Changing Values in Contemporary Indian Society

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Abstract - The studies of values in sociology with reference to social change in Indian society require a multidimensional approach. A value being a desirable behaviour of individual that is acceptable to society immediately catches the attention for its implicit and explicit character. For qualitative understanding values may be broadly divided into two type i.e. positive values and negative values. Positive values highly receive rewards and praised in the society whereas negative values deserve punishment and subjected to humiliation. Modern India nation state has a past colonial legacy that has reflected in Indian society in the various phases of social transformation and socio-cultural value changes. This paper is an attempt to know about changes of traditional, modern, postmodern, and globalized values and its impact on in Indian society. Indian society has moved from ancient primitive barbaric society to medieval feudal monarchy and modern democratic society. Each stages of social transformation has brought its unique and newness in the society in the form of culture and value changes.

Index Terms - Cultural Values, Tradition, Modern, Post Modern, Globalization

I. INTRODUCTION

Study of value in relation to the social change and development is a different subject differs from individual to individual, group to group and society to society. The socio-cultural value as a preferred course of action is somewhat considered as an institution and defended. [1] The term value may have multiple meaning varies from subject to subject. The value study is also done in Management, Economics, Commerce, Anthropology and Sociology. The study of sociology reflects that, socio-cultural values acquire a central place in any human society and while studying values it is important to know about norms. Culture with its guidelines always directs conduct in a particular situation. The guidelines of culture are known as norms a specific direction to human action in the form of acceptable behaviour in a given condition. There are several classifications of values, while discussing values one may refer to cardinal values, ordinal values, socio-cultural values, political values, economic values, humanistic values, democratic values, etc. When we discuss about culture change, values being an integral part of culture initially change occurs with the instrumental values like economy, technology, production and consumption that influence the living styles. [2] The value changes may takes place due to internal and external sources and at micro and macro level. The education, legislation, uses of technology, religion, reforms and people's disagreements to reformation are some of the internal sources of value change. The enculturation,

international trade and business, war and aggression, natural calamities, science and technology, etc. are some of the external sources of value changes. New roles, migration, urbanization, industrialization etc. are however, contextual or micro changes. The economic, political, legal, cultural, and physical / geographical factors may be an instrumental to bring internal and external source of value change.

VALUES: HISTORICAL PAST AND CONTEMPORARY INDIAN SOCIETY

There are several factors responsible for emergence of the modern India nation state as a multi-religious, multi-racial, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-lingual country. It is one of the world's oldest civilizations and second largest populated countries in the world. The historical development is conscientious for having present day composite culture in modern India. Several centuries old flows of outsiders and continuous merger of culture with different racial and religious groups into Indian subcontinent over the period of time have very heavily influenced India's culture and society. This composite culture of India is accountable for development of its literature, philosophy, music, art, architecture, sculpture, and paintings in Indian subcontinent. The external aggressions by foreigners like, Greeks, Muslim, Mangol, Huns, Afghan, etc. and the spread of Hinduism, Buddhism, Jaininsm, Islam, and Sikhism in India brought significant changes in the mainstream society. The pre-British India sharing boarder with ancient Persia through Hindu Kush and Pamir Plateau and since several centuries the fusion of culture took place among the Hindus, Buddhist, Jains, Muslims, Sikhs and several tribal groups.

After independence, India has been declared as a secular nation with Hindu majority population. The Muslim is minority but in terms of their population size they are also large population constituting 14.2% of country's total population. According to Population Census Report 2011, there are Hindu 80%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.7%, Buddhist 0.7%, and Jains constitute 0.4% population are living in India. There are also many tribal religions largely influenced by Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, and Jain communities. Thought the numbers of Zoroastrian, Judaism and the believer of Bahai faith are small but they are influential in the society. The independent study conducted by the Pew Research Centre projects that by the year 2015 India will be largest Hindu and Muslim populated country of the world.

The scientific and technological advancement and particularly information and technological revolution have brought a spectacular upheaval in the world by interconnecting,

market, people, society, economy, polity and culture. The globalization process has reinforced the network and communication system all over the world facilitating every sphere of social life. Social connections in the global space has no territorial obstacle and it seems global territory has got reduced by conquering the distance and reducing the time to accomplish the task with machine and technology. This has largely influenced the traditional socio-cultural values, encourage consumer culture, consumer behaviour, and material aspirations among the people and make vulnerable to traditional social, religious and ritual practices of Indian society. The impact of globalization process in India reflected in the form of increasing social inequality, gender gap, and regional disparity.

