UNIT 1 SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION AND PROBLEMS

Structure

1.0 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this unit are to describe relationship between social transformation and social problems. After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- learn about the concept of 'social transformation', its two models of 'modernisation' and 'revolution' and their critical appraisal;

- understand the relationship between social transformation and social problems;

- describe the concept of 'social problems' and the related questions;

- elucidate definitions, characteristics and types of social problems;

- discuss the linkage between social problems, institutions and movements; and

- explain policy implications in relationship to transformation and problems.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The subject matter of this unit is social transformation and social problems. Naturally, you have to understand the relationship between these two processes. Neither society nor social problems are static. Social problems are closely linked with social structure, ideologies, values, attitudes, institutions, power, authority and interests of society. The process of social transformation brings about change in these different aspects of social life and side by side generates new social problems.

First of all, let us try to understand the theoretical background of the concept of social transformation. In early sociology, concepts of 'evolution' and 'progress' were used to indicate the dynamic aspects of society. It was gradually realised that these were that these were value-loaded concepts, and therefore, replaced by 'social change' which was considered to be more neutral and value-free.

After the Second World War, concepts of 'development' and 'modernisation' occupied a significant place in the terminology of social sciences. These two concepts represent ideologies of the developed, industrialised, capitalist and democratic Western societies. The term 'revolution' was preferred by radical social scientists interested in overhauling the capitalist social system and influenced by the Marxist ideology.

'Social transformation' is a broad concept used to indicate social dynamics. The ideas, conveying the meanings of evolution, progress and change on the one hand and the meanings of development, modernisation and revolution, on the other, are incorporated within the concept of transformation.

Social transformation and social problems are closely linked with each other. Society is not static but the dominant groups in society sometimes want to perpetuate their hold over society and protect their interests by repressive methods. Thus, in a negative manner, if the process of social transformation is suppressed, it generates new social problems. On the other hand, if the process of social transformation is taking a natural course, the society faces the problems of adjustment during the transitional phase of the decline of the old system and the emergence of a new system.

1.2 THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

The concept of 'social transformation' has occupied a significant place in social sciences after the Second World War. The literal meaning of the concept is 'changing form or appearance or character or alter out of recognition'. This concept was specifically used by Karl Marx in his book 'German Ideology' (1846) to mean a facet of social change which arises out of contradictions in a society and leading to rapid change or revolution. Marx feels that at some stage

of social development, there is a conflict between the material forces of production with the existing rules of production. The conflict, based on these contradictions, leads to social revolution. This phase of social revolution has been termed by Marx as a period of rapid social transformation. Social transformation indicates the change in the form of society or the rise of new formations. Rajni Kothari (1988) is of that view the modernisation and revolution are two models of social transformation. They can be presented in the following manner.

Social Transformation

Modernisation	Revolution

Let us discuss these two models of transformation one by one.

1.2.1 Model of Modernisation

Modernisation, as a concept, represents ideologies and values of the industrial, capitalist and democratic societies of the Western Europe and the North America. The opposite to modernised structure is agrarian, traditional, custom-based, technologically and economically backward social structures of Asia, Africa and Latin America. As pointed out by Daniel Lerner (1964) modernisation is represented by literacy, political participation, urbanisation, occupational mobility and empathy. The other characteristics of modernisation are free market, industrialisation, modern technology, democratic state and modern education. There are five major dimensions of modernisation i.e. technological, economic, political, social and psychological. Along with their components, they can be presented as follows:

Modernisation				
Technological	**Economic**	**Political**	**Social**	**Psychological**
• inanimate sources of energy • modern machines • heavy technology	• market • capital • commodity • consumerism	• freedom • individualism • democracy • political participation	• mobility • occupational differentiation • universalism • specificity • urban-industrial culture • literacy and modern education	• cosmopolitan mind • achievement orientation • empathy

In the model of modernisation, the transformation is supposed to be sustained, evolutionary, gradual and linear. In this gradual process, change is the result of a long duration. It is significant that the process of modernisation visualises a structural transformation in the society.

As pointed out, the modernisation model of development has a close relationship with the process of industrial and the industrial society. We are in the early part of the twentieth century. The industrial society has also undergone a phenomenal change over the last several decades.

1.2.2 Marxian Revolution Model

In this model, the change is brought about by men's intervention. As indicated by Engels, man is the only animal who is capable of transformation in accordance with this requirements.

