

Basic Concepts of Community Social Change: A Descriptive Study

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Abstract

Changes that occur in human life in society can be understood as social change. This social change is absolute because it will be experienced by every society wherever and whenever. This article was written with the aim of elaborating on various important things and highlighting several main concepts in social change in society. This is so that the phenomenon of social change in society can be understood more fully. This article was written using a qualitative descriptive method by describing important concepts which are the main points in this article. Data collection is supported by using literature study techniques. From the results of the study, we get a picture that social change as a process of change that occurs in social life always takes place without stopping and will continue along with human existence itself. As a process, social change in a society is not an outcome or finished product. There is a process of mutual agreement or decision taken by each individual or community group. Various agreements in social change in society can be regarding social values, social norms, patterns of organizational behavior, the structure of social institutions, layers in society, power and authority, social interactions and soon.

Keywords: Social Change, Society, Humans, Social Phenomenon

Introduction



Humans in their long history of civilization have always grown, developed and run dynamically following the various changes that have occurred throughout the history of human life itself. As creatures who have physical needs, humans then adapt to the natural environment in order to fulfill these needs. If we look further, the adaptation process carried out by humans will continue to be carried out as part of the process of self-"perfection" so that humans can continue to maintain their existence and remain "there" among other humans. Thus, in this adaptation process humans will mobilize their motivation to use their minds to the maximum. This is because, with this intelligence, humans will always think about how they face the adaptation process to maintain their existence. In this adaptation process, humans will also be "forced" to be creative without being restricted by space and time, where space and time in this case are not only limited to where they were born and raised, but also include other places and times where humans can maintain their existence. (Lauer, 1993).

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Like two sides of a coin, humans are individual creatures on one side and social creatures on the other. As social creatures, humans cannot live without interacting with other humans/each other, in which case they will relate/interact with each other. However, in this interaction process, there are dynamics that are not as easy as imagined. This is because each human being - individually, has various differences from each other, especially differences in character and disposition which often trigger misunderstandings between people. In this case, each human individual has a different perspective in seeing a change phenomenon. Even though they are different, in facing this changing phenomenon, humans will form a group that has the same perspective. To be able to form a social group, there must be various joint agreements (Prayogi, 2023). This is because change is a dynamic phenomenon that absolutely occurs in human life.

Changes that occur in human life in society can be understood as social change. This social change is absolute because it will be experienced by every society wherever and whenever. This social change occurs because of differences, even inconsistencies between various social elements or elements that exist in society (Ranjabar, 2006). These changes in various aspects of human life then occur both in the context of individual and social interactions in the human life environment. These changes can at least - simply be identified if we look at the tempus aspect. Time is an important aspect that marks the occurrence of social change, both micro and macro. What makes this social change different is the aspect of the speed and rate at which the change occurs. This also includes aspects of coverage, planning, and various related matters of social change itself.

Social change conceptually is a change in the interaction relationships between individuals, organizations or communities that are related to social structures or patterns of values and norms. Thus, the change in question is a change not only related to social aspects but also related to cultural aspects, because apart from being social creatures, humans are also inseparable from culture (Prayogi & Prasetya, 2023). Broadly speaking, the concept of social change is a concept that has very broad dimensions. This can be seen from various expert opinions which provide different understandings regarding social change. Wilbert More, for example, interprets social change as an important change that occurs in all social aspects such as structure, behavioral patterns and social interaction systems, including changes in norms, values and cultural phenomena. Another expert, Samuel Koenig, interprets social change as an effort to modify human life patterns. This modification can occur due to internal and external factors that cause changes. Meanwhile, Selo Soemardjan interprets social change as a change in social institutions in a society that influences its social system which also includes values, attitudes and behavioral patterns (Soekanto, 1992). Thus, social change can be interpreted as a process of change that occurs in elements of society in which various things related to all aspects of society's life are studied sociologically. This article can elaborate on various important things

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and highlight several important things that are central to the concept of social change. This is so that the phenomenon of social change in society can be understood more fully.

Method

The writing of this article uses a descriptive qualitative method with based on data mining through library research/literature studies from several literature sources (written) (Prayogi, 2023). Qualitative research is used as an exploration for the humanities, social, and religion. And in library research, the resulting information comes from drawing conclusions that come from: citing references and abstracted as research findings. Writing is done through a process extracting data from various reference sources that discuss various articles/writings related to various literatures on social change. These various sources published in public media, so that it can be accessed through various places (library) and internet media openly. This article can be elaboration of various related articles and writings. Likewise, articles this is more of a synthesis of the writings that ever existed, to then be seen in relation to what can be done in the current context.