II.   RESEARCH ELABORATIONS
INDIAN VALUES AT A GLANCE

The literature on Indian values has developed through the ages, comes from sources of the vedas, upanishads, puranas, religious practices, inscription, traditions, customs and beliefs. Indian values can also be understood from Indian arts, architecture, paintings, song, dance and music. The uniqueness of Indian culture lies with its traditions and some of the human values like truth, non-violence, peace, and tolerance are of purely Indian origin. These values have been referred in Vedas and Smritis and became diluted in the later stage. Some of the social values like, honesty, sacrifice, renunciation, compassion, humanity, forgiveness, and charity, etc. continuing in Indian society since long. Despite having India's diversity, social harmony is one of the important values binding different communities together to stand as a nation state. Tolerance is other such Indian values because of which India accommodated diversified ethnic, linguistic and religious community to exist in its soil. A comparative study of institutions is a pre-requisite for analysis of social change in relation to value which cannot be carried out through a culturological approach alone to sociology, as it overemphasizes the uniqueness of social phenomena. [3]

Formally, values can be distinguished as positive or negative, as relative or absolute, or as subjective or objective." Hence, it is not possible to deal with the changing values in the entire sphere of society and its institutions. However, selective areas of social life and social institutions like family, marriage, kinship, caste, class, religion, politics, gender, ethnicity, migration, violence, crime etc. is desirable and many of us know the way how it is changing. For example in Indian society, family forms very important part of the social environment of the infant, the child and the adolescent. Today the family is undergoing under the process of restructuring industrialized society along the western experience. Many Indian families are now no more structurally joint in nature but being a consumption unit they continues to maintain functional joint. For instance, the increased freedom in marital choices, disappearance of dowries, decline of polygyny, increase of diverse, etc. along with a change from large extended families to simple or nuclear families now experienced among the Indian societies. New trends are found gradually in marriage relationship e.g. increasing of mutual understanding/love marriages, contractual marriages, no barriers in age-limit, inter-state and inter-continental marriages etc.

III.   RESEARCH FINDINGS

TRADITIONAL VALUES IN INDIAN SOCIETY

The Oxford Dictionary of Sociology explains the term tradition as a laid down practices in the society that seek to infuse certain actions standard, values and norms entail continuity with the past, and connected with extensively conventional rituals. Indian cultural tradition is unique and governed by traditional values. Making comparison of both traditional and present society, individuals bears the values in the present society can however, be distinguished from the four points of view. Individual seems to be modern in identity and traditional in life style and individuals modern in identity and traditional in life style. Individual seems to be traditional in identity and traditional in life style and individual modern in identity and modern in life style.

The ancient social institution of classical Hindu society was characterized Vedic tradition, Varnashram, Dharma and Karma. Modern society has evolved from that of the Middle Ages, which at first sight appears to be a society of traditional type. Most studies on social change in Indian are identified with spread of these values in regional or national spheres. The diversity of human needs, material and emotional requirements account for the multiplicity of values. Values differ from person to person and somebody's value has no particular significance for other.
In Indian society caste is an endogamous unit but educational among the people, migration in search of job opportunities, occupational mobility, and common place of work for men and women in corporate world, companies and factories has encouraged inter-caste marriage. Widow marriages, diverse marriages etc. has been taking place in a large extent by marriage bureaus and special advertisement through mass media, internet connection and telecommunication network. The age at marriages has gone up due to both economic and cultural factors. The education and employment are considered more or less as valuable as for boys and girls. Similarly Indian women are no more a neglected or deprived section in the society. The identity of today's women is changed and their performance in some case stood better than their male counterparts.

Caste, class and occupational relations in traditional Indian society experience the basis of hierarchical social arrangements with social position and graded inequality based on ideology. But the modern industrial society determines social inequalities in terms of class relations and individual achievements. D.P. Mukerji pointed out that, the new middle class with nationalist awakening has emerged in Indian social structure due to British rule and governed by the Indian tradition. Indian tradition presents a rigid socio-cultural force after the emergence of new middle class but yet to be adaptive and accepted. [4] Mukerji unleashing many vigour of cultural inconsistency in Indian society primarily spotlighted and stumble upon Indian and western tradition that has given rise to new middle class. This augment of cultural inconsistency produced a dialectical route of conflict and synthesis require move forward to play a major role in the class structure of Indian society. [5] The social change is inevitable to any society whether it is based on class relations or forces of science and technology. In the context of social change in India, S.C. Dube has discussed about the classical tradition,

national tradition, regional tradition, local tradition, western tradition, and local sub-cultural tradition. [6]

MODERN VALUES

The modernization of Indian society began with the British rule in India that has marched with the discovery of Indian subcontinent by European. The industrial revolution in Europe heralded a new era science and technological advancement.

Modern or traditional values can be examined indicating to socio-cultural alteration and progress in economy that has taken place in a stipulated time period. Study of value change is to be seen with reference to tradition-modernity dichotomy pertaining to social structure and its functioning. In the value premises, the traditional society distinguishes from the industrial modern society.