Apart from the French (1779) and the American (1789) revolutions, the revolutionary social transformation was experimented effectively in this century in Soviet Russia (1719) and China (1949). According to the exponents of this model, the industrial-capitalist system is afflicted by exploitation of man by man. It has produced unprecedented social inequality. Despite industrialisation, application of heavy technology and a large scale production, man has lost his dignity in the capitalist model or modernisation. According to the exponents of the revolutionary model, only a revolutionary transformation can eliminate poverty, inequality, exploitation, unemployment and dehumanisation.

The final goal of the Marxist-Leninist concept of the revolutionary transformation is the building of a classless and stateless society based on equality. After the revolution, in the phase of transition, a society based on revolutionary transformation is characterised by the points as given below:

Society based on Revolutionary Model of Transformation (transitional phase)		
Collective ownership of the means of production	Power Structure based on the dictatorship of the proletariat	Decision Making based on a single political party (Communist Party) and its politbureau

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Box 1.1

Sanskritisation and Westernisation

In the Indian Context, a clear distinction should be made between the two processes of transformation known as Sanskritisation and Westernisation. Sanskritisation as used by Srinivas refers to the imitation of the manners and customs of the upper castes by the lower castes, whereas, Westernisation means the impact of Western culture, values and institutions on the Indian Society. The basic attributes of the 'model of modernisation' as discussed in this unit are similar to the attributes of Westernisation.

Critical Appraisal of these Models

The human society has experienced both modernisation and revolutionary models of transformation. As pointed out by Rajni Kothari, human society has seen keen competition between these two models–leading to the global problems of Cold War, deadly armaments, threats of nuclear weapons, division of World into two power blocks (before the collapse of the Soviet Union) and attempts to dominate over others. The 19th Century European mind was full of optimism; it has tremendous faith in progress. After the First World War, the voices of dissent against the Western civilisation, its patterns of development and material advancement were raised by Joseph J. Spengler in his 'Decline of the West' and P.A. Sorokin in his 'Socio-Cultural Dynamics'. These writers stressed that Western civilisation represented by materialism, industrialisation and modern technology was moving towards decline. Perceptive Critical analysis of the industrial and capitalist pattern of modernisation was done by Karl Mannheim in his 'Man and Society: In an Age of Reconstruction', ErichFromm in his 'Sane Society' and Petre L. Berger and others in their 'Homeless Mind'. They were of the view that the industrialised capitalist societies of the West were moving towards —

- decline,

- disintegration and disorganisation,

- lack of moorings,

- weakening of institutions like family and religion,

- loss of autonomy of individuals, and

- emergence of mass society.

The functioning of communism, its system of production, economic organisation and power structure as a product of revolution were criticised by Kruschev, Djilas and Gorbachev. As a system, it created dictatorship, police-terror, executions, denial of human rights, decline in productions, collapse of economy and the creation of a 'new class' of party functionaries and the State officials. The social problems of violence, unequal distribution of resources, poverty, unemployment could not be solved by these two models of transformation. We have to keep in mind that when society starts moving from one formation to another formation, certain problems are bound to crop-up. The period, lying between the movements from one formation to another formation or from one stage of transformation to another stage of transformation, may be regarded as the stage of 'transition'. The period of transition in any society creates problems of social and psychological adjustment, cultural accommodation and economic recasting. Societies move forward in the pattern of challenge and response. Whenever there is any challenge, society tries to meet it by its response. When the responses are effective, there is positive transformation and development. When the responses do not meet the challenges, there is decline in a situation when there are likely to be a large number of social problems. Simply stated, social transformation results in social problems. The effort to solve social problems can initiate social transformation.

Check Your Progress 1

i)   Explain the meaning of social transformation in eight lines.

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ii) Mention models of social transformation and enumerate major problems
     created by them in eight lines.

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iii) Indicate the names of major critics of the Western materialistic, capitalist model of modernisation with titles of their books.

a) ....

b) ....

c) ....

d) ....

e) ....

iv) Write a critique of the revolutionary model of transformation in five lines.

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1.3 TRANSFORMATION AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

In the process of transformation, society moves from the traditional to modern social structure. Scholars also point out that human societies are becoming more and more globalised in the wake of fast spread of information and communication technology, industrial development, physical communication networks and so on.

