

# Introduction to Social Engineering

*“In simple words social engineering means the use of centralized planning to manage social change and regulate the future development and behaviour of a society.”*

## **What is Social Engineering**

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Social engineering is a discipline in social science that refers to efforts to influence particular [attitudes](#) and [social behaviors](#) on a large scale, whether by [governments](#), [media](#) or private groups in order to produce desired characteristics in a target population. Social engineering can also be understood philosophically as a deterministic phenomenon where the intentions and goals of the architects of the new [social construct](#) are realized.

In simple words social engineering means the use of centralized planning to manage social change and regulate the future development and behaviour of a society.

**Social engineering** triggers planned social change and social development; the idea that governments can shape and manage key features of society, in much the same way as the economy is managed, assuming that adequate information on spontaneous trends is available through [social indicators](#) and [social trends](#).

For example, the extent of women's employment is clearly determined in part by government policy to promote or impede women's paid work.

Social engineering occurs in two forms: large scale and small scale. The debate surrounding these two approaches to the design of social institutions constitutes a fundamental issue in the ethics of science and technology. To what extent is it possible and legitimate for scientific expertise to serve as the basis for social policy and action? Can humans use science to rationally design and successfully implement an enduring society? Different concepts of scientific knowledge and technological action supply different answers to these questions and variously support large scale versus small scale engineering efforts.

## Large Scale Social Engineering- Utopian Social Engineering

Large scale efforts to improve the human condition are a modern phenomenon. Such endeavours require technical knowledge, political muscle, and economic resources. In supporting these claims, James Scott (1998) characterizes the rise of high modernism in social-political, agricultural, industrial, and architectural contexts during the last two centuries. High modernism encompasses a quest for authoritarian control of both human and nonhuman nature, a belief that carefully crafted [social order](#) surpasses happenstance, and a confidence in science as a means to social progress. Once the improvement of humanity becomes a plausible state goal, the convergence of rising [social science](#), state bureaucracy, and mass media undergirds five-year collectivist plans, colonial development schemes, revolutionary agricultural programs, and the like, often under the control of a single planning entity.

In urban planning, for example, Scott details the designs of the Swiss architect, Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, (1887–1965), known professionally as [Le Corbusier](#). For [Le Corbusier](#), urban design expresses universal scientific truths. His geometric symmetries often structured human activity, as inhabitants conformed to the design rather than vice versa. This approach applied to entire cities as well as individual homes ("machines for living"). Le Corbusier's formulaic concatenation of single function components produced simplicity via widely separated spaces for living, working, shopping, and recreating. Defining the good of the people, often the working poor, in terms of detached, scientific principles and their authoritarian imposition is, according to Scott, emblematic of high modernist, large scale attempts at social engineering.

## Small Scale Social Engineering- Piecemeal

In conceiving the perfect, non-decaying state, Plato envisions a radical departure from existing society. Marxists, too, as self-described social engineers, use historical interpretation in aiming for revolutionary, holistic change. The Anglo-Austrian Philosopher, [Karl Popper](#) (1902–1994) contrasts these utopian endeavours with "piecemeal social engineering."

Karl Popper in his classic political science book, [The Open Society and Its Enemies](#), volume I, examined the application of the critical and rational methods of science to the problems of the open society. In this respect, he made a crucial distinction between the principles of *democratic* social engineering (what he called "piecemeal social engineering") and *Utopian* social engineering.

Popper wrote:

The piecemeal engineer will, accordingly, adopt the method of searching for, and fighting against, the greatest and most urgent evils of society, rather than searching for, and fighting for, its greatest ultimate good.

According to Popper, the difference between "piecemeal social engineering" and "Utopian social engineering" is:

*"It is the difference between a reasonable method of improving the lot of man, and a method which, if really tried, may easily lead to an intolerable increase in human suffering. It is the difference between a method which can be applied at any moment, and a method whose advocacy may easily become a means of continually postponing action until a later date, when conditions are more favorable. And it is also the difference between the only method of improving matters which has so far been really successful, at any time, and in any place, and a method which, wherever it has been tried, has led only to the use of violence in place of reason, and if not to its own abandonment, at any rate to that of its original blueprint.*

## When society needs reforming, the piecemeal engineer

*Does not believe in the method of re-designing it as a whole. Whatever his ends, he tries to achieve them by small adjustments and re-adjustments which can be continually improved upon. ... The piecemeal engineer knows, like Socrates, how little he knows. He knows that we can learn only from our mistakes. Accordingly, he will make his way, step by step, carefully comparing the results expected with the results achieved, and always on the look-out for the unavoidable unwanted consequences of any reform; and he will avoid undertaking reforms of a complexity and scope which make it impossible for him to disentangle causes and effects, and to know what he is really doing. (Popper 1957, pp. 66–67)*

These claims resonate with Camus's distrust of ideologically calculated revolution and his preference for limited but inspired rebellion. In Popper's view, mistakes are inevitable, and more radical innovations produce more mistakes. Because fool proof social forms are unattainable, some mechanism for identifying needed improvements must be an integral part of a necessarily gradual implementation process. This view contrasts with that of large scale social engineering on several dimensions.

## Spontaneous versus Consciously Controlled Change

Popper's concept of evolutionary epistemology supports not only the idea that advances are slow and piecemeal but also that they are guided by no overarching plan. This view resembles that of the twentieth-century British economist [Friedrich Hayek](#). Hayek emphasizes the view that significant social phenomena emerge spontaneously via the unintended effects of individual actions, and he finds support for the benefits of this process in the ideas of the British political economist, Josiah Tucker (1711–1799), and especially the Austrian economist Karl Menger (1840–1921), that social institutions compete with one another in a kind of survival of the fittest. Because knowledge required for large-scale planning is widely distributed among many minds and cannot be narrowly concentrated, Hayek rejects centralized planning. Popper advocates "negative utilitarianism," the view that proposals for reform should be judged by how little suffering is caused. Government should thereby ameliorate enduring social ills (such as poverty and unemployment) and leave efforts to increase happiness to individual enterprise. These views shape the method (monitored, incremental change) and the goals (amelioration) of social engineering.

The nature of social reform is also examined by the American philosopher and educator [John Dewey](#) (1859–1952). But when Dewey speaks about the need for liberalism to advance beyond its early gains in securing individual freedom, his vision is incongruent with that of Hayek and Popper. For Dewey, liberalism should advance a [social order](#) that "cannot be established by an unplanned and external convergence of the actions of separate individuals, each of whom is bent on personal private advantage". This social reform must be thoroughgoing in its quest for institutional change.

*For the gulf between what the actual situation makes possible and the actual state itself is so great that it cannot be bridged by piecemeal policies undertaken ad hoc. The process of producing the changes will be, in any case, a gradual one. But "reforms" that deal now with this abuse and now with that without having a social goal based upon an inclusive plan, differ entirely from efforts at reforming, in its literal sense, the institutional scheme of things.*

Dewey sees the necessity of early planning in his thinking about social reform, and while it is clear that Popper restricts not planning per se but only its scope and method, Dewey projects a wider, more vibrant use of planning in achieving social renovation. Education, science (the method of intelligence), and well-designed government policy are keys to social improvement.

## **The Nature of Scientific Knowledge**

Any call for social engineering requires some clarification of the relationship between science and engineering. Popper differentiates natural and [social science](#) in ways that Dewey does not. In natural science, Popper's realist perspective dictates that theories make claims about unobservable realities responsible for observed regularities. These claims are tested by means of controlled experiments. In contrast, Popper construes social science as producing low-level empirical laws of a negative sort ("you cannot have full employment without inflation"), which are tested through practice in social engineering. This amounts to a narrow view of social science and contributes to the contrast between his scientific radicalism, which focuses on natural science, and his engineering conservatism, which is linked to social science. The contrast between Dewey the pragmatist and Popper the realist is instructive here. From Dewey's pragmatic perspective, "the ultimate objects of science are guided processes of change". Both natural science and social science



provide an illustration of this concept. Popper's general aversion to abstract theories in social science may be linked to his desire to reject certain theories, such as that of the Austrian psychiatrist [Sigmund Freud](#), on the basis of unfalsifiability. Dewey's acceptance of a wider range of theory plus empirical law in social science allows for testing to occur in a greater range of circumstances, not only in practice (which is often problematic: even piecemeal change simultaneously introduces multiple causal factors) but also in controlled, even laboratory, settings. Contemporary studies in social science embrace such methods, including those of simulation. Moreover, when guided by theory and experimental tests, changes introduced into practice need not be small scale. Large-scale changes may be introduced for larger scale problems (such the [Great Depression](#) or disease epidemics). Linking Science to Practice Popper and Dewey differ when relating science to social engineering. In disputes with the American philosopher Thomas Kuhn (1922–1996), Popper emphasizes the value of critical and revolutionary action (bold conjectures and severe tests) over and above the uncritical plodding of normal science. This contrasts with his recommendations for social engineering where action should be piecemeal. This contrast, acknowledged by Popper (1976) himself, may arise from the use of the scientific community as a model for society at large. Nevertheless, the degree of openness and fruitfulness of criticism differs significantly within these two realms. Robert Ackermann proposes that an explanation "of the relative isolation of theoretical scientific knowledge from practical concerns is required to explain how a form of social conservatism can be held consistently with a form of theoretical radicalism".

