

## Social Problems

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**B.A Part-I**

**Lesson-I**

**Unit-III**

**Philosophy-B**

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### **MEANING OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**By : Dr. Krishan Singh**

#### **Meaning and characteristics of Social Problems.**

**1.1 Objectives:-** To enable students

- To understand the meaning of Social Problems.
- To precisely define the Social Problems.
- To differentiate the Social Problems from Personal Problems.
- To have a wider understanding of the characteristics of Social problems.

**1.2 Introduction:-**Man being the only social creature continuously interacts with other members around him. These interactions result into social relations and subsequently in the emergence of society. Society provides security and a feeling of mutual dependence to an individual. It also provides the scope for the all around development of its members. Good social relations ensure the progress of a society while on the other hand adverse social relations give rise to social problems. So we may say that the social problems are such actions which are considered bad for the progress of a society.

**1.3 Meaning of Social Problems:-**In order to get at the roots of the problem of Society, it is important to first understand the meaning of the term "Society". Society is a web of social relationships. Social relations are the relations among the members of the society and are different from the relations that exist between other objects in nature. Social relations are the relations between the human beings and that too particularly the interactive relations. Presence of meaningfulness distinguishes the social relation from all other types of relations. In short, society means the social relations in any form i.e. interactions between human beings in any imaginable form.

Sociologically, society evolves from unit acts which give rise to meaningful actions, meaningful actions resulting into social inter-relations, these relations giving rise to patterned relations and patterned relations culminating into institutions and institutions into sub-structures and structures. In a nutshell, society consists of relationships emerging out of meaningful individual actions. The word ‘meaningful’ is important here for the reason that it distinguishes ‘willed – actions’ from the ‘instinctive-actions’. The willed-actions distinguish humans from all other living beings. “Unit Acts? Meaningful actions? Social interactions ? Social relationships ? Patterned relations ? Institutions ? Sub systems ? Systems.”

Generally, all problems below the level of Institutions are not considered as social problems due to the mere reason that they do not involve larger social life and thus are limited to personal level. A social problem worth the name must involve larger social interests and not the individuals separately. For example, suicide due to frustrations of personal nature are personal problems but farmers suicide where many farmers are committing suicide due to frequent failing of crops and increase in debts due to wrong Government policies is a social problem. This needs to be fought collectively by the people.

Various institutions or collective wholes merge into sub-systems and systems. This merger also brings in greater diversity at higher levels. Individual systems exert different influences on the system/society. These influences are not always positive but are also sometimes unhealthy. The unhealthy influences disturb the established social relations and hence give rise to social problems. For example, marriage is one of the fundamental institutions. Voluntary Gifts as per the financial conditions of the parents /relatives were given in the form of Dowry. But, slowly the practice perpetuated and presently, the dowry is demanded as a matter of right by the people. Insatiable lust for dowry results into torture and sometimes into murder of innocent brides. This is a social problem. It is not an individual problem for the reason that it does not affect one individual or a few individuals and also cannot be tackled by a single individual or a small group of individuals. It affects greater part of the society and requires concerted social effort for its eradication.

Another important point which needs mention here is that the social problems change with the passage of time. Positive Social changes destroy certain conditions

and eliminate some social problems but at the same time it also creates certain conditions that can convert an issue to a social problem. For example, sati is no more a serious social issue but on the other hand population explosion which was not a social problem till India's independence, has become a serious problem to be tackled at war footing.

Social problems, by nature, are different from the personal problems as they involve larger section of the society. There is a general agreement within the society for their being considered so. Society agrees that there is something undesirable. A consensus emerges about a condition which is detrimental to the larger interests of the society. This consensus is on the basis of the ideals of the society and not arbitrary. Therefore, we may say, the social problems are the problems of values in the society. Any thing which is considered as a deviation from the path of social ideal may be considered as a social problem.

**1.4. Definitions of Social Problem :** In the above discussion we have seen that situations which have adverse effect on a group of people or a section of society and need the collective efforts of the group or society for their rectification are called social problems. Based on the above discussion following definitions by different social thinkers may be mentioned :-

- i. Social problem is “a situation confronting a group or a section of society which inflicts injurious consequences that can be handled collectively” Reinhardt
- ii. Social problem is a “deviation from the social ideal remediable by group effort” Walsh and Furfey
- iii. “A condition which is defined by a considerable number of persons as a deviation from some social norms which they cherish” Fuller & Myers
- iv. “A way of behaviour that is regarded by a substantial part of a social order as being in violation of one or more generally accepted or approved norms”. Merton & Nisbet.
- v. “A problem in human relationships which seriously threatens society or impedes the important aspirations of many people.” Raab & Selznick
- vi. “A problem refers to any situation which attracts the attention of a considerable number of competent observers within a society and appeals

to them as calling for readjustment or remedy by social action of some kind or other.” Case

A cursory look at these definitions brings out two points very clearly. Firstly, that a social problem affects a section of society and not a particular individual in isolation. Secondly,

Social problems are remediable only through collective actions of a group or society as a whole. It is also clear that any problem which does not involve larger sections of society may not be termed as social problem.