1.3.1 Traditional and Modern Societies

The traditional Society is characterised by agriculture, villages, small scale undeveloped technology, customs and simple social structure. In traditional societies, there is said to be harmony in social relations and in social institutions. There is consistency between institutions, the accepted norms and patterns of behaviour. The mechanism of the social control operates through customs, folkways and mores. There tends to be a close correspondence between expectations and achievements in traditional societies.

The modern society is characterised by industry, cities, heavy technology, rule of law, democracy and complex social structure. The introduction of new social relations, new social roles as a result of transformation from the traditional society to modern society tends to make earlier behaviour ineffective to achieve new goals set as a result of the movement. This results in tensions and frustrations. To meet the changes, new patterns of behaviour emerge. The old established order changes and there is confusion. The changes in the various cultural items (e.g. acceptance of technology) would mean acceptance of scientific attitude to life, being punctual at the place of work, new forms of social organisation such as trade unions which are different from traditional values. It takes time for people to adjust to the emerging situations in the phase of transition when the 'old' is not fully rejected and the 'new' is not fully accepted.

1.3.2   Before and After Transformation

Whenever, there is either a gradual or a revolutionary transformation, certain problems are bound to emerge in society. For the purpose of understanding, we may consider two stages of society i.e., before the transformation and after the transformation. In the pre-transformation phase, the people develop their own way of life, social relations, norms, values, productive system and consumption patterns. With the process of transformation, people are required to adjust themselves to the new requirements. In the transformation phase, they find difficulties in moving away from the age old habits.

This point can be explained by taking the example of the Indian Society. India attained her independence by following the path of struggles–sometimes by revolutionary methods (for example the revolts of 1857 and 1942) and by and large, though by peaceful means yet determined resistance to colonialism. India, being an ancient civilisation, is characterised by certain traditional institutions like caste, joint family and untouchability. Indian society is moving from the traditional social structure to the modern one. Apart from the age old traditional institutions, now, there are certain new structures based on constitutional provisions such as a modern State, parliamentary democracy and organisations for the planned development of society.

In the post-independence period, concerted effort has been made through the constitutional provisions for social transformation and planned development, elimination of untouchability and creation of a just and equal society in India. Despite these efforts, even today, in several parts of India, untouchability is practised in one or the other form.

1.3.3   Examples of Linkage

Certain social problems are directly linked with social transformation. The process of rapid economic development and industrialisation are bound to take place in modern society. They are the indicators of modernisation but at the same time, they generate problems of regional imbalance, pollution, ecological degradation, slums linked with violence, crime and delinquency.

Democracy is supposed to provide equal opportunities to all citizens. It believes in legal and political equality. It is supposed to increase human dignity. But unfortunately, elections–an essential part of democracy–have encouraged regionalism, communalism and casteism in India.

Affluence and leisure are the indicators of a modern society. At the same time, they are creating problems of loneliness, alcoholism and drug addiction in highly industrialised societies as well as in the rich section of Indian society.

Activity

Write a two-page note on the impact of a factory on pollution as known to you.

1.4 CONCEPT OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS

All societies have certain situations which affect them adversely. In a commonsense way, social problems are considered as conditions which are widespread and have harmful consequences for the society. However, it is not quite as simple. What may have been considered as not harmful, at one time, may be considered harmful at other times. Smoking was not considered a serious social problems for over a long time. In contemporary times because of growing awareness of health hazards, it has become matter of great concern. It seems easy to understand social problem but when an effort is made to deal with them the complexities to the social problems become evident.

What might be considered a social a social problem in one society may be considered as such in another society. The perception is dependent on the norms and values in a society. In some societies divorce would be considered a social problem. In others, it may not be considered. So also with taking alcoholic drinks. Even within a society there might be differences of opinion when it is large and heterogeneous. There are certain behaviours which are considered as deviant and harmful in all societies viz. murder, rape, mental illness. There is no value-conflict in these conditions. Although, the approach to solutions to these problems may be different in different societies.

There are several issues involved in the conceptualisation of social problems which may be described as follows:

- at what stage, any specific condition is regarded as a social problem?
- how the gap between 'what actually exists' and 'what ought to be' is identified?
- what are the criteria to determine a social problem?

These questions are closely linked with the following points:

a) perception of the public,

b) social ideals and realities,

c) recognition by a significant number.

Let us discuss these points one by one.