Such concerns are related to Scott's analysis of why large scale schemes have often failed to improve the human condition. Scott sees knowledge of how to attain worthwhile, sustainable solutions as being derived not from scientific theory, nor from the low level empirical laws cited by Popper, but by a form of know how (*metis*, from the ancient Greek) rooted in localized, cultivated practice. Like Dewey's conception, which builds an inherent normative element ("*guided* processes") into knowledge itself, there is no need to search for means of effective "application." The implication is that useful knowledge springs from contextualized activities, not from using local conditions to fill in the variables of general principles. This view raises serious doubts about the practical relevance of scientific expertise, in the modern sense, and its ability to produce sustainable solutions to social problems. Indeed, some have suggested

that such limitations exist not only in large scale enterprises but also in small scale efforts involving more narrowly focused problems. A narrow focus can undermine the need to address larger issues and long run concerns and can mire the political process in gridlock. From these considerations, it should be clear that small scale engineering offers no panacea and that different concepts of small scale enterprise point the way in somewhat different directions.

### **Impact of the Social Engineering Issues**

Questions concerning appropriate scale and the interaction of social science and social engineering have wide impact. An entire school of social scientists use Popper as a guide in trying to design effective [social policy](#). The works of the incrementalist Charles Lindblom (*The Intelligence of Democracy; Usable Knowledge: Social Science and Social Problem Solving; Inquiry and Change: The Troubled Attempt to Understand and Shape Society*; etc.) provide, by title alone, some measure of the impact of Popper and Dewey and of social scientists' pursuit of social engineering. Moreover, differences between planned, rule-governed (top-down) versus unplanned, evolutionary (bottom-up) approaches inform methodologically diverse explorations within social science itself. Whether or not humans can effectively design social systems is essentially a question concerning human intelligence, and efforts to build automated intelligent systems confront the same methodological controversy concerning rule-governed versus connectionist, evolutionary designs. Finally, controversies over the promises of planned societies continue to echo the dispute between Popper and Marxists over the true nature of social engineering.

### **Social Ethics**

Social ethics is the systematic reflection on the moral dimensions of social structures, systems, issues, and communities. Social ethics can be thought of as a branch of 'applied ethics,' the application of ethical reasoning to social problems.

A typical list of the kinds of issues addressed under the rubric of social ethics includes the distribution of economic goods, research on human subjects, animal rights, euthanasia, abortion, discrimination and affirmative action, pornography, crime and punishment, and war and



peace. The principal tasks for social ethicists are to (1) examine social conditions, determining which of them are problematic considering norms concerning what is good or right or fair; (2) analyze possible actions that could alter those conditions that have been found to be problematic; and (3) prescribe solutions based on the examination of the problem and the analysis of the options for action. Each of these three steps is a thoroughly value-laden activity.

The subject matter of social ethics has been conceived in two different ways. The first approach is one that draws a distinction between moral choices that everyone must make, and the corporate decisions reached, and actions taken by such collective bodies as corporations, municipalities, and nations. Characterized in this way, social ethics focuses on the policies and practices that should govern social institutions. The second view of social ethics is rooted in the notion that all ethics are social, in an important sense, because they are socially constituted, embedded in a social matrix. This view focuses on the way in which individual moralities are shaped by social contexts and the way individual moral choices, in turn, shape social contexts. This overview of social ethics discusses both approaches. The distinction between the two approaches can become blurred in discussions about whether the responsible agents are the collective institutions or the individuals responsible for institutional policy and behavior.

Social Ethics is the collection of values and behaviors of a given culture or people group. It is a blend of different aspects of how society(s) are structured and managed by their participants. These levels and scales are important as the intent is to minimize overall harm or damage to society and its members.

### **Importance of Social Ethics**

Social ethics refers to the principles and values that guide human behavior and decision-making in social interactions and relationships. It encompasses issues related to morality, justice, fairness, and equality, and is concerned with how individuals and society can live together in a way that is equitable and just. It is important because it helps to shape the way we interact with others, and it helps to promote fairness and justice in society. Social ethics can help to prevent discrimination, inequality, and injustice, and can help to create a more harmonious and inclusive society. Some examples of social ethics include:

Respecting the rights and dignity of others, including those who are different from ourselves. Acting with integrity and honesty in all our interactions

Promoting equality and fairness in all aspects of social life, including in the workplace, in education, and in the criminal justice system

Being environmentally responsible and working to protect the planet for future generations.

### **Ways to promote Social Ethics**

There are many practical ways to promote social ethics in daily life. Here are a few examples:

**Practice empathy:** Try to understand and appreciate other people's perspectives, feelings, and experiences. This can help you to avoid making judgments or assumptions based on stereotypes or limited information.

#### **Example**

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings and perspectives of others. Here's an example of empathy in action:

Imagine you have a friend named Alex who has been going through a tough time lately. They recently lost their job and are struggling to find new employment. One day, you decide to reach out to them to see how they're doing.

You: "Hey, Alex, how are you doing today?"

Alex: "Honestly, I've been feeling really down. It's been challenging to keep up my spirits while job hunting."

Instead of dismissing their feelings or jumping straight into offering solutions, you respond with empathy:

You: "I'm really sorry to hear that you're feeling this way. Losing a job can be incredibly tough, and it's completely natural to feel down during this time. I want you to know that I'm here for you and that you don't have to go through this alone. If there's anything specific you want to talk about or if there's any way I can support you, please let me know."

Alex: "Thank you. It means a lot to know that you're here for me."

In this example, you demonstrated empathy by actively listening to Alex's feelings and acknowledging the difficulty of their situation. You offered support without trying to minimize their emotions or immediately providing solutions. Empathy involves being present, understanding, and validating someone's feelings, which can go a long way in making them feel heard and supported.

**Respect others:** Treat others with respect, regardless of their background, beliefs, or opinions. This can help to create a culture of inclusivity and acceptance.

### **Example**

Respecting others involves treating people with kindness, consideration, and valuing their individuality. Here's an example of showing respect to others:

Imagine you are working on a group project for your school or workplace, and you have a team member named Sarah. Sarah has different opinions and ideas from yours, and in a recent meeting, she expressed her thoughts on how to approach a particular challenge.

You: "I think we should go with Plan A. It seems to be the most practical solution."

Sarah: "I see where you're coming from, but I believe Plan B might be a better fit for our project. It could bring some unique advantages."

Rather than dismissing Sarah's idea or becoming defensive, you respond with respect:

You: "That's an interesting perspective, Sarah. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts. Let's take some time to consider both Plan A and Plan B thoroughly. We can discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each before making a final decision as a team."

By responding this way, you show respect for Sarah's contribution and demonstrate that her ideas are valued, even if they differ from your own. Respecting others means being open to different perspectives, acknowledging their input, and working collaboratively to find the best solution. It fosters a positive and inclusive environment where everyone's opinions are taken into account, leading to better outcomes in teamwork and relationships

**Act with integrity:** Be honest and transparent in your dealings with others. This can help to build trust and strengthen relationships.

### **Example**

Acting with integrity means consistently behaving in an honest, ethical, and principled manner, even when no one is watching. Here's an example of acting with integrity:

You are working as a cashier at a grocery store. One busy afternoon, a customer hands you a 500-rupees note to pay for their groceries. Amidst the rush, you mistakenly give them change for a 200-rupee note instead.

After the customer leaves, you realize the error you made. You could easily keep quiet and pocket the extra 300 rupees as it's unlikely anyone would notice in the busy store. However, you choose to act with integrity:

You: "Excuse me, sir! I made a mistake with your change. I accidentally gave you change for 200 rupees instead of 500 rupees. Here's the additional amount you're owed."

Customer: "Oh, thank you for being honest and letting me know! I appreciate your integrity."

In this situation, you demonstrate integrity by admitting your mistake and rectifying it, even though it could have easily gone unnoticed. Acting with integrity means upholding moral and ethical values, being accountable for your actions, and doing what is right, even when it's difficult or inconvenient. This behavior earns you trust and respect from others and builds a reputation of reliability and honesty.

**Support social justice:** Advocate for policies and practices that promote social justice, such as equal access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This can help to address systemic inequalities and promote greater fairness in society.

### **Example**

Supporting social justice involves advocating for fair and equitable treatment of all individuals, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics.

You are part of a community organization that aims to address the issue of homelessness in your city. You and your fellow members believe that everyone deserves access to basic necessities and dignified living

conditions. To take action, you are organizing a campaign to raise awareness about homelessness and advocate for better resources and policies to support those in need.

By taking actions like, raising awareness Campaign, engaging the Community, Collaborating with Local Authorities, Empowering the Homeless and offering support to those in need, providing meals, and organizing donation drives for essential items like clothing, toiletries, and blankets, you and your community organization actively support social justice by addressing the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness and advocating for a fair and compassionate approach to helping those in need. This example shows how individuals can come together to bring about positive change in their community and work towards a more just and equitable society.

**Be environmentally responsible:** Take steps to reduce your impact on the environment, such as reducing your use of single-use plastics, conserving energy, and supporting environmentally responsible businesses and initiatives.

Example

By practicing environmentally responsible habits, one can set an excellent example for others and contribute to positive environmental change in their community. Everyone's efforts, no matter how small, collectively make a significant impact on preserving the planet for future generations.

