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Industrial Revolution and Society

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Abstract: Twenty first century is marked by advancements in every field but still India is fighting with many evils. Though ages caste system has affected the society and its system. Education has helped a lot to spread awareness among citizens and Industrialization played an important role in the process of changing the scenario of caste system in India. The industrialization has affected the society in every respect. The customs and traditions, the fashions and manners, the ways and modes of living all have been deeply influenced by industrialization. The processes of industrialization are intimately related with scientific processes. Therefore, the attitude of members of industrial society becomes scientific. In an industrial society the superstitions and blind faiths have no place. People expect and demand rational explanation of every phenomenon. The reason and not faith is the touchstone of every action and belief in the industrial society. The freedom of thought and individualism are the cornerstone of the industrial society. The methods and means of social control has changed. The present paper highlights the impact of industrialization on religion, morals, society and the caste system.

Keywords: Industrialization, Religion, Morals, Advancement, Education

I. Introduction

The industrialization has affected the society in every respect. The customs and traditions, the fashions and manners, the ways and modes of living all have been deeply influenced by industrialization. The processes of industrialization are intimately related with scientific processes. Therefore, the attitude of members of industrial society becomes scientific. In an industrial society the superstitions and blind faiths have no place. People expect and demand rational explanation of every phenomenon. The reason and not faith is the touchstone of every action and belief in the industrial society. The freedom of thought and individualism are the cornerstone of the industrial society. The methods and means of social control has changed.

1.1 Influence of Insutralization on Caste-System

In Indian society the caste system has had a unique role and importance. The social status of a person was determined by his caste. The industrialization has diminished the role of caste. Following are the salient features of the impact of industrialization upon Indian caste system:-

1.1.1 Disintegration of caste-system

The industrialization in India has led to breakdown of caste system. Under the impact of industrialization the tradition caste-based structure of society is collapsing. Traditionally, the social status of a person in India society was determined by the caste into which he was born. As a result of industrialization the caste- based criterion of social classification caste which fixes the social status of a person. Now the society is split into classes. Man gets social status according to his class. Thus the caste system is now disintegrating.

1.1.2 Reduction in Brahmin's influence and power

In the traditional social structure the Brahmins enjoyed the highest status in the society. But as a result of industrialization the influence of Brahmins is on wane; it is gradually losing its traditional hold on Indian society. Now there are only criteria of social stratification. It is no longer necessary that one should be a Brahmin in order to attain high social status. As a matter of fact the traditional role of Brahmins in society is all but finished.

1.1.3 Abolition of caste based Functions

In the traditional caste- based society each caste had some functions. Generally the entertainment was also caste- based. The Brahmin had the role of teacher, the kshatriya that of warrior. Now all this has changed. It is no longer obligatory upon a shudra to do menial jobs for upper caste. Due to these changes the traditional functions of the castes stand abolished.

1.1.4 Division of labour Non-Proficiency oriented

Under the caste system the division of labour was based upon caste and upon the consideration of efficiency. A Brahmin was to perform the function of learned even if he was poor in learning. Under the influence of industrialization the criterion of division of labour has changed. The industrialization has encouraged specialization. Now- a- days a person is not given a task unless he is specially trained for it. In every department of society a specialized training is needed for the successful performance of a job.

1.1.5 End of control of castes

In traditional society the caste system was an effective instrument of social control. Each caste has its own code of conduct which was strictly adhered to; any violation thereof attracted strong reprobation. In modern industrial society the control of caste has become loose and lax. Now-a- days persons of all the castes work together and it is, therefore, well-high impossible to observe the separate caste- based codes of conduct. In modern industrial societies the instruments of effective social controls are provided by law and law enforcing agencies

1.1.6 Hold of untouchability loosening

Under the caste system there used to be no inter- caste social mixing. The persons belonging to different caste did not get together and share a common board. As a result of industrialization the spectre of untouchability is relaxing its grip upon the thought and imagination of people. Thus industrialization can be said to have come as a boon for the low- castes.