**1.5. Characteristics of Social Problems:** On the basis of the meaning and definitions we can bring out the following characteristics of social problems:

- i. All social problems are the situations which affect the large sections of the society. Any problem which affects any one person or only a few persons is not considered as a social problem.
- ii. All social problems demand collective social remedial action. Since, the social problems affect a larger section of society they can be tackled only through collective efforts of the group or society.
- iii. All Social problems are different from the personal problems. Social problems have wider area of affect. A personal problem affects only a person or a small group of persons where as a social problem affects larger part of society or society as a whole.
- iv. All social problems are deviations from the set patterns of social relationships.
- v. All social problems have injurious effect on the society. Social problems hamper the growth and harmony of the society by bringing in various elements like mistrust, fear etc.
- vi. Social problems have the causes of their origin within the society.
- vii. Social problems occur in all societies.

**1.6. Suggested readings :**

1. Ram Ahuja; *Social problems in India (Second Edition)*, Rawat publications, Jaipur-2007 .

2. P. Gisbert: *Fundamentals of Sociology (third Edition)*, Orient Longman Ltd. Bombay-1973.

**Exercise:**

1. What do you understand by social problems?
2. Differentiate between personal and social problems?
3. Define social problems suitably?
4. Write some characteristics of Social problems?

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## Social Problems

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**B.A Part-I**

**Lesson-I**

**Unit-III**

**Philosophy-B**

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### **SOCIAL PROBLEMS & THEIR CAUSES**

**By : Dr. Krishan Singh**

#### **Major Social problems (Rural & Urban) and their causes**

**2.1. Objectives :** To familiarize students with:-

- i. Difference in social problems occurring in Urban and Rural set ups.
- ii. The understanding that major social problems are common for both Urban and Rural settings.
- iii. The causes of various social problems.

**2.2. Introduction:** Social problems occur in all societies. No society is free from the social problems though the types of problems may differ from time to time and society to society. Social problems arise from within the society and therefore the causes of these problems have to be found within the society.

**2.3. Rural and Urban Social Problems:** Some times social problems are differentiated on the basis of Urban and Rural areas. Though some scholars agree with this distinction but by and large the social problems are such that they cannot be distinguished on these lines. Before discussing the common major social problems, which are more important, it would be important to look at the problems based on the distinction between urban and rural background.

**i. Urban Social problems:** Most of the urban social problems can be attributed to over concentration of population and lack of social control. Following may be considered as some of the important social problems in urban areas;

- **Crime :** The problem of Crime in urban areas may be attributed to anonymity and lack of social control. In cities, people from different areas come in search of jobs. These people generally come to city centers alone and stay with other

labourers in rented places. They indulge into various criminal activities without any fear of being watched by their family and relatives.

- **Pollution :** Pollution is another major problem in the urban centers. High concentration of vehicles is the source of both air and noise pollution. Apart from this, industrial waste from the factories is constantly polluting the water resources. Presence of large number of poor population results into the emergence of large slums.

- **Over dependence on others:** Interdependence in Urban life gives rise to many serious problems. People depend on the services of others and in the event of breakdown of these services life comes to a stand still. People depend on others for water supply, power supply, waste disposal, transportation etc. These services are essential for day to day living. And, when any one of these services is disrupted due to any reason, e.g. strike etc., life becomes difficult.

ii. **Rural Social Problems:** Just as the urban problems arise due to over concentration of population, the rural problems may be attributed to sparse and scattered population. Some of the important social problems associated with rural living are:

- **Lack of basic facilities:** Rural living is characterized with very poor basic facilities. Facilities in the field of health, education, transport, industry etc. are rare if not totally absent in the rural areas. People have to travel long distances to reach to hospitals. In case of emergency, many people do not even reach the hospitals and die en route. People from rural areas have to come to city centers for education, jobs etc. and have to stay a wretched life away from their families.

- **Backwardness:** Lack of education and ignorance of modern discoveries and inventions in various fields keep the people backward in many ways. People continue to believe in traditional means of earning bread and treating the sick. Lack of knowledge of modern medicine and over confidence in traditional ways result into serious complications and premature deaths. Lack of education hinders the progress of society. There is no criticism of existing values which have become fixed over the long period of time.