**Eco-Friendly Transportation:** choosing to walk, bike, or use public transportation whenever possible instead of driving a car reduces carbon footprint and helps decrease air pollution.

**Energy Conservation:** turning off lights and appliances when not in use, uses energy-efficient LED bulbs, and sets thermostat to save energy during the day.

**Recycling and Composting:** ensuring that items like plastic bottles, paper, and glass containers are properly recycled.

**Sustainable Shopping:** buying products with minimal packaging; choosing items made from recycled materials and supports brands that prioritize sustainability and eco-friendly practices.

Conserving Water: taking shorter showers, turning off the tap while brushing her teeth, and being mindful of water consumption to reduce unnecessary wastage.

Reduce, Reuse, and Repair: Preferring reusable items instead of single-use plastics, such as using reusable water bottles, shopping bags, and containers. She also repairs items when possible, instead of replacing them.

Supporting Environmental Causes: donating to environmental organizations and participating in local clean-up events and conservation efforts to support environmental causes she cares about.

**Engage in civil discourse:** Engage in respectful and constructive conversations with others, even when you disagree. This can help to promote understanding and avoid polarization and division.

### **Example**

Engaging in civil discourse means having respectful and constructive conversations with others, even when discussing topics where there might be differing opinions. Here's an example of engaging in civil discourse:

Imagine you are at a family gathering, and a heated discussion about a current political issue starts to unfold. Two family members, Jane and Mark, hold opposing views on the topic, and the conversation becomes tense.

Instead of letting the discussion escalate into an argument, you decide to engage in civil discourse:

You: "I can see that both of you have strong opinions on this topic. It's essential to discuss these matters, but let's try to have a civil conversation. Jane, would you like to share your perspective first?"

Jane: "Sure, I believe that this policy is necessary to address the issue effectively. It has shown positive results in other countries."

You: "Thank you for sharing, Jane. It's clear you've done some research on the topic. Mark, what are your thoughts on this?"

Mark: "I understand where Jane is coming from, but I have concerns about the potential drawbacks of the policy. I believe we should explore alternative approaches."



You: "That's a valid point, Mark. It's essential to consider both the benefits and potential drawbacks of any policy. Maybe we could find some common ground by discussing potential compromises or middle-ground solutions?"

Jane: "You're right. Maybe there are aspects we can agree on, even if we have different overall views."

You: "Exactly. It's okay to have different opinions, but let's try to find common points and respect each other's perspectives. We might not change each other's minds entirely but understanding each other's reasoning can be beneficial."

In this example, you demonstrate civil discourse by encouraging respectful dialogue, actively listening to each person's viewpoint, and seeking common ground. Instead of attacking or dismissing one another's opinions, the focus is on fostering understanding and promoting a respectful exchange of ideas. Engaging in civil discourse helps maintain open communication, builds empathy, and creates a more inclusive environment where diverse perspectives can be expressed and respected.

**Volunteer:** Get involved in your community by volunteering your time and resources to support causes that promote social ethics, such as poverty reduction, environmental conservation, or human rights.

By practicing these and other behaviors, you can help to promote social ethics in your daily life and contribute to a more just and equitable society.

### **Consequences of not following social ethics**

The consequences of not following social ethics can be significant, both for individuals and for society. Some of the potential consequences include:

**Damage to relationships:** When individuals act in ways that are disrespectful, dishonest, or unethical, it can damage their relationships with others. This can lead to a breakdown in trust, which can be difficult to repair.

**Harm to others:** Actions that violate social ethics can harm others in various ways. For example, discrimination, harassment, or bullying can cause emotional and psychological harm to the victims.

**Legal consequences:** Some actions that violate social ethics may also be illegal, and individuals who engage in these activities may face legal consequences such as fines, imprisonment, or other penalties.

**Damage to reputation:** Violating social ethics can damage an individual's reputation both personally and professionally. This can make it difficult to build and maintain relationships, find employment, or be trusted in positions of authority.

**Harm to society:** When social ethics are not followed, it can lead to a breakdown in social cohesion and trust and can contribute to broader social problems such as inequality, discrimination, and injustice.

It is important to act in ways that are respectful, honest, and ethical in order to promote a more harmonious and just society.

Aspects of Social Ethics:

The distribution of economic goods, human subject research, animal rights, euthanasia, abortion, discrimination and affirmative action, pornography, crime and punishment, and war and peace are a few examples of the types of concerns that fall within the category of social ethics.

Moralities of everyday life:

The moralities of everyday life refer to the ethical principles and values that guide our actions, decisions, and interactions in our day-to-day activities. These moral considerations are essential for creating a harmonious and just society and are often shaped by cultural, religious, and philosophical beliefs. Here are some key aspects of moralities in everyday life:

**Honesty and Integrity:** Being honest and truthful in our dealings with others is a fundamental moral value. It involves being sincere and transparent, not deceiving or misleading others, and taking responsibility for our actions.

**Compassion and Empathy:** Showing kindness and understanding towards others' feelings and situations is a cornerstone of morality. Compassion involves recognizing the suffering of others and taking steps to alleviate it.

**Respect for Others:** Treating all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of their background, beliefs, or status, is an essential moral principle. This includes listening to others' perspectives and being open to dialogue and cooperation.

**Fairness and Justice:** Ensuring that everyone is treated fairly and equitably is a crucial aspect of morality. It involves upholding principles of justice, equality, and impartiality in our interactions and decision-making processes.

**Responsibility and Accountability:** Taking responsibility for our actions and being accountable for the consequences of our choices are important moral values. This means acknowledging mistakes and working to rectify them.

**Caring for the Environment:** Recognizing our responsibility towards the environment and striving to protect it for future generations is a growing moral concern in everyday life.

**Loyalty and Trustworthiness:** Being loyal to commitments, relationships, and promises fosters trust and stability in personal and professional interactions.

**Humility and Modesty:** Acknowledging our limitations and being humble about our achievements can help maintain a balanced perspective and avoid arrogance.

**Courage and Standing up for What's Right:** Sometimes, moral decisions require courage to stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult or unpopular.

**Generosity and Altruism:** Giving back to others and engaging in acts of kindness without expecting anything in return demonstrates a strong moral character.

**Patience and Tolerance:** Practicing patience and tolerance in the face of adversity or when dealing with differing opinions can promote understanding and harmony.

**Non-violence and Conflict Resolution:** Seeking peaceful resolutions to conflicts and avoiding violence whenever possible align with moral principles.

It's important to note that different cultures and belief systems may emphasize different aspects of morality, and individual interpretations can also vary. Nevertheless, the underlying goal is to cultivate a sense of ethics and conscience that promotes well-being, cooperation, and a positive impact on the world around us.

Ethical Dilemma:

An ethical dilemma is a complex situation in which a person faces conflicting moral principles or values and must make a decision that involves choosing between two or more courses of action, each of which has both positive and negative consequences. These dilemmas often arise when there is no clear or easy solution, and the decision-maker must carefully consider the ethical implications of their choices.

Here's an example of an ethical dilemma:

**The Trolley Problem:** Imagine you are standing next to a railway track, and you see a runaway trolley hurtling down the tracks. There are five people tied up and unable to move on the main track. The trolley is headed straight for them, and they will likely be killed if nothing is done. However, you notice a lever nearby that, if pulled, will divert the trolley onto a side track. On this side track, there is one person tied up. Pulling the lever will save the five people on the main track, but it will result in the death of the one person on the side track.

Now, you face an ethical dilemma: Do you choose to do nothing and allow the trolley to kill five people, or do you pull the lever and intentionally cause the death of one person to save five others?

In this scenario, there is no clear "right" answer, and the decision you make will be influenced by your ethical beliefs and values. Some people may argue that it is morally acceptable to pull the lever, as it minimizes overall harm and maximizes the number of lives saved. Others may argue that intentionally causing harm to one person, even for a greater good, is morally wrong and that doing nothing is the more ethical choice.

Ethical dilemmas often raise important questions about the nature of morality, the value of human life, the consequences of our actions, and the principles we use to make ethical decisions. They challenge individuals to think critically about their values and principles and to grapple with the complexities of ethical decision-making.

## **VISION AND MISSION TOWARDS SOCIETY**

A Mission Statement defines the company's business, its objectives and its approach to reach those objectives. A Vision Statement describes the desired future position of the company. Elements of Mission and Vision Statements are often combined to provide a statement of the company's purposes, goals and values.

In general, a mission statement defines what an organization is currently doing, while a vision statement is basically the ultimate goal of what they'd like to accomplish. The mission is what people do in order to achieve the vision. It is the how (mission) versus the why (vision).

The dominant values in our community, society, and world are shaped by human beings, and can be changed by people of good will to better meet the needs of all human beings on earth. Just as people are creations of given social conditions and values, these same social conditions and values are shaped and changed by human beings, by their organized activity. For these reasons it is essential to envision different social conditions that would better meet the needs of all human beings and create a more compassionate and humane world. We need to ask the question: "What does it take to develop a stable set of repeatable conditions whereby all human beings have access to fulfilling, caring, meaningful, empowered, balanced lives?"

