

RISE OF POPULAR MOVEMENTS

STUDY NOTES

Nature of Popular Movements

- The nature of popular movements can be simple as well as complex. Popular movements depict a very unusual form of collective action. From time to time many popular movements took place for protest. Here some novel tactics for protest are used.
- Party Based Movements keep close association with political parties and follow their objectives and ideologies. Non-Party Movements do not keep association with any political parties and independent from specific ideologies.

Some Popular Movements

- Some of the popular movements are discussed below:

1. Chipko Movement

- Chipko movement was an environmental movement to prevent cutting down of trees. It demanded that local communities should have control over their natural resources.
- The movement began in some villages of Uttarakhand in early 1973 when the forest department refused permission to the villagers to fell ash trees for making agricultural tools.
- Issues of ecological and economic exploitation of the region were raised. Women's active participation was the most novel aspect of the movement.

2. Movement of Dalit Panthers

- Dalit Panthers was a militant organization of the Dalit youth which was formed in Maharashtra in 1972.
- Their activities were mostly center around fighting against increased atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the state. The larger ideological agenda of the panthers was to destroy the caste system and to build an organization of all oppressed sections.
- In the post-emergency period, Dalit Panthers got involved in electoral compromises, it also underwent many splits, which led to its decline.

3. Growth of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU)

- BKU was an organisation of farmers from Western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana regions.
- The BKU demanded higher government floor prices for sugarcane and wheat, abolition of restrictions on the inter-state movement of farm produce, guaranteed supply of electricity at reasonable rates.
- Their activities to pressurise the government to accept their demands include-rallies, demonstrations, and jail bhara.
- Until the early nineties, the BKU distanced itself from all political parties.
- Unlike most of the Indian farmers who engage in agriculture for subsistence, members of the BKU grew cash crops for the market.
- Like BKU other organization of farmers were Shetkari Sanghatana of Maharashtra and Rayata Sangha of Karnataka.

4. Anti-Arrack Movement

- This movement in Andhra Pradesh was a spontaneous mobilization of women demanding a ban on the sale of alcohol in their neighbourhood.
- In the early 1990s, the women of Dubagunta in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh had enrolled in the Adult Literacy Drive on a large scale.
- It is during the discussion in the class that women complained of increased consumption of a locally brewed alcohol-arrack-by men in their families. Origin of Anti-arrack movement can be traced here.
- The simple demand to ban arrack touched upon larger social, economic and political issues of the region that affected women's life. This movement inspired other women's movement in later periods.

5. Narmada Bachao Andolan

- This movement was against displacement caused by huge development projects.
- Sardar Sarovar Project It was an ambitious developmental project, launched in the Narmada valley of Central India in early eighties.
- Numerous big and small dams was to be constructed on the Narmada and its tributaries which were concerned with three states-Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- Narmada Bachao Andolan was a movement to save Narmada. It was around 1988-89 that the issues crystallized under the banner of the NBA-a loose collective of all voluntary organizations.
- The movement demanded that there should be a cost-benefit analysis of major developmental projects including social costs.
- The social costs included forced resettlement of the project-affected people, a serious loss of their means of livelihood and culture and depletion of ecological resources.
- Many considerations led the NBA to shift from its initial demand for rehabilitation to its position of total opposition to the dam.
- Narmada Bachao Aandolan continued a sustained agitation for more than twenty years.
- It use every available democratic strategy to put forward its demands.

Lessons from Popular Movement

- Popular movements helps us to understand better the nature of democratic politics.
- Popular movements ensured effective representation of diverse groups and their demands.
- Popular movements suggested new forms of active participation and thus broadened the idea of participation in India democracy.