- **Strong resistance to change and progress:** Due to backwardness the people become skeptic to any change. They look at all change as bad and resist the same to protect their cultural identity

**2.4. Major Social Problems: Division of Social Problems into Urban and Rural**

problems may be correct in certain situations but over all society cannot be divided sharply into rural and urban society. More over general social problems are all pervading, e.g. poverty, corruption, terrorism, divorce etc. are presently the major social issues confronting social thinkers. We cannot in any way say that poverty is rural based or urban based nor can we convincingly call corruption as urban based or rural based. Therefore, it is important that while talking about major social problems we do not make the distinction between rural and urban. It is pertinent to mention that there are both advantages and disadvantages of rural and urban dwelling but social problems can hardly be divided specifically into rural and urban problems.

- **Poverty:** There has always been a disparity in distribution of wealth among people in society. Concentration of wealth in the hands of resourceful and powerful people and deprivation of the same to the general masses is a serious problem. Majority of people struggle in one way or the other and produce wealth to be enjoyed by few has always been the social order. While some have surplus wealth, others have not even enough to meet basic requirements. Though, it is generally said that equal distribution of wealth is neither possible nor desirable but the fulfillment of basic needs of all ought to be desired and is desired by the society.

Poverty is a great social problem and is the root cause of many other problems. It gives rise to a feeling of powerlessness along with a feeling of insecurity and frustration. It creates a sense of inability to maintain and develop social relations with others as a result of lack of resources. People tend to compromise on the issues of self respect, nationalism, social values etc. while in the grips of poverty because satisfaction of basic needs, e.g. food and shelter can make a person to commit any crime against any body.

- **Unemployment:** Unemployment is a great source of poverty. Employment not only provides security to the employee and his family but also brings stability in the society. Employment determines the social status of a person. An employed person is respected by the family as well as by the society. An unemployed person is looked down upon both by the family and the society for no fault of his. Unemployment generates insecurity among the members and is the source of many other problems. Unemployed people, due to frustration, indulge into anti-social activities, adopt illegal means for earning livelihood, commit various types of crimes and become source of trouble for the society.

A part from this, unemployment of educated youth is a great loss to the society. Society fails to utilize the expertise and knowledge of educated people. The energy and knowledge which could be used for betterment of the society is used against the society in the form of committing terror acts, loots, robberies, spreading hatred etc.

- **Population Explosion:** Population is another major social problem. Though in developed countries, population is not a problem as growth rate is negligible. But in developing countries this is a major problem. Population is the mother of all problems in developing societies. Poverty, unemployment is generally the result of over population. The number of jobs and resources available are far less in comparison to the population. The available means with respect to food, shelter, transport, education, safe drinking water facilities etc. have already become insufficient. Any effort on the part of developing economies is falling short in the face of fast growing population. It will not be wrong to guess that all social systems will shortly crumble under the pressure of over population if the growth is not checked with stern measures.

- **Corruption:** Corruption, understood in simple terms means accepting bribe in return of some favour. It is not a new phenomenon. Corruption has been prevalent in all societies since times immemorial. Misuse of authority as a result of consideration of personal gain which may not be monetary is corruption. It has also been defined as “the use of public power for private advantage in ways which transgress some formal rule or law.”

Today, corruption has become the greatest threat to the social system. It has percolated in all walks of life. People indulge into corrupt practices with out considering its impact. Food items, life saving drugs, vegetables, fruit, milk and even water is adulterated. The lust for money has made man forget that the same poison has threatened his own existence. Other social areas are no different. Power in the hands of corrupt people is used against the society. Political corruption, bureaucratic corruption etc. has done great harm to the society. People are loosing faith in justice and law enforcing bodies. Time and again guardians of society have failed people at various counts.

- **Communalism :** Division of society on the basis of religions and communities whose interests are opposed to each other may be termed as communalism. The antagonism between various communities is called communalism.

Communalism is a great threat to the peaceful existence of people. It leads to activities like mutual hatred, loot, arson, dishonoring of women and killing of innocent people. Communalism ignores the basic teachings of religion like love, tolerance and good will towards other religions. Vested interests are always in the look out for opportunities to exploit the people on religious matters. They continuously spew fire against other religions and preach irreligious and anti-social thoughts at religious congregations and places. The 'vote bank' politics has done more harm than good to the people world wide. Small matters are flared up into communal riots.

- **Terrorism** : It is a system of intimidation through the use of violence. It is used to generate fear among a community for some political purpose. It is defined as "a method whereby an organized group or party seeks to achieve its avowed aims chiefly through the systematic use of violence" A terrorist is a person who carries out the program of a group. It not only threatens but destroys and kills. Destruction and killing is a part of the program of terrorism. The aim is to create havoc upon those who are regarded as obstacles or enemies. Use of explosive devices at railway stations, bus stands, trains, mass killings, assassinations of important persons etc. is the part of the game to create public hue and cry.