Result and Discussion

Characteristics of Social Change

Social change is a social phenomenon that occurs in society dynamically. However, the phenomenon of social change has various characteristics that can be an identification of the occurrence of social change itself. Some characteristics of social change include; First, no society stops developing/changing. This further emphasizes that social change is a dynamic thing. It is not static because society is always moving and making changes every day, both on a small and large scale, and quickly or slowly. To be able to see this phenomenon of change in society, we can take the example of the development of the use of gadgets. Gadgets initially appeared as tools used as a medium for direct communication. In its later development, gadgets have developed not only as communication tools but have now become part of people's lifestyle. Thus, it can be understood that the presence of gadgets can change the way people communicate with each other (Jurdi, 2012).

Social change will then run continuously, which means change will always occur. Change is something that absolutely occurs in society and has various implications in people's lives. Even though it will definitely happen, it must still be underlined that in the process, the social changes that occur in one society to another will be different/not the same. This is because there are various other factors that influence the occurrence of social change, such as thought patterns and attitudes adopted by the community itself (Rosana, 2015).

Second, social changes that occur in a structure or institution of society in a certain area will also be followed by other structures and institutions of society in the surrounding area. This means that social change is inter-relational or interconnected (Setiadi & Kolip, 2010). To be able to see this phenomenon, we can trace back the time when last year the world was hit by

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the Covid-19 pandemic. In Indonesia, the Covid 19 pandemic has triggered social changes, one of which is in the educational aspect, in this case changing the face-to-face learning model to online learning. This online learning then influences various other aspects and fields outside of education, such as the economic aspect, where it can also be seen that various changes such as an increase in internet data consumption, online food ordering services, as well as the work from home (WFH) phenomenon for workers.



Third, rapid social change (revolution) can result in divisions or disintegration/disorganization in society. However, this division will slowly recede as the process of community adaptation to these changes progresses (Budijarto, 2018). In this aspect, we can look back at the case of the Covid 19 pandemic. During the pandemic, initially there was public resistance to various policies implemented regarding handling the pandemic. For example, there is a refusal to use masks or carry out health protocols because they are considered to interfere with comfort in carrying out activities. This community resistance at a certain point gives rise to conflict in the form of polarization in society. However, slowly over time, people have adapted by realizing that the use of masks has various other functions beyond the function of health protocols. People make masks part of their clothing style, so that divisions in the form of societal polarization regarding masks automatically subside.

Fourth, the aspects that occur in social change are not limited to material/material aspects alone but also include immaterial/non-object aspects (Prajawahyudo, Asiaka, & Nopembereni, 2022). This means that social change occurs across a broad spectrum of aspects and is not limited to just one aspect and there is a connection between these aspects. We can see this again from the phenomenon of the Covid 19 pandemic that has hit society, where the pandemic has an impact not only on one aspect, namely health, but also has an impact on other aspects such as education, the economy and others. Each of these aspects also has an impact on other social aspects in society, both micro and macro.

Factors Causing Social Change

Social change is a phenomenon that humans/society cannot avoid. As long as society exists, it cannot avoid or hide from social change. However, this social change does not happen by itself, but it occurs from interactions between people in society itself. In this case, there are at least two factors that cause social change, namely internal factors (from within society) and external factors (from outside society) (Etzioni-Halevy & Etzioni, 1994).



Internally, social change can be caused by, among others; First, there are population dynamics. Population dynamics in this case means increasing or decreasing the population, both naturally in the form of births and deaths, and in non-natural forms in the form of outmigration and in-migration. The population dynamics that occur can cause various changes in the social structure of society, such as the formation of new social classes and social roles. Population dynamics also result in dynamics in the process of meeting needs in society, in the

