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## **A comparative study between professional and non-professional course students: Social Adaptability**

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### **Abstract**

*Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behaviours, or social relations. A Social change may refer to the notion of social progress or sociocultural evolution, the philosophical idea that society moves forward by dialectical or evolutionary means.*

*Social change in India may be considered as a process through which definite alterations in the structures and functions of a particular social system result. A particular social change may be good or bad, desirable or undesirable, sacred or profane, progressive or regressive depending upon the views and understanding of the observer. It is to be understood that when a particular social change occurs it will be evaluated in the light of the ideals, goals and theories of the observer.*

*Development of society depends upon how it responds to the process of social change. One which adopts itself faster to social change registers rapid progress. It is to be noted that different segments of society do not adopt them to the social change at the same pace. It is believed that education plays a vital role in accelerating the process of social change. The present study will make an attempt to find out how the students of professional and non-professional courses differ in their adaptability to social change.*

***Key Words:* - Social change, adaptability, social institutions, students, professional and non-professional courses.**

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**1.1 Introduction:-** Social change refers to any significant alteration over time in behavior patterns and cultural values and norms. By “significant” alteration, sociologists mean changes yielding profound social consequences. Examples of significant social changes having long-term effects include the industrial revolution, the abolition of slavery, and the feminist movement.

Today's sociologists readily acknowledge the vital role that social movements play in inspiring discontented members of a society to bring about social change. Efforts to understand the nature of long-term social change, including looking for patterns and causes, has led sociologists to propose the evolutionary, functionalist, and conflict theories of change. All theories of social change also admit the likelihood of resistance to change, especially when people with vested interests feel unsettled and threatened by potential changes.

Social change refers to an alteration in the social order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, social behaviours, or social relations. A Social change may refer to the notion of social progress or sociocultural evolution, the philosophical idea that society moves forward by dialectical or evolutionary means. One of the most obvious changes currently occurring is the change in the relative global population distribution between countries. This comes from two sources. One source is random or unique factors such as climate, weather, or the presence of specific groups of people. Another source is systematic factors. For example, successful development has the same general requirements, such as a stable and flexible government, enough free and available resources, and a diverse social organization of society. So, on the whole, social change is usually a combination of systematic factors along with some random or unique factors.

Some of the major areas in which social change is significant in the post-Independent India are the caste system, status of women, the status and role of backward classes, family etc.

Social change in India may be considered as a process through which definite alterations in the structures and functions of a particular social system result. A particular social change may be good or bad, desirable or undesirable, sacred or profane, progressive or regressive depending upon the views and understanding of the observer. It is to be understood that when a particular social change occurs it will be evaluated in the light of the ideals, goals and theories of the observer. The change implies continuity. Only when certain existing conditions, situations or things are partially modified we use the term 'change'. So change and continuity coexist. Any social change may produce discernible and widespread changes in social structures, functions, behaviour, values, norms, and ways of life, attitudes, roles and status. Regarding social changes, sociologists have made detailed studies and have formulated various theories on the direction of change, factors of change and areas of change.

**Professional Students:** A professional student is a student majoring in what are considered the professional degrees. These include Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Veterinary Medicine, Law, Dentistry, Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Engineering, Business Administration, Nursing, Pharmacy, Architecture, and more.

Professional students have to face stiff competition as they are expected to be successful in their career. Moreover society in general has high expectations from professional students. Parental or family expectations on one hand and their own desire to succeed in their chosen course builds a lot of pressure on professional students those results in high stress level.

**Non Professional Students:** Non-Professional students are those who pursue their degree in liberal courses such as arts, commerce, basic sciences, humanities, social work, fine arts, music, drama, creative writing etc. There is less competition in liberal courses. The expectations of parents in general and society in particular are not very high from non-professional students. The chances of high stress, anxiety, depression, psychosomatic disorders are also less among non-professional students as they are not exposed to the same degree of competition and social pressure.

