

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

*Sri Jai Narain Misra Post Graduate College, Lucknow*

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**(Paper -2 - Development in India)**

**Brief Notes prepared by**

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Unit –I

## **Concept of Evolution:**

- *Charles Darwin* has used the concept of evolution for the first time in biology.
- According to Darwin, evolution is process of change in any living organ from simple to complex. This process is based on principle of natural selection.
- *Herbert Spencer* (a biologist turned early sociologist has borrowed Darwin's concept of evolution and biological changes to understand the social change (which is possible because of some internal forces).
- MacIver and Page (1985:522) wrote: "*Evolution means more than Growth*".
- "Every Evolution is a development, but every development is not an evolution" – because Development has a definite direction but evolution doesn't have a specific or desired direction.
- Evolution is a process of differentiation and integration.
- "By evolution, I mean any sort of growth, .... by social progress the growth of social life in respect of those qualities to which human being can attach or can reasonably attach values." – L T Hobhouse

## **Concept of Growth:**

- By the term growth, we understand the increase in material products and increase in the quantity of services; however development is a concept through which we understand the increase in the capacity of society to bring qualitative change.
- The concept of growth is generally understood as a concept of 'economic growth'.
- According to Rostow: "Economic growth is a relation between the rate of increase in capital and the working force on the one hand and in population on the other, so that per capita output is rising".
- According to Baldwin, economic growth is a process in which a long-term growth in gross national income of (country's) economy is found.
- Economic growth can be conceptualized by five important indicators:
  - 1) Increase in National Income and Per-Capita Income
  - 2) Logical Use of means of Production
  - 3) Improvement in social welfare and social security
  - 4) Sustained process
  - 5) Long-term development
- Laws of Economic Growth: Economic growth can be explained by following four laws:

- 1) Accumulation of Capital and reform (improvement) in technology
- 2) Evaluation of change related to population
- 3) System of division of labour between specialized activities
- 4) Development of Entrepreneurship

### Concept of Progress:

- Any change which is in the (good) interest of society or community or considered beneficial for the society is known as Progress. Social Change in a particular and desired direction is called progress.
- Progress is change, but it is change in a desired or approved direction, not in any direction.- *F Lumley*
- Progress is a collective process.
- “Progress is a movement towards an objective, thought to be desirable by the general group, for the visible future”- *Ogburn and Nimkoff*
- According to *MacIver and Page* (1985:522): ‘When we speak of progress we imply not merely direction but direction towards some final goal, some destination determined ideally, not simply by objective consideration of the forces at work’.

A comparison of concept of Evolution and Progress	
Evolution	Progress
Process of evolution is governed by self natural laws	Progress is process where change is governed or planned in desired direction (through planned effort)
Evolution is a value-free concept.	Progress is a value loaded concept.
Evolution is based on inherent factors of culture or society.	Progress is based on acquired feelings (or emotions) for human growth or development and it depends on meaning efforts of people.
The process of evolution is relatively slow.	Process of progress may be slow or rapid. It depend on (the plan or) efforts.
Evolution is a concept of development of human being.	Progress is a concept of philosophy of history.
Evolution has a global perspective.	Progress has local or society specific perspective.

### Concept of Development:

- The concept of development was developed by early classical sociologists, anthropologists and social philosophers like August Comte Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Ferdinand Tonnies, Morgan, E.B. Taylor, Habhouse and others.
- The word ‘development’ initially interchanged by the words ‘evolution’, ‘growth’, ‘progress’ in evolutionary theory.
- The concept of ‘development’ was conceived as organic, immanent, unidirectional, cumulative, progressive and irreversible since it assumes evolution of society simple to complex –modern industrial stage.

- The concept of Development can be explained in following dimensions: ***Social Development, Economic Development, Human Development, and Sustainable Development.***
- An American Economist and Sociologist, Neil Smelser has written a very famous book –entitled “Sociology of Economic Life”, in which he explained the concept of Social and economic development. He was influenced by a famous economist and theorist Arthur Lewis.
- According to Smelser, Economic Development takes place through:
  - a) Modernization of Technology
  - b) Commercialization of Agriculture
  - c) Industrialization
  - d) Urbanization
- Development may be defined in a variety of ways:
  - 1) Development may be simply an extension of an idea of ‘growth’, i.e. the capacity to produce more consumption goods and progress towards a more equal distribution along with growth in consumption per se;
  - 2) At the other extreme, ‘development’ may be defined in terms of fulfilment of basic human needs like food, clothing, shelter, health care and education;
  - 3) Alternatively, development may be defined in terms of the levels of individual functionings, capabilities and entitlements.

#### **Concept of Social Development:**

- According to MSA Rao, in the concept of social development, economic development is already included. Social includes the planning of economic development.
- The canvas of the social development is too vast as it includes population policy, policies related to urbanization, environmental pollution, regional development, equal distribution of national income, land reforms and to understand the nature of structural characteristics of the society.
- **Characteristics of Social Development:**
  - a) The process of social development is very closely related to the process of economic development. Economic growth or development is an essential part of the social development.
  - b) Social Development is an interdisciplinary concept and to understand it we need to take all social science perspectives into account. (e.g. perspectives of political economy, social welfare perspective, psychological perspective etc)
  - c) Social Development is a dynamic concept.
  - d) Social development is progressive in nature.
  - e) Human being’s conscious effort can only bring social development.
  - f) To achieve the goals of social development we need certain programmes and policies. All such policies and programmes are based on the philosophy of social development.

- g) It is a universal concept as it is not related to an individual but it is related to all members of the society or community.
- h) The most important characteristic of social development is that it increases the life-chances to all members of the society so that they achieve a common goal.
- i) Social development is considered as a structural change in the society which covers distributive justice and equality to everyone.
- The concept of **Human Development**:
  - 1) There is another way to understand ‘development’ that is ‘human development’.
  - 2) It is believed that the concept of development is also found in the early writings of Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Robert Malthus, John Stuart Mills etc where they emphasised on human development.
  - 3) In 1990, United Nations Development Programme has published a report on human development, in which it was said that only economic growth is not important for the development of the society. Economic Development does not reflect the human development in every circumstance.
  - 4) The UN has developed a set of indicators for human development. (Please see the Human Development Index published by Oxford University Press)
- The Concept of **Sustainable Development**:
  - a) The concept of sustainable development is relatively a new one in comparison to economic and social development. It emerged during the 1980s; It brought a paradigm shift in development debate. It dominates in the current development debate.
  - b) The concept of sustainable development was outlined in a report entitled, ‘Our Common Future 1987’ – Sustainable Development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. - The Concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs’.
  - c) “Sustainable Human Development is the enlargement of people’s choices and capabilities through the formation of social capital so as to meet as equitably as possible the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of the future ones”.