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form of competition, conflict and conflict which, if not balanced properly, will give rise to various social phenomena. Second, there is disagreement or conflict. Conflict itself is something that is inherent (inherent) in people's lives and cannot be eliminated/avoided, but must be regulated (managed) well. Conflict occurs because of differences and limitations in desired resources in society. When conflict arises, it will give rise to various anxieties, with the result that people will be easily influenced by new things. Apart from that, widespread conflict will give rise to rebellion in society. Rebellions in society then become revolutions which will have a major impact on changes in social structures and institutions. Third, there is innovation or new discoveries. New discoveries that are factors causing social change here can be interpreted as the discovery of various tools and ideas related to science and technology. In this case, this new discovery must be differentiated into a discovery, which means that the tool or idea is new and has not yet been implemented. When it has been applied and widely accepted in society, it turns into an invention. New discoveries in relation to social change are also interconnected with various other sectors of life. This can be seen from, for example, the discovery of electricity, which then triggered the invention of various electronic devices and more broadly influenced patterns of habits/behavior in society. Thus, new discoveries - especially in the context of science and technology - will cause social change in society (Patty, 2005).

Externally, social change is caused by various things, including; First, there are dynamics of the geographic/natural environment. The natural environment is an external factor that can cause social change in society because of the existence of natural determinist and possibilist factors (Maiwan, 2015) which states that the natural environment is an important thing that can influence human life. In simple terms, we can see from the phenomenon of various professions/livelihoods in society which are created due to natural factors, such as people who live in rural areas, of course have different livelihoods and social lives from people who live in urban areas. In the context of a disaster, nature forces humans to adapt by moving from where they live to look for a safer place. In this way, we get an idea that the natural environment can cause society to change. Second, there is war. In the long history of war experienced by humans, it has always forced humans to change. A simple thing can be seen from the existence of a winner and a loser in a war, where the winning party will usually impose its will on the losing party, so that in this case the losing party will experience social change in various aspects.

Third, there is influence from other cultures. As social creatures, humans will always interact with other humans, both within their own culture and outside their culture, until a process of cultural diffusion occurs. This cultural diffusion then becomes a phenomenon that cannot be avoided as an impact of globalization and modernization. With this interaction between cultures, each culture will try to understand each other so that a process of cultural adaptation occurs which causes society to change. However, in practice, intercultural

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interaction itself can be carried out and take various forms, including acculturation, assimilation, or symbiosis, all of which still lead to changes in society (Patty, 2005).

Another thing that needs to be understood in the context of factors that cause social change is that there are factors that encourage or hinder social change. Driving factors are factors that accelerate social change. There are many things that encourage social change, such as an inclusive societal system, acceptance of science and technology and an advanced education system, a heterogeneous and optimistic society, and various other things that can logically encourage social change to occur more quickly. Meanwhile, inhibiting factors mean factors that slow down or hinder (temporarily) social change. Various things that become factors inhibiting social change include the presence of deeply entrenched interests (vested interests), a homogenous and exclusive society, pessimistic and conservative attitudes, and various other things that can logically prevent social change from occurring.

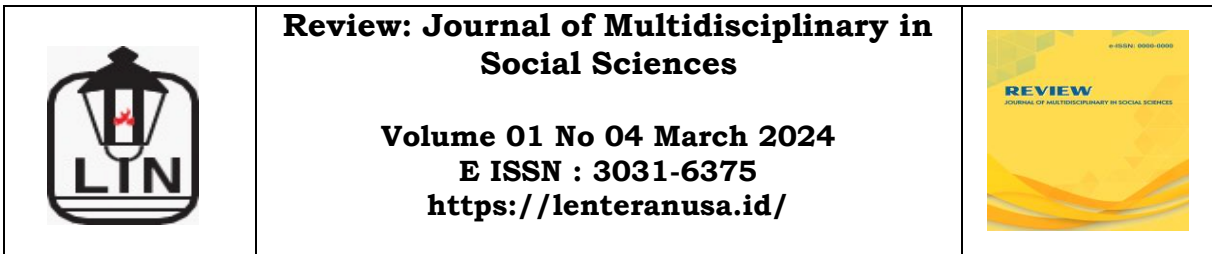
Both driving and inhibiting factors are actually an integral part of the factors that cause social change. These various factors are inherent in every society. In the process then, if the driving factors are more dominant in society then social change will occur (more quickly) and vice versa, where if the inhibiting factors are more dominant in society then social change will be hampered from occurring or at least stifled and even can't happen.