### **1.2 Review of Literature:**

1. According to Ashish Agrawal (2012) <sup>1</sup> Education can initiate social changes by bring about a change in the outlook and attitude of man. It can bring about a change in the pattern of social relationships and thereby it may cause social changes.
2. According to Huma Ahmed-Ghosh (2009) <sup>2</sup> A study was conducted on changes in the status of North Indian women of Palitpur village. The results clearly points out that economic prosperity, resulting from an increase in agricultural productivity due to modernization of the village, has not led to the improvement of women's social status in terms of emancipation, greater opportunities in work, or education. In fact, in some instances a certain amount of regression has taken place. Intergenerational comparisons show that women have continued to be as subservient to men as their mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers. Even though the assumption is that agricultural development and economic wealth is accompanied by a society which is less influenced by sex-differentiation.
3. According to Kamlesh Gakhar and Harjeet Kour(2012)<sup>3</sup> A study on scenario of present education system: a comparative study of Haryana and its neighboring states was conducted . Haryana is in the line with India in number of literates, but this figure is still very low as compared to other states.
4. According to L.Deer Fink, Susan Ambrose, Daniel Wheeler(2005) <sup>4</sup> A study was conducted on changes adopted by different universities in education system. The result of the study was that Significant changes were brought about through the leadership of the dean and department heads, appropriate support and resources, and faculty members' willingness to learn all three are a result of a culture in a college that values effective undergraduate education.

**1.3 Aim and scope of the study :** Aim of this study is to comparatively understand the adaptability to social change among professional and non-professional students.

This research assumes special significance in 21<sup>st</sup> century society which is characterized by rapid social change. Dues to advancement in communication technology during last two decades the world has witnessed phenomenal change impacting social relationships, social values and social institutions. Whether this rapid pace of social change is desirable or undesirable; whether it would lead to the

betterment of human life; whether it would generate happier or more satisfactory living conditions; remains to be seen. It is to be noted that different groups of people, owing to their different social economic, political, cultural, religious, educational, spiritual, physical, emotional, psychological intellectual and ascetic orientations exhibit different degrees of adaptability to social change and there by getting influenced in varying degree by it. In order to understand the desirable impact of social change on different groups of people it is prerequisite to find out which groups show better adaptability to social change. The factors which are likely to influence the rate of adaptability are many. Professional education is one of such decisive factor. The scope of this research study is confined to understand different degree of adaptability shown by the students of professional and non professional courses. This knowledge would be useful for sociologist, educationist and planners of socio-economic development.

**1.4 Hypothesis:**

Male and female students pursuing professional and non-professional courses differ significantly in social adaptability with special reference to social religious, marriage, position of Women and Education.

- a. Male and female students pursuing professional courses differ significantly on social change.
- b. Male and female students pursuing non-professional courses differ significantly on social change.

**1.5 Method:**

- **Design**

The present study investigates male and female professional and non-professional students. Therefore 2x2 Factorial design has been used. Percentage method is used to calculate the positive and negative trend of male and female students of professional and non-professional courses regarding social adaptability.

- **Sample**

The sample of this study consists of 200 professional and 200 non-professional students with the age range of 18-23 year. The ratio of male and female students is equal. The sample was drawn from the Nagpur city for professional students from various Engineering, medical, Law and Management colleges. The non- professional students are taken from Arts, commerce, science, social work colleges. The research tool was administered on male and female students of professional and non-professional courses.

**1.6 Procedure:** The students included in the sample will be contacted individually and the research tools will be administered. General information will be noted down using personal data sheet separately. The schedules of testing will be worked out through prior consultations with the participants.

