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**GRT** **SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION IN TAMILNADU  
WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
CUDDALORE DISTRICT**

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**Abstract:-**The concept of social transformation in social sciences refers to the change of society's characteristic, which includes the change of existing social structure, technological, economic, political and cultural. There are various factors to determine the social transformation like geography, trade, transport, communication and education.

**Keywords:**Social Transformation , social sciences , social structure, technological, economic, political .

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The middle of the 20th century witnessed various changes in cultural and social life due to the access of education, industry, media and communication. The changes were initiated by western industrialization through their colonial rule and further developed later.

#### **INDIAN INDEPENDENCE**

After independence many measures were taken by state as well as central government to develop the nation. As a result, many changes occurred in the social structure of India. The Republican constitution of India guarantee the fundamental rights. It gave to the impetus to the people to do their desired profess on throughout India. The new nation promised social, economic, and political justice to its entire citizen. The promise of modern and democratic society that the leaders of India's freedom movement made to the people when they assumed power from colonial rulers included the abolition of the caste system, and caste related disabilities. In the language and ideology of development, India at the time of its independence from the colonial rule was largely a backward country, with low level of national income and stagnant economy. In terms of demographic distributions only around 17 percent of its population lived in urban centers. Of the 83 percent or so who lived in rural India were dependent, directly or indirectly, on agriculture. Indian planners remained quite ambivalent about the path to development and democratization of social economic life in rural India was the land reform legislations. The report of Herring<sup>1</sup> that agrarian question had become an important point of contention even before India's independence from colonial rule.

The important view is the Indian agriculture lay in a radical reorganization of land ownership patterns that would not only democratize the village and revive the independent peasant economy but would also increase the productivity of the land. As per the report by Radhakrishnan<sup>2</sup> in the absence of a concerted 'political will,' land reforms could succeed only in region where the peasantry was politically mobilized and could excerpt pressure from below. The legislation on land reform helped to land distribution among land less in the country. However, it was only in rare cases that landless labourers living in the countryside people received land. The beneficiaries, by and large, belonged to the middle level caste groups. It may be important in this context to look at some other development initiatives. The commercial banks which began to lend to the agricultural sector on priority basis after the introduction of "social control" over their operation in 1967, and their subsequent nationalization in 1969, had never been under the direct control of the rural rich. Its availability played an important role in making green Revolution a success.

As a strategy development, the community development programme was conceptually very different from both the land reforms and the idea of making cheap institutional credit available to the cultivators. Of all the

developmental programmes introduced during post independence period, the green revolution is considered to be the most successful. It was celebrated the world over and has been studied and debated upon quite extensively in academia. As per the report by Byres<sup>3</sup> the green revolution led to a substantial increase in agricultural output, to the extent that it almost solved India's food problem. It also produced significant social and political changes in the Indian village and, in a sense, did bring about an 'agricultural revolution' in India. Those who led these movements were mostly substantial landowners who had benefitted most from the development programmes and belonged to the numerically large middle level caste groups, whom srinivas<sup>4</sup> had called the 'dominant caste'. This new social class 'not only emerged as dominant group at village level they also came to dominate the regional/state politics in most parts of India.

It is generally believed that the process of agricultural modernization is accompanied by a change in the social relations of production leading to freeing of agricultural labour from relations of patronage and institutionalized dependencies. In his study of a Tanjore village in Tamilnadu, Beteille<sup>5</sup> had also observed a process of formalization in the relationship of land owning castes with village artisan and landless labourers, more recently, studies tend to suggest a loosening of the traditional structures of power/domination. Thus, the traditional system changed towards the modernization in India and its states.

## **IN TAMILNADU**

The development programmes spread throughout India and made far reaching effects in society and led to transformation from old to new. In Tamilnadu, we could see the social change in post independent period. The State of Tamilnadu in fact was blessed with many good chief ministers, like K. Kamaraj, M. Bhaktavatsalam, C.N. Annadurai and M.G. Ramachandran. K. Kamaraj, who was the second chief minister of the state in Independent India. He was the Chief Minister for nearly a decade from 1954 to 1963, before he quit on his own. Even though Kamaraj was himself a school dropout and self educated he realized the importance of education for the development of the young Indian Nation. He abolished the obnoxious Hereditary Education System (Kuladharmam Kalvi Murai) introduced by his predecessor. He arranged to open primary schools in all villages, and secondary schools in all panchayats, so as to make primary education easily accessible to all people. More importantly, he introduced compulsory free education to all up to secondary education, introduced Mid-day meal scheme. This indeed was a path breaking scheme, which was further refined and enlarged later by M.G.R as Nutritious Noon Meal scheme, which has since been adopted by almost all the states of the country with great effect. Kamaraj also introduced free compulsory uniforms to students, to eradicate any sense of discrimination from their young minds. Kamaraj also prevailed upon the then Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, to open an IIT at Madras (later Chennai), the capital of Tamilnadu. During C.N. Annadurai regime, Anna marumalarchi thittam was introduced. In this scheme, Village Panchayats were recognized as unit of planning for implementation of such socio-economic development Programme.