Dimensions of Social Change

As previously explained, social change can also be understood as a study that studies various human interaction behaviors related to change. Thus, the emphasis in the study of social change is all aspects of human life in society or covers all social phenomena. In this case, the point of emphasis on social change means that there is something different from before which to be able to find out can be done using research in the form of a dimensional point of view (Suyanto & Narwoko, 2004).

In this case, there are at least three dimensions in seeing social change (Martono, 2018), including first, the cultural dimension. In this dimension, changes that occur in society occur in the form of cultural changes, such as new discoveries in the creation of culture (material and immaterial), the development of cultural products, including technology, as well as (with) the diffusion of culture in various ways. Processively, the cultural dimension of social change then triggers innovation in culture. This cultural innovation emerged as a sign of new technology as a response to the increasingly complex needs of society which can change lifestyles in society. After innovation occurs, a diffusion process emerges which is an external component that can drive social change. With diffusion, a culture gets influence from other cultures which will then create a dialectic and trigger social change in the form of acceptance of new cultural elements from outside.

This whole process necessitates an increase in the integration of various new elements into the cultural forms that previously existed in society. Changes in this cultural dimension



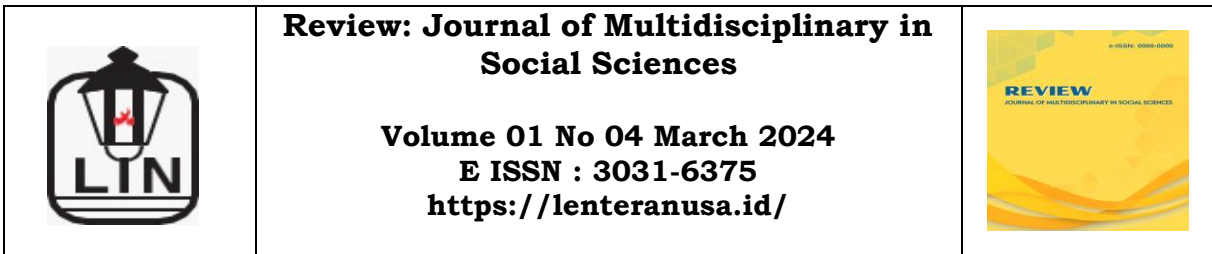
also necessitate dynamic changes in cultural forms in accordance with the cultural flow process. Apart from that, cultural change itself is something that is inherent in social change. Both cultural change and social change are two sides of a coin that cannot be separated from each other. However, it still needs to be emphasized that cultural change actually occurs by referring to changes in various patterns of cultural behavior (and technology and science), both in material and immaterial form.

Second, the structural dimension. Changes in the structural dimension must be understood as a process that changes the old form structurally in the form of consistent modification of the structure of society. In this dimension, the social changes that occur refer to various changes in the form of social structure related to roles, classes and social institutions. Conceptually, social roles in the structural dimension experience change/development in the form of the emergence of various new roles. The emergence of this "new" thing does not only exist in the aspect of social roles, but also in the context of class and social institutions. Practically, changes in this structural dimension can be seen from the existence of various phenomena which are mainly related to social roles such as the addition or reduction of levels of roles in society, also regarding aspects of behavior and power, the categorization of social roles, the occurrence of shifts in role contexts, the occurrence of modifications to communication channels in various role categorizations, and the occurrence of changes in a number of types and the power of a role function as part of the social structure.

Third, the interactional dimension. In this dimension, the social changes that occur refer to changes in the pattern of social relations in society. Social change in this dimension requires modifications and changes in social structures, as well as various components in society along with cultural shifts that bring changes in social relations. Practically, social change in the interactional dimension can be seen from changes in frequency, equipment, regularity, social distance, and the role of laws, all of which are part of a specific dimension in changes in social relations. This means that social relations are part of social change that can be analyzed.

Apart from referring to social relations in society, the interactional dimension also includes aspects of changes in intensity or frequency as well as the use of language as a medium of communication. In this case, this change is also related to technological developments where today's technology causes a reduction in the frequency of human individuals being able to interact with spoken language directly. The role of technology has ultimately changed the frequency and shift of language use in direct interactions. Technology means that interactions can still be carried out well without being tied to how intense the interaction occurs and without being related to various uses of language. In short, current technological developments have advanced so much that humans can fulfill their needs individually without having to interact directly with other individuals.

If examined, social change in each of these dimensions actually occurs in an interdependent manner. Each of these dimensