bonded or forced labour is a serious problem in India. The problem of bonded labour prevails in India particularly in certain sectors like agriculture, carpet-weaving, other small industries etc. According

to the Child Labour Prohibition Act 1986, a child is defined "as any person up to the age of 14". This Act prohibits employments of a child in any employment including as a domestic help. UNICEF estimates that India with its larger population has the highest number of labourers in the world under 14 years of age. Poverty, hunger, lack of education, increased numbers of workers in the unorganized sector and the growth of the informal economy are considered to be the key causes of child labour in India. In a third world countries like India, employers basically want to employ the cheap labourer especially in small industrial sectors like glass industry, carpet industry, brick industry, hotels, stalls etc , because the owner can engage the child labourer at the cost of minimum wages. Child labour increases in India as a result of poor socio-economic condition of the Indian society. In 1988, Government of India launched a project for the eradication of child labour and the problem of illiteracy in India. The key targets which has fixed by this project are-

- Speeding up the enforcement of the prohibition of child labour;
- Provide employment for parents;
- Expanding formal and non-formal education;
- Promoting school enrolment through various incentives such as payment of stipend;
- Raising public awareness;
- Survey and evaluation.

In India, both boys and girls under 14 years are forced to pick up jobs mostly in unorganized sector wherein they face problems like long hours of work, work in hazardous employment, low wages, work in unhealthy environment etc. As a result of this sort of degradable environment of work, the children undergo serious problems in terms of health insecurity. In most of the urban areas in India, the numbers of children working in small tea stall has been increasing which results in their vulnerability. In some occasions, the numbers of child labour increases due to the reluctance of the parents to send their children to schools for education as they are the sole bread-earner for their families. In India, child labour is deliberately created by vested interests to get cheap labour.

14.4 FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The problem of child labour in India is not only an economic compulsion of poor families, but also a consequence of extreme social and economic exploitation. According to International Labour Organisation, educational interventions are central to the prevention and elimination of worst forms of child labour. Lack of education is one of the important causes for the child labour in India. Different forms of child labour prevail in India, some of which can be mentioned as follows-

- **Bonded Labour:** This is one of the worst forms of child labour in India. Bonded labour prevailes in India in different fields such as- in agricultural field, in different quarries, carpet-weaving and in certain small industries or factories.
- **Serfdom:** This form of labour enforced upon a person by forcing him or her to live and work on land belonging to another person, with little or no pay.
- **Forced Labour:** This form of child labour is seen when someone is forced to work against their wishes. Different non-state actors recruit children to engage them during the time of armed conflict. During conflict situations, children are abused and exploited, often being forced to kill or deface other human beings. In normal situation also children are forced to work as labourer against their wish.
- **Domestic Worker:** In India, the issue of child domestic worker remains a serious problem for the last couple of decades. The social structure and economic dependency of the lower strata of the society increases the numbers of child domestic worker in India.
- **Child Prostitution:** In India, girl children are exploited sexually, they are used in sexual images and forced to go for prostitution. Poverty, homelessness, unwillingness to have girl child, child trafficking etc are the main reasons for the emergence of the problem of child prostitution in India.
- **Child involvement in Drugs Trafficking:** Children are also getting involved forcefully by the middlemen for drugs trafficking purposes.

School dropout, disturbing childhood, homelessness etc are the main reasons of their involvement in drugs trafficking which result in uncertainty of their life. Their involvement in drugs trafficking increases their work load as labour in certain illegal agencies which adversely affect health, safety and morals of the children.

- **Child Labour in Agricultural Field:** This form of child labour prevails in almost all parts of India especially in rural India. Due to economic dependency and landlessness on the part of the poor people, the children of these poor families engaged themselves in agricultural field of the land owner. The pesticides used for crops may harm the children because they do not have safety equipment.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: Mention any two provisions of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.

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Q.2: Write briefly about any two forms of child labour in India.

