

Social Movement

Dr. Dinesh Vyas

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Sociology,
Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar

What is Social Movement?

"The social movement can be considered a collective effort to establish a new system of life."-Herbert Blumer

"The social movement refers to an informal organization of a large number of individuals with a social goal, a collective effort of many individuals to modify or transfer dominant culture packages to institutions or specific classes in society." - Arnold M. Rose.

Characteristics of Social Movements

1. Social Goals:-

Social movements, as the name suggests, arise with some or the other social goal and work towards achieving this goal. Social goal refers to the goal of social structure or change in social life. According to Joseph Gusfield - Social Movement is "socially accepted actions and beliefs directed towards the demand for change in any aspect of the social system."

2. Social change:-

The purpose of social movement is to bring about social change. The type and quantity of this social change varies in different social movements. According to Harton and Hunt - "Sociologists consider social movements to be an effort to advance or prevent change."

James McKee wrote - "The social movement is conscious effort to bring about a deliberate change in the social structure through the collective work of the masses." Social change always happens in unconscious form. There is an attempt to deliberately change through social movements.

3. Anti-Tendency:

Every social movement arises in opposition to some form of present situation, social system or form, practice or tradition of social institution and wants to change it. Thus, there is an anti-social tendency.

4. Organization:

Social movements begin in small form at the beginning and gradually take organized form. Without this organization they cannot achieve their goals. Clarifying this fact, Hyams wrote - "A social movement is a complex dynamic system of collective behaviour whose most distinguishing components are a social society, a social ideology, and a social structure."

5. Relevant:

Silent social movements arise in opposition to something or the other, so they are relevant. They are born due to a special context, and they change to this society. No social movement should be considered permanent.

6. Geographical area:

Modestly every social movement is limited in one specific geographical area. For example, in India, some social movements have been limited in a particular state and some in the whole country. There is hardly any social movement spread all over the world.

7. Period:

Social movements develop gradually. Thus, there is a period of their development. They are not visible after this period is over.

8.Mobility:

Social movements arise with social goals. In order to achieve these social goals, these movements are always dynamic and change with the change of the nation. Movements that are not dynamic in this way fail to achieve their social goals.

9.Role of leader:

Social movements are born early in the thoughts of some leader. Later in every movement many leaders, big and small are seen. The role of these leaders is important in directing social movements.

10.Literature:

Since social movements arise to establish a particular type of social system, they try to spread their ideas through some kind of literature in this literature where on one side they present their opinion, on the other side they Opponents also criticize votes.

Elements of Social Movements

The characteristics of the social movement are also clear from the various elements of social movement that various sociologists have told. According to Wendall King, there are 5 main elements in the social movement - Goals, Ideology, Collective synthesis, Organization and status system and methodology.

Brül and Seljnik have considered three elements in the social movement — A particular perspective and ideology, a strong sense of organization and idealism, and a tendency to work.

James Gusfield considers 5 elements in social movements - collective mobilization actions and trust, demand, change and social order. Similarly, other sociologists have shown different elements in social movements.

Hyams considered the following four stages in the development of the social movement:-

(A) Primary Stage:

This primary stage is the state of reactions. In this, unemployed and disgruntled and afflicted people give a view of the serious situation through their thoughts and complaints.

(B) Secondary state:

It is a state of mob behaviour. In this the movement spreads, excitement increases. Mass demonstrations, processions, meetings and strikes are organized and sometimes riotous riots take place.

(C) Formal movement:

This is a state of public conduct. In this, the goals of collective dissatisfaction are defined and take the form of ideology and the movement is formally organized.

(D) Revolution:

At the end of the movement, he takes the form of revolution in which central goals are declared on the one hand and on the other side there is also preparation for the use of violence as a means.

Sociological Explanation:

A. Social Disorganization:

B. Asymmetry of position:

C. class consciousness:

D. Social norm:

Historical Explanation:

-Historians consider some or the other historical event at the root of social movements as the cause. This definitely shows how a movement is born, but it does not explain why different kinds of movements arise in a society under the same circumstances. Historical explanation is not an adequate explanation of the cause of the movement.

Psychological Explanation:

-Societies point to psychological causes such as collective tensions at the core of psychological movements. There is no doubt that psychological dissatisfaction is the main reason in the birth of every kind of movement, but it cannot be called a sufficient reason for the movement.

THANKS