The modern values are distinct from traditional values with reference to the behaviour pattern associated with the current socio-cultural practices. The uniqueness of modern society comes from advance in the science and technology providing new avenues to the social life. This new avenues largely impacts established way of family and marital life in the society bringing changes in culture, polity, economy, and society. The modern values in Indian society entail western principles of freedom, rationality, liberty, equality and justice smear by a split from traditional value associated with the family, marriage, society, polity, culture and economy. Modernity also engulf with positive and negative values. In fact, the modern technology has facilitated easy, faster and simple way to take place the occurrences of negative values like crime, murder, theft, kidnap and terrorist activities, etc. Avijit Pathak has discussed about some of the positive meaning associated with modernity. Modernity is referred as development, progress and prosperity and valuable tool to combat socio-cultural backwardness of our society. The forces of European Enlightenment, Renaissance and industrial revolution have made the first move to the modern society. Modernity embody with the reason, rationality, empiricism, progress, science, universalism, freedom, toleration, and standardization of human nature. [7]

Indian sociologists state that modernity changes the caste system in Indian society and move forward the emergence of class system. Social mobility among the people due to modern occupation, increasing social relations in the socio-political, cultural and economic activities, urbanization and industrialization have brought changes in Indian value system. The modernity implies the emergence of secular state and polity, the world wide capitalist order, advance from social to gender division of labour and transformation from spiritual to material culture. [8] Human rights with social responsibility, democratic participation, tolerance, cultural pluralism, creativity, gender equality, obligation to environment protection, and cooperation and caring are some of the modern values adapted and practiced in modern Indian society.

POST MODERNITY AND VALUES

Towards the end of 1960s, there was an attempt to assess the post modern conditions of society in the countries those have reached to the zenith of height of their development. Post modernity refers to a systematic body of knowledge in various subjects including in the area of arts and humanities, culture, polity, and economics and its impact in the society. Modernization was the dominating subject of discussion in the first half of the 20th Century rejecting the legacy of the past. Because of the technological progress in modern period it has devalued and rejected traditional hold over on different spheres of social life. Modernism as a movement has reflected its impact that has initially experienced in European and American societies. The similar experiences have been gradually percolated in Indian society and to the different parts of the world.

The sociologist like Jean Francois Lyotard, Michel Focault, Jacques Darrida and several others argue about post-modern conditions in the society. Lyotard and Derrida argue that knowledge is always inadequate to the institutions where it has been generated. The post-modernity challenges to the entire epistemology of the knowledge rejecting the values connected with the grand theories of Emile Durkheim, Max Weber, Karl Marx, Talcot Parsons, and R.K. Merton and several other theories.

The post-modernist view that, the whole thing in this society is on the surface and temporary. The entire world is split with shifting culture, ethnicity, plurality and diversity. Persistent inequalities are there all over the world in terms of clash of interest in knowledge, ideology, philosophy and identities amongst the world communities. Post-modern values like multiculturalism, communal traditions, hyper consumerism, information society, knowledge society, language game, power-knowledge relations, deconstruction, and advance capitalism largely influence Indian Society.

GLOBALIZATION AND VALUES

India has witnessed rapid socio-economic changes since the implementation of liberalization policy. Cities in India are now developing unevenly with rural migration, industrial workers, inequality etc. Unemployment, poverty, caste and communal conflicts, manmade pollution and public disorder have increased the urgency in the area of urban policy. Malpractices have been adopted to possess higher status in the society. Corruption has grown phenomenally and no area of life is free from it. Prof. Srinivas opines there has been tremendous increase in all kinds of violence including organized violence against the state, inter group violence, intra-familial violence etc.

In the conditions of globalization process, the flow of capital has been observed in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and strengthens India's economy and this FDI flow help to reduce financial burden and internal problems. Linkages of trade and commerce relation with India and other countries are observed even in ancient and medieval periods. Since 1990s there has been increased in inflow of capital and goods and help India's economic growth. There has been the economic growth but it does not fulfill India's expectation. There is a sharp rise in India's external debt. The process of globalization does not contribute to social, cultural and economic integration of people in the society through equitable access to the fruits of developments available out of it that facilitating better quality of life.

Though there is a breakthrough in IT sector, which recognise skills of Indian professional all over the world but yet to boost Indian economy. Globalization along with privatization is affecting Indian women in many ways. It has reduced

employment opportunities due to the introduction of sophisticated technology both in agriculture and industry. Indian women are gainfully employed in handicrafts and household industries. These are mainly concentrated in unorganized private sector and this sector is gradually losing its ground due to entry of mechanized products and mass producers of these products in the local markets.

The process of globalization brought outstanding changes in the field of science, technology, economy, polity and social institutions in India, which ultimately brought about changes in traditional cultural styles, rituals and religious practices. The structure of society has changed many ways and new trends are being observed in areas concerning the family nexus, the nature and the extent of unemployment and social inequality.

IV. CONCLUSION

Over the twentieth century, Indian society has witnessed significant changes through the different phases of social transformation. Technological advancement has led dramatic revolution by interconnecting amongst nation states and people across the culture and territorial boundaries at the backdrop of globalization policies. Accessibility to wider range of places took place through the networking systems of travel and communication, building up our society and brought new set of social values in the processes of globalization. This became irreversible because of increasing interdependence among the nation states all over the world affecting traditional culture, beliefs, religious and ritual practices.

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