In answering this question, we posit that we need to create the time, circumstances, and priority for individuals to recognize and understand human needs. We start from the perspective that basic human needs and international human rights are identifiable and can be fulfilled in different culturally sensitive ways, but they can only be fulfilled in societies that consciously organize to allow all individuals the time and resources to meet their basic human needs, including reduced working hours and parity of access to resources and responsibilities; societies that respect nature and sustain the environment; societies that promote diversity and parity of access and resources for women, racial and ethnic minorities, and all historically underrepresented groups; societies that institutionalize participatory and democratic structures at all levels; societies that take a deep look at the root causes of inequality and address these root causes.

Basic human needs and international human rights cannot be fulfilled in societies where unsustainable environmental degradation, patriarchy, discrimination, authoritarianism and exploitation predominate.

*Goal is to create conditions to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all human beings*

**Their physiological needs such as nutritious food, clean air and water, shelter from the elements, life protection services, and sexual gratification.**

Their psychological needs such as the need for love and emotional security, the need for spirituality and connection, the need for finding purpose and meaning in life, sensual needs, and time for reflection.

Their family needs such as caring for children and elders, food preparation, cleaning, home maintenance, and procreation.

Their needs for producing sustainable goods and services (such as health care, teaching, distribution of resources, exchange, life protection services, transportation, and communication) in ways that dignify work and provide family-sustaining salaries.

Their need for life-long learning and reliable information.

Their need for democratic decision-making structures guided by ethical choices at all levels of life, including the family, school, neighbourhood, workplace, local, national, and international levels.

Their need for “free time” discretionary activities such as art, sport, recreation, volunteerism, and entertainment to engage in their passions.

We assert that

- 1) all human beings possess such needs,
- 2) they have both the right and the responsibility to create the conditions for meeting all these needs, and



3) Societies must work to consciously organize so that the need areas are being met and integrated into the lives of all individuals.

We recognize that this requires the improved distribution and use of resources. Improved balance in our lives premised upon a reasonable and reduced number of paid working hours is more important than excessive materialism.

We recognize that we are not secure on this planet until the real human needs of all persons are addressed. We know that issues of third world underdevelopment are palpable and real. Until local communities, nation-states, and global regions work together with mutual respect, we will not achieve the harmony we seek.

Envisioning a world where all human beings can live without fear seems utopian. Since World War II we have not had a single day without war on the planet, despite the creation of many international institutions to prevent such a situation.

Human needs cannot be met without making personal change, instituting reforms, and promoting structural change. We must act and take action patterned on the type of society we would like to create; seeking reforms alone is insufficient.

We understand that in order to improve our own lives and the lives of others, it is ultimately necessary to engage in disciplined, principled political activity, improving political accountability. In order to be so engaged, we must support each other along the way to provide healing and hope. We must encourage people to be bold in working for change to improve the world.

## **Core Values**

- ✓ All human beings deserve respect, comparable opportunities in all spheres of life, and access to meeting the full range of their human needs and human rights.
- ✓ Human needs are identifiable and we must find the conditions that meet the needs.

- ✓ All human beings deserve to live free of all forms of oppression and discrimination.
- ✓ All human beings deserve social conditions that favour individual, group and social development towards building a base for balanced, meaningful and fulfilling lives.
- ✓ All human beings deserve to live in a healthy natural environment.
- ✓ All human beings deserve to live in peace and without fear.
- ✓ All human beings should be judged by their human character, not by their skin colour, national or ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, political persuasion, possessions of material wealth, power, or control.
- ✓ Basic human needs cannot be fulfilled in societies where environmental degradation, patriarchy, discrimination, authoritarianism, or exploitation predominate.
- ✓ People around the world deserve an equal amount of influence in decision-making about their own society and an equal amount of power within international organizations and global networks.
- ✓ Our security depends upon the security of peoples around the world, who must have the right to self-determination to meet their needs.
- ✓ All human beings should be empowered to understand that human beings are not only products of social conditions, but that they also create and change social conditions.
- ✓ In the struggle between values and power, we choose values over power.
- ✓ We act and take action patterned on the type of society we would like to create. We need to be the change we want to see.
- ✓ We want to be a positive force for change.

## SOCIAL CHANGE

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Change has been an ever present universal reality. Greek Philosopher **Heraclitus** has written. is impossible for a man to jump into the same river twice". It is impossible because in the interval between two jumps, the river and the person both get naturally changed.

Change is the law of life. Nature always changes. So is the case of society. No society is or can be a static society. Like nature, it is subject to a continuous process of change. A.W. Grew has rightly observed that "Each society is in a state of constant disequilibrium and social change characteristics each society. Nothing social remains the same, it lives with a continuous process of social change".

Each society is subject to a continuous change, and change means any alteration difference or modification that comes in a situation or in an object through time. It means, as Fitcher writes "a variation from previous mode of existence", change as a process of social evolution from simple to a more complex form of society.

He regards changes in adaptation as a major driving force of social change. Human beings are always involved in the process of adaptation along the changes in their natural, social, cultural, economic and political conditions and in the process, social change comes over a period of time.

MacIver and Page have written, Society is a web of social relationships. Social change implies changes in the nature and functioning of these relationships. Since these relationships are based on social norms and values, social change implies changes in social norms, values, structures, institutions, processes, functions, patters of human behaviour conditions of life and the whole social set up. Social change is a very complex phenomenon.

Sociologists are most interested in understanding changes that influence existing patterns of social instructions and relations. They are concerned with changes in values, norms, roles and institutions. All societies evolve and change over a period of time.

Social change is a natural part of the process of human growth and evolution. Several internal and external factors play a major role in this process. Further, the nature of social change can be progressive or regressive, temporary or permanent, planned or unplanned, unidirectional or multi-directional beneficial or harmful. It can be swift radical and revolutionary or a slow, gradual and evolutionary. "The society has to adjust with swift and radical changes, however it easily absorbs the slow and steady changes which keep on coming continuously over time."

It must be however clearly understood that social change is different from evolution and revolution. It is a very complex and perplexing phenomenon. Sociologists have been advocating several different theories of social change. Let us define social change and discuss the characteristics factors, patterns and theories of social change.

### **Characteristics of social changes:**

On the basis of the above definitions and considering the views of a large number of well-known sociologists, we can identify the following essential characteristics of Social Change.

#### **1. Universality of Social Change:**

Social change is universal. It characterises every society. No society is static. It is continuously in flux. This becomes evident from the fact that each modern society is today different from its past form. Under the impact of several internal and external factors, each society experiences changes in its structures, functions, institutions and processes.

#### **2. Social Change is not uniform:**

Social Change differs from society to society. Change is the law of nature. Change is the spice of life. However, it can be progressive or regressive, positive or negative, permanent or temporary, planned or unplanned, unidirectional or multidirectional, beneficial or harmful.

Each society has its own history and culture and hence the process and nature of social change always differs from society to society. This makes it essential for the social scientists to study the process and nature of social change in each society.

### **3. Social Change involves Community Change:**

Social Change does not mean the change in the life of an individual or several individuals or some groups of individuals. It is a change involving the life of the entire community. It characterises and influences the life of the whole community. It is a community change and not an individual change.

### **4. Nature and Speed of Social Change in Various Societies is Different:**

In all societies the nature and speed of social change varies. Each society has its own history and culture. Naturally, it experiences social change which is different in nature and speed from the social change which comes in every other society.

The speed of change in some societies is slow while in others it is fast and rapid. In societies with low levels of literacy and development, the speed of social change is slow. In a developed and highly literate society the social change speedily comes.

### **5. Social Change is again relative to Time:**

Social Change characterises each society. Its speed, however, always differs from time to time and is not essentially uniform. It keeps on changing from time to time. Before 1947, when our country was living under British imperialism, the speed of change remained slow. However, after independence, the speed of change in Indian society became very fast.

Rapid industrialisation, development of agriculture and initiation of the process of planned socio-economic development increased the speed of social change. Under the impact of information and communications revolution of contemporary times, the speed of change has become very fast. Thus the speed of change in each society continues to vary from time to time.

### **6. Social Change shows a Chain-Reaction Sequence:**

Since social change always comes under the impact of several social, economic, technological and situational factors, it very often shows a Chain-Reaction sequence i.e. change in one part/factor leads to changes in other parts/factors and then a change in the way of life of the

community of people takes place. Industrialisation and urbanisation lead to changes in family life and village life. Increased need for labour to run the factories encourages the women to join the work force.

This in turn changes the family life and gender relations. Need for skilled labour encourages both men and women to go in for technical education and training. This again leads to changes in all parts of social relations. Thus, social change is always characterized by a chain-reaction sequence.

### **7. Several Interdependent and Interacting Factors of Social Change:**

Social Change always comes under the influence of several social, economic, cultural, and political and science- technological factors. Even the nature, speed and process of social change in other societies always influence the nature and process of social change in a society.

The process of social change in western societies always acts has an impact on social change in developing societies of Asia, Africa and Latin American.

### **8. No one can predict Social Change:**

It is indeed very difficult to predict the nature of social change that might come in a society. No sociologist can really predict it. There can be some probable or possible prediction but no can present any valid and deterministic prediction about social change in society.

The process of social change is very complex and dynamic and it makes prediction-making very difficult and problematic. No one can really predict the exact nature and content of social change which can come in a society.

These eight characteristics are the major essential/natural features of social change. To sum up, we can say that social change refers to modifications or replacements in social structure, social process, social pattern social interaction and social organisation. It is change in the structure and process of entire society.