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14.5 FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMERGENCE OF CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

The problem of child labour is a crucial issue in the developing and underdeveloped countries. Though the neo-liberal state structure has accelerated the process of development in the third world countries, but at the same time the problem of child labour is also increasing in these regions. India is not an exception to this problem. There are different factors which are responsible for the increasing the number of child labourer in India. Some of these factors are discussed in the following-

- **Socio-economic condition of the family:** The problem of child labour in India is related to the economic conditions of the families in terms of its members in workforce. Depending upon the degree of dependency syndrome on the part of the family, the children of that family have to engage themselves in different hazardous work which increases the problems of child labour in India.
- **Lack of educational accessibility:** In India, there are instances where children are deprived of their fundamental right to education. There are no proper facilities of education in thousands of villages of India. The worst sufferers are the poor families who don't have the sufficient resources to send their children to schools. Lack of affordable school for the education of poor children leaves them illiterate and helpless. This ultimately pushes them into the trap of child labour in India.
- **Poverty and socio-economic backwardness:** The main reason of increasing child labour in India is poverty and socio-economic backwardness. Due to poverty, the economic condition of the weaker family gradually declines which ultimately results in increased numbers of child labour. The parents of weaker family send their children to work in hotels, shop, factories, home, agricultural fields instead of sending them to school. The socio-economic condition of the poor family always remains stagnant because these categories of people due to their economic dependency preferred to engage their children in different labour work instead of thinking in terms of education of their children.
- **Lack of Education:** Lack of education on the part of the poor families due to their incapacity for blessing themselves with educational resources proof to be one of significant factors responsible for the prevailing child labour in India. Even after many decades of Independence, children are deprived of their fundamental right to education. For the poorest of the poor family, education of their child is a distant cry till today in different parts of India as they fail to get their daily wages. Education of the children is a necessary criterion for minimizing the numbers of child labour. Larger the

educated masses, lesser will be their orientation towards sending their children to work. The educated families realize the importance of sending their children to school. But in the context of Indian society, due to extreme poverty, the poor family negated to send their children to school for incapacity in term of financial bearing.

- **Increased wage labour and workforce participation:** There is an increasing demand in the labour market for the wage labour in the third world countries like India. So the poor families try to engage their children in different wage labour in order to get more wages. The lower wage rate of the children increases their demand in the market which ultimately results in higher degree of child labour.
- **Over population:** The population of the country increases on the basis of fertility rate. The fertility rate of population is maximum in case of the poor family. The reason behind this increasing rate of children in the poor family lies in the matter of their illiteracy, religious believe, lack of awareness etc. As result of it, those poor families where numbers of children are higher, they need to engage themselves in different wage labour in order to get their daily meal.
- **Disturbing childhood and problems of addiction and disease of parents:** Due to addiction and diseases, sometimes in certain families, parents fail to fulfil the daily requirements of the family. In such circumstances, there is a tremendous pressure on the part of child to engage him or her in any form of work so that he or she may able to contribute something for the survival of the family. Subsequently it alienates the child from going to school and he or she try to concentrate more on earnings instead of education. In most cases, parents preferred to send them to work in comparison to sending school.
- **Increasing demand of cheap labour:** In the age of globalization and neo-liberal structure of the state mechanism, the three stances i.e liberalization, privatization and consumerism inspire to go for cheap labour. Subsequently, the need for cheap labour and its connection with economic needs of the needy sections fasten the

degree of child labour in India. The small industries and shopkeepers recruit children to their work in the hope of earning more profit as the child work at the cost half payments in comparison to the elder workers.

- **Discriminatory attitude towards girl child:** In rural poor families, girls are treated badly in comparison to boy child. The social structure and certain hypothetical assumption that girls are weaker than the boy leads to the increasing vulnerability of girl child. Moreover, the poor families willing to send their boy child to school only and preferred to engage the girl child in labour along with them in order to collect certain extra money.

