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Section-I

10 Marks Questions - 400-500 words Each

Q. - How does communication technology impact social movements across the globe ?

ANS.- Impact of Communication Technology on Social Movements Across the Globe

Communication technology has transformed the landscape of social movements worldwide, reshaping how people mobilize, organize, and express dissent. With the rise of the internet, smartphones, and social media platforms, collective action has become faster, more decentralized, and more visible. These technologies empower ordinary citizens to influence public opinion and pressure governments in unprecedented ways.

1. Enhanced Mobilization and Participation

Communication technology has made it easier for social movements to reach large audiences within seconds. Social media platforms like Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram allow activists to disseminate information, announce protests, and coordinate actions quickly. Hashtags and viral posts help draw attention to local issues, transforming them into national or global concerns. As a result, participation in movements has increased, especially among youth who engage actively through digital tools.

2. Real-Time Information Sharing

The ability to share real-time updates through live videos, photos, and posts plays a crucial role in documenting events as they unfold. This has helped expose injustices, human rights violations, and government crackdowns. Movements such as the Arab Spring, Black Lives Matter, and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong gained international momentum largely because digital media allowed the world to witness events instantly. This transparency has increased global solidarity and support.

3. Decentralized Leadership and Organization

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Unlike traditional movements with structured leadership, digital-age movements often rely on decentralized networks. Communication technology enables people from different regions and backgrounds to connect and participate without the need for formal hierarchies. This structure makes movements more resilient because suppression of a single leader does not stop the flow of information or collective action.

4. Influence on Public Opinion and Policy

Through powerful visuals and storytelling, communication technology shapes public perception. Online campaigns can shift narratives, challenge mainstream media framing, and bring marginalized voices to the forefront. Governments and policymakers often respond to digital pressure, especially when online movements gain widespread attention. Petitions, virtual rallies, and trending hashtags have become tools to demand accountability and influence policy decisions.

5. Challenges Created by Digital Platforms

Despite the benefits, communication technology also brings challenges. Misinformation, fake news, cyber surveillance, and state censorship can undermine movements. Governments may use digital tools to track activists or shut down internet services to silence dissent. Additionally, online activism may sometimes result in "slacktivism," where people show support online without taking meaningful offline action.

Conclusion

Communication technology has undeniably revolutionized social movements across the globe. It strengthens mobilization, enhances visibility, and democratizes participation, while also introducing new challenges. Its impact continues to grow as digital tools evolve, shaping the future of collective action and social change.

Q. - Describe the impact of globalization on social movements.

ANS.- Globalization has significantly transformed the nature, structure, and functioning of social movements across the world. It has opened new avenues for mobilization, communication, and collective action, while also presenting new challenges. The impact of globalization on social movements can be understood through various dimensions.

1. Expansion of Transnational Networks

One of the most significant impacts of globalization is the rise of transnational social movements. Advances in communication technologies, especially the internet and social media, have enabled activists from different countries to collaborate, share resources, and coordinate actions. Issues such as climate change, human rights, gender equality, and labor rights now transcend national boundaries, giving rise to global movements like Fridays for Future, #MeToo, and anti-globalization protests. These networks strengthen solidarity and create a shared global consciousness.

2. Enhanced Access to Information

Globalization has increased the availability of information, allowing social movements to gather data, expose injustices, and mobilize public support more effectively. Digital platforms provide real-time updates and documentation, enabling movements to challenge dominant narratives. This access has empowered marginalized groups to voice concerns and gain visibility on global platforms.

3. Influence on Strategies and Tactics

With global interconnectedness, social movements have adopted innovative strategies influenced by global trends. Tactics such as online petitions, viral campaigns, crowdfunding, and international advocacy have become common. Lessons from successful global movements inspire local activists to adapt similar methods, making protests more organized and impactful.

4. Challenges of Cultural Homogenization

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While globalization promotes integration, it also creates cultural homogenization, which may undermine local identities and traditional forms of mobilization. Many local movements struggle to preserve cultural values against global economic and cultural pressures. This sometimes generates resistance movements aimed at protecting indigenous rights, languages, and traditions.

