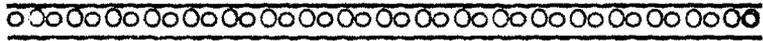




C H A P T E R - V I I

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C H A P T E R - VII

Epilogue

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In the foregoing pages we have attempted to analyse the changes taking place in the caste system in a village. These changes have been looked upon in the prespective of the concept of modernization. As a result of various forces Indian society is rapidly changing in some respects. This change, and especially the change in the caste system, can be looked upon as modernization.

The significant elements which can be called as modernizing aspects are as under :-

- 1) The practice of untouchability has been almost wiped out.
- 2) The restrictions on interdining, use of water resources and access to the sacred places are not more in existence.
3. Universalization of education is taking roots although the pace in respect of various caste groups is not uniform.
- 4) A significant awakening regarding modern values has been noticed among the people in all walks of life especially, among the people belonging to the lower caste.
- 5) A number of occupations have become " opened " to all. Many of the castes have given up their traditional

occupations. Hence, they have ceased to be the basis of caste differences.

In spite of the above facts, we can not say that all the roots of caste system have been cut down. There are forces acting towards maintainance of the traditions.

- 1) One of the basic features of caste system is the rule of endogalny, This rule is very much in practice in the rural areas.
- 2) A tendency has been observed especially among the upper castes to maintain at all costs their position in the caste or social stratification.
- 3) The spread of education is uneven in different caste groups.
- 4) Occupational changes are mostly unidirectional i.e. there is an upward mobility. But the interchanging of traditional occupations is not seen.
- 5) People belonging to the Higher castes express their discontent regarding the reservation policy.

Taking the above facts in to consideration what we find in the Indian rural scene is a mixture of conflicting processes of modernization and traditionalization.