## Types of social change

According to cultural anthropologist David F. Aberle, the four types of social change include alternative, redemptive, reformatory and revolutionary. These different movements are distinguished by how much change they advocate and whether they target individuals or the entirety of a society.

**Alternative social change** operates at the individual level and seeks to change minor aspects of behavior. Campaigns against texting and driving are an example of alternative social change in the sense that they advocate a small change in behavior and advocate this change on a fairly small scale.

**Redemptive social change** functions on the individual level but advocates a dramatic change within the individual. The spread of religion is an example of redemptive social change. Recovery programs like Alcoholics Anonymous are also examples of redemptive social change as they advocate dramatic personal change for a specific portion of the population.

**Reformatory social change** seeks to enact a specific change on a broad scale. Chipko movement, 1973 can be an example for reformatory social change. Through Chipko movement a nation-wide awareness and importance was created regarding protection of trees and afforestation. This movement seeks a very specific set of changes but desires these changes on a wide scale.

**Revolutionary social change** indicates dramatic change on a large scale. Revolutionary movements seek to fundamentally restructure society. Examples of revolutionary social change include the American Civil Rights Movement and the Russian Revolution of the early-20th century.

## Causes of social change

There are few identifiable characters of social change. Some of them are as follows: that social change happens everywhere, but the rate of change varies from place to place; that social change is sometimes intentional but often unplanned; that social change may generate controversy; that some changes matter more than others do. For example, the invention of personal computers was more important than, say, patch dolls. These are some of the major factors that highlight the causes of social change:

1. A large part of change in society is caused by change in culture. Culture is a system that constantly loses and gains components. Invention, discovery and diffusion are considered to be the main sources of cultural change.

Inventions produce new products, ideas, and social patterns. It is a new combination or a new use of existing knowledge. Inventions may be classified into material (telephone, aeroplane), and social inventions (alphabet, language, government, etc.). Each invention is new in form, function and meaning and has long-term possibilities of impact. Discovery is finding something that has never been found before, or finding something new in something that already exists.

A discovery adds something new to the culture and becomes a factor in social change only when it is put to use. Diffusion is a process of the spreading of ideas, culture and objects to other societies. It operates both within societies and between societies involving trading, migration, and mass communication. It is indeed a two way process:

2. New ideas and modification of old ideas in a new context bring wide-scale changes in society. For example, Max Weber established that rationalisation of religious ideas brought about phenomenal change in Protestant world.

3. Demographic change is caused by an increase in birth and decline in death and migration of populations. Change occurs from the demographic transition in society.

4. Social change is also caused by tension and conflict. Structural strain, deprivation, cultural revitalisation have been the major causes of conflict. Again social division based on class, caste, gender, ethnicity, estate, etc. have also been important sources of conflict in society.

5. Social movements are organised efforts of groups of people to bring about deliberate change in the values, norms, institutions, culture relationships and traditions of the society. They also generate new identities and a new perspective.

## Social Movements

While technology, population, environment factors, and racial inequality can prompt social change, only when members of a society organize into social movements does true social change occur. The phrase **social movements** refers to collective activities designed to bring about or resist primary changes in an existing society or group.

Wherever they occur, social movements can dramatically shape the direction of society. When individuals and groups of people – civil rights activists and other visionaries, for instance – transcend traditional bounds, they may bring about major shifts in social policy and structures. Even when they prove initially unsuccessful, social movements do affect public opinion. In her day, people considered Margaret Sanger's efforts to make birth control available extreme and even immoral, yet today in the United States, one can easily purchase contraceptive products.

Social scientists interest themselves in why social movements emerge. Do feelings of discontent, desires for a “change of pace,” or even yearnings for “change for the sake of change” cause these shifts? Sociologists use two theories to explain why people mobilize for change: *relative deprivation* and *resource mobilization*.

### **Relative deprivation**

When members of a society become dissatisfied or frustrated with their social, economic, and political situation, they yearn for changes. Social scientists have long noted that the actual conditions that people live under may not be at fault, but people's *perceptions* of their conditions are. **Relative deprivation** refers to the negative perception that differences exist between wants and actualities. In other words, people may not actually be deprived when they believe they are. A relatively deprived group is disgruntled because they feel less entitled or privileged than a particular reference group. For example, a middle-class family may feel relatively deprived when they compare their house to that of their upper-class physician.

For social discontent to translate into social movement, members of the society must feel that they deserve, or have a right to, more wealth, power, or status than they have. The dissatisfied group must also conclude that it cannot attain its goals via conventional methods, whether or not this is

the case. The group will organize into a social movement only if it feels that collective action will help its cause.

The relative-deprivation theory takes criticism from a couple of different angles. First, some sociologists note that feelings of deprivation do not necessarily prompt people into acting. Nor must people feel deprived before acting. Moreover, this theory does not address why perceptions of personal or group deprivation cause some people to reform society, and why other perceptions do not.

### Resource mobilization

**Resource mobilization** deals with how social movements mobilize resources: political pull, mass media, personnel, money, and so forth. A particular movement's effectiveness and success largely depends on how well it uses its resources.

Members of a social movement normally follow a charismatic leader, who mobilizes people for a cause. Charisma can fade, and many social movements collapse when this happens. Other movements, such as bureaucratic ones, manage to last, however, usually because they are highly organized.

Norms of behavior develop as people become part of a social movement. The movement may require its members to dress in special ways, boycott certain products, pay dues, attend marches or rallies, recruit new members, and use new language. Concerning the latter, recent social movements have given rise to new terms like *Hispanic American*, *African American*, *feminists*, and *psychiatrically disabled*.

For a social movement to succeed, leaders must heighten their followers' awareness of oppression. To stimulate their social movement in the 1960s and 1970s, feminists convinced women that they were being discriminated against in various arenas, including work, school, and home.

Unlike the relative-deprivation theory, the resource-mobilization theory emphasizes the strategic problems faced by social movements. Specifically, any movement designed to stimulate fundamental changes will surely face resistance to its activities. Critics feel the theory does not

adequately discuss the issue of how opposition influences the actions and direction of social movements.

The causes of social change are diverse, and the processes of change can be identified as either short-term trends or long-term developments. Change can be either cyclic or one-directional.

The mechanisms of social change can be varied and interconnected. Several mechanisms may be combined in one explanatory model of social change. For example, innovation by business might be stimulated by competition and by government regulation.

To the degree that change processes are regular and interconnected, social change itself is structured. Since about 1965 there has been a shift in emphasis from “structure” to “change” in social theory. Change on different levels—social dynamics in everyday life and short-term transformations and long-term developments in society at large—has become the focus of much attention in the study of society.

# **Individual Social Responsibility**

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The theory or philosophy of social responsibility is based on ethics and values. Every individual or organization is bound to execute adequate services to help society by all means. The ideology of social responsibility promotes exclusive duties that every organization or individual has to execute in order to strike a remarkable balance between various systems present in a society. Generally, it indicates the act of maintaining stability between the ecosystem and the economy.

The concept of social responsibility is not only valid for business, economic, or other corporations, but also for every single person whose performance or actions can influence the environment. While individual or corporate social responsibility can be directly executed in the form of various social activities, it can also be performed by not getting involved in socially adverse acts.

## **Importance of Social Responsibility**

The duties and activities involved in social responsibility are not only valuable for business and social organizations, but are also beneficial for the entire society. Various business organizations, being societal members, consider it their duty to lend a helping hand to society in order to deal with complicated issues and problems.

Individual Social Responsibility enables an individual to introduce minor or major changes in his or her social environment. It makes a person more responsible in his or her actions that are believed to impact communities that may or may not be related to his or her immediate surroundings. Individual Social Responsibility is a moral belief where we as individuals, have a responsibility toward society. Being "socially responsible" is about all individuals behaving ethically and sensitively towards social, economic, and environmental issues. It is about being accountable for our actions and being conscious of the impact your actions have on others, our communities, and the environment.

By taking an active participation in resolving some of the issues, we as

individuals should all strive to set good examples by applying and adhering to socially responsible practices, such as improving the quality of lives for individuals and their families, volunteer energy and time towards improving and benefiting society.

A significant contribution is made to social responsibility by the kind of choices and decisions that people make. Even their code of conduct, their way of treating others, and the products, services, and resources they prefer are related to the domain of social responsibility. Individual social responsibility is majorly about treating others in the same way as you want yourself to be treated. You are considered to be socially responsible if you consider yourself accountable for your particular actions and dealings. Your constant attempts to have a positive influence on your fellows and to improve your environment make you socially responsible as well as appreciable.

Enhance the environment by adopting a beach or park to maintain and beautify. Provide a good "listening ear" for those who have problems managing personal emotions, such as feeling of separation and loss, pain and suffering, and coping with the imminence of death. Children without a parent or parents. There are many ways of donating, for example, donating goods, services, or monetarily. You can also invest in socially responsible funds, consume green products, give blood to the 'Red Cross', or give their time and life for good causes.

As individuals, our emotional intelligence skills, such as social awareness and empathy, can be shown through our use of social responsibility efforts within an organization but also through our personal social responsibility efforts. **ISR (individual social responsibility)** is defined as an individual being aware of how personal actions have an effect on the community. ISR can include the following:

Charitable acts, including philanthropy such as donation of money.

