



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Social Movements (GRADE XII)

Question Bank

Sub topics covered in this unit:

- **Meaning and characteristics of social movements**
- **Types and classification of Social movements**
- **Ecological, Workers, Farmers, Backward class, tribal and women's movement in detail with examples.**



2-mark Questions

1. Define Social Movements. Ans: A social movement essentially involves *sustained collective mobilization* through either *informal or formal organization* and is generally *oriented towards bringing about change* in the existing system of relationships. *Ideology* is an important component of a social movement. This organization may include a *leadership* and a *structure* that defines how members relate to each other, make decisions and carry them out.
2. Differentiate between social change and social movements. Ans: **Social change** is continuous and ongoing and is a sum total of countless individual and collective actions gathered across time and space. **Social movements** are directed towards some specific goals. It involves long and continuous social effort and action by people. e.g. Sanskritization and westernization are examples of social change and the 19th century social reformers efforts to change society are examples of social movements.
3. Give two examples of peasant movements. Ans: At the time of Independence, we had the two most classical cases of peasant movements- namely the Tebhaga movement (1946-7) and the Telangana movement (1946-51). The first was a struggle of sharecroppers in Bengal & in North Bihar for two thirds share of their produce instead of the customary half. It had the support of the Kisan Sabha and the Communist Party of India (CPI). The second, directed against the feudal conditions in the princely state of Hyderabad and was led by the CPI.
4. What were the demands of the Bombay Textile Workers? Ans: **The Bombay Textile Strike of 1982 which was led by trade union leader Dr. Datta Samant and nearly affected a quarter of million workers fought for better wages and they also wanted the right to form their own union.**

5. Name two trade unions. Ans: In 1920 the **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)** was formed in Bombay. The AITUC was a broad-based organization involving diverse ideologies. The main ideological groups were the communists led by S.A. Dange and M.N. Roy, the moderates led by M. Joshi and V.V. Giri and the nationalists which involved people like Lala Lajpat Rai and Jawaharlal Nehru.

During the last few years of British rule, the communists gained considerable control over the AITUC. The Indian National Congress chose to form another union called the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in May 1947.

6. Give four examples of caste-based movements. Ans: The Satnami Movement of the Chamars in the Chattisgarh plains in eastern MP, Adi Dharma Movement in Punjab, the Mahar Movement in Maharashtra, the socio-political mobilization among the Jatavas of Agra and the Anti- Brahman Movement in South India are all examples of caste-based movements.
7. Name four tribes. Ans: The tribes of India are largely located in the so called 'tribal belt; in middle India are : Santhals, Hos, Oraons, Mundas in Chota Nagpur and the Santhal in Parganas (West Bengal).
8. Name two women's organizations. Ans: The early 20th century saw the growth of women's organizations at the national and local level. Some of these organizations were- The Women's India Association (WIA- 1917), All India Women's conference (AIWC- 1926) and the National Council for Women in India (NCWI- 1925)
9. Mention the issues against which the leaders of Jharkhand agitated. Ans: The issues against which the leaders of the movement in Jharkhand agitated were as follows:
- acquisition of land for large irrigation projects and firing ranges
 - Survey and settlement operations, which were held up, camps closed down, etc.
 - Collection of loans, rent and cooperative dues, which were resisted
 - Nationalization of forest produce which they boycotted

4 & 6 mark Questions

1. Differentiate between Redemptive, reformist, and revolutionary movement. Ans: There are different kinds of social movements. They can be classified as:

- (i) Redemptive or transformatory; (ii) Reformist; and (iii) Revolutionary.

A *redemptive* social movement aims to bring about a change in the personal consciousness and actions of its individual members. For instance, people in the Ezhava community in Kerala were led by Narayana Guru to change their social practices.

Reformist social movements strive to change the existing social and political arrangements through gradual, incremental steps. The 1960s movement for the reorganization of Indian states on the basis of language and the recent *Right to Information* campaign are examples of reformist movements.

Revolutionary social movements attempt to radically transform social relations, often by capturing state power. The Bolshevik revolution in Russia that deposed the Tsar to create a communist state and the Naxalite movement in India that seeks to remove oppressive landlords and state officials can be described as revolutionary movements.

1. Differentiate between old and new social movements. OR In India, it is difficult to make a clear distinction between the old and new social movements. Discuss.

