Modernization In India
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Modernization is a revolutionary change leading to transformation of a traditional or pre modern society. Modernization involves not only the changes in the culture of a nation but also in its belief systems, values and a way of life on the whole. In fact, modernization is a process which brings desired types of changes in the social structure, value orientations, motivations and norms. It is a process of transformation of society, from its backward framework to a forward outlook, progressing and prospering structural build up. This process is not a process which has emerged out just recently. It started in the colonial phase of the history of many nations. It is true after world war second; it has gained momentum and has become broad based. Modernization does not mean mere imitation of some advanced countries. It is a process which helps a nation to establish its identity. A modernized society is that society which can make full use of the discoveries and innovations in the field of science and technologies. It is a society which can tap the natural resources for the better living of its members. It is a society which has the cultural patterns which favour the adoption of new methods and techniques, in enriching societies’ physical, moral and socio economic life. This society recognizes the value of cultural heritage but is not bound by the patterns of beliefs, in the sense that the sciences have exploded their myths. There is a tendency among some people to accept whatever is prevalent in the west. They try to adopt the western ways of life, language, modes of dress and fashions. But modernization is not westernization. It is not all that which is there in the west. Industrialisation helps in modernization, but industrialization of a nation does not mean the modernization of it. Industrialization speeds up and directs the process of modernization. It is not by itself modernization. Modernization takes a variety of forms. Industrial and technological forms of it are the most spectacular. Besides these, changes often take place simultaneously in such diverse fields as education, agricultural methods and recreation. Any innovation in any of the above areas sets in motion profound changes.

India a resurgent nation, although pledged to change and grow since independence, is still passing through a period of transition, albeit long and slow moving. Politically she is committed to effective democracy, economically to self sufficiency, industrially to optimal growth, educationally to make education innovative, excellent and relevant, socially to the removal of existing barriers, among the different strata of society. Even after 69 years of independence what the Indian scene presents is a curious phenomenon of paradox of having “pockets of modernity” against a hinterland of tradition. Our culture, our ways of living and thinking presents a curious phenomenon, where the old and the new, the progressive and the decadent, the enlightened and the obscurantist, the atomic energy and cow dung energy all rub shoulders with one another. The ‘science’ and ‘superstition ’live together. We believe in democratic social order and yet stick to the perpetuation of traditional stratifilism, religionism and linguism. Inspite of our slogan of socialistic order of society, many of our institutions remain untouched and unchanged. Although we are pledged to social justice and yet the strong still dominate the weak and vested interest stand in the way of better sharing of the goods and social services. We decide our social policies and measures not on the basis of carefully studied and scientific investigations of factors involved but on the basis of prejudices and extraneous considerations. Our country has a split image of the future. She cannot take two steps ahead without looking back at least once. The links between her modernizing elite and tradition oriented masses are tenuous. Even the most powerful thrusts are resisted by...
the immobility of the traditional structure. Juxtaposed to this, the perceptible change cannot be denied. The attitude of resignation and silence on the part of victims has been replaced by an attitude of protest and grievance wherever injustice is done. Urban life is slowly but surely changing. The country remained poised for a break thorough programme in agriculture and has built up an industrial base for an economic take off. The job profile is changing and people wish to rise to great heights of achievement. But in spite of concern, efforts and financial investments, Indian society is slow in its modernizing process. How can the pace of modernization be accelerated? This high task can be accomplished by relevant education, suited to the genius of the rising generation whose attitude and performances have to be radically transformed. Education for modernization requires resources, the knowhow and appropriately trained personnel. It envisages adaptation of science and technology, industrialization, social, economic change, rationally and forward looking attitude. Modernisation is imperative and is in tune with the logic and demand of present times. Through this way advanced countries have been able to solve their numerous problems of theirs, such as abolition of poverty, ignorance and physical diseases, conquest of space, phenomenal expansion of knowledge etc. While modernizing our country we should not lose our own moorings in our rich cultural heritage and its contributions in regenerating our society. We should not forget that industrialization does not dehumanize our workers, that the sense of belonging to an integrated community is not lost, as the price of living in sprawling metropolitan cities, that the values of charity, compassion, tolerance, respect for man as a man as, the repository of the divine spark are not sacrificed. In our cultures and religions which are woven into the texture of Indian life, these values have been stressed and our greatest challenges are to reconcile them with the growth of modernization. Dynamism and synthesis is what Indian society needs as it stands today at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. This situation is a great challenge which requires a well deliberated response.

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