14.6 CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS TO COMBAT CHILD LABOUR IN INDIA

In India child labour is a major problem which needs immediate attention both from the state and the civil society. The Constitution of India and various Act enacted by the Indian Parliament have been trying to arrange certain legal provisions to combat the problem of child labour in India. Different Articles enshrined in the Indian Constitution which is related to different issues of child labour clearly reflect the willingness on the part of the state mechanism to realize human rights norms. Some of the provisions of the Constitution of India in this regard can be mentioned as follows:

- **Article 23:** Article 23 stressed on "prohibition of traffick in human beings and forced labour". According to this Article, traffick in human beings and beggar and similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. It also states that nothing in this Article shall prevent the state from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and in imposing such service the state shall not make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.
- **Article 24:** According to this Article, no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engage in any other hazardous employment. The court in M.C. Mehta Vs State

of Tamil Nadu case noted that menace of child labour was widespread. In this case, the court issued wide ranging directions in the context of employment and exploitation of children in prohibiting employment of children below the age of 14 and making arrangements for their education by creating a fund and providing employments to the parents or abled bodied adults in the family.

- **Article 39:** The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing- (a) that the health and strength of workers, men and women and tender age of children are not abused and that citizens are not forced by economic necessity to enter avocations unsuited to their age or strength; (b) that children are given opportunities to develop in a healthy manner and in condition of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against moral and material abandonment.
- **Article 45:** The State shall endeavor to provide within a period of ten years from the commencement of the Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years.
- **Factories Act:** According to Section 67 of this Act, no child who has not completed his or her 14th year shall be required or allowed to work in any factory.

There are some of the important legislations in India in combating Child Labour. These are-

- Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929
- Children (Pledging of Labour) Act of 1933
- Employment of Children Act of 1938
- Children Act of 1960
- The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986

Articles 23 and 24 of the Indian Constitution have clearly highlighted the issue of child labour. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 was enacted on 23rd December 1986 by the Indian Parliament and was enforced on 26th May, 1993 by the central government. The main objectives of this Act are-

- Ban on the employment of children i.e, those who haven't completed their fourteenth year, in specified occupations;
- Lay down a procedure to decide modifications to the schedule of banned occupation and processes;
- Regulate the conditions of work of children in employment where they are not prohibited from working;
- Lay down enhanced penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act, and other Acts which forbid the employment of the children;
- To obtain uniformity in the definition of 'child' in the related laws.

To solve the problem of child labour, the root causes of exploitation of children and their abuse should be identified. With the help of constitutional mechanism there is a gradual increasing process of for combating child labour in India. But every step in the field of human rights proof to be futile, if children get deprived from their wishes. Specific strategies for the protection of child rights need to be implemented. Along with the constitutional mechanism, the Supreme Court of India and other wings of the judiciary should be actively concerned to ensure the welfare of the child. Then can only a plausible solution for the problems of child labour will be attainable.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3: Write briefly about any two factors responsible for the emergence of the problem of child labour in India.

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Q.4: Mention any two Acts enacted by the Parliament of India to combat the problem of child labour.

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Q.5: Write briefly about any two provisions incorporated in the Indian Constitution to deal with the issue of child labour.

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14.7 LET US SUM UP

- One of the most pressing social problems that the human community has been facing worldwide is the problem of child labour. The problem of child labour remains an endemic and unending issue both in economic and social reform mechanism of the government as well as non-governmental organisation.
- International Labour Organisation has been working significantly since the time of its inception and remains committed to the cause for which it was established. ILO has adopted 12 major Conventions in the process of preventing child labour. In 1990, International Labour Organisation took a serious step and established International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). According to ILO's International Programme for Elimination of Child Labour, free and compulsory education upto minimum age for entering into employment is a key tool in preventing child labour.
- In India too the problem of child labour has become a major issue. In India, both boys and girls under 14 years are forced to pick up jobs mostly in unorganized sector wherein they face problems like long hours of work, work in hazardous employment, low wages, work in unhealthy environment etc. As a result of this sort of degradable environment of work, the children undergo serious problems in terms

of health insecurity. In India, child labour is deliberately created by vested interests to get cheap labour.