Distinguishing Between Old and New Social Movements

1. Core Issues and Objectives

- a. **Old social movements** were centred around *economic and political struggles*, mainly of the working class. Their focus was on securing better wages, improved living conditions, social security, and workers' rights.
 - i. *Example:* The working-class movements in the capitalist West and socialist revolutions like the **Russian Revolution (1917)** aimed at restructuring power relations.
 - b. **New social movements**, in contrast, deal with *quality-of-life and identity-based* issues such as environmental protection, gender equality, and human rights.
 - i. *Example:* The **Chipko Movement** in India or the **Environmental Movement** in Europe focused on sustainable living and ecological balance.
2. **Relation to Political Power and the State**
- a. **Old movements** aimed at *changing or capturing political power*—they saw transformation of the state and redistribution of power as central goals.
 - i. *Example:* The **Indian National Movement** led by the Indian National Congress sought to overthrow colonial rule.
 - b. **New movements** are more about *influencing policy and raising awareness* rather than seizing political power. They aim to pressure governments through advocacy and collective action.
 - i. *Example:* The **Narmada Bachao Andolan** sought to protect displaced people and the environment, not to capture state power.

Organisational Structure

- c. **Old social movements** were *highly structured and centralized*, often functioning under political parties or trade unions.
 - i. *Example:* The **Communist Party of China** led a disciplined revolutionary movement that culminated in the Chinese Revolution.
- d. **New social movements** tend to be *decentralized and loosely organised*, relying on networks of activists, NGOs, and community groups.
 - i. *Example:* Women's rights groups and **grassroots environmental NGOs** function as independent, flexible coalitions.

Nature of Participation

- e. **Old movements** were largely *class-based*, drawing support from industrial workers and peasants.
 - i. *Example:* The **Trade Union Movements** in Europe represented factory workers' struggles for fair wages.

- f. **New movements** involve *cross-class participation*—students, professionals, environmentalists, and marginalized communities unite for common causes.
 - i. *Example:* The **Anti-globalisation protests** or **World Social Forum** gatherings include diverse participants from across the world.

Scope and Scale

- g. **Old movements** were mostly *national* or *regional* in scope, focused on domestic issues.
 - i. *Example:* The **Freedom Movement in India** was a national struggle for self-rule.
 - h. **New movements** are increasingly *global in nature*, addressing transnational concerns such as globalisation, nuclear warfare, and climate change.
 - i. *Example:* The **World Social Forum** brings together old and new movements globally to resist the negative effects of globalisation and corporate domination.
3. Explain the Chipko Movement as an example of an ecological movement in India.
OR Environmental movements often also contain economic and identity issues. Discuss.

Ans. The Chipko movement is a suitable example of an ecological or environmental movements. It is an appropriate example of **intermingled interests and ideologies**. **Ramchandra Guha says in his book 'Unquiet Woods'** that villagers came together to save the oak and rhododendron forests near their villages. The government forest contractors came to fell the trees but the villagers, including **large number of women**, came forward to **hug the trees** to check their being felled. The villagers relied on the forest to get firewood, fodder and other daily requirements. It was a **conflict between livelihood needs of poor villagers and government's desire to make revenue** from selling timber. Chipko movement raised the issue of ecological sustainability. Felling down natural forests was a form of **environmental destruction** which resulted in devastating floods and landslides in the area. Therefore, concerns about **economy, ecology and political representation** underlay the Chipko movement.

4. Write a note on the 'New farmer's movement'. Ans: (repeated as part of 6mark question)
5. Explain the issues taken up by the women's organizations.

Ans. (i) Women's Movement: The early 20th Century saw the growth of women's organizations such as 'Women's India Association (WIA) (1917)', All India Women's Conference (AIWC) (1926), 'National Council for Women in India (NCWI) (1925)'. While many of them began with a limited focus, their scope extended overtime. It is often assumed that only middle class educated women were involved in social movements. But part of the struggle is to remember the forgotten history of women's participation. Women participated along with men in struggles and the revolt originated in tribal and rural areas in the colonial period. Thus, not only urban women but also rural and tribal women participated in political agitations struggles, gradually empowering themselves.

The **mid-1970s saw the second phase of Indian women's movement**. There was growth of autonomous women's movement, i.e., they were independent from political parties as well as

women's organizations that had links with political parties.

Educated women took active part in radical politics. This simultaneously promoted an analysis of women's movement. New issues were now being focused upon such as violence against women, application for schools' forms had both father's and mother's name: legal changes such as land rights, employment, rights against sexual harassment and dowry. The Mathura rape case (1978), Maya Tyagi rape case (1980) which were both cases of custodial rape led to major nationwide protests.

In conclusion, it is important to recognize that in women's movements, there is bound to be disparity because women belong to different classes and thus their needs and concerns are bound to be different.

Key Issues Taken Up by the Women's Movement in India

1. 19th Century Social Reform (Pre-Independence):

Reformers raised issues like **women's education, abolition of sati, child marriage, and widow remarriage**, aiming to improve women's social position.