Working for the community, such as volunteering, giving blood donations, and working at a food bank or animal shelter.

Supporting issues that affect society, such as advocating political or social issues that can help others—for example, advocating for child labour laws, purchasing fair trade products, recycling.

Individual ethics, such as integrity and honesty. These individual ethics can also include the “golden rule”: treat others how you wish to be treated. This might mean with empathy and a sense of fairness.



Engaging in ISR activities such as these can help us develop our emotional intelligence skills through the use of social awareness—that is, understanding how our actions can affect others and engaging in empathy for others. In addition, we can build our self-esteem and self-perception by helping others (Bénabou, R. & Tirole, J (2010). Individual and corporate social responsibility. *Economica*, 77, 1-19 and engaging in socially responsible activities. As we have discussed throughout the chapter, to improve human relations skills, we must understand that ethics, social responsibility, and emotional intelligence skills are intertwined with each other. Those who continually develop their emotional intelligence skills will likely engage in ethical and socially responsible behaviour, both personally and as leaders of their organizations.



## UNITED NATION-SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a comprehensive set of global goals aimed at addressing various social, economic, and environmental challenges to create a more sustainable and equitable world by 2030. Here is a detailed note on the SDGs:

**Background:** The SDGs were adopted by all 193 United Nations Member States in September 2015 at the UN Sustainable Development Summit. They build upon the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were a set of eight anti-poverty targets that were in effect from 2000 to 2015. The SDGs are more ambitious and encompass a broader range of issues, including poverty eradication, health, education, gender equality, climate action, and more.

**Number and Structure:** There are 17 SDGs, each with specific targets to be achieved by 2030. The goals are interlinked and indivisible, recognizing that progress in one area often depends on progress in others.

**Main Objectives:** The primary objective of the SDGs is to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. The goals aim to tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation while leaving no one behind.

**Scope:** The SDGs cover a wide range of interconnected issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality, clean water, clean energy, economic growth, infrastructure, climate change, sustainable consumption, biodiversity, peace, and justice.

**Global Agenda:** The SDGs are a global agenda, meaning they apply to all countries and regions, recognizing that sustainable development is a shared responsibility across the international community.

**Call for Collaboration:** Achieving the SDGs requires collaboration and partnerships between governments, businesses, civil society, academia, and individuals. The goals cannot be accomplished by one entity alone; collective action is essential.

**Alignment with Other Agendas:** The SDGs align with other global agendas, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, reinforcing the interconnectedness of these challenges.

**Transformative Agenda:** The SDGs call for transformative changes in policies, practices, and mindsets to address the root causes of global challenges and foster sustainable development at all levels.

**Progress Monitoring:** Regular monitoring and reporting on progress towards the SDGs are crucial. The UN regularly publishes global progress reports to track advancements and identify areas that require additional

attention and resources. Regular monitoring and reporting are essential to ensure accountability and transparency.

**The 5 Ps:** The SDGs are often associated with the "5 Ps": People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. These represent the five key dimensions of sustainable development.

**Implementation:** The implementation of the SDGs is the responsibility of each country. Governments are encouraged to align national strategies and policies with the goals and to develop specific action plans for their achievement. Additionally, partnerships between governments, private sector, civil society, and international organizations are crucial to mobilize resources and expertise.

**Leaving No One Behind:** A central tenet of the SDGs is the commitment to leave no one behind. This means ensuring that progress benefits all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

**Universality:** Unlike the MDGs, which were mainly targeted at developing countries, the SDGs are universal. They apply to all countries, regardless of their level of development, recognizing that all countries have a role to play in achieving sustainable development.

**Role of Stakeholders:** Various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, civil society organizations, academia, and individuals, play a crucial role in the achievement of the SDGs. Partnerships and collaborative efforts are encouraged to leverage expertise and resources.

**Challenges:** The SDGs face several challenges, including the need for adequate financing, data gaps and limitations, policy coherence, and ensuring that progress is equitable and inclusive.

Overall, the SDGs represent a comprehensive and ambitious agenda to address the world's most pressing challenges and create a better future for people and the planet. Achieving these goals requires collective action and commitment from all sectors of society.

The future of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is uncertain, but there is a growing sense of urgency among world leaders and civil society to accelerate progress. The SDGs are a set of 17 goals that were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015. They aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

There has been some progress in achieving the SDGs, but many challenges remain. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has set back progress on several goals, including those related to poverty, hunger, and education. Climate change is also a major threat to the SDGs, as it is exacerbating many of the world's most pressing problems, such as poverty, hunger, and conflict.

Despite the challenges, there are reasons to be hopeful about the future of the SDGs. There is a growing awareness of the importance of sustainable development, and many countries are taking steps to implement the SDGs. In addition, there is a growing movement of businesses, investors, and civil society organizations that are working to support the SDGs.

The future of the SDGs will depend on the actions of governments, businesses, and civil society organizations. If we can work together to accelerate progress, the SDGs can be achieved and we can create a better future for all. Let us look at the facets elaborately.

The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, represent a shared commitment by nations worldwide to address pressing global challenges. These 17 interconnected goals, along with their 169 targets, serve as a roadmap for building a sustainable and equitable world by the year 2030.

Each goal targets a specific aspect of human and environmental well-being, from eradicating poverty and hunger to promoting quality education, gender equality, clean water, and climate action. They are not mere abstract aspirations but are grounded in the reality of a rapidly changing world, calling for immediate action and collaboration across borders, sectors, and communities.

Understanding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is essential to grasp their significance and the global effort they represent

**Holistic Approach:** The SDGs take a holistic approach to development, recognizing that social, economic, and environmental issues are interlinked. They emphasize the need for integrated solutions that consider the interconnectedness of these challenges.

**Inclusivity and Equality:** A core principle of the SDGs is "leaving no one behind." The goals seek to promote inclusivity and equality, addressing the needs and rights of all people, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

## SDGs 17 Goals:



1. No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms and dimensions, ensuring that all people have access to basic resources, services, and opportunities.
2. Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition while promoting sustainable agriculture.
3. Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages, including access to healthcare services.
4. Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, ensuring equal opportunities in all aspects of life.
6. Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
9. Industries, Innovation and Infrastructure: Aims to increase the industry's contribution to GDP and employment while promoting stable

industrialization. It also aims to broaden access to communications and information technologies.

10. **Reduced Inequalities:** Promote the economic, political, and social inclusion of all individuals regardless of their ethnicity, age, religion, or other distinctions, to reduce inequality within and among countries. Further, it is crucial to eliminate discriminatory policies, law and practices in order to give equal opportunities and minimize outcome inequalities.

11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Access to safe transportation, enhance road safety, and preserve and protect the world's natural and cultural heritage to make cities safe, inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

12. **Responsible consumption and production:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns in order to sustain the way of life for both present and future generations.

13. **Climate Action:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by incorporating appropriate measures into national policies and strategies and improve people's awareness of the problem.

14. **Life below water:** The goal is to protect and use marine resources responsibly. All forms of marine pollution must be stopped or at least reduced, the effects of ocean acidification must be mitigated, and certain fishing subsidies must be outlawed.

15. **Life on land:** To protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and stop biodiversity loss.

16. **Peace Justice and Strong Institutions:** Promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, providing to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

17. **Partnerships for the goals:** Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. This objective aims to increase financial resource mobilization, support developing nations, and strengthen domestic resource mobilization.

Understanding the SDGs is not only essential for policymakers and leaders but also for individuals worldwide. It empowers people to become active contributors to sustainable development, whether through informed choices, advocacy, or participating in initiatives that support the

goals. By working together towards the SDGs, we can build a better and more sustainable future for everyone.

## The Importance of SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) hold immense importance in addressing the most pressing global challenges and creating a more sustainable and equitable world. The SDGs provide a universal and inclusive agenda that applies to all countries, regardless of their level of development. They recognize that sustainable development is a shared responsibility and require collaboration from all nations. The SDGs take a holistic approach, acknowledging the interconnectedness of social, economic, and environmental issues. By addressing these challenges collectively, the goals promote integrated and comprehensive solutions. A core principle of the SDGs is "leaving no one behind." They aim to uplift the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, ensuring that progress benefits all segments of society by eradicating Poverty and Hunger. Goals such as No Poverty and Zero Hunger aim to tackle extreme poverty and hunger, promoting inclusive economic growth and food security for all. The SDGs prioritize education and gender equality, recognizing them as catalysts for social and economic progress. The SDGs play a pivotal role in guiding the world towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. Their importance lies in their potential to address complex challenges, mobilize collective action, and create a world where everyone can thrive, while safeguarding the planet for future generations.

## Progress and challenges

Progress has been made in reducing extreme poverty globally. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has decreased steadily, indicating that efforts to address poverty are yielding positive results. Significant strides have been made in improving access to education, particularly at the primary level, with more children attending school than ever before. Progress has been made in reducing maternal and child mortality rates in many regions, thanks to increased access to healthcare services and improved maternal and child health programs. The SDGs have fostered increased collaboration between governments, organizations, and the private sector, leading to more effective and targeted initiatives.