- Different forms of child labour prevail in India, some of which are- bonded labour, serfdom, forced labour, domestic worker, child prostitution, child involvement in drugs trafficking, child labour in agricultural field etc.
- There are different factors which are responsible for the increasing the number of child labourer in India. Some of these factors are - socio-economic condition of the family, lack of educational accessibility, poverty and socio-economic backwardness, lack of education, increased wage labour and workforce participation, over population, disturbing childhood and problems of addiction and disease of parents, increasing demand of cheap labour, discriminatory attitude towards girl child etc.
- In India a number of provisions are incorporated to combat the problem of child labour. Beside these constitutional provisions, the India Parliament has also enacted a number of laws in this regard. Some of the Acts are- Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929, Children (Pledging of abour) Act of 1933, Employment of Children Act of 1938, Children Act of 1960, The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986 etc.



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14.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: The Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention provided for the prohibition on exploitative practices such as slavery, sale and trafficking of children, bondage, child prostitution etc. It also highlighted the issue of forced recruitment of children in armed conflict.

Ans. to Q. No. 2: (i) Forced Labour: This form of child labour is seen when someone is forced to work against their wishes. Different non-state actors recruit children to engage them during the time of armed conflict. During conflict situations, children are abused and exploited, often being forced to kill or deface other human beings. In normal situation also children are forced to work as labourer against their wish.

(ii) Domestic Worker: In India, the issue of child domestic worker remains a serious problem for the last couple of decades. The social structure and economic dependency of the lower strata of the society increases the numbers of child domestic worker in India.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: (i) Socio-economic condition of the family: The problem of child labour in India is related to the economic conditions of the families in terms of its members in workforce. Depending upon the degree of dependency syndrome on the part of the family, the children of that family have to engage themselves in different hazardous work which increases the problems of child labour in India.

(ii) Lack of educational accessibility: In India, there are instances where children are deprived of their fundamental right to education. There are no proper facilities of education in thousands of villages of India. The worst sufferers are the poor families who don't have the sufficient resources to send their children to schools. Lack of affordable school for the education of poor children leaves them illiterate and helpless. This ultimately pushes them into the trap of child labour in India.

Ans. to Q. No. 4: Children Act of 1960, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act of 1986.

Ans. to Q. No. 5: (i) Article 23 stressed on "prohibition of traffick in human beings and forced labour". According to this Article, traffick in human beings and beggar and similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law. It also states that nothing in this Article shall prevent the state from imposing compulsory service for public purposes, and in imposing such service the state shall not make any discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste or class or any of them.

(ii) According to Article 24, no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engage in any other hazardous employment. The court in M.C. Mehta Vs State of Tamil Nadu case noted that menace of child labour was widespread. In this case, the court issued wide ranging directions in the context of employment and exploitation of children in prohibiting employment of children below the age of 14 and making arrangements for their education by creating a fund and providing employments to the parents or abled bodied adults in the family.



14.10 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: Write briefly about the role of the International Labour Organization in dealing with the problem of child labour.

Q. 2: Examine various forms and nature of the problem of child labour in India.

Q. 3: Explain various factors responsible for the emergence of child labour in India.

Q. 4: Discuss various constitutional and legislative measures adopted in India to combat the problem of terrorism in India.

