

Programme:- Master in Sociology
Postgraduate Department of Sociology
Patna University, Patna

Semester-III

Compulsory Paper:- C.C. 11 (SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN INDIA)

Unit I:- Social Disorganization and Social Problems Concepts and Theories

Symptoms of Social Disorganisation:-

Social disorganisation is an indication of the existence of diseased or disruptive elements in society. Just as a disease is known by its symptoms, so social disorganization may be known by its symptoms. Mabel, A. Elliot and Francis E. Merrill have pointed out that social disorganisation may be of three types i.e., disorganisation of the individual, the family, and community. Among the symptoms of personal disorganisation they included juvenile delinquency, various types of crime, insanity, drunkenness, suicide and prostitution.

Among the symptoms of family disorganisation they included divorce, illegitimate births, desertion and venereal disease. Among the symptoms of community disorganisation they included poverty, unemployment, crime and political corruption. It may be, however, noted that no definite distinction can be made among the three types of disorganisation because they are interdependent.

Calvin F Schmid listed the following symptoms of disorganised communities: high rate of population mobility, high rates of divorce, desertion, illegitimacy, dependency, delinquency and criminality, a disproportionately high rate of males, a low rate of home ownership, high rates of suicides, commercialized vice and death from disease and alcoholism.

Herbert A. Bloch divided the symptoms of social disorganisation into two categories:

- (1) The sociological, and
- (2) The literary-ideological.

He divided the sociological symptoms into three classes: individual, family, and community. By literary-ideological symptoms he meant certain tendencies appearing in literary and artistic works which indicate a disturbed state of mind. Among these tendencies he mentioned nostalgic themes and themes dealing with personal frustration and rebellion or protest. Queen, Bodenhafer and Harper included in their list of social disorganisation, unemployment, poverty, sickness, homelessness, insanity, and feeble-mindedness.

Faris has enumerated the following symptoms of social disorganisation:

- (1) Formalism;
- (2) The decline of sacred elements;
- (3) Individuality of interests and tastes;
- (4) Emphasis on personal freedom and individual rights;
- (5) Hedonistic behaviour;
- (6) Population heterogeneity;
- (7) Mutual distrust;
- (8) Unrest phenomena.