Box 1.2

Crisis

Crisis is a medical concept used to indicate a critical stage of illness of a patient. Several Sociologists, such as Karl Mannheim, Albort Salomon and Bernard Rosenberg etc. in the place of disorganisation or deviance, prefer to use the concept of crisis to indicate the illness of modern society.

1.4.1 Perception of the Public

Often a social condition which is not in the interest of the society may exist over a long period without being recognised as such. It becomes a problem only when it is perceived as a problem. Poverty has been with us for a very long time. It is only after independence that poverty removal programme became an important component of our planning process.

The perception of the public is dependent on how visible a problem is. Crime is easily recognised and the public perceives it as a problem. There are, as mentioned earlier, problems which may exist but are not recognised. There may be some who see that a particular condition may become a problem and try to make people aware of the situation. Social movements start this way. Women in many societies suffer from many disabilities, denial of ownership of property, widow remarriage, right to divorce, equal wages etc. Yet few societies considered such situations as problematic only a few decades back. Women's liberation movements are trying to make the public aware of their plight. There must be therefore significant number in the public who perceives a situation as problematic.

1.4.2 Social Ideals and Realities

Social problems indicate a gap between what actually exists as compared to what ought to be or what is considered as ideal. The ideal of any society is based on values in a society. Social problems are defined as undesirable conditions in a society. What is undesirable is defined by the values. Values determine what is good and what is bad. Earlier it was noted that different societies have different values. Hence, what might be considered as bad or undesirable in one society may not be so in another society.

Social values are dynamic–they keep changing. What was considered a problem a few years ago may not now be considered as undesirable. Some years ago, boys and girls studying together in schools and colleges was not approved by a large number of people. At present, there is little opposition to it. There was not much concern till recently about the pollution–smoke from the factories, dumping of waste in rivers, cutting down of forest etc. However, there is now an awakening and great desire to protect the environment. There is a gap between social reality of the ecology being disturbed and the ideal to have an environment which is balanced and beneficial to the people.

1.4.3 Recognition by Significant Number

A social condition does not become a problem until a sufficiently large number of people think of it as a problem. The opinion makers can influence the thinking of the people. To go back to the earlier example, few thought of pollution of deforestation as a matter of concern about which something had to be done. However, there is now a much greater awareness of the harm caused by this to the society. Efforts are being made to reduce the ill effects of the cutting down of trees. If there is only a small group of people who consider a particular condition as bad they have to educate people, so that, there is public awareness.

1.5 DEFINITIONS

In the light of the different approaches and theories of the social problems, it is a difficult task to arrive at its commonly accepted definition. As pointed out by

Merton and Nisbet (eds.) (1971) sometimes, it appears, as if there is only a chaos of conflicting theories, but in Sociology, there is a condition of theoretical pluralism with differing theories often complementing each other. As regards theories and approaches to the understanding of social problems, we have discussed them in details in the Unit 2 of this Block.

Nisbet defines social problems as behavioural patterns regarded by a large portion of society as being in violation of one or more generally accepted social norms (Merton and Nisbet eds.), (1971). Merton thinks that social problems are a deviation from the accepted social ideals and they are dysfunctional.

On the other hand, Spector and Kitsuse define social problems as activities of groups which make protests to organisations, institutions and agencies against conditions which they regard as grievable.

Two clear perspectives emerge out of these definitions:

● Social problems are violations of accepted norms and deviations from the accepted Social ideals.

● They are a protest against certain grievances.

1.5.1 Characteristics of Social Problems

Now, let us try to understand the characteristics of social problems. They are as follows:

i) **A social problem is caused by many factors**

Earlier, it was indicated that there is a cause-effect relation with regard to a social problem. This does not however mean that a social problem can be explained or understood by one cause only. Illiteracy is caused by many factors, such as attitude of people to education, lack of schools in many areas, status of girl child, care of the younger children by older children, malnutrition and poverty to name a few. To solve the problem of illiteracy, all these problems have to be taken into consideration.

ii) **Social problems are interrelated**

Often there is a relation between various social problems. Ill-health is related to poverty, lack of education, attitude of sickness, unemployment, non-availability of medical care, status of women. It is not very difficult to see relations between all the 'causes' and the 'effects'.

iii) **Social problems affect individuals differently**

If there is inflation some people are affected by it more than others. People who are poor or who have fixed income will feel the problem more than those that are well-off and who have ways and means of increasing their income. Dowry is more a problem for the poor than for the rich. The family with a large number of daughters have a bigger problem in dowry than a family which has only sons. The problem of unemployment is more severe for those who are less educated and lack skills. It is also possible that some groups are affected more than others; for example–women, weaker sections, minorities, rural and urban poor.

iv) **Social problems affect all people**

The people in a society are interdependent. What affects one group will affect most members of the society also over time. Few persons are able to protect themselves fully against many of the social problems – violence, unemployment, inflation, communal riots and corruption etc.

