

BA II Sem (CBCS)

Education (Major)

Role of Education in Social change or Education as an instrument of social change:

Education is considered as one of the most powerful instruments of social change and control. Education can remove darkness of ignorance and narrow-mindedness of human mind and infuse new ideas, new light and new direction for change and development. It can dispel darkness of ignorance, indifference and inactivity of human mind and develop new hope and aspiration.

From sociological point of view education has threefold function for such change and development. Firstly, it helps in preservation of work while knowledge, culture and heritage of the past. Secondly, it helps in the transmission of desirable cultural elements in the new generation. Thirdly, it also helps in the dissemination of new knowledge and experience for new invention and creation of society. These three fold activities of education are therefore bringing about necessary changes of society and control its undesirable elements. These three fold functions of education for social change are described below-

1. **Preservation of social heritage:** So far as preservation of worthwhile knowledge and heritage of society is concerned, education is of vital importance. Young boys and girls go to school for reading and writing and through this act they acquaint themselves with the desirable elements of their social culture. The curriculum meant for children is designed in such a way that it includes knowledge and experience of the society. Duty of the teacher is to present his students with art, science and literature, history and culture which the society had inherited throughout the ages. Any new development or progress may be possible only when the new generation imitates the thought, feeling and activity of the past society.

So from this point of view education is nothing but a big process of imitation. It is through such imitation that preservation and protection of the desirable elements of vast human culture has been possible.

2. **Transmission of desirable culture:** Education is responsible for transmission of desirable elements of culture in mind of the new generation. It may be noted that all the social and cultural heritage of the past society are not wholly acceptable to the new society. The new generation does not want everything what their previous generation used to practice. They want only the helpful and desirable elements of culture of the past and avoid the undesirable one. Here education must have to make conscious control of social heritage. It must carefully examine which elements or items of the past experiences have their capability of developing the new generation towards social progress. It is noteworthy that with the changes of society new hopes and aspiration and their needs crop-up in common mind. Keeping in view of this fact education must have consciously control, design and select the items of social heritage and transmit to the new generation.

3. **Disseminations of new knowledge:** Education is responsible for dissemination of new knowledge and experienced in mind of the society. Every new society carries with it that genius who can contribute to new creation and new invention for social progress. Education should give new light and a new direction in mind of those geniuses through which new thought, ideas and activity and new creation may emerge. It is due to such creativity that old faith, belief and the way of life are changed and new activity and thought are going to develop. Human history carries innumerable instances of this fact. The extra-ordinary person with creative genius of the new society contributes his own thought and idea to be followed by others. Gandhiji and Karl Marx and other socio-political and religious reformers from time to time have been able to bring about such social change and development. So it is evident that education can disseminate new knowledge and ideas for social change and development.

From the above analysis it is evident that education is the powerful instrument of social change and development. In the absence of it society would have remained stagnant and its change and improvement would have come to a halt.