- **Tools**

Following tools have been used for the purpose of collection of data for this study:-

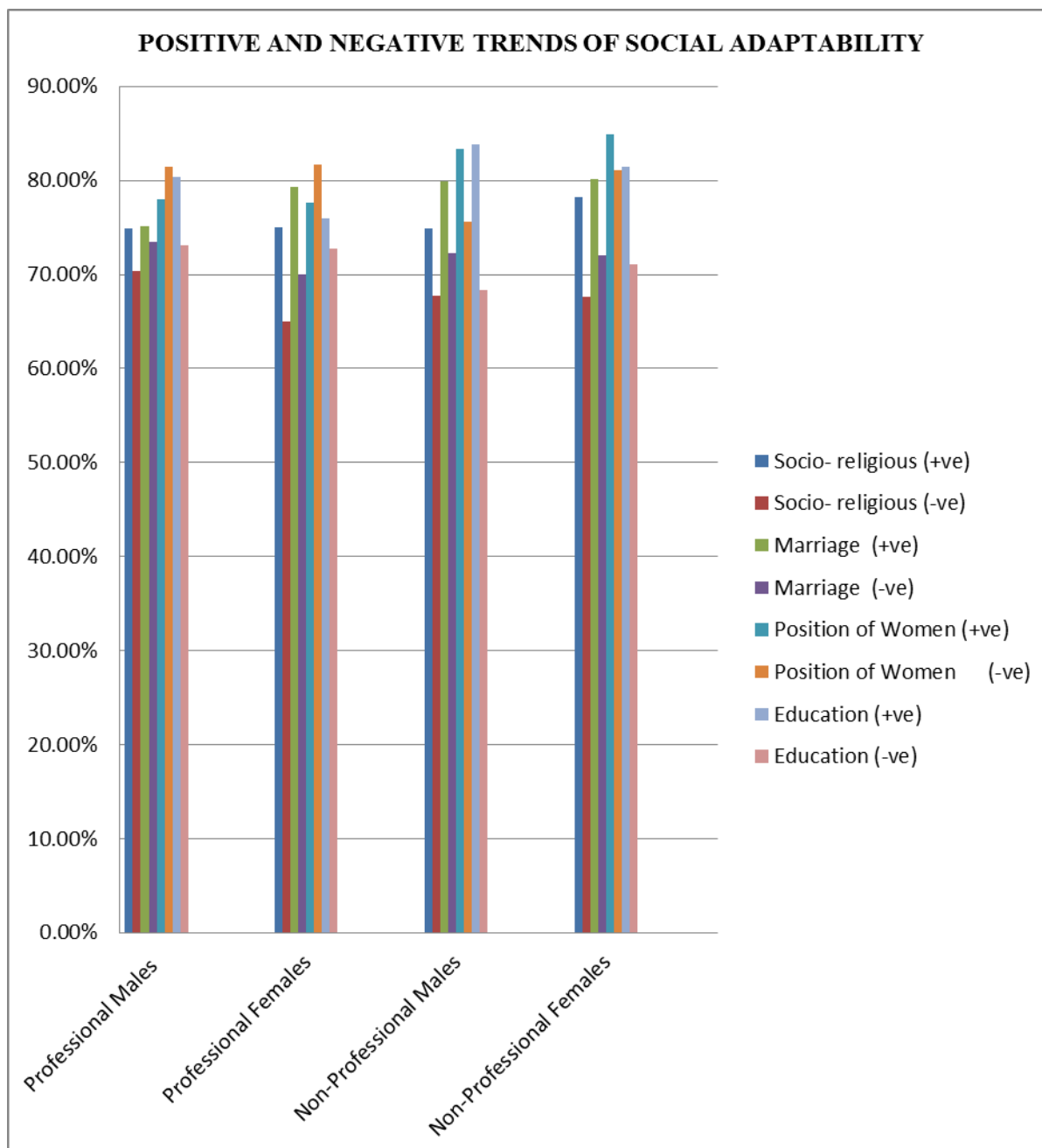
- **Social Change:** - The modernization scale developed by Raghavendra S. Singh, Amar Nath Tripathi and Ramjee Lal<sup>5</sup> in 2012.
- **P.I.D.F.:-** Personal Information Data Form.

- **Statistical analysis:** The obtain data has been analyzed statistically by using percentage method in Microsoft Excel. Personal information data form has been used to present the data graphically and in language.