Terrorist acts are generally directed against persons who, as the representatives for authority, interfere with the achievement of objectives of the group. It is not a fight between individuals but a struggle between social groups and political forces. It does not aim at intimidating an individual as individual. Terrorists punish those individuals whom their organization considers guilty of subverting their program. Many societies in the world are today facing this problem. Religious fundamentalism, regional aspirations etc. are the breeding grounds of terrorism. India has been under threat and facing the problem of terrorism of both religious and regional types for decades.

- **Violence against Women**: Violence against women is not new. It has been persisting in the society from times immemorial. Women being physically weak, they have always been provided protection by men, who in turn exploited them in various ways.

In modern world, women have come to occupy important positions in the society. From the position of a domestic help to the positions of prime ministers and presidents, women serve the society in various capacities. Women have immensely

contributed to the development and advance of society. With the widening of role of women in society, different provisions have been made for their upliftment. Women empowerment is the talk of the day in academic as well as in social circles. But despite all this, crime against women has shown no downward trend. It continues to remain a great social problem. Harassment at places of work, eve teasing at public places and torture (physical and mental) at home is no revelation. Crimes like rape, kidnapping, torture and dowry deaths etc. continue to haunt women in particular and society in general.

**2.3. Causes of social problems:** Social problems occur in all societies. Whenever and wherever a relationship is affected between a group of individuals leading to maladjustments and conflicts, there is a social problem.

There are numerous conditions in social set up which become the sources of social problems. The important social conditions responsible for social problems found in social environment are:

**(a) Contradictions in social system :** contradictions in social system give rise to various types of unrest in the society. This means, on the one hand social systems preach a particular idea for the betterment of society and on the other hand, the same idea is resisted in practice. For example, we talk of 'Women Empowerment' in academic circles but we are reluctant in conceding the basic rights of women. They are not allowed to take decisions freely and choose the course of their life. Similarly, people who legislate laws, feel no hesitation in violation of those laws. These contradictions become the source of trouble for the society.

**(b) Malfunctioning of Economic systems :** Malfunctioning of Economic system is another main condition of social problems. It is the mother of all problems in the society. Economic self-sufficiency is the main stay for any social progress. When the economy is not justifiably distributed in the society, it breeds poverty, unemployment, crime etc. People tend to commit any crime to fulfill their basic needs of food, shelter and clothing.

Historically, economic factors have been responsible for great revolutions like 'Russian Revolution'. Whole of Marxism is the product of economic disparities. Economy is the life line of any society and faulty economic policies can destroy any social system.

**(c) Lack of change in religious system :** Change is the law of nature. Any thing which does not change with time becomes obsolete and hinders the progress.

Religion is no exception. Conditions which are responsible for the development of religion along with its associated activities undergo changes and therefore, it is important that religion also shows flexibility in incorporating slow changes. Many beliefs which originally had no scientific explanations are now explained adequately by sciences. For example, 'Children are the gifts of God' have been scientifically explained.

Belief in God, and religious rites and rituals are two different things. Belief in God is a core issue and does not necessarily need to change. But, religious outlook and practices/beliefs have to undergo change with the changing times. The progress and change in society has to be complete and not lopsided. We cannot have religious backwardness and scientific advance at the same time. For example, 'pains are the fruits of our bad deed' as decided by God and development of medical science to ameliorate the pains cannot go together. Also, 'children are the gifts of God' and 'population control' policy cannot go hand in hand.

**(d) Defective functioning of political system :** Political system is an other important area which needs consideration. It is an important part of social system. Political system takes care of the aspiration of the people with respect to good governance and progress of the society. Any type of political system has to take into consideration the aspirations of the people and move in a required direction. For example, Justice and Equality before law are the ideas of importance in politics. But, if, the political system becomes faulty, the politicians, in place of serving the society start hoarding wealth etc, indulge in nepotism, corruption, the whole system will crumble. Political corruption has grave consequences for the society. The leaders who are supposed to lead the society towards progress can also destroy it through their ill motives and short sightedness.

**(e) Natural factors :** Sometimes the social problems arise out of conditions which are beyond the control of individuals and society. Situations like flood, drought, earthquake, etc. are the problems which can neither be foreseen nor can be tackled in a definite manner. Sometimes this results in heavy loss in life and property. But the main problem is when the people have to shift from one place and settle at another place. The problem of rehabilitation is a serious social problem. The natural factors are the cause of not only the death and destruction but they suddenly reduce even the affluent people to poverty and wretchedness.

**In another view social problems arise due to following factors:**

**1. Differentiation and Multiplication of Interests and Functions:** The principle that greater the number of parts in a machine or an organism, the greater the probability of maladjustment among the parts holds good for human societies too. Multiplicity increases the chance for the collision of interests of various individuals, groups, institutions and systems. Communal riots, political crimes etc are the social problems which are the result of the clash of interests of different religions/castes and classes.

Every society is divided into various groups and sections with different goals and functions. Each group and section tries to promote its own interests with out taking care of the interests of other groups/sections. Whenever a group finds its interests compromised, the problem begins.