Movement for Right to Information

- The movement started in 1990, when a mass based organization called the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) in Rajasthan took the initiative in demanding records of famine relief work and accounts of labourers.
- In 1994 and 1996, the MKSS organised Jan Sunwais or Public Hearings, where the administration was asked to explain its stand in public.
- In 1996 MKSS formed National Council for People's Right to Information in Delhi to raise RTI to the status of a national campaign.
- In 2002, a weak Freedom of Information Act was legislated but never came into force. In 2004 RTI Bill was tabled and received presidential assent in June 2005.
- A protest against commercial logging to be permitted by the government, began a world famous environmental movement i.e. Chipko Movement by both men and women on refusal of permission to villagers to fell ash trees for agricultural tools and allotted the same land to sports manufacturer. It included a novel aspect in the form of active participation of women with the agenda of social issues.

- On dissatisfaction with the attitude of the government, people come together and raise voice to fulfil their demands. These movements are either party based and non-party based movements. Party based movements are supported by political parties (Trade Union Movement in Kolkata, Kanpur, Bombay etc.) and non-party based movements are based on the loss of faith in existing democratic institutions or electoral politics (Students and Youth from different sections merge themselves).
- Non-party movements emerged due to disillusion among many sections of society, failure of Janata experiment, a Gulf between Urban industrial sector, political instability, existence of social inequality and sense of injustice.
- Dalit Panthers was a militant organisation of Dalit Youth to be formed in 1972 in Maharashtra. Dalit Panthers addressed the issues to fight against caste-based inequalities, demanded effective implementation of reservations and social justice by restoring a mass action in various states.
- Bhartiya Kisan Union was one of leading farmers movement in the form of agrarian struggle of farmers against process of liberalisation of Indian Economy. The BKU demanded higher government floor prices, abolition of restrictions, guaranteed supply of electricity and the provision of a government pension to farmers.
- The Anti-Drunk Movement was started by rural women in the state of Andhra Pradesh against alcoholism, mafias by a mobilisation of women to ban on the sale of alcohol. This movement openly discussed the issues of domestic violence like dowry, sexual violence etc.
- Narmada Bachao Andolan was a loose collective local organisation's movement to save river Narmada. It opposed the construction of multipurpose dam known as Narmada Sagar project questioned ongoing developmental projects also. NBA was shifted from its initial demand for rehabilitation to total opposition to the Dam. It achieved comprehensive National Rehabilitation Policy 2003 by government.
- The movements are not only about rallies or protests but these involve a gradual process of coming together by making people aware of their rights and expectations to contribute in the expansion of democracy rather than causing disruptions.
- The movement for right to information started in 1990 on demand of records of famine relief work and accounts of laborers by Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS). Finally, it was legislated and became a law in 2005.

QUESTION BANK

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Tick (✓) the correct answer :

- In early 1990s, the BKU pressurized the state to accept its**
 (a) political demands (b) social demands (c) cultural demands (d) economic demands
- Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan started in 1990 in**
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
- Chipko Movement started in which of the following states?**
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Punjab
- Dalit Panthers is a:**
 (a) Social Organization (b) Student Federation
 (c) Dalit Militant Organisation (d) Pressure Group
- Anti-Drunk Movement demanded the ban on the**
 (a) falling of trees. (b) practice of untouchability.
 (c) sale of alcohol. (d) construction of dams
- The non-political organization 'Bhartiya Kisan Union' was formed by**
 (a) Brinda Karat (b) George Fernandes (c) Mahendra Singh Tikait (d) Sanal Edamaruku

