

CONCEPT OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Presently, industrialisation has become a part and parcel of our social system. Industrialization brings about economic development of the society leading to expansion of the trade and improvement of transport and communication. It brings about an increase in per capita income of people and leads to concentration of power in the hands of people. Standard of living rises and life expectancy increases. Women education stimulates the need of equal rights for women in all spheres. Infant mortality declines owing to improvement of health conditions. Welfare of society is emphasized. Scope of scientific research also increases. Cultural diffusion by means of flow of ideas and innovations begin. Migration increases. Well-developed transport and communication leads to cultural assimilation. Different features influence different cultures. Influence of different culture on dress, food habits, language and festival can be seen in Kolkata metropolitan only.

The origin of the industrial society can be traced back to the period of Industrial Revolution which brought about deep rooted changes in the existing social structure. Before the industrial revolution, the workers worked from home. They collected their own raw materials, used their own tools and implements to manufacture the finished products. They also took their own time to finish the work for which they laid emphasis both on the quality and quantity of the product. They were always aware about the customer's satisfaction levels and tried to produce those goods that could fulfil the needs and demands of the customer. Their family members also participated in this work. Children saw their parents working and they also lend their helping hands and ultimately learnt the traditional job and thus the knowledge and skill used to pass in the hands of the next generation.

However, after the industrial revolution this picture of traditional job system structure underwent a marked change. Individual capitalist and entrepreneurs entered the scene (Sen, 2014). They are intelligent and ambitious and always opted for gaining maximum profit from the market. He set up a factory and collected raw materials and hired workers from those section of the society who once worked from home under their own roofs. The final product was sold by the entrepreneur or the capitalist in the market. Thus, the worker got detached from the means of production. The worker is neither collecting the raw material by himself nor he owns the tools used in the production process (Sen, 2014). He has simply turned into a labour. Some of the major features of this social system include fixed capital, free labour and factory production.

As a result of these changes, there were marked alterations in the existing social structure. Thus, a new society called industrial society gradually cropped up. However, one of the major disadvantages of this society is that children in this case do not get the opportunity to work with their parents. So, they remain totally ignorant about their traditional family business and does not learn it. So, they

move to some other sector of the economy leading to large scale livelihood transformation.

Characteristics of Industrial Society:

1. **Evolution of Modern family**—With the development of industrial society, the traditional patriarchal family was replaced by modern family. It moved from institution to companionship (Sen, 2014). Women no longer remained under the control of men, but gained equal rights and ultimately becoming partners with that of the male. Invention of machines have lowered the burden and pressure of cooking, washing, cleaning and bathing. Even the child bearing functions are performed differently in an industrial social set up. Hospitals and crèche provide facilities of looking after children when their mothers are out for work in the factories or workplaces. The members are individualized in their outlook.
2. **Economic Institutions-** The industrial society is marked by a new system of production, distribution and exchange (Sen, 2014). Work is divided into smaller parts in factories. Large industrial plants have been set up. Corporations came into existence and control and ownership are separated from each other. Industrial society is also featured by capitalistic system. Private property came into existence and trade unions cropped up.
3. **Occupational subcultures-** Industrial society leads to division of labour because production and management of goods in a factory are divided into smaller pieces leading to occupational specialities. For instance, in a factory responsibility of supervising the raw material purchase is looked after by one official while the publicity and advertisement section is looked after by the other.
4. **Status to contract-** The medieval society was featured by the presence of ascribed status. One landlord's son was born a landlord. It was his birth right. In an industrial society, this status system has been replaced by contract. People in industrial society work for big firms and industries and there exists wage contract, a social security contract and unemployment insurance contract (Sen, 2014).
5. **Impersonality of relationship-** An industrial society is featured by impersonal relationships. As the working place of men are different from their place of residence, their children do not know when their father goes to work and when he is coming back. Even their wives do not know what her husband does in the factory. Is he a manager or a security guard or a machine operator? According to Vidya Bhusan and Sachdeva in 1999, under such circumstances, the family fails to enable the child to walk out of adolescence into an adult occupational role.
6. **Position of women-** In an industrial society, there are opportunities for women. Industrialization have brought women to factory. They have entered into broader prospect of life and have exposed themselves to the

outside world which was not possible in agrarian social system. They have come out of exclusiveness of domesticity (Sen, 2014).

Different types of Economies under Industrial Society:

Some of the major types of economies that come under industrial society are as follows: -

- 1. Mining Economy-** In modern world, mining activity acts as the backbone of economic development. Availability of mineral resources is not the same everywhere. Countries like Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia are rich in mineral oil whereas India is not. Availability of mineral resources highly influences global geopolitical issues. Due to its non-renewable nature, mining economy is also known as 'Robber's economy. Mineral resources accelerate industrial development of a country.
- 2. Industrial Economy-** Under industrial economy, the raw materials are processed to produce the final product that satisfies human need. Raw materials are collected from different sources and are sent to industrial centres. They are processed to generate secondary products and are finally sent to the market for final consumption. Iron and steel industry of India can be cited as example. Industrial economy can be cottage based i.e. dependent on human labour and less capital; small scale i.e. dependent mainly on labour, capital and small number of machines; medium scale that involves good amount of labour, capital and machines and large scale which is highly dependent on capital and use of machines.
- 3. Tertiary Economy-** This sector is directly and indirectly dependent upon the tertiary sector. Mutual exchange of goods as well as information also take place in this sector and thus makes a country advance in the field of transport and communication. Transport and trade sector comes under this sector. Trade can be internal (within the boundary of a nation) and international (between two or more nations). International trade allows entry of foreign currency in the economy of a nation. Transport system facilitates the movement of people and goods within the country as well as between nations.
- 4. Quaternary Economy-** It includes sectors like tourism, banking, telecommunication etc. It is highly dependent on machines and ensures a higher standard of living of people.
- 5. Quinary Economy-** It takes into account different administrative, executive and management functions that helps in decision making. Profit or loss of any institution depends upon the decision making capability of the related authorities. Issues of conservation of environment are highly influenced by the decision making capability of the authority (Sil, 2019)

Problems of industrial society:

1. Industrial society is mainly featured by industrial development. Industrial development demands extraction of natural resources and raw materials which in the long run leads to scarcity of natural resources.
2. Entrepreneurs and owners of industries often have the tendency to exploit the workers. They compel the working class to work for longer hours with lower wage rates. Women are more prone to such type of abuses in the factories than men.
3. Waste from industries are often dumped in ponds, lakes and water bodies that causes pollution. Untreated industrial wastes are often dumped on bare soil which percolates to reach the water table and thus pollutes it. This polluted ground water are used by plants for photosynthesis and thus the harmful substance ultimately enters the food chain travelling upwards and accumulating in the body of animals in the higher trophic levels leading to the problem of biomagnification.
4. Industrial society creates employment opportunities which compel rural people to migrate to urban areas in search of work. However, in developing nations like India pace of industrial development is rather slow. As a result, existing industries fail to provide job to all the migrants coming from the rural areas. These people do not go back to the village and starts settling in towns by setting up slums and squatter settlements.

Hence, it can be said that industrial society has brought about marked changes in the institutional structure and norms (Sen, 2014). We do not have the answer of the question whether human relationship in an industrial society become more stable. But at present, many agrarian societies are entering the phase of industrialization and many industrial societies will evolve in future (Sen, 2014).