**2. Accelerating Frequency of Social Change or Growth of Civilization:** This has been made possible due to the multiplication of scientific and mechanical innovations. For example, the invention of machine has destroyed many old forms of employment resulting in the migration of millions of people and has given rise to class conflicts. It is, thus, the structural and functional maladjustments arising from revolutionary inventions which create many social problems.

Further, Civilization is always justified by culture. Culture is generally considered as the sustaining force behind the civilization. Culture and civilization move hand in hand in a balanced society. Since, civilization can be borrowed; and other wise also, its growth can be far more rapid than the growth in cultural sphere. When the distance between culture and civilization widens, the crisis begins. The problems like the justification of certain social acts begin. Since civilization has justification within a culture and culture some times fails to cope up with fast growing civilization, we find, what in modern society is called, cultural crisis.

**3. Man's Developed Insight to Make a Scientific Analysis:** Ever since man has developed his social insight of looking into the working of nature, issues which were formerly regarded as simple are now perceived as the result of various kinds of natural conditions which influence man and society. Ignorance is bliss. People accept the things and happenings without raising a question and therefore, there is no problem. Social rules, rites and rituals, institutions and systems are accepted as given.

But with the slow and steady dawn of scientific knowledge, many unscientific customs and rituals come under strong criticism by the people creating ripples in the society. With knowledge people become aware of the long existing problems. For example, sudden upsurge in the rate of divorce in the society is the result of critical analysis. People think it useless to carry the burden of a problematic relation which does not bring happiness to any of the partners and so there is no point to spend whole life under social pressure and therefore, they opt for divorce.

The above mentioned causes and conditions are necessarily responsible for the social problems. Any social problem, except the problems arising out of natural calamities, has one or the other mentioned cause. Occurrences of natural calamities are considered beyond the control of man. But it must be remembered that though man cannot reduce the amount of damage due to them but man can definitely minimize the pains following the damage with the state of preparedness and will to help.

#### **2.4. Suggested Readings:**

1. Ram Ahuja ; *Social problems in India (Second Edition)*, Rawat publications, Jaipur-2007 .

#### **Exercise:**

1. What are the major Social Problems? Discuss in Detail.
2. Distinguish between Urban and Rural Social Problems.
3. All social problems cannot be divided into Urban and Rural social problems. Do you agree?

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## Social Problems

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**B.A Part-I**

**Lesson-I**

**Unit-III**

**Philosophy-B**

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### **REMEDIAL MEASURES OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**By : Dr. Krishan Singh**

#### **3.1. Objectives :**

- To train students in visualizing the solutions of Social problems.
- To show that Social Problems can be solved through right sort of initiatives both at personal as well as social level.
- To make students aware that the solution of social problems is the responsibility of every individual and so, as the members of the society, they can not ignore it.

#### **3.2. Introduction:**

Every society faces problems in one or the other way. Remedial action of every social problem involves the understanding of particular conditions which are responsible for the problem and also the causes behind the emergence of such social conditions. It must be remembered that 'Better the diagnosis of the problem and the conditions there of, easier it would be to find the solution'.

#### **3.3 Remedies of Social Problems : (Common for all social problems)**

Solution of Social Problems depends upon finding out the causes and conditions responsible for the emergence of such problems. It must be remembered that a social problem erupts due to multiple conditions, though it shall always be possible to identify the main condition or conditions. Also, every problem, though, arising out of the combinations of many common conditions needs to be looked into as a unique problem and is likely to have individualistic traits which may differentiate it from other problems. Further more, social problems arising of natural factors are

extremely difficult to handle. Even some times, normal social problem becomes difficult to handle due to the fact that vested interests impede the measures and programs initiated to solve that problem. For example, poverty may be controllable through social and government initiatives but these initiatives are not allowed to reach the poor and needy. Rise of Nexalite movement in India may be taken as a case in point. But after understanding and judging social problems, society has to be effective and has to take some action whether it is by attempting to alter the established social institutions or by trying to alleviate them by adopting measures without trying to change the existing institutions. A curative action can be an organized or personalized action. The former is an action through group effort like giving a share to industrial workers in the management of the industry; the latter is action through individual life and influencing others by living a life in accordance with good principles. Gandhiji used the second method for solving the problem of untouchability – by living with untouchables and treating them with sympathy and kindness. When others imitated his example and followed him, effect became greater and greater. On the other hand organized action can be taken by the state or a political party or by an official group. An important point in organized action is the distribution of functions between the various agencies. Some times the problem is solved by the combination of both organized and personalized action.

