



THE IMPACT OF MODERNISATION PROCESS ON BHOVI COMMUNITY

Social Science

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ABSTRACT

Modernization: Modernization refers to a set of social changes that have taken place in societies throughout the world in the past three centuries. It encompasses all the changes that societies and individuals experience as a result of industrialization, urbanization and development of nation-states. These changes include a shift from simple techniques toward the application of scientific knowledge, an evolution from subsistence farming towards the commercial production of agricultural goods, a transition from the use of power-driven machines and a movement from the farm and village towards urban concentration. This process may or may not take place simultaneously (Kornblum: 1988:583). Modernization has affected the traditional occupations of Bhovis. Due to modernization, more people are attracted towards the materialistic things which are manufactured, so the bhovis making stone grinders and other utensils are losing their value in market. Hence the Bhovis are changing their traditional occupation to agricultural and other occupations. Because of modernization process, some Bhovis are moving from rural to urban areas. The scheduled castes are changing through the process of change in complex, multi-layered and multi-dimensional creating new status distinctions.

KEYWORDS

INTRODUCTION

Bhovi: Waddars or Bhovis believe that they originally formed a single endogamous group but that the differences in occupations led in due course to the emergence of a number of separate endogamous groups. As nomads, the bhovis remained peripheral to the social system and to the process of sedentarization. The process of sedentarisation of Bhovis in rural and urban areas had different social consequences. The Waddars settled in urban areas have greater opportunities in terms of education, employment, political participation, and life styles than those living in rural areas. These people believed that their low status was due to their dietary habits and age-old customs and ritual practices they themselves ban on eating rats which, they assumed it was one of the reasons for occupying their lower status in the society. The important change was noticed when Bhovis initiated their women to wear blouses and bangles. Not only these but many reform activities took place in order to bring changes in their traditional customs and practices. Among the few educated women of Bhovi community who set a zeal to change Waddar society were Smt. Yellamma and Sri. Manjari Hanumanthappa of Chitradurga District. The primary data for the study was conducted from the sample of 50 respondents of Haveri district.

The concept of social change:

Social change is an important phenomenon in the history of mankind. No society static it always undergoes changes from time to time and there is always some movement for change. In every society several changes are taking place in the spheres such as, social, economic, health, political and cultural etc. Change is inevitable, as every person in the world has a desire to become something greater than what he/she is at the present. This urge could lead human beings to adopt change. The different variables of social changes in India are innovation, industrialization, urbanization, legislation, education, economic components, planning, religion and broad communications.

Yogendra Singh (1986), "Modernization of Indian Tradition": In the mentioned book Yogendra Singh views that, "Modernization process in India started mainly with the Western contact, especially through establishment of the British rule. This contact has a special historicity which brought about many far-reaching changes in culture and social structure of the Indian Society. It was a period of extreme optimism and ever more accelerated rate of social change in the west, particularly Britain".

Table 1.1: Impact of Modernisation on the life and living conditions of the Respondents

Impact on Modernisation on life/living conditions of Bhovis	Frequency	Percent
Positive	25	50
Negative	22	44
Undecided	3	6
Total	50	100.0

Table 1.1 shows the impact of modernisation on the living conditions of the respondents. (50%) respondents said modernisation impact was 'Positive' and (44%) percent revealed 'Negative' impact. However, minimum percent of the respondents said, they can't judge or decide whether its impact stands positive or negative on their life (3%). Owing to the changes in Bhovis way of thinking, behaviour, nature of living standards, in their culture and perceptions have being better over the time. Due to which Bhovi community people believe in the use of modern medicines and other health care facilities available in the society to cure their diseases and some health-related problems. Among Bhovis, those who have settled in urban areas are comparatively better educated and send their children for higher education. (Nagendra singh, 2006). The educated and urban Bhovis use modern medicare. Occupationally these castes people from ancient times were professionally involved in construction work, earth digging and stone crushing, etc. However, Bhovis have changed their occupations most of the people are working in private and government organisations. These people are also engaged in mining work. Close to half of the (50%) respondents answered modernisation impact was 'Positive', only (3%) these respondents were not ready to give any reason, as they were in the confused state of mind. Whereas 44 percent revealed 'Negative' impact. These respondents replied as due to impact of modernisation Bhovi community is losing its identity and changes noticed in the traditional occupations, and moreover even women folk is engaging in work apart from involving herself in household work, she is going outside to work and support her family.

CONCLUSION

Just when certain present conditions, situations and circumstances or things are altered we utilize the term 'change'. So, change and development exist together. Any social change may create recognizable and changes in social structures, functions, behavior patterns, values, norms, and ways of life, attitudes, roles and status. With respect to the changes taking place, sociologists have made detailed reviews and have figured different assumptions on the manner of change, components of change and regions of change. In the Indian society certain terms and process, like Westernization, Sanskritization and Modernization are utilized to clarify the heading of social change. The different variables of social changes in India are innovation, industrialization, urbanization, legislation, education, economic components, planning, religion and broad communications.

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