5. Influence of Global Economic Policies

Globalization-driven economic reforms such as liberalization, privatization, and deregulation have led to social inequalities, unemployment, and exploitation. These consequences often trigger social movements demanding economic justice, labor rights, environmental protection, and welfare policies. Movements protesting free trade agreements or displacement due to development projects are rooted in such global economic shifts.

6. State Response and Repression

Globalization has also influenced how states respond to social movements. Some governments use advanced surveillance technologies and international alliances to suppress activism. Others adopt global human rights norms, enabling movements to use international law as a tool for advocacy.

Conclusion

Overall, globalization has reshaped social movements by expanding their reach, enhancing their tools, and influencing their goals. While it empowers movements through connectivity and visibility, it also introduces challenges related to cultural identity, economic pressures, and state control. Thus, globalization acts as both an opportunity and a constraint for contemporary social movements.

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Q. - Why are theories necessary to understand backward class movement ?

ANS.- Why Theories Are Necessary to Understand Backward Class Movements

Understanding backward class movements requires a systematic and analytical approach, and this is where social, political, and economic theories become essential. These movements, led mainly by marginalized castes and communities, aim to challenge entrenched inequalities and secure rights, representation, and dignity. Theories help decode the deeper causes, patterns, and impacts of these struggles.

1. Provide a Framework to Analyse Social Inequality

Backward class movements emerge from long-standing structural inequalities. Theories such as **Marxism**, **Weberian social stratification**, and **Ambedkarite thought** help in understanding how caste functions as a system of exploitation and domination. They reveal how economic deprivation, status-based discrimination, and power imbalance create conditions for collective social action.

2. Explain the Historical Roots of Oppression

Historical materialism, subaltern studies, and caste-based theories enable us to trace the historical roots of backwardness. They help explain how the caste hierarchy evolved, how colonial policies shaped social categories, and

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how independent India institutionalized caste identities through policies like reservations. Without theoretical insights, it becomes difficult to see backward class movements as historically rooted rather than isolated reactions.

3. Interpret the Identity and Consciousness of Backward Classes

Theories of identity politics and social movements shed light on how marginalized groups develop a shared consciousness. Concepts like **collective identity**, **relative deprivation**, and **social stigma** help explain why backward classes mobilize and how they frame their demands. These theories highlight that movements are not just about material benefits but about dignity, recognition, and social justice.

4. Understand Political Mobilization and Power Dynamics

Political theories, especially those relating to democracy, representation, and social justice, explain how backward classes negotiate power. They help analyse the rise of OBC-based political parties, caste federations, and leadership structures. Theories make clear why backward class movements sometimes align with mainstream politics and at other times challenge it.

5. Assess the Impact of Policies and State Interventions

Public policy and development theories help assess how the state responds to movements through welfare schemes, reservations, and legislative reforms. They also clarify why certain policies succeed while others fail, depending on socio-political contexts. Theories thus guide an objective evaluation of policy effectiveness and the ongoing struggle for equality.

6. Connect Local Struggles to Broader Social Change

Backward class movements are part of a larger fight against inequality and discrimination. Theories of social transformation help connect these movements to broader themes like human rights, democratization, and inclusive development. They reveal how local caste-based struggles contribute to national-level social change.

Conclusion

Theories are necessary because they offer clarity, depth, and structure to understanding backward class movements. They help interpret their origins, strategies, demands, and achievements, enabling a holistic and objective understanding of their role in transforming Indian society.

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Q. - Distinguish between regional movements and social movements.

ANS.- Regional movements and social movements are two important forms of collective action aimed at bringing social, political, or economic change. Although both emerge from shared grievances and collective identity, they differ significantly in their objectives, scope, participants, and methods. The following discussion explains these differences in about 420 words.

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1. Meaning and Focus

Regional Movements

Regional movements are organized efforts by people belonging to a specific geographical area seeking political recognition, economic development, cultural preservation, or administrative autonomy. Their focus is rooted in regional identity, local issues, and territorial concerns. Examples include the demand for Telangana statehood or linguistic movements in Assam.

Social Movements

Social movements are broader collective efforts aimed at achieving social change on issues like gender equality, human rights, environmental protection, or caste discrimination. Their goal is not tied to a particular region but to transformative social reforms across communities or societies as a whole.

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