2. Formation of Early Women's Organizations (Early 20th Century):

Organizations such as the **Women's India Association (1917)**, **National Council for Women in India (1925)**, and **All India Women's Conference (1926)** focused on **women's welfare and education**, later linking these to **national freedom**.

3. Participation in Agrarian and Tribal Struggles (Colonial Period):

Women took part in **grassroots revolts** like the **Tebhaga movement (Bengal)**, **Telangana struggle**, and **Warli revolt (Maharashtra)**, highlighting women's role in **economic and rural justice** movements.

4. Post-Independence Lull (Late 1940s–1960s):

After 1947, women's activism declined as leaders turned to **nation-building tasks** and society faced the **trauma of Partition**, causing a temporary pause in organised women's movements.

5. Renewal and the Second Phase (Mid-1970s onwards):

The **autonomous women's movement** emerged, focusing on **violence against women, dowry deaths, and sexual harassment**, and demanding **legal reforms** and recognition of women's rights.

6. Focus on Equality and Gender Justice (Contemporary Phase):

The movement began addressing **land rights, employment, and intersectional discrimination**, recognising that women's experiences differ by **class, caste, and background**, and promoting a **gender-just society** for both men and women.

6mark questions:

1. Describe the features of social movements. Ans: Social movements have shaped the world we live in and continue to do so. Some of its main features are as follows:
 - a) **Sustained collective mobilization:** A social movement requires sustained collective action over time. Such action is often directed against the state and takes the form of demanding changes in state policy or practice. Spontaneous, disorganized protest cannot be called a social movement.
 - b) **Organizational structure and leadership:** Collective action must be marked by some degree of organization. This organization may include leadership and a structure that defines how members relate to each other, make decisions and carry them out.

- c) **Shared objective and ideologies:** Those participating in a social movement also have shared objectives and ideologies. A social movement has a general orientation or way of approaching to bring about (or to prevent) change. These defining features are not constant, they may change over the course of a social movement's life.
- d) **Aim of bring about change on a public issue:** Social movements often arise with the aim of bringing about changes on a public issue, such as ensuring the right of the tribal population to use the forests or the right of displaced people to settlement and compensation
- e) **Distinct modes of protest:** From campaigns, to torchlight marches, from songs to street theatre- social movements have distinct modes of protest aimed at creating an awareness of the issue or getting attention of public authorities.

2. Differentiate between peasant and the 'new farmer's movement'.

Ans. (i) Peasant movements have taken place from pre-colonial days. The movement took place between 1858 and 1914 remained localized, disjointed and confined to particular grievances. The well-known movement are:

- Bengal Revolt of 1859 – 62 against the indigo plantation system.
- Deccan Riots of 1857 against money lenders.
- The Bardoli Satyagraha – 1928 was a non-tax campaign started by Gandhi.
- Champaran Satyagraha 1917-18. It was directed against indigo plantations.
- Tebhaga movement (1946-47): write a sentence on this
- Telangana movement (1946-51): write a sentence on this

(ii) New farmer's movement started in 1970s in Punjab and Tamil Nadu. Main Characteristics:

- Movements were regionally organized.
- Movements were non-party.
- Movements involved farmers rather than peasants.
- Main ideology- Strongly anti-state and anti-urban
- Focus of demand – Price related issues.

Textbook Questions:

Write a note on the Tribal Movement

(i) Tribal Movements: Most of the tribal movements have been largely located in the so called "tribal belt" in middle India, such as the Santhals, Hos, Oraons, Mundas in Chota Nagpur and the Santhal Parganas.

The social **movement of Jharkhand** had a charismatic leader in Birsa Munda, an Adivasi who led a major uprising against the British.

His memory has still been kept alive and has continued to be a source of inspiration for generation. An educated middle class among the tribals was created by the Western education given by Christian missionaries. This educated class developed an ethnic consciousness – awareness of their identity, culture and customs. A sense of marginalization brought together the tribal population of South Bihar. They identified their common enemies – dikus—migrant traders, money lenders. The Adivasis in senior government jobs provided organizational intellectual leadership to the movement and negotiated and lobbied for the creation of their own state on the following issues—acquisition of land for large irrigation projects; survey and settlement operations, which were held up, camps closed, etc.; collection of loans, rent and

cooperative dues; nationalization of forest produce.

As far as the **North Eastern tribes** were concerned, main issues taken up were – ascertain distinct tribal identity of the region; demanding of the traditional autonomy of tribes; misunderstanding & lack of communication in Indian mainstream society which needs to be bridged;

- Rights of the tribes to maintain their own social cultural institutions along with a connection with the rest of India;
- Anger of tribes because of the loss of their forest lands.

Thus, tribal movements are good examples of social movements, which incorporates many issues – economic, cultural, ecological.