The challenges faced in the implementation of the SDGs

1. Despite progress, inequality remains a significant challenge, both within and between countries. Disparities in income, education, and access to resources persist, leaving many behind in the journey towards sustainable development.
2. Climate change poses a severe threat to achieving many of the SDGs. The increase in extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and other climate-related impacts hinders progress in various areas, particularly in vulnerable regions.
3. Hunger and malnutrition continue to be prevalent in some parts of the world, exacerbated by conflicts, economic instability, and climate-related events.
4. Despite efforts to promote sustainable practices, environmental degradation, deforestation, and habitat loss persist, threatening biodiversity and ecosystem health.
5. Ongoing conflicts and political instability in certain regions hinder development efforts, making it challenging to implement and sustain development initiatives.
6. Access to quality healthcare remains a concern in many areas, particularly in low-income countries, where health systems may be under-resourced.
7. Adequate funding for SDG implementation remains a challenge, with many countries facing financial constraints, limiting their capacity to undertake transformative projects.
8. Collecting accurate and comprehensive data for monitoring progress on the SDGs is a challenge in some regions, making it difficult to assess the impact of interventions and identify areas requiring further attention.

Addressing these challenges and accelerating progress on the SDGs requires a concerted effort from governments, businesses, civil society, and individuals worldwide.

### Role of Governments and Institutions

The role of governments and institutions is paramount in the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the main drivers of policy, regulation, and resource allocation, governments



and institutions play a crucial role in mobilizing action, fostering collaboration, and creating an enabling environment for sustainable development. Here are some key aspects of their role:

**Policy Formulation and Implementation:** Governments are responsible for formulating policies and strategies aligned with the SDGs. This involves integrating sustainable development principles into national plans, laws, and regulations to guide actions and investments.

**Resource Allocation:** Governments have the authority to allocate financial resources to support SDG-related projects and initiatives. They play a critical role in securing funding, both domestically and through international cooperation, to finance sustainable development programs.

**Institutional Coordination:** Effective coordination among government ministries and agencies is essential to ensure a coherent and integrated approach to implementing the SDGs. National bodies or councils may be established to oversee and coordinate SDG-related activities.

**Data Collection and Monitoring:** Governments are responsible for collecting relevant data and statistics to track progress towards the SDGs. This involves establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems to measure indicators and identify areas that require additional attention.

**Regulation and Incentives:** Governments can use regulatory frameworks and incentives to encourage sustainable practices in the private sector. This may include environmental regulations, tax incentives for sustainable businesses, and support for research and development of sustainable technologies.

**Capacity Building:** Governments can invest in capacity building and skills development to equip public officials and civil servants with the knowledge and tools necessary for effective SDG implementation.

**International Cooperation:** Governments play a vital role in international cooperation and partnerships for sustainable development. They engage in diplomatic efforts, negotiate agreements, and participate in global forums to foster collaboration and share best practices.

**Addressing Policy Trade-offs:** Achieving the SDGs may require addressing policy trade-offs and balancing competing interests. Governments must navigate challenges such as economic growth versus environmental protection or social equity.

**Local Implementation:** Governments are responsible for translating national policies into action at the local level. Effective local governance and engagement with communities are crucial for achieving the SDGs on the ground.

**Policy Advocacy:** Governments can act as advocates for sustainable development on the global stage, championing the importance of the SDGs in international forums and promoting a collective commitment to their achievement.

**Crisis Management:** Governments and institutions must respond to crises, such as natural disasters or public health emergencies, with a focus on building resilience and ensuring a sustainable recovery.

**Public Awareness and Participation:** Governments can play a role in raising public awareness about the SDGs, encouraging active citizenship, and engaging civil society and stakeholders in the implementation process.

By fulfilling their roles effectively, governments and institutions can create an enabling environment for sustainable development, mobilize resources, and drive transformative change to achieve the SDGs.

## Role of Businesses

The successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relies not only on governments and institutions but also on the active involvement of businesses and individuals. Businesses, as key drivers of economic activities, and individuals, as consumers and members of society, have critical roles to play in promoting sustainable development.

Businesses can embrace CSR by integrating social and environmental considerations into their core operations. This involves supporting community development, investing in sustainable practices, and promoting ethical business conduct. Businesses can drive innovation and develop sustainable technologies that address global challenges, such as renewable energy solutions, sustainable agriculture techniques, and waste management technologies. Businesses can collaborate with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to leverage their expertise and resources, leading to more effective solutions to global challenges. Businesses can use their influence to advocate for policies and practices

that support sustainable development, both within their industry and in broader policy discussions.

### Role of Individuals

Individuals can contribute to sustainable development by making conscious choices as consumers. Supporting sustainable products and services, reducing waste, and practicing responsible consumption can have a positive impact. Embracing a sustainable lifestyle by reducing energy consumption, using public transportation, promoting recycling, and supporting local businesses can contribute to SDG objectives. Individuals can raise awareness about the SDGs by advocating for sustainable practices among friends, family, and colleagues, fostering a culture of sustainability in their communities. Individuals can advocate for policies that promote sustainable development, such as climate action, gender equality, and social inclusion, through petitions, letters to policymakers, and grassroots campaigns. Individuals can consider sustainable investment options that align with their values, supporting businesses and projects that prioritize environmental and social responsibility. By aligning their actions with the principles of sustainable development, businesses and individuals can collectively contribute to achieving the SDGs.

In order to make the world more sustainable and fair by 2030, the United Nations has established a comprehensive set of international goals known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Here is further information about the SDGs:

Here are some of the key trends that are likely to shape the future of the SDGs:

- **The rise of sustainable businesses:** A growing number of businesses are recognizing the importance of sustainability and are taking steps to reduce their environmental impact. This is leading to the development of new products and services that are more sustainable, and it is also creating new opportunities for businesses to invest in sustainable solutions.
- **The growth of the green economy:** The green economy is the part of the economy that is focused on sustainable production and consumption. It is growing rapidly, and it is estimated to be worth trillions of dollars. The growth of the green economy is creating new jobs and opportunities, and it is also helping to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

- The increasing role of technology: Technology is playing a growing role in the pursuit of the SDGs. For example, technology is being used to develop new ways to generate clean energy, to improve agricultural productivity, and to provide education and healthcare to people in remote areas. As technology continues to develop, it is likely to play an even greater role in achieving the SDGs.

The future of the SDGs is uncertain, but there is a growing sense of urgency among world leaders and civil society to accelerate progress. If we can work together to take advantage of the trends that are shaping the future, we can achieve the SDGs and create a better future for all.

### Role of Youth in SDG

Youth play a critical role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are the largest and most diverse generation in history, and they have a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities of our time.

Here are some of the ways that youth can contribute to the SDGs:

- Act as change-makers: Young people are often at the forefront of social movements and advocacy campaigns. They can use their energy and creativity to raise awareness of the SDGs and to demand action from governments and businesses.
- Innovate and solve problems: Young people are often more open to new ideas and technologies than older generations. They can use their skills and ingenuity to develop new solutions to the challenges facing our world.
- Empower others: Young people can play a role in empowering other youth and marginalized groups. They can help to build capacity and provide opportunities for others to get involved in the SDGs.
- Hold governments and businesses accountable: Young people can hold governments and businesses accountable for their commitments to the SDGs. They can use their voices to demand that these entities take action to address the challenges facing our world.

The SDGs are ambitious, but they are achievable. With the engagement and participation of youth, we can create a better future for all.

Here are some specific examples of how youth are already contributing to the SDGs:

- In Kenya, young people are using technology to fight climate change. They are developing mobile apps that help farmers to track weather patterns and to adapt their practices to climate change.
- In India, young people are working to improve access to education for girls. They are running campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of education for girls, and they are providing support to girls who are out of school.
- In the Philippines, young people are working to protect the environment. They are planting trees, cleaning up beaches, and advocating for policies that protect the environment.

These are just a few examples of the many ways that youth are contributing to the SDGs. With their energy, creativity, and commitment, young people can make a real difference in the world.

## **SOCIAL ISSUES**

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A social cause is a problem that influences a considerable number of individuals within a society. It is often the consequence of factors extending beyond an individual's control, and is the source of a conflicting opinion on the grounds of what is perceived as a morally just personal life or societal order.

### **Social Issues in India**

India is an ancient country and according to some estimates, Indian civilization is about five thousand years of age. Therefore, it is natural that its society will also be very old and complex. Throughout its long period of history, India has witnessed and received several waves of immigrants such as Aryans, Muslims etc. These people brought with themselves their own ethnic varieties and cultures and contributed to India's diversity, richness and vitality.

Therefore, Indian society is a complex mix of diverse cultures, people, beliefs and languages which may have come from anywhere but now is a part of this vast country. This complexity and richness gives Indian society a unique appearance of a very vibrant and colorful cultural country.

### **Major Problems in India**

- Poverty
- Illiteracy
- Terrorism
- Casteism
- Untouchability
- Corruption
- Overpopulation
- Child Marriage
- Starvation
- Child Labour
- Gender Inequality
- Dowry
- Domestic Violence against Women
- Sexual Violence against Women
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace

- Child Sexual Abuse
- Communalism
- Religious Violence
- Marital Rape
- Child Trafficking
- Bonded Labour

### **Reasons of Social Problems**

But the very same complexity brings with itself complex nature of social problems and issues. In fact every society of the world has their social issues unique to their society. So does Indian society. Indian society is very rooted in religious beliefs; there are people of different religious beliefs such as Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis etc. These all adds to the socio-cultural varieties of the country. India's social problems are also rooted in the religious practices and beliefs of it people. Almost all forms of social issues and problems find their origin in the religious and cultural practices of the people of India. These social problems are developed in a long period of times and are still continuing in one form or other.