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UNIT 15: WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

UNIT STRUCTURE

15.1 Learning Objectives

15.2 Introduction

15.3 Concept of Empowerment

15.3.1 Gender Empowerment

15.4 Obstacles in the way of Women Empowerment in India

15.5 Constitutional and Legal Provisions for Women Empowerment in India

15.6 Let Us Sum Up

15.7 Further Reading

15.8 Answers to Check Your Progress

15.9 Possible Questions

15.1 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After going through this unit, you will be able to-

- explain the meaning of empowerment
- explain the meaning of gender empowerment
- examine the various obstacles in the way of women empowerment in India
- discuss various existing constitutional and legislative provisions regarding women empowerment in India.

15.2 INTRODUCTION

In most of the societies position and capabilities of women are often undermined. In fact, there always exist inequalities between men and women in every sphere of life. This is due to gender division of our society. The term Gender is a social construction which refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationship between man and woman. The societal norms and values always place women in a subordinate position compared to men and many

a time this has resulted in insecurity and subordinate position of women. Empowerment of women is the most crucial step for establishing equality and eliminating oppression against women. Women's political participation plays a crucial role in the process of their empowerment. Women's political participation plays an important role in their struggle against oppression and discrimination and is of crucial importance in strengthening the democratic values and traditions. In this unit we shall discuss the concept of empowerment of women, more particularly political empowerment of women in detail.

15.3 CONCEPT OF EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment is an idea of power through which human being achieve control over his/her own life. It means self esteem, self reliance and self confidence. The concept of empowerment has its genesis in the works of Paulo Freire, especially in his debate on education in Latin America in the late 1970s. Indicating empowerment, he said that the poor could be enabled to challenge the power structure and take control over their lives through the method of conscious-rising (Hust, 2004; 45). So the element of consciousness is the key to the empowerment process. Sen and Batliwala (1994) view that empowerment is the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives. It includes control over both resources and ideologies. Kumud Sharma (1991) argued that the term empowerment refers to a range of activities from individual self-assertion to collective resistance, protest and mobilisation that challenge basic power relation. For individual and groups where caste, class, ethnicity and gender determine their access to resources and power, their empowerment begins when they not only recognise the systematic forces that oppress them, but act to change existing power relationships. Empowerment therefore is a process aim at changing the nature and direction of systematic forces which marginalised women and other disadvantaged sections in a given context (Hust, 2004; 45). We can say that the concept of empowerment is a comprehensive

one which aims at the reconstruction of power relation by putting an end to the discrimination and oppression of the marginalised and vulnerable groups. Through the process of empowerment people can directly and actively take part in all those activities which affect their lives either directly or indirectly. In other words empowered people can govern themselves effectively.

15.3.1 Gender Empowerment

Since women are always considered as subordinated and discriminated, empowerment of women is the key to achieve the goal of gender equality. Their empowerment is also an important element for making progress towards human development. Women empowerment indicates a process of equal redistribution of power by challenging the norms and traditions of the society dominated by patriarchal ideologies. Through the process of empowerment transformation can be brought to the structures and institutions of the society that perpetuate oppression and discrimination based on gender. Empowerment process enables women to gain access to and control of resources. According to the Human Development Report in South Asia 2006, women empowerment is a change in the context of a woman's life, which enables her increased capacity for leading a fulfilling human life. Giving stress on women empowerment the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development also put forward the view that empowerment of women and the improvement of their status are both highly important ends and necessary for sustainable human development. According to Girija Vyas (former Chairman of National Commission for Women, India) empowerment is a process that aims at achieving the principles of equality, human liberation and freedom for all. Women's empowerment implies equality of opportunity and equity between genders, strengthening of life chances, collective participation in different spheres of life - cultural, social, economic,

political, development process, decision-making etc. It can be said that empowerment generates a sense of self consciousness and self confidence among women. It asserts the consciousness of women about their own existence, their belief, their rights and capacities.

Effective political participation and representation of women are of crucial importance in the process of empowerment of women that can contribute to their well-being and in enjoying their basic human rights. According to Crook and Manor political participation is citizen's active engagement with public institutions including voting, campaigning and pressuring either individually or through a group. Political participation is a part of full realisation of one's personality. Political participation generates a sense of being empowered among women and they can then effectively and actively express their needs and concerns and can integrate them in the decision-making process. Political participation and political empowerment of women have been the most effectively tools through which equality can be established in the society by putting an end to disadvantages and discrimination against women and only then development, in the true sense, can be achieved.