Earlier many tribal regions of North East, showed tendencies of separating from India but today they have adopted a balanced approach of asking for autonomy with the framework of Indian institution.

MCQ's for practice:

1. Which of the following is NOT a defining feature of a social movement?

- ♦ A) Sustained collective action over time
- ♦ B) Some degree of organization
- ♦ C) Shared objectives and ideologies
- ♦ D) Spontaneous and disorganized protest

Answer: D - Social movements require organized collective action, not spontaneous disorganized protest.

2. What does the term "counter-movement" refer to?

- ♦ A) A movement that opposes the government
- ♦ B) A movement that arises in defense of the status quo
- ♦ C) A movement that promotes revolutionary change
- ♦ D) A movement led by the state

Answer: B - Counter-movements defend existing social arrangements against reforms.

3. Which social reformer campaigned against sati?

- ♦ A) Jyotiba Phule
- ♦ B) Raja Rammohun Roy
- ♦ C) Keshab Chandra Sen
- ♦ D) Swami Vivekananda

Answer: B - Raja Rammohun Roy campaigned against sati and formed the Brahmo Samaj.

4. What is the primary difference between social change and social movements?

- A) Social change is directed towards specific goals; social movements are continuous
- B) Social change is continuous and ongoing; social movements are directed towards specific goals
- C) Social movements prevent change; social change promotes it
- D) There is no difference between them

Answer: B - Social change is continuous; social movements target specific objectives.

5. According to Emile Durkheim, social movements were perceived as:

- ♦ A) Forces that promoted social order
- ♦ B) Forces that led to disorder
- ♦ C) Essential for social integration
- ♦ D) Necessary for economic development

Answer: B - Durkheim viewed social movements as threats to social order.

6. What did E.P. Thompson argue about the "crowd" and "mob"?

- ♦ A) They were anarchic hooligans
- ♦ B) They had a "moral economy" with shared understanding of right and wrong
- ♦ C) They lacked any rational motivation
- ♦ D) They were incapable of sustained action

Answer: B - Thompson showed that crowds had their own moral understanding informing their actions.

7. Which type of social movement aims to bring about changes in personal consciousness?

- ♦ A) Revolutionary
- ♦ B) Reformist
- ♦ C) Redemptive
- ♦ D) Counter-movement

Answer: C - Redemptive movements focus on changing individual consciousness and actions.

8. The Chipko Movement primarily focused on protecting:

- ♦ A) Agricultural lands
- ♦ B) Minerals and mining resources

- ♦ C) Oak and rhododendron forests
- ♦ D) Water resources

Answer: C - The Chipko Movement was about protecting forests in the Himalayan foothills.

9. What was the main conflict in the Chipko Movement?

- ♦ A) Between different religious groups
- ♦ B) Villagers' subsistence needs vs. government's revenue from timber
- ♦ C) Between peasants and the colonial government
- ♦ D) Between industrial workers and factory owners

Answer: B - The conflict was between villagers' need for forest resources and government's profit motive.

10. Which organization was the first to be founded for peasants in India?

- ♦ A) All India Kisan Sabha
- ♦ B) Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha
- ♦ C) Indian National Congress
- ♦ D) Communist Party of India

Answer: B - Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha was founded in 1929.

11. The Tebhaga movement was a struggle for:

- ♦ A) Land ownership
- ♦ B) Two-thirds share of produce instead of half
- ♦ C) Agricultural education
- ♦ D) Forest rights

Answer: B - Tebhaga was a sharecroppers' movement demanding two-thirds share of produce.

12. New farmer's movements began in which states?

- ♦ A) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh
- ♦ B) Punjab and Tamil Nadu
- ♦ C) Maharashtra and Gujarat
- ♦ D) West Bengal and Assam

Answer: B - New farmer's movements began in Punjab and Tamil Nadu in the 1970s.

13. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a Dalit movement?

- ♦ A) Satnami Movement
- ♦ B) Anti-Brahman Movement
- ♦ C) Adi Dharma Movement
- ♦ D) Swadeshi Movement

Answer: D - Swadeshi Movement is not mentioned as a Dalit movement in the text.

14. Birsa Munda was associated with which tribal movement?

- ♦ A) North East tribal movements
- ♦ B) Jharkhand movement
- ♦ C) Assam tribal movement
- ♦ D) Nagaland tribal movement

Answer: B - Birsa Munda led the uprising that eventually led to the Jharkhand movement.

15. What does "dikus" refer to in the context of the Jharkhand movement?

- ♦ A) Tribal leaders
- ♦ B) Colonial officers
- ♦ C) Migrant traders and moneylenders
- ♦ D) Forest officials

Answer: C - Dikus were migrant traders and moneylenders who grabbed tribal wealth.