Kenneth Henry (1978) rightly considers social problems as a Sociological process, as ideologically interpreted and as subject to different theoretical approaches.

Check Your Progress 2

i)   Write in ten lines how and when a particular situation is considered to be harmful for society and is conceived as a social problem.

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ii) Define 'Social Problem' in eight lines.

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iii) Mention names of two books on social problems with names of their Writers/Editors.

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b)   ....

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iv) Enumerate characterstics of social problems.

a) ....

b) ....

c) ....

d) ....

1.5.2 Types of Social Problems

Merton classifies social problems in the following two categories:

i) social disorganisation

ii) deviant behaviour

In all social problems, some elements of disorganisation refers to two conditions:

i) **Social Disorganisation**

- inadequacies in the social system,

- ineffective working of status and roles.

There are certain sources of social disorganisation. In all societies, there are some consensus on values and interests. Whenever this degree of unanimity is disturbed by conflicting interests, we find trends of disorganisation in that particular society. Similar is the case with status and roles. Every individual occupies multiple statuses such as father, husband, member of a political party, practicing a profession and member of his professional organisation. He performs his roles accordingly. He decides his priorities of roles and acts accordingly in social life. But if there is a conflict between the different status and roles and a group of people are not in a position to decide their priorities or to reconcile between the conflicting roles, it is bound to lead to social disorganisation. The process of socialisation helps people to learn language, customs, traditions, culture and values of the group. If the process of Socialisation either at the level of family or school and the peer group is defective, it will adversely affect the personality of the member of a group and the organised functioning of the group itself. Society develops informal and formal mechanism of social control to regulate behaviours of its members. Whenever, these mechanisms do not work in a effective manner, the trends of disorganisation are visible in the society.

The social disorganisation is manifested in the breakdown in the effective institutional functioning, disorganisation of family, marital breakdown, poverty, collective violence, population explosion, community disorganisation and urban problems such as slums and inhuman living conditions.

ii) **Deviant Behaviour**

The concept of deviant behaviour is used by Sociologists to include serious crimes as well as the violation of moral codes. In every society, there is a commonly agreed idea of normal behaviour. Whenever someone moves away from the accepted norm and behaves differently that behaviour may be regarded as abnormal or deviant behaviour.

The crimes, juvenile deliquencies, mental disorders, drug addition and alcoholism are some of the examples of deviant behaviour.

Box 1.3

Social Pathology

Social Pathology is a sub-division of Sociology conceptually borrowed from the medical sciences. In Sociological literature, several books have been written under the titles of social disorganisation and social problems. The sub-division of Sociology concerned with these problems has often been called as the Sociology of Social problems or deviance. Some Sociologists who stress on the crisis aspect have preferred to call this sub-division as Social Pathology.

1.6 SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Social problems, under several circumstances, are the products of outdated institutions. For example monarchy, as an institution, is mainly responsible for repressive measures against democratic aspirations, even today, in many countries of the world. Similarly, problem of untouchability is linked with the caste system in India. The system of arranged marriages is basically the cause of dowry and dowry death in our society. Apart from the institutional settings, sometimes, the programmes launched for development also result in social problems. The large scale requirements of timber for constructions, railways, furniture and fuels have caused deforestation. Industrialisation and the expansion of the factory system has led to the pollution of air, water and the earth. Construction of big dams, power projects, high ways etc. lead to large scale dis-placement of the local people.

Further, social problems are also a result of the gap between the social ideals and the actual practice. Inspite of so much talks against corruption and slogans for the value-based politics by press, public leaders and intelligentsia is India from the platform and in the mass-media, corruption in public life and criminalisation of politics has increased in our society. As indicated by Feagin(1986) the protests and movements organised by people against social problems and for social change are very significant.