It must be noted that the social problems can be solved only when the constituent individuals of the society possess the following feelings:

1. **Feeling that a situation can be corrected:** It is important for the people working to correct a situation to have a strong faith that it is not impossible to correct the situation. This feeling raises level of confidence and motivation of the people.
2. **Determination to correct the situation:** A half hearted effort may result in wastage of time and resources. Also, a failed attempt serves to raise doubts in the minds of other people about the possibility of solution of the problem. Therefore, a situation can be corrected only if the people have strong determination to correct it.
3. **Confidence in the people and a belief that there is no limit to progress because of their intelligence and efforts:** Strong faith in

the capacity and capability of the people is also a very important factor in the success of the mission. Any doubt about the strength and intelligence of the people can be counterproductive. It prevents the leaders from taking bold decisions which are mandatory in the solution of any social problem.

- 4 **The use of technological and rational knowledge and skill for correcting the situation:** Knowledge plays an important role in handling the problematic situations. Any problem situation emerges due to some causes and has the support of society. Therefore, it is not possible to handle the situation without the knowledge and skill to counter it.

While attempting any solution to a social problem following points must be kept in mind:

1. **Multiple-factor approach :** Every social problem owes its emergence to a number of factors. For example, crime in society is caused by factors like poverty, unemployment, corruption, social associations etc. Therefore, while visualizing a crime free society, we must first consider controlling these factors.
2. **Interrelatedness :** Social problems are interrelated. No social problem can be considered in isolation from other problems. As said above, crime, poverty, unemployment, social associations and structures are inseparable social problems. Isolating one from the others is a serious mistake.
3. **Relativity :** Every social problem is relative with respect to time and space. What is considered a problem in one society may not be considered so in other societies. Also, what is seen as a problem today may not be considered as a problem ten years later. For example, population is a great problem in countries like India but it is not considered a problem in western countries. Similarly, population was also not a problem in India till independence. Therefore, we can say that social problem are relative and appear and disappear in time.

### 3.4 Remedies of Social Problems: (Suggestions for remedy of particular problems)

Theoretical diagnosis and attitude required for attempting to solve the problems is not sufficient in getting rid of the social problems. Every social problem is a unique

problem and needs to be tackled separately. But eradicating the social conditions responsible for a particular problem, even, after knowing them is a Herculean task. Since, dealing with social problems involves dealing with human beings, the desired ends are difficult to achieve. For example, for eradication of poverty in India, Government has initiated numerous programs but even after sixty years of independence, the condition has not improved. One reason for the failure of all concerned programs is the lack of interest and dedication of Government and the agencies involved in implementation of the policies.

Though it is difficult to tackle social problems but it is not impossible to do so. Following remedial measures may be suggested for the eradication of social problems individually:

**Poverty :** Numerous schemes and programs designed and implemented by the state and central Governments in India have miserably failed to achieve the desired ends. The lack of coordination between various groups and agencies involved in the implementation of programs has resulted into the wastage and misappropriation of huge sums of money by the people other than for which it was meant. Following points if sincerely implemented may help:

**i. Creating employment:** Generation of employment through Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is not enough. Govt needs to frame economic policies in such a way that millions of unemployed and unproductive people, who are burden on the society, become a productive force. This will be a great asset for the community.

**ii. Controlling population Growth:** Population pressure on the economy is one of the important reasons responsible for non achievement of the goal of poverty eradication. Government should focus primarily on this problem and try to control population through strictest measures if required. When, we know for sure that the solution of all our problems lie in controlling the population growth, then we must use all means at our disposal to achieve the required results.

**iii. Distribution of national wealth:** National wealth is distributed as subsidies for the benefit of poor and the needy as well as for the upliftment of certain weak areas. These subsidies are misused by the influential and rich people in connivance with Govt. agencies. The involvement of 'babus' in the hierarchy must be minimized. The schemes, meant for the villages, should come directly to village level

committees and should be implemented directly. This will save the time and money consumed by the corrupt babus.

Apart from the above, following measures can also contribute to the poverty alleviation:

- Forming a time bound result-oriented action plan for rapid industrialization. Industrialization will increase job opportunities for the people.
- Participation in the emerging global markets.
- Reduce irrelevant Government expenditure.
- Providing technical training to youth at subsidized rates.
- Helping women to be self reliant through carefully planned programs.
- Involving people in developmental programs.
- constituting dedicated teams of committed persons in monitoring the implementation of programs.

**Unemployment:** the unemployment can be controlled to a great extent through:

**i. Encouraging self-employment:** It is not possible for the Govt. to provide jobs to every body but at the same time it is definitely the responsibility of a popular govt. to look after the welfare of the people. Therefore, Govt. should encourage self-employment among the unemployed youth both at Rural and Urban areas. Adequate amount of financial help without interest or at low interest may be made available to the people.

**ii. Vocational Courses:** Re-Organization of vocation is important to meet the present requirements. Old and out dated vocational courses are not of much help to the people. Therefore, modern vocational courses may be arranged for the youth.