## **TRANSFORMING SOUTH ARCOT AS CUDDALORE**

South Arcot was a district in the Madras Presidency of British India. It covered the area of the present-day district of Cuddalore, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The district was divided into eight taluqs and covered a total area of 5,217 square miles (13,510 km<sup>2</sup>). The administrative headquarters was the town of Cuddalore. In ancient times South Arcot was a part of the Chola and Pallava kingdoms. The British presence in the districts dates back to 1690 when the British East India Company set up a factory at St David near Cuddalore. South Arcot was the scene of confrontation between the British and the French and the Tipu Sultan. The British took over the administration in 1781 and established full sovereignty in 1801. Now the district is confined to 3,678 km. The population of the district as per 2011 census is 22,85,395. Among the population male is 11,50,908 female 12,94,217 and rural population is 17,20,725, urban population is 88,5189. Literates are 14,20,488.

## **The Economic Resource of Cuddalore**

The economy of Cuddalore is largely agricultural. Total cultivable area (hec) are 2,72,159 and important food crops are paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, cholam, kambu, redgram, cotton, gingelly, tapioca, greengram, blackgram, coriander, banana, maize, varagu, cashewnut.

South Arcot is no more worthy for mineral wealth except Lignite, Limestone, White clay. The district consisted so many industries of public and private concern. Cuddalore district has been strong base on handicrafts industries. Traditional handicrafts units are spread over across the district. It is interesting to note that handicraft items such as jewellery, ceramics and pasamani malai have got more attraction even outside the district in the State. Ceramics units are concentrated in Vridhachalam area. A total number of 2782 handicrafts units are functioning in the district providing employment to about 5000 persons.<sup>6</sup> Cashew Kernel, organic chemical and marine products are major exports of this districts. It is a progressive district. The intervention of Central and state under cluster development will further improve the status of people and economy. SIPCOT Industrial Complex, Cuddalore Phase I

has established in 1984 at an extent of 518.79 acres to institute industry.

#### **Essential Infrastructure**

The English east India company was contributed to the development of the essential infrastructural facilities of *cuddalore like road, railway, port and Telegraph* acted as agents of *social transformation*. The vast improvement in communications during the last fifty years has contributed to changes in society. The English education another factor for the transformation of society. The introduction of adult franchise and panchayat raj(local self government at village, tashil and district level)has resulted in giving new sense of self respect and power to marginalized. The impact of western education and industry in cuddalore district was responsible to the social reformation.

#### **The Results**

The impact of English rule and successive Indian ruler brought out many development programme in India, which was well implemented by the state and cuddalore was one of the beneficiary district of the state. The educational institution of the district particularly Annamalai university situated in the district produced well educated people to India as well to the district is one of the key factors for the social transformation. The industries like Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Neyveli, MRK Sugar Mill, Sethiathope, EID Parry (I) Ltd,Nellikuppam, Ambiga Sugar Mills, Pennadam, TANFAC, Cuddalore O.T, Vanavil, Cuddalore O.T, National Cotton Mills, Chidambaram, SPIC Pharma Chemicals, Cuddalore O.T, Asian Paints(I) Limited, Cuddalore O.T, Tagros Chemicals (I) LTD., Cuddalore O.T, 11.Clariant Chemicals LTD., Cuddalore O.T set up here provided various employment to the peoples and it led to social changes in the socio, economic life of the people.

Finally, the Government of India and Tamilnadu's welfare programme changed the life style of the people from poor land labourer to higher position and made them to feel free from any bondage by introducing industry in the district. The intellectuals like vallalr ,swami sagajanada etc created awareness for social well being of the people. As result, many downtrodden sections of the society came forward and got education and availed the employment oppurtunitis of the district. These things has been responsible for the social transformation in Cuddalore district.

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