7. On what issue the villagers related to Chipko Movement protested?
 (a) Deforestation and commercial logging (b) Construction of big dams
 (c) Untouchability (d) Exploitation of adivasis
8. In which state the Chipko Movement started?
 (a) Uttarakhand (b) Kerala (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Orissa
9. What was the very novel aspect of the Chipko Movement?
 (a) Women's active Participation (b) Rise of independent economic movement
 (c) Leadership of Marxist-Leninist workers (d) The social discontent in Indian society
10. One of the most successful social movement of eighties was
 (a) farmer's movement (b) anti-arrack movement
 (c) movement for right to information (d) fish worker's movement
11. Which of these statements are incorrect regarding The Chipko Movement?
 (a) Was an environmental movement to prevent cutting down of trees.
 (b) Raised questions of ecological and economic exploitation.
 (c) Was a movement against alcoholism started by the women.
 (d) Demanded that local communities should have control over their natural resources.
12. Dalit Panthers, a militant organization was formed in which state?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Maharashtra (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
13. Which popular movement led to the empowerment of women?
 (a) Chipko Movement (b) Anti-Arrack Movement
 (c) Narmada Movement (d) None of the above
14. What was the main demand of the Chipko Movement?
 (a) To prevent child marriages (b) To fight against discrimination
 (c) To prevent trees from being cut and fell. (d) To discontinue child labour
15. In which year All India Kisan Sabha was established?
 (a) 1930 (b) 1936 (c) 1940 (d) 1950
16. Who led the Narmada Bachao Andolan?
 (a) Medha Patkar (b) Rajni Sharma (c) Shabana Azmi (d) Meira Kumar
17. Where Anti-Arrack Movement was started?
 (a) Haryana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Punjab (d) Tamil Nadu
18. Which of these groups promotes collective rather than selective goods?
 (a) Interest groups (b) Public interest groups
 (c) Political parties (d) Pressure groups
19. When did Nepal become a Constitutional Monarchy?
 (a) 1980 (b) 2000 (c) 1990 (d) 2006
20. The Sardar Sarovar Dam is on the.....river.
 (a) Ganga (b) Narmada (c) Ravi (d) Satluj
21. Which one of the political parties came to power in 2006?
 (a) The Communist Party (b) The Socialist Party (c) The Republican Party (d) The Conservative Party
22. People's struggle in Bolivia was _____.
 (a) Against privatization of water (b) To establish democracy
 (c) About foundation of country's politics (d) Against privatisation of electricity

23. Pressure groups and movements have deepened democracy by _____.
- (a) Putting pressure on the public (b) Non accommodation of conflicting interests
(c) Controlling and sharing political power (d) Countering undue influence of the government
24. Which of these kings was killed in the mysterious massacre of the royal family in 2001?
- (a) King Birendra (b) King Raj Bahadur (c) King Gyanendra (d) None of these
25. Those organizations which are formed to promote their interests are known as
- (a) Sectional groups (b) Movement groups (c) Movements (d) Interest groups
26. Groups which try to influence government policies are known as
- (a) Movement groups (b) Sectional groups (c) None of these (d) Pressure groups
27. Which of these take direct part in elections?
- (a) Interest groups (b) Sectional groups (c) Political parties (d) Pressure groups
28. What was the main demands of the Anti-Arrack movement?
- (a) Violence against women (b) A ban on the sale of Arrack or Alcohol
(c) To save money and make their future (d) All of these
29. What was the main demands of the Bhartiya Kisan Union?
- (a) Higher government floor prices for sugarcane and wheat
(b) Waving of repayment due to loans to farmers
(c) Provision of government position for farmers
(d) Both (a), (b) and (c)
30. Which among the following is not the part of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission?
- (a) 27% of the posts in public services reserved for OBC
(b) Welfare programs for OBS's
(c) Financed by the government of India
(d) Already for generals
31. Who was the chairman of Mandal Commission?
- (a) Indira Gandhi (b) Charu Majumdar (c) B.P. Mandal (d) None of these
32. Party based movement is affected by politics, but the _____ is separated from politics.
- (a) Strong party based (b) Coalition party based (c) Non-party based (d) Multi party based
33. Which among the following is more useful for Democracy?
- (a) Party based (b) Non-party based (c) Coalition party based (d) Multi party based
34. Full form of MKSS
- (a) Multi Kisan Shakti Sanghathan (b) Most Kisan Shakti Sanghathan
(c) Men Kisan Shakti Sanghathan (d) Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghathan
35. Who made the first demand for relief of labourers?
- (a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (b) Charu Majumdar (c) B.P. Mandal (d) Bhim Tehsil
36. MKSS organized public hearing in _____.
- (a) 1992 (b) 1993 (c) 1995 (d) 1996
37. The villagers of Rajasthan asserted their _____.
- (a) Right to speech (b) Right to live (c) Right to information (d) Right to vote
38. The popular movements reduces the possibility of deep _____ conflict and dissatisfaction of their group from democracy.
- (a) Cultural (b) Social (c) Political (d) Economical
39. Popular movements suggests _____ of active participation.
- (a) Reforms (b) New-forms (c) Forms (d) Both (a) and (c)