1.1.7 Prevalence of Inter-caste marriages

Under the caste system the inter-caste marriages were a strict taboo. Hardly anyone dared to defy this taboo and marry with a spouse of any other caste except one's own. The punishment for such marriages was nothing less than complete excommunication but in modern societies these taboos are giving away. Due to frequent encounters with members of other communities one comes to realize the fundamental oneness of all human beings. The barriers like caste pride and hatred for other caste which help accentuate caste barriers become inoperative. Thus there emerges a rational outlook. The factor of mutual regard and love comes to be considered as the only relevant consideration in regard to marriage

1.2. Impact of Industralization on Religion and Morals

Some persons are of the view that religion prospers and flourishes only ignorance. Even if this view is not altogether true it does contain an element of truth. It is true that religion prospers most in societies where ignorance is rampant. On the Contrary as the areas of science and knowledge spread the hold of religion weakens. Generally science and religion are considered to be mutually opposed. In the absence of scientific explanation small and insignificant things and event become pillars of religious faith and dogma. When the scientific explanation of anything is wanting it is replaced by dogmatic explanation. In pre - scientific days the phenomenon of rain, storm etc. was linked with the religious phenomenon and it was imagined that there are gods of rain, thunder etc. thus it is quite evident that the extension of scientific knowledge proves detrimental to religion. Industrialization is intimately related to science and technology and with the growth of industrialization there is spread of science and technology. The widespread use of science and technology engenders a scientific outlook. Therefore it is pretty clear that the growth of industrialization proves detrimental to religion. In Indian society religion and morals are intimately linked. The moral principles are grounded in religious faith and belief. Morality is based upon religion. This is the reason why with the decline in religion there is change in moral principles as well. The following discussion will make clear how industrialization has influenced our religious and moral thinking.

1.3 Impact on Religion

Industrialization has deeply influenced the course of religion. Following are some the important features of influence:-

1.3.1 Decline of orthodoxy and superstitions

Under the grab of religion orthodoxy and superstitions flourish. As a matter of fact the whole edifice of religion is built out of bricks of superstition and blind faith. Superstitions are due to ignorance. In practical life belief in superstitions and orthodoxy proves harmful. For material and industrial progress it is very essential that men should be free from the clutches of superstitions. They must have rational and scientific outlook the process of industrialization helps the spread and dissemination of science and practical knowledge. As a result of

Industrialization people learn the truth of physical reality. They begin to appreciate and value the practical results and are prepared to give up irrational beliefs.

1.3.2 Development of Religious Tolerance

As a result of industrialization the outlook of general masses in respect of religion has become broad. Generally orthodox religious persons are of narrow and parochial outlook. On account of their parochial outlook they regard their own religion as supreme and infallible. Their attitude towards other religions is that of contempt. As a consequence of industrialization the persons of different faiths come together and get an opportunity of knowing and understanding the truth about each other. The result in dispelling of wrong nations about other faith and an appreciation of basic unity of all faith. Therefore as a result of industrialization there is development of religious tolerance.

1.3.3 Founding of Secular States

Previously the states used to be theocratic; each state subscribed to some or other faith. Each nation had a national religion the citizens professing faiths different from that of the state did not enjoy full rights and privileges they were treated as second-rate citizens. But as result of industrialization the concept of theocratic states has become obsolete. Due to industrialization every state now has a size able number of minorities whose claims cannot be ignored. Therefore, now a-days, it is a practice for almost all states not consider any religion. The states to-day subscribe to the ideology of secularism, according to which state is neutral in matters of religion but accords equal status to all religions.

1.3.4 Social Aspect of religion

Religion and religious functions have dual aspect. The first if it's spiritual aspect and the second is its social aspect. In an industrial society the spiritual aspect of religion is not very important. Its social aspect, however, is quite important in industrial societies. Now a-days, festivals are celebrated not so much as religious affairs but as social functions. Even going on pilgrimage to-day is more of a social necessity than a spiritual need. A visit to temple or mosque even has come to assume social overtones.

1.4 Impact of Industrialization upon Morals

Following are the ways in which industrialization has influenced morals

1.4.1 Development of Rational outlook

The Indian society has been traditionally based upon morality and religion. In India there has been little critical thinking in regard to moral principles and beliefs. The moral principles were accepted as universal truths beyond the sphere of doubt and reason, as a result of industrialization the outlook of common man has changed. Now people demand rational justification as to why a particular action considered right or wrong. In industrial society it is believed that the sake of human life and society and not vice versa. The tendency to examine and evaluate every moral principle before acquiescing to it is gaining ground in modern society.

1.4.2 Development of Materialist Outlook

On account of industrialization the importance and value of physical progress and development has enhanced. An average citizen of to-day does not appear to be satisfied and contented. The maximum material acquisition seems to have become the aim of modern life. It is for reason that a common man of today is averse to religion and spirituality. Today there is a strong competition for acquiring as much wealth as possible.