15.4 OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IN INDIA

Empowerment of women has been hampered by various factors in India. In this section we shall basically discuss obstacles in the way of political empowerment of women. Some of the factors which put obstacles in the way of political empowerment of women can be discussed as follows:

(i) The socialisation process is mainly responsible for the lower political participation of women. Women are socialised in such a way that they prefer to remain restricted within the domestic sphere. They themselves are not conscious about political participation which is an integral part of their empowerment.

(ii) Lack of political awareness is the cause of lower female participation in politics. Education also influences the degree of political participation. Since in our country in many cases preference is given to the education of male child, girl children are deprived of their right to education. As a result of it, sense of political awareness don't develop among women.

(iii) The level of political participation is also severely hampered by lack of proper information and unequal access to resources. Infact the role of women in decision-making process is hardly recognised. The political climate as it exists today continues to be male centred and is therefore perceived to be conducive to male participation. Women are not treated as political entity in their own rights. They have been treated by political parties and other power groups as a means to further their own interest (Baseline Report, NIAS; 15). Women are not only denied equal participation in politics but their issues and concerns are also neglected in the decision-making process.

(iv) Violence against women also hampers political participation of women. The problem of domestic violence is a major issue in this regard. Due to large scale of violence that happen against women, women themselves remain busy in dealing with the problem and hardly find any other time to get involve in the political process.

(v) Lack of access to health care facility also puts obstacles in the way of political empowerment of women in India. In many remote areas women don't have any access to basic health care facilities, more particularly they don't have access to reproductive health care facilities. Since women have to struggle for their basic right of health care facilities, participation in politics remains as a distant cry for most of them.

(vi) In case of political empowerment of women in India one can say that women's participation in politics as voter is quite high, but as candidate is not up to the level of satisfaction. One of the major reason for this low participation of women in politics as candidate is

the lack of willingness of the on the part of some political parties to offer tickets to women candidate. Rather some political parties prefer to engage women in office work or other subordinate works, like organising meetings or rallies etc. Again though number of women's voters is quite impressive, but very it is noticed that their right to vote is usually dictated and controlled by the male members of the family and male leaders of the community. The state has to take efforts to create awareness of the right to vote and its power. Women must be made aware about the value of their votes. In India women are underrepresented in both national and state legislatures.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1: State the meaning of gender empowerment.

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Q.2: State the definition of political participation provided by Crook and Manor.

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Q.3: Write briefly about any two obstacles in the way of political empowerment of women in India.

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15.5 CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PROVISIONS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN INDIA

In this section we shall discuss various constitutional and legal provisions that exist in India for political empowerment of women. The Constitution of India has incorporated a number of provisions which contribute towards empowering women. Some of such provisions are-

- **Article 14:** This Article guarantees equality for all citizens before law and equal protection of law within the territory of India.
- **Article 15:** This Article prohibits any kind of discriminations based on religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth. According to Article 15(3), the State can make special provisions for the benefit women and children.
- **Article 16:** Article 16 of the Constitution guarantees equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters of employment. The State shall not make any discrimination in this regard on the basis of religion, race, cast, sex, decent, place of birth residence or any of them.
- **Article 39:** Article 39(a) provides for adequate means of livelihood for all citizens. Article 39 (b) has provided for equality between men and women in matters of wages and it has made provision for equal pay for equal work both men and women. Article 39 (c) has provisions for securing the health and strength of workers, men and women.
- **Article 42:** This Article guarantees a just and humane condition of work and maternity relief for women employees.
- **Article 325 and 326:** Articles 325 and 326 of the Indian Constitution guarantee political equality and equal right to participate in political activities and right to vote respectively for both men and women.