40. The most affected Indian society by the Chipko Movement is-
 (a) Male (b) Farmer (c) Women (d) all the above
41. How did the farmers associates with Bhartiya Kisan Union differ from most other Farmers in India because
 (a) they grew cash crops (b) they grew crop with cash
 (c) they grew coin crops (d) none of these
42. Shetkari Sanghathan belonged to which among the following states?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Rajasthan
43. Raitha Sangha belonged to which state?
 (a) Chennai (b) Karnataka (c) Jaipur (d) Gujarat
44. Construction of Mega dams results in _____ of a large number of people.
 (a) placement (b) displacement (c) replacement (d) no placement
45. Who demanded removing inter-state restrictions on the movement of foodgrains?
 (a) Bhartiya Kisan Dal (b) Bhartiya Kisan Union (c) Raitha Sangha (d) Shetkari Sanghathan
46. In _____ women took out a big procession to protect against the sale of Arrack.
 (a) 1990 (b) 1991 (c) 1992 (d) 1993
47. Where did the women took out a big procession to protest against the sale of Arrack?
 (a) Allahabad (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Hyderabad (d) None of these
48. In which district of Andhra Pradesh, the Anti-Arrack movement take place?
 (a) Nellore (b) Andhra (c) Only (a) (d) None of these
49. Chipko movement's literally means-
 (a) To hold the tree (b) To hug the tree (c) To cut the tree (d) To cover the tree
50. Narmada Bachao Andolan refers to-
 (a) Save water (b) Save Ganga (c) Save Narmada (d) none of these
51. Dalit Panthers were-
 (a) United Dalits (b) Educated Dalits (c) Literate Dalits (d) all the above
52. Dalit Panthers openly challenged _____ and Brahminism.
 (a) Racism (b) Apartheid (c) Casteism (d) Religions
53. Who among the following written poems and biographies about Dalits?
 (a) Bakr Rao Bagul (b) E.P. Souramle (c) Only (a) and (b) (d) All the above
54. According to Dalit panthers, their problems could be solved by acquiring economic and political _____.
 (a) Party (b) Power (c) Position (d) none of these
55. The all mass movements are to fulfill the local and _____ needs.
 (a) National (b) Global (c) Regional (d) International
56. Many times in the past mass movements have turned violent to achieve their _____.
 (a) Structures (b) Interests (c) Needs (d) Objectives
57. Why these mass movements have a very narrow look because it revolve around _____ issue.
 (a) 2 (b) 0 (c) 1 (d) 3
58. Many times _____ and unconditional methods create law and order problems.
 (a) Legal (b) Illegal (c) Lawful (d) Lawless
59. The women's movement has played a very important role in the emancipation of the dignity and _____ of women.
 (a) Place (b) Respect (c) Status (d) none of these