1.4.3 Individualism

The industrial societies are increasingly becoming complex and in all spheres of life there is reign of specialization. Due to industrialization large metropolises are coming up. In large communities there is drop in fellow feeling. In such societies therefore the community feeling or the feeling of mutual belongingness is rather missing. The life becomes rapid and mechanical and people have little opportunity to look after the welfare of others. The life in industrial societies becomes self- centred. As a result of this there is growth and development of individualism in these societies.

1.4.4 Permissiveness in sex Morals

As a result of industrialization the sexual mores have become lax. There are numerous reasons for this laxity. Firstly, the opportunities for the mixing-up of sexes have increased. Now-a-days boys and girls can meet without much difficulty and social opposition. In mills, factories and offices men and women work together. As a result of this frequent encounter of sexes there is laxity in sexual morals. Moreover, industrialization has given rise to materialistic thinking and according to the materialist outlook of life the traditional taboos on sex are harmful and that free sex is consistent with healthy and sane life. This is why that to-day pre-marital sex is not considered to be criminal or immoral. Indeed sex without marriage is coming to be considered quite normal,

healthy and moral. In western society all taboos on sex have broken down. A new highly permissive sex morality is the order of the day.

1.4.5 Increase in crimes

As a result of industrialization there is an all round rise in the incidence of crime. It is a common observation that the rate of crime is very high in industrial towns. In large metropolises family life is subject to many pressures. It is very difficult to have normal family life in those towns. On account of disintegration of family life the control of family over individuals is becoming lax. Due to absence of this control there is encouragement of crime. In every industrial town prostitution and liquor consumption are rampant. Besides theft and dacoity also are commonplace in industrial towns. The incidence of violence and murder is also high in industrial towns.

1.4.6 Loosening of Social Control

In industrial towns laborers and artisan from places far and wide come in search of jobs. Having found jobs, they settle in those towns. In industrial towns like Delhi, Kanpur, Bombay, Calcutta etc, workers from all over India are settled. As most of those workers are outsiders they are not subject to usual social controls. Moreover caste and clean considerations are almost non-existent in big metropolises. On account of all these factors the social control becomes loose and lax.

1.5. Impact of Industrialization upon entertainment

The entertainment and relaxation are essential to life. Relaxation in indispensable for the health of everyone. The means of relaxation and entertainment keep changing with time and circumstances. There is a big difference between the means of entertainment in per-industrial and post-industrial societies. Following are the important influence upon entertainment due to industrialization-

1.5.1 Entertainment Outside family

Traditionally, in India family was the centre of entertainment. All entertainment was focused upon family. Generally al families used to be joint and therefore were very large. A single family used to have about a dozen adult members and a dozen children. On account of large families it was possible to find all kinds of entertainment within the family itself. The adult male members used to beguile themselves by playing cards or chess and females used gossip, swing or sing. As there were very many children in every family the entertainment of children was easy. In the modern industrial societies the situation is just the opposite of the old state of affairs. The families today are not joint. The size of families has shrunken. A family today consists of husband and wife and their two or three children. Under these circumstances there is no scope of entertainment within the family. Today almost everyone goes out for entertainment. The entertainment to-day has become institutionalized.

1.5.2 Professional Entertainment

In industrial societies the entertainment has become a business and profession. Today there are a number of institutions of entertainment. The cinemas, clubs, dance and gambling dens are all centers of entertainment. We buy entertainment today. Throw money and have fun is the situation today.

1.5.3 Artificial Entertainment

Due to industrialization entertainment has become a business and profession. Professional entertainment however lacks the true spirit of entertainment. It is artificial and usually debases the main instead of relaxing him. Besides, entertainment in industrial society is not only artificial but is base and low also. Today classical music and dance are little appreciated. Moreover these days entertainment by liquor and drugs is becoming common. In bigger towns prostitution is also a big source of entertainment. From all this it is apparent that the standard of entertainment has fallen steeply as a result of industrialization.

II. Conclusion

The industrialization has affected the society in every respect. The customs and traditions, the fashions and manners, the ways and modes of living all have been deeply influenced by industrialization. Entertainment in industrial society is not only artificial but is base and low also. Today classical music and dance are little appreciated. Moreover these days entertainment by liquor and drugs is becoming common. In bigger towns prostitution is also a big source of entertainment. From all this it is apparent that the standard of entertainment has fallen steeply as a result of industrialization.

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