The Indian Parliament has also enacted a number of legislations for empowering women. The 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts passed by the Indian Parliament have also provided reservation of 33% of seat for women in the Municipalities and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Apart from this the Indian Parliament has passed several laws for protecting and empowering women. Some of these laws are- the Family Courts Act of 1954, the Special Marriage Act of 1954, the Immoral Traffic (Suppression) Act (SITA) of 1956, the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961 (Amended in 1995), the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, the Marriage Laws(Amendment) Bill of 2010, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013, the National Commission for Women Act of 1990. The Government of India has established the National Commission for Women

in 1992 under the provision of the National Commission for Women Act. This Commission works for protecting rights of women for this purpose it investigates and examines all matters relating to safeguards provided for women under the constitution and other laws.

The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India prepared a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in the year 2001. This Policy aims at achieving development and empowerment of women so that they can actively take part in all social, economic and political decision-making process.

Though a number of provisions, both constitutional and legislative, exit in India for empowerment of women, but women are continuously denied equality in all spheres of life including political. This gender inequality in the participation and representation of women in decision-making process is not a healthy sigh for democracy. To strengthen democracy step must be initiated to achieve equality and empowerment of women in all fields. To accelerate the process of women empowerment there is a need of vital change in traditions, social attitude and patriarchal values of the society. The mindset of the people, including men and women, towards women must change. Empowerment of women would be achieved only when the attitudes of the society towards women become congenial and positive.



CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.4: Mention any two provisions incorporated in the Indian Constitution related with political rights of women.

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Q.5: Mention the name of any four Acts enacted by the Indian Parliament to safeguard the interest of women.

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Q.6: In India the National Commission for Women was established in the year …….. . (Fill in the blank)



15.6 LET US SUM UP

- In most of the societies position and capabilities of women are often undermined. In fact, there always exist inequalities between men and women in every sphere of life. This is due to gender division of our society. Empowerment of women is the most crucial step for establishing equality and eliminating oppression against women.
- Empowerment is an idea of power through which human being achieve control over his/her own life. It means self esteem, self reliance and self confidence. The concept of empowerment is a comprehensive one which aims at the reconstruction of power relation by putting an end to the discrimination and oppression of the marginalised and vulnerable groups. Through the process of empowerment people can directly and actively take part in all those activities which affect their lives either directly or indirectly. In other words empowered people can govern themselves effectively.
- Since women are always considered as subordinated and discriminated, empowerment of women is the key to achieve the goal of gender equality. Women empowerment indicates a process of equal redistribution of power by challenging the norms and traditions of the society dominated by patriarchal ideologies. Empowerment process enables women to gain access to and control of resources. It can be said that empowerment generates a sense of self consciousness and self confidence among women. It asserts the consciousness of women about their own existence, their belief, their rights and capacities.
- Effective political participation and representation of women are of crucial importance in the process of empowerment of women that can contribute to their well-being and in enjoying their basic human rights. Political participation generates a sense of being empowered among women and they can then effectively and actively express

their needs and concerns and can integrate them in the decision-making process.

- In India there are some obstacles in the way of empowerment of women. Some of these are- the process of gendered socialisation, lack of awareness, lack of access to resources and information, violence against women, lack of access to health care facilities etc.
- The Constitution of India has incorporated a number of provisions to protect the interest of women and empower them.
- The Indian Parliament has also enacted a number of laws to protect and empower women. Some of these laws are- the 73rd and 74th Amendment Acts, the Family Courts Act of 1954, the Special Marriage Act of 1954, the Immoral Traffic (Suppression) Act (SITA) of 1956, the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961 (Amended in 1995), the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, the Marriage Laws(Amendment) Bill of 2010, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013, the National Commission for Women Act of 1990 etc.
- The Department of Women & Child Development in the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India prepared a National Policy for the Empowerment of Women in the year 2001. This Policy aims at achieving development and empowerment of women so that they can actively take part in all social, economic and political decision-making process.
- Though a number of provisions, both constitutional and legislative, exit in India for empowerment of women, but women are continuously denied equality in all spheres of life including political. This gender inequality in the participation and representation of women in decision-making process is not a healthy sigh for democracy. To accelerate the process of women empowerment there is a need of vital change in traditions, social attitude and patriarchal values of the society.