**iii. Identification of industrial requirements and designing skills to meet those requirements:** Old methods of producing skilled manpower without taking into consideration the market requirements must be stopped. That is not only wastage of time and money but also a method of increasing unemployment.

So, it is emphasized that greater stress should be laid on the creation of opportunities for self employment, augmentation of productivity and income levels of working poor, shift in emphasis from creation of relief type of employment to building

of durable production assets in the rural areas. This will help in minimizing the unemployment and creating an atmosphere of self reliance.

**Population control:** All policies and programs to control population in the past have failed to control the menace of growing population. Learning lessons from the previous failure we need to stress on the following:

**i. Raising the marriageable age of Girls:** Girls are still considered as the burden by the parents in many backward societies. The parents still consider them as a liability. They try to marry them as early as possible. Marriageable age of girls in India is 18 years. In many cases, the girls give birth to two or more children by the time of attainment 22 years of age. It is emphasized that the marriageable age of the girls should be raised to 21 years. Through this, the phenomenon of 'children producing children' can be stopped. This will also make the expecting mothers mature and responsible in looking after the children.

**ii. Spacing of children :** A general awareness campaign must be launched to educate people about the gap between two children. This will make the parents to look after the children in better way and subsequently decrease the number of children also.

**iii. Women Education:** Women education is a very important factor in controlling the population growth. In backward societies, we still find that literacy rate in women is very low. As a result, they lack in decision making and asserting their will. Through education they can be encouraged to become self reliant and also taught the benefits of small families. Education will bring empowerment both at mental as well as financial levels.

**iv. Stern Policy for the Govt. Employees :** This is another measure which can be put into practice to control the population. Millions of employees are working in both public as well as private sectors. Like the emphasis on reservation policy, the govt. should make it mandatory for the employees not to have more than two children. Any employee having more than two children should be punished in a suitable way. For example, stopping his annual increment, promotion etc. on the other hand employees having just one child may be given extra benefits as incentives as is being done in case of single girl child.

Ultimately, these suggestions can be put into practice only if we have a political will to control the population. Without this, no policy, whatever it may be, is bound to fail.

**Corruption:** The drive for elimination of corruption has to begin with the public awareness. Public has to take the responsibility to vote into power only such individuals who have the reputation of honesty and dedication. They must have the spirit to work in tandem with the public to roll back the present state of corruption. Following means may be suggested:

**i. Voting for the right person:** People definitely know the history of the candidates they are voting for. Rising above the caste, religion and personal aspiration, people must elect the right candidates. This would eliminate the political corruption which is the root cause of all other types of corruption. Because, corrupt leaders with criminal background shelter anti social elements and even pressurize the dedicated and sincere officials to work as per their directions. Uprooting political corruption is a greatest challenge which the people have to face.

**ii. State Funding of elections:** Another suggestion to clean politics of corruption is to fund the election through state exchequer. It is seen that a normal person cannot afford to contest election as it is a costly affair. The aspirants depend upon the funding from various sources. These sources exert influence on the politicians for their nefarious designs. Also, the misuse of money for purchasing votes, horse trading etc can be checked through this method.

**iii. Placement of honest and reputed persons at key posts and vulnerable points:** To control corruption in public offices, it is important that honest and reputed persons be deployed at important and vulnerable places.

**iv. Increasing vigilance:** In public interest, vigilance of the public offices should be increased. People found guilty of accepting bribes/bribing must be dealt with severely. These agencies must work to reinstate public confidence that works can be done even without paying bribes.

**Communalism:** Communalism is a great threat to national unit and integration. It is high time that we rise to the occasion to fight it out. It must be remembered that the forces spreading communalism are anti social and work for the achievement of their personal and selfish agenda. In order to eliminate threat following suggestions are made:

**i. Enactment of strict laws and implementation of existing laws:** Enactment of new laws to deal with the communal forces and destroying the breeding

grounds of communal feelings is the need of the hour. Also, the existing laws must be implemented with utmost sincerity and dedication. The policy of zero tolerance must be followed to deal with communalism.

**ii. Committees for communal harmony must be established:** In order to enhance communal harmony among various communities, committees of people belonging to various religions must be established at different levels. These committees must work for communal harmony.

**iii. Placement of administrators of secular credentials at sensitive places:** This is an important factor. Many times it is seen that during communal tensions the administration sides with one community there by aggravating the situation in place defusing it. The scope for such occasions needs to be eliminated with utmost seriousness.

**iv. Crushing the communal violence:** Any act of communal violence must be crushed with heavy hand. No mercy needs be shown to the people taking part in communal violence or instigating communal violence.

**v. Ban on political parties with communal agenda for securing:** Party agenda for elections must be drawn and submitted to election commission before going to election. It must be seen that no party goes to election with any communal issue. Registration of parties violating the agenda during campaign must be cancelled.