**1.7 Interpretation of Data:** Table showing the positive and negative trends of Social Adaptability of Male and Female students of Professional and Non-Professional Courses.

Type of Students	Dimensions of Social Adaptability in Percentage							
	Socio-religious (+ve)	Socio-religious (-ve)	Marriage (+ve)	Marriage (-ve)	Position of Women (+ve)	Position of Women (-ve)	Education (+ve)	Education (-ve)

Professional Males	74.94%	70.30%	75.11%	73.50%	78%	81.45%	80.41%	73.05%
Professional Females	75.05%	64.96%	79.33%	70.04%	77.62%	81.70%	75.91%	72.69%
Non-Professional Males	74.88%	67.73%	79.88%	72.23%	83.33%	75.62%	83.83%	68.36%
Non-Professional Females	78.27%	67.63%	80.08%	72.06%	84.91%	81.04%	81.41%	71.02%



**The Comparative trends of social adaptability related to socio-religious changes in Professional and non-professional course students:** The positive trends of social adaptability among professional

males about socio-religious matters are 74.94% while among females it is 75.05%. There is a slight difference between two genders. Males are more negative to socio adaptability in this area as their score is 70.30% than females who scores 64.96%. The negative trends repeat themselves on similar lines between Non-Professional males and females students. However, in positive trends non-professional females are ahead of male students.

**The Comparative trends of changes related to institution of marriage in Professional and non-professional course students:** So far as the social adaptability with regard to institution of marriage is concerned the female professional students with the score of 79.33% show higher degree of adaptability than those of male students with the score of 75.11%. Males show higher degree of negative social adaptability than those of females regarding changes in the institute of marriage. So far as the degree of adaptability is concerned about marriage male and female students of non-professional courses show the similar trend shown by professional students. Regarding negative adaptability there is no significant change between males and females non-professional students regarding changes in marriage.

**The Comparative trends of changes related to position of women in Professional and non-professional course students:** Male students of professional courses show slightly higher degree of positive adaptability regarding changes taking place about position of women in society than those of female students. Males and females do not differ significantly with regard to negative adaptability in this area. So far as Non-professional students are concern females are slightly ahead of men regarding adapting positive changes. Regarding negative adaptability to the status of women non-professional female students show higher degree with the score of 81.04% than those of male students with the score of 75.62%.

**The Comparative trends of changes related to education in Professional and non-professional course students:** The scores of male and female professional students differ significantly. Males show higher degree of adaptability with the score of 81.41% than those of females with the score of 75.91%. This difference is continued between males and females though it has reduced with regard to negative adaptability in this domain in males and females. Non-professional male students like their professional counter parts show higher degree of adaptability with the score of 83.05% than those of females with slightly lower score of 81.41%. The results show that non-professional female students show higher degree of negative adaptability to education than those of males.

**1.8 Discussion:** Social change is persistent phenomenon. Adaptability of people to social change differs. Social change is a composite entity. There are number of parameters which can be adapted to measure or understand the trends of social change prevalent among different groups. This research study has made an attempt to understand the trends of social adaptability both in its positive and negative dimensions among male and female students of professional and non-professional courses. The modernization scale developed by Raghavendra S. Singh, Amar Nath Tripathi and Ramjee Lal in 2012 has been used to find out the degree of adaptability of social change in four important areas namely socio-religious, institution of marriage, position of women in society and education.

**1.9 Limitations :-** No research study is free from limitations.

1. The major limitation of this study arises from the fact that it has taken into consideration only four areas namely socio-religious, marriage, position of women and education to find out the degree of social adaptability while there are other significant areas such as parenting style, social intelligence, family environment etc.
2. The second limitation is that the study is confined only to the students of professional and non-professional students. Working population of adults and senior citizens are not taken care of by this study.
3. The sample of the study is drawn from Nagpur City only. This means we cannot say about the trends of social adaptability in other geographical locale such as tribal, urban and metropolitan areas.

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