Furthermore, India has witnessed several wars of large proportions; several foreign invaders attacked India in its long history among whom few made this country as their own and tried to force their socio-religious practices which also deteriorated social conditions; the long period of British rule crippled the country and had thrown it into backwardness. Thus, many such reasons may be cited for India's social problems but the fact remains that we have these issues and only we can solve them.

### **Forms of Social Issues in India**

#### **Poverty**

Poverty is a condition in which a household is not able to fulfill its basic needs for survival i.e. food, clothing and shelter. Poverty is a widespread condition in India. Since Independence, poverty is a prevalent concern. It is the twenty-first century and poverty still is a persistent menace in the country. India happens to be country wherein the disparities between the haves and the have-nots are extremely wide. It needs to be taken into account that although the economy has shown some visible signs of progress in the last two decades, this progress been uneven across various sectors or areas. The growth rates are higher in Gujarat and Delhi as compared to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Nearly half of the population

doesn't have proper shelter, access to a decent sanitation system, villages do not have a nearby water source, and villages also do not have a secondary school and lack of proper roads. Some sections of the society like the Dalits are not even included in the poverty list maintained by the concerned authorities assigned by the government. They're groups that are marginalized in the society.

The element which further complicates and deteriorates the situation is the government subsidies system which has leakages in the distribution system. They never reach the households.

### **Illiteracy**

Illiteracy is a condition which becomes a blot on the development of nation. India possesses the largest illiterate population. Illiteracy in India is a problem which has complex dimensions attached to it. Illiteracy in India is more or less concerned with different forms of disparities that exist in the country. There are gender imbalances, income imbalances, state imbalances, caste imbalances, technological barriers which shape the literacy rates that exist in the country. The Indian government though has launched several schemes to combat the menace of illiteracy but due to the poor conditions of sanitation and expensive private education and defective mid-day meal schemes, illiteracy still prevails. Not only the government, but every literate person needs to accept the eradication of illiteracy as a personal goal. Each and every contribution by a literate person can make a contribution to eradicate the menace.

### **Child Marriage**

According to the United Nations report, India has the second highest number of child marriages. Marriage is considered to be a sacred union between two mature and consenting individuals who are ready to accept each other and share responsibilities for a lifetime. With respect to this context, child marriages happen to be an unsound institution. Child marriage mars the innocence of childhood. The Indian Constitution provides for prohibitions against child marriage through various laws and enactments. The first law that was designed was the Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1929 which extended to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir. This act defines the ages of an adult male and female. Also, sex with minors is a criminal offence under Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code. Proper media sensitization is required for a major change to take place. While on one hand, it is stated that child marriage will still take



nearly fifty years to be eradicated, genuine efforts, strict enforcements of the legal provisions and change the scenarios to a great extent.

### **Starvation**

Starvation is a condition characterized by the deficiency in calorie energy intake and is a serious form of malnutrition which ultimately leads to death if not taken care about. Historically, starvation has been constant across various human cultures apart from India. Starvation can take place in a country due to many reasons like war, famine, the disparities between the rich and the poor and so on. Malnutrition conditions like kwashiorkor and marasmus can also develop into serious causes of starvation. Generally, the conditions of kwashiorkor and marasmus arise when people are taking diets which are not rich in nutrients (proteins, vitamins, minerals, carbohydrates, fats and fiber). In the context of India, it becomes needless to say that the food distribution system is flawed. The Supreme Court has issued orders over the past decades directing the government to take measures like mid-day meal schemes and the provision of health care schemes for pregnant and lactating women. The National Food Security Bill which has become a landmark act does seem to show promises with respect to its measures of the identification of the poor and the needy, redressal mechanisms for grievances and children's entitlements. But, this bill also is not without its cons. Clear mechanisms with respect to the identification of beneficiaries have not been defined. The indicators of the poor need to be made specific. They are vague in description.

### **Child Labour**

Child labour typically means the employment of children in any work with or without payment. Child labour is not only limited to India, it happens to be a global phenomenon. As far as India is concerned, the issue is a vicious one as children in India have historically been helping parents at their farms and other primitive activities. Over population, illiteracy, poverty, debt trap are some of the common causes which are instrumental in this issue. Overburdened, debt-trapped parents fail to understand the importance of a normal childhood under the pressures of their own troubles and thus it leads to the poor emotional and mental balance of a child's brain which is not prepared to undertake rigorous field or domestic tasks. Multinational companies also recruit children in garment industries for more work and less pay which is absolutely unethical. Child labour as a global concern has been raised on international platforms as well. Abolition of child trafficking, elimination

of poverty, free and compulsory education, and basic standards of living can reduce the problem to a great extent. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund can help in eradicating poverty by providing loan to the developing countries. Strict implementation of labour laws is also essential in order to prevent exploitation by parties or multinational companies.

### **Homosexuality**

Homosexuality is still considered a 'taboo' in India. India today is one of the fastest developing nations with impressive economic growth rates. But is the growth rate enough to imply that India is a developing nation. A nation is also characterized by the way it treats its people. With respect to this prerogative, the way India looks at homosexuality is certainly not the way to look at it. Homosexuality is considered as a disease by most sections of the society and there are only a few sections of the society who welcome homosexuality. Homosexuality thus is also regarded as a criminal offence in India. Homosexuality is a 'criminal offence' under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code dating back to 1861 with punishments up to ten years which makes it all the more hard to believe that India is a progressive nation and that we are the 21<sup>st</sup> century inhabitants of the country. Although, this subject did see the light of the day when the Delhi High Court legalized gay sex among consenting adults holding that making it a criminal offence violates fundamental human rights way back in the year 2009 as a result of persuasive struggles carried out by Gay Rights activists and foundations.

In December 2013, the Supreme Court passed a controversial order making gay sex illegal quashing the Delhi High Court's decision on the matter. In January 2014, the Supreme Court also refused to review the petition against its order on gay sex being criminalized. Needless to remark, the refusal drew flak internationally for violating fundamental rights. To sum up, homosexuality needs tolerance both by the country and its citizens. It is certainly not a disease hence it doesn't require any treatment. According to my viewpoint, the organizations which have been instrumental with the emancipation of the LGBT community (Example- Naz Foundation) should continue with their protests because slowly but surely people are changing their perceptions towards this subject.

Other varied forms of social problems related to issues such as Casteism, Untouchability, Bonded Labour, Gender Inequality, Dowry, Domestic Violence against Women, Sexual Violence against Women, Child Sexual Abuse, Communalism, Religious Violence, Issues related to SC/STs, Marital Rape, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, Child Trafficking, Overpopulation etc.

The list may go on and it is not a comprehensive list. There are several other social issues and problems ailing the country but above mentioned ones are really pressing issues which need immediate attention.

It is not so that social ills have not been fought with; in fact from the ancient times in our country there have been various social-cultural reformers such as Budha, Mahavira, Kabir, Gurunanak, Raja Ram Mohun Roy, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar, Vinoba Bhave etc who have tried to fight those evils throughout their lives; they have succeeded also to a certain extent. But still the country is facing these socio-cultural problems in various degrees which is an unfortunate reality of 21<sup>st</sup> century India.

### **Present Scenario:**

We try to present our country as a modern, forward looking nation of the world and it's true that India is making strides in the world as a nation with encouraging developments in scientific, economic and technological fields, but as far as social developments are concerned it is still one of the lowest ranked countries of the world. India's Human Development Index (HDI) rank for 2013 is 135 out of 187 countries of the world which are listed in the report. This shows the sorry state of affairs as far as India's situation on social indicators is concerned. This also shows that we as a society are still people of orthodox beliefs in a negative sense who do not want to believe in the concept of equality and brotherhood of all.

Though several Governmental and non-governmental (NGOs) bodies are working towards improving the existing situation in the social fields but results are not very encouraging. Perhaps the problem lies in the very deep rooted beliefs in the minds of people of the country which is not letting the situation to change.

For instance: the issue of Female Feticides is one of the shameful practices in our country. Though there are various prohibitory measures the Government and NGOs have taken but the practice is continuing. The real reason for this is the Patriarchy system of society of our country which considers male as the superior authority and women as subordinate to

them. Therefore, very strong desire of having a male child in comparison to female child led to the shameful practice of female feticides. Thus, it is belief system or the cultural conditioning of the people which is not letting the society to change at a fast pace.

Though there have been several positive changes in the society such as now girls are also going to school in vast majority and their employment ratio is also increasing; illiteracy as whole is decreasing; conditions of SC/STs are also improving etc but situation is far from satisfactory.

We witness inequality against women in our own homes, sexual violence against women can be heard on daily basis, female feticide is continuing, religious-communal violence is on the rise, untouchability is still a reality, child labor is widely practiced etc.

Therefore, there is a lot needs to be done for the situation to improve. And without changing the mindset and beliefs of the people it is a very difficult task. For this purpose educating people about various social problems and sensitizing them towards changing their way of thinking is the best way forward. Because without people trying to change themselves, any governmental or non-governmental efforts will prove as a half-measure. If we want to make India as a true world leader and a modern 21<sup>st</sup> country of the world, it is imperative that that we make an improvement on our social front.