**Terrorism:** Like communalism, terrorism is another serious problem worth serious attention. Communalism is believed to be one of the main reasons for terrorism. In order to crush terrorism following measure needs to be put in place:

**i. Cooperation of the Citizens:** Terrorists recruit their cadre from the common masses. It is important that the citizens cooperate with the agencies in crushing the terrorism. For this, the security agencies must make confidence building efforts to secure the cooperation of the citizens.

**ii. Choking the financial resources of the terrorists:** Terrorism thrives on financial affluence. Financial soundness empowers the terrorists in securing the services of people in security agencies through heavy bribes. Extra efforts are required to trace and block the financial sources of the terrorists.

**iii. Refusing the demands of the Terrorists:** As a policy, no demands of the terrorists should be conceded. Once their demands are accepted, it works as a

moral booster. People may have to make sacrifices for containing this menace.

**iv. Improving intelligence:** Another important factor in combating terrorism is to improve intelligence to the maximum degree. This will help in preempting the terrorist strikes and thereby lessen the damage done by terrorist acts.

**v. Fast Track Courts:** To deal with the captured terrorists, special fast track courts must be established. Decisions regarding punishment and the implementations of the decisions should be quick. Provisions for maximum punishment including the capital punishment should be made. Stringent rules for avoiding litigations of cases pertaining terrorists must be devised.

**vi. Training of security agencies:** Stress should be given to the special training of security agencies especially involved in counter insurgency. Terrorists are the greatest enemies of the society and therefore a policy of 'no mercy' towards them must be strongly inculcated into the minds of the people fighting terrorism.

**Violence against women:** Many rules and laws have been enacted over the years to curb the menace of violence against women. But, all these enactments have proven futile due to the lack of will on the part of agencies as well as the victims. Cases of domestic violence in various forms are showing the upward trend. It being difficult to prove the crime in most of the cases, and due to legal hazards and social harassment involved, women tend to keep quiet and tolerate it as their lot.

So far the remedial measures are concerned; it is important for the community to understand that until and unless the women themselves take initiatives and fight it out on day to day basis there is no solution. In this context, the concept of women empowerment may play an important role. Empowerment in the real sense means that the women should have financial security in the society as well as to have a psychological strength in decision making and executing those decisions. Empowerment means to shed over dependence on others for any reason. Relation of reciprocity based on equality should be the order in all social and professional relations. So, it is important to mention that both family and society will have to change attitude of over protection towards women. This attitude has hindered their self confidence and made them dependent. Women must learn to secure sufficient space for their development and healthy living. However, following points may be suggested as necessary measures to alleviate the sufferings of victims:

**i. Establishment of alternative homes to house victims:** In order to give an immediate relief to the victims, it is important that voluntary organizations and Govts. establish alternative houses to temporarily shelter women who are in any way the victims of the social apathy and are turned out of their homes. For example, the victims of rape, kidnapping, even with the allegations of bad character are socially boycotted and are turned out of their homes without any fault of theirs. The provision of alternative homes will provide shelter to the victims and give them security till the problems are solved.

**ii. Establishment of cheaper and fast track courts:** The lengthy process of justice is expensive and needs lot of money which may not be possible for the victims to arrange. Financial problems keep most of the victims away from the legal process. So, it is important that the Govts. establish special courts for the benefit of the victims.

**iii. Social and voluntary organizations:** Social and voluntary organizations must be encouraged to take up the particular cases of women with their parents/in-laws and with the concerned agencies to redress the immediate problems and take up the cases for legal settlements.

**iv. Publicity:** Above measures may not be of much help if the victims did not know them. Therefore, it is imperative that the wide publicity be given to all the measures being taken to help the victims in particular and women in general through print and electric media.

### **3.5. Suggested Readings ;**

1. Ram Ahuja ; *Social problems in India (Second Edition)*, Rawat publications, Jaipur-2007 .

### **Exercise:**

1. How social problems, in general, can be solved?
2. What is an Organized action
3. How can we check violence against women?
4. What measures do you suggest to control communalism and terrorism?

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**STUDY MATERIAL**  
***For***

<b>B.A. PART I</b>	<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	<b>LESSON No. 1-3</b>
<b>Paper B</b>	<b>(Supplementary)</b>	<b>Unit II</b>

**ATTENTION LEARNER**

Please contact your course Co-ordinator for all the relevant information pertaining to your course.

**Mrs. Neelam Choudhary**

*Co-ordinator B.A. Part-I*

Room No. 102

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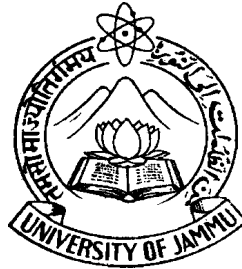








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**SELF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL**  
**FOR**  
**ECONOMICS (SUPPLEMENTARY)**

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