1.6.1 Obstacles in Implementation

It is not an easy task to organise movements against social problems. There are many vested interest groups who may want a particular situation to continue. The forest contractors would oppose the stopping of the felling of trees. The owners of liquor shops would not favour prohibition. Over a time, movements are able to make the government and other institutions recognise the situation and accept the legitimacy of the claim. As a result, policies could be formulated by the government to deal with the situation – rules against deforestation, various laws to improve the conditions of women (equal wages, laws against dowry, sati, inheritances etc.) The formulation of policies by itself is not sufficient. It is to be implemented. Often there is a delay or inadequate efforts. The movement then has to focus on getting the policy implemented. Many times there is no complete solution to a problem. Social movements indicate that collective action can get action from authorities.

1.6.2 Stages of Movements

The outmoded institutional settings, the ill-conceived programmes and the increasing gap between ideals and practice are often either not perceived or ignored by the silent majority in any society. Some people are able to see these problems. At first stage, there is the awareness about social problems in a few individuals or in a small group. At the second stage, they try to propagate their point of view among the people. At the third state, there is organised dissent, protest and agitation. Finally, it leads to the building of a movement. If we take the example of the *Sati Pratha* as practiced in India in the 19th century and the movement started by Raja Rammohan Roy against it then we find that the anti-sati movement passed through all the phases which are mentioned above. Now, all over the world in general and in India in particular, there is a powerful women movement to protect the rights and interest of women. The organisation of Indian women along with the enlightened citizens and mass-media are fighting against dowry and dowry deaths. Similarly, there is the movement of environmentalists against ecological degradation and pollution. The *Chipko* movement launched in the hills of Uttar Pradesh against deforestation has attracted world wide attention. The voluntary organisations and officials are trying to create awareness against drug addiction and alcoholism.

There is a close relationship between the remedial measures against the social problems and the social movements. Social movements arise when some people feel that a particular situation is not good for the society and that something should be done to change it.

1.7   SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND SOCIAL POLICY

Social policy refers to the view that a government has on a particular situation and how it will deal with it. In India, there is a social policy on education, women, environment, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, urbanisation, and drug addiction etc. There is intimate relationship between social movements, social problems and social policy.

Social movements pressurise governments to evolve remedial measures to control social problems. In this context, we have to keep in mind that only the acceptance of a policy and its announcement will not solve social problems. The *Sarada Act* was enacted in the late twenties to check child marriage but it has not fully succeeded in stopping child marriage. The social legislations against untouchability were passed in the mid fifties but even till today the practice of untouchability is not fully eradicated from our society. Inspite of constitutional provisions, all children of the school going age do not attend schools.

Actually, strong social movements, public awareness and official policies–all the three must work together to combat against social problems. In this context, we have to keep in view that the State is the most powerful and significant institution in modern society. Its role is very important in combating against social problems. But state intervention has got its own limits and it can be more effective if there is the support of the people behind the actions of the state and policies adopted by it.

1.7.1 Policy, Ideology and Welfare

We have yet to understand the relationship between social policies and social welfare on the one hand and social policy and ideology on the other. It is difficult to differentiate between social policies and social welfare policies as some of the groups which are covered under social policy may also need welfare. All over the world, irrespective of ideologies, States are adopting welfare policies such as child-welfare, youth-welfare, women-welfare, welfare of aged, welfare of the weaker sections and policies related to employment, security, health scheme, education, ecology and rural-urban development. These policies have contributed very significantly in curbing the ménace of the several social problems. The policy with regard to social problems is dependent on ideology. The capitalist point of view would be that open market and free economy would take care of the needs of society. The individuals can look after their own welfare. The socialists feel that the structure of the society should be changed through the State intervention. A government is therefore likely to formulate a policy according to its ideological commitment.

There cannot be an overall policy with regard to all social problems. Each problem has to be dealt with separately. The laws that are passed are often related to specific problems. For example–drug-addiction, dowry, prohibition, child labour etc. It would be obvious that each of these aspects needs to be dealt with in a special way.

Check Your Progress 3

i)   Define Social disorganisation with suitable examples in five lines.

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ii)   What is deviant behaviour? Write in four lines with suitable examples.

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iii) Mention the different stages of a social movement in four lines.

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iv) Define Social Policy.

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1.8 LET US SUM UP

This unit began with the concept of transformation and its models of modernisation and revolution. The relationship between social transformation and social problems, concept definitions, characteristics and types of social problems are also discussed in this unit. The linkage between social problems, institutions and movements and finally the policy implications in terms of transformation and problems are also highlighted in this unit.