60. The Right to Information came into effect on:
 (a) 2000 (b) 2001 (c) 2003 (d) 2005
61. What is the full form of RTI?
 (a) Right to inquiry (b) Right to include (c) Right to information (d) All the above
62. In 1966 this organization formed the national council of people's RTI in
 (a) Mumbai (b) Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Bihar
63. Which among the following did not a part of women problem in anti-arrack movement?
 (a) Domestic violence (b) Gender inequality
 (c) Reservation in Lok Sabha (d) Child marriage
64. Earth Summit was signed on June 1992, at _____.
 (a) Belgrade (b) Jakarta (c) Rio de Janeiro (d) none of these
65. Match the following-
- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| (A) Chipko Movement | (i) Maharashtra |
| (B) Narmada Bachao Aandolan | (ii) Uttarakhand |
| (C) Dalit Panthers Movement | (iii) Andhra Pradesh |
| (D) Anti-Arrack Movement | (iv) Gujarat |
- Option :
- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) (A)-(ii), (B)-(iv), (C)-(i), (D)-(iii) | (b) (A)-(iii), (B)-(i), (C)-(iv), (D)-(ii) |
| (c) (A)-(i), (B)-(iii), (C)-(iv), (D)-(ii) | (d) (A)-(i), (B)-(ii), (C)-(iv), (D)-(iii) |
66. The state where Anti-Arrack movement started in October 1992.
 (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
67. The state where Dalit Panthers Organisations was active
 (a) Delhi (b) Maharashtra (c) Gujarat (d) Uttarakhand
68. The country where Montreal Protocol was signed in 1987
 (a) Canada (b) Switzerland (c) Mexico (d) Belgrade
69. This country is known for its forest movements
 (a) Australia (b) Mexico (c) India (d) Pakistan
70. The first Anti-Dam movement aimed to save the Franklin River in _____.
 (a) Canada (b) Mexico (c) Australia (d) India

Input Text Based MCQ's

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (71 to 75):

Sardar Sarovar Project is a multipurpose mega-scale dam. Its advocates say that it would benefit huge areas of Gujarat and the three adjoining states in terms of availability of drinking water and water for irrigation, generation of electricity and increase in agricultural production. Many more subsidiary benefits like effective flood and drought control in the region were linked to the success of this dam. In the process of construction of the dam 245 villages from these States were expected to get submerged. It required relocation of around two and a half lakh people from these villages. Issues of relocation and proper rehabilitation of the project- affected people were first raised by local activist groups. It was around 1988-89 that the issues crystallized under the banner of the NBA – a loose collective of local voluntary organisations.

71. Why is the Sardar Sarovar project mentioned as a multipurpose mega-scale Dam?
 (a) Would benefit huge areas of Gujarat and 3 other states
 (b) Availability of drinking water, and irrigation
 (c) Generation of electricity and increase in agriculture production
 (d) All the above

72. Why was it opposed by villagers?

- (a) Building of dam (b) 245 villages expected to get submerged
(c) Lack of basic needs for sometime (d) All of these

73. What was the main demand of the Local activist group?

- (a) Relocation (b) Proper rehabilitation (c) Only (a) (d) Both (a) and (b)

74. This project required the relocation of around _____ people from the villages.

- (a) Two and half lakh (b) Two lakh (c) One lakh (d) One and half lakh

75. When this issue crystallized under the banner of the NBA?

- (a) 1988-1990 (b) 1988-1999 (c) 1988-1989 (d) 1990-1992

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (76 to 80):

Movements are not only about collective assertions or only about rallies and protests. They involve a gradual process of coming together of people with similar problems, similar demands and similar expectations. But then movements are also about making people aware of their rights and the expectations that they can have from democratic institutions. Social movements in India have been involved in these educative tasks for a long time and have thus contributed to expansion of democracy rather than causing disruptions.