15.7 FURTHER READING

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15.8 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Ans. to Q. No. 1: Gender empowerment implies equality of opportunity and equity between genders, strengthening of life chances, collective participation in different spheres of life - cultural, social, economic, political, development process, decision-making etc. It can be said that empowerment generates a sense of self consciousness and self confidence among women. It asserts the consciousness of women about their own existence, their belief, their rights and capacities.

Ans. to Q. No. 2: According to Crook and Manor political participation is citizen's active engagement with public institutions including voting, campaigning and pressuring either individually or through a group.

Ans. to Q. No. 3: (a) The socialisation process is mainly responsible for the lower political participation of women. Women are socialised in such a way that they prefer to remain restricted within the domestic sphere. They themselves are not conscious about political participation which is an integral part of their empowerment.

(b) Lack of political awareness is the cause of lower female participation in politics. Education also influences the degree of political participation. Since in our country in many cases preference is given to the education of male child, girl children are deprived of their right to education. As a result of it, sense of political awareness don't develop among women.

Ans. to Q. No. 4: Articles 325 and 326 of the Indian Constitution guarantee political equality and equal right to participate in political activities and right to vote respectively for both men and women.

Ans. to Q. No. 5: The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1961, the Equal Remuneration Act of 1976, the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005, the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013.

Ans. to Q. No. 6: 1992



15.9 POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Q. 1: Which Amendment Act of the Indian Constitution provided for reservation of 33% seats for women in Panchayati Raj Institutes?

Q. 2: What is the main aim of the National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 2001?

Q. 3: Write briefly about the meaning of empowerment.

Q. 4: Write a short note on the concept of gender empowerment.

Q. 5: Examine various obstacles in the way of political empowerment of women in India.

Q. 6: Discuss various constitutional and legal provisions that exist in India to safeguard interest of women and empower them.

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Name of the Paper: .....
Course Code: .....

Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA)
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
City Office: Housefed Complex, Guwahati-781006

Learner's Feedback on Course

Dear Learner,

Regarding the course as mentioned above, we would like to know your opinions and comments so as to improve the quality of self learning materials in future. Please respond to the following statements by ticking the number you feel most reflect your opinion. After completion of the additional comments, please detach the page and send/mail the same to us at the address given below.

The Director, Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, KKHandiqui State Open University
Housefed Complex, Dispur, Guwahati-781006
(E-mail id: ciqa@kkhsou.in)

1) Approximately how many hours did you spend for studying the units in the course? ☐☐☐

2) Please give your opinions (by ✓ mark) to the following items based on your reading of the block:

Sl. No.	Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I)	The SLMs of the course fulfil the learning objectives set out in the beginning of each unit					
II)	The units of the SLM could satisfy my academic needs and expectations					
III)	The Unit writers have excellent knowledge about the course contents					
IV)	Language and contents of the units were presented at a level which I could readily understand					
V)	Ample opportunity for participation in the activities provided in the units					
VI)	Used enough Illustrations (Diagrams, tables etc.) for conceptual clarity					
VII)	Quality of content is engaging, relevant, and up-to-date					
VIII)	The self check questions are very helpful					
IX)	The Possible/model questions and the answers to check my progress have benefited me a lot					

Additional Comments: *(Please feel free to provide your open comments)*

1) Which aspects of the SLM, according to you, worked well?

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2) What sort of changes/improvements do you feel KKHSOU could implement to improve the overall quality of the SLM?

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Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.