1.9 KEY WORDS

Social Transformation	:	It is a broad concept which incorporates the meaning of evolution, progress, change, on the one hand, and development, modernisation and revolution on the other. Its literal meaning is 'changing form' or 'appearance' or 'character'.
Modernisation	:	Development of a society, from the traditional, agricultural, rural, custom based, particularistic structure to urban, industrial, technological and universalistic structure is called modernisation.
Revolution	:	The violent or non violent abrupt social change making reversal of condition, or bringing about fundamental change is called revolution.
Social Problems	:	Behavioural patterns – in violation of accepted social norms or protests against grievances are called social problems.
Deviant Behaviour	:	It is used by Sociologists to include serious crimes as well as violation of moral codes. Whenever commonly accepted idea of 'normal' is violated by someone's behaviour that is termed as the deviant behaviour.

1.10 FURTHER READINGS

Merton K., Robert, Nisbet Robert, 1971 COntemporary Social Problems, Fourth Edition, Harcourt Brace and Co., New York.

Lerner Daniel, 1964 THepassing of Traditional Society, The Free Press, London.

Polanki Karl, 1957 The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origin of our Time, Beacon Press, Boston.

Kothari Rajani, 1988 Transformationand Survival, Ajanta Publications, Delhi

1.11 SPECIMEN ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

i) Social transformation is a broad concept used to indicate social dynamics. The literal meaning of this concept is 'changing form of appearance or character or alter out of recognition'. According to Marx, transformation is that facet of social change which indicates the rise of contradictions in a society leading to rapid change or revolution. Social transformation refers to the change in the form of society or the rise of new formulations.

ii) a) **Modernisation**

It represents economy, polity and values of the industrialised capitalist societies – representing extreme of affluence and extreme of distress. It is responsible for poverty, unemployment and deprivation in a vast section of mankind and over-abundance, over-production and over-consumption in another very small section

b) **Revolution**

The functioning of communism as a product of revolution has been criticised for its association with dictatorship, police terror, executions, denial of human rights, decline in productions, collapse of economy and creation of a new class of the part functionaries and the state officials.

iii) a) Joseph J. Spengeer: The Decline of the West

b) P.A. Sorokin: The Social and Cultural Dynamics

c) Karl Mannheim: Man and Society: in an AGe of Recondstruction

d) Erich From: The Same Society

e) Pelne L. Berger and others: 'Homeless Mind'

Check Your Progress 2

i) Social problems are widespread conditions which have harmful consequences for the society. The perception of being harmful is dependent on the norms and values of a society. Certain problems are directly linked with social transformation. Rapid industrialisation generates the problem of regional imbalance pollutions and slums. In the following condition, a situation is considered to be harmful and becomes a social problem:

a) gap between social ideals and reality.

b) recognition by a significant number.

ii) Social problems are behavioural patterns regarded by a large protion of society as being in violation of the accepted social norms. They are also considered as a deviation from the accepted social ideals and thus they are sysfunctional. Another definition regards social problems as activities

of groups which make protests against conditins which they regard as grievable.

iii) a)   Robert K. Merton and Robert Nisbet, Contemporary Social Problems

b)   Kenneth Henry, Social Problems, Institutional and Interpersonal Perspectives.

iv) a)   A social problem is caused by many factors,

b)   Social problems are interrelated,

c)   Social problems affect individuals differently,

d)   Social problems affect all people.

Check Your Progress 3

i)   Social disorganisation refers to the breakdown in the effective institutional functioning. Whenever the balance in socity is disturbed by conflicting values, lack of proper socialisation and weakening of the mechanism of social control that state of society is termed as disorganisation. Its examples are familydisorganisation, marital breakdown and community disorganisation.

ii)   In every society, there is a commonly agreed idea of normal behaviour. Whenever, someone moves away from the accepted norms and behaves differently, that behaviour may be regarded as abnormal or deviant behaviour. The crimes,juvenile deliquencies, mental disorders etc. are the examples of the deviant behaviour.

iii) a)   awareness in a few individuals

b)   propagation of their point of view among the people

c)   organised dissent, protest and agitation

d)   finally, building of a movement

iv)   Social policy refers to the view that a government has on a particular situation and how it will deal with it.