76. Identify the popular movement which is being referred to in the given passage.

- (a) Anti-Arrack movement (b) Chipko movement
(c) Naxalite movement (d) none of these

77. What was the novel aspect of this movement?

- (a) No participation (b) Women's active participation
(c) Children's participation (d) All of these

78. Chipko movement raises _____ issues of ecological and economic balance.

- (a) Larger (b) Longer (c) Shorter (d) All of these

79. People wanted a government that ensures _____ without degrading the ecological balance.

- (a) Democracy (b) Demands (c) Development (d) Exploitation

80. Chipko movement become a symbol of _____.

- (a) Ban on the person (b) Ban on the feeling of trees for 15 years
(c) only (a) (d) both (a) and (b)

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (81 to 85):

Critics of popular movements often argue that collective actions like strikes, sit-ins, and rallies disrupt the functioning of the government, delay decision-making, and destabilize the routines of democracy. Such an argument invites deeper questions: why do these movements resort to such assertive forms of action? We have seen that popular movements have raised legitimate demands of the people and have involved large scale participation of citizens. It should be noted that the groups mobilised by this movement are poor, socially and economically disadvantaged sections of the society from marginal social groups.

81. Popular movements resort to which types of assertive action?

- (a) Strikes (b) Dharna's (c) Rallies (d) Both (a) and (c)

82. Why are groups involved in popular movements mostly from marginal social groups?

- (a) People of these groups are poor (b) Socially and economically deprived of their rights
(c) Disadvantaged sections of society (d) All the above

83. Popular movements have raised legitimate _____.

- (a) Interest (b) Needs (c) Demands (d) none of these

84. The collective actions disrupts the _____ functions.
 (a) Government (b) Parties (c) Groups (d) Sit-ins
85. The Collective actions disrupt the functions like-
 (a) delay in decision making (b) destabilise the routine of democracy
 (c) party functions (d) both (a) and (b)

Read the below source carefully and answer the following questions (86 to 90):

The movement began in two or three villages of Uttarakhand when the forest department refused permission to the villagers to fell ash trees for making agricultural tools. However, the forest department allotted the same patch of land to a sports manufacturer for commercial use. This enraged the villagers and they protested against the move of the government. The struggle soon spread across many parts of the Uttarakhand region. Larger issues of ecological and economic exploitation of the region were raised.

86. What is the importance of popular movements in Democracy?
 (a) Make people aware of their rights (b) Make people aware of their expectations
 (c) Drawn from democratic institutions (d) all of these
87. How do popular movements help the government?
 (a) Let the government be aware (b) Towards similar demands and expectations
 (c) Similar problems (d) All the above
88. What factors make the people come together in a particular movement?
 (a) Similar demands (b) Similar expectations
 (c) Only (a) (d) Both (a) and (b)
89. Movements are not only about _____ assertions or only about rallies and protests.
 (a) Collection (b) Collective (c) Corelative (d) Coherent
90. What has contributed to India's democracy?
 (a) Economical movements (b) Social movements
 (c) Cultural movements (d) Political movements

ANSWERS

Multiple Choice Questions

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (d) | 2. (a) | 3. (c) | 4. (a) | 5. (c) | 6. (c) | 7. (a) | 8. (a) | 9. (a) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (b) | 14. (c) | 15. (b) | 16. (a) | 17. (b) | 18. (b) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (a) | 23. (d) | 24. (a) | 25. (d) | 26. (d) | 27. (c) | 28. (d) | 29. (d) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (c) | 33. (b) | 34. (d) | 35. (d) | 36. (d) | 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (b) | 40. (d) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (a) | 43. (b) | 44. (b) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (a) | 49. (b) | 50. (c) |
| 51. (b) | 52. (c) | 53. (c) | 54. (b) | 55. (c) | 56. (d) | 57. (c) | 58. (b) | 59. (c) | 60. (d) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (b) | 63. (d) | 64. (c) | 65. (a) | 66. (a) | 67. (b) | 68. (a) | 69. (b) | 70. (c) |

Input Text Based MCQ's

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 71. (d) | 72. (d) | 73. (d) | 74. (a) | 75. (c) | 76. (b) | 77. (b) | 78. (a) | 79. (c) | 80. (b) |
| 81. (d) | 82. (d) | 83. (c) | 84. (a) | 85. (d) | 86. (d) | 87. (d) | 88. (d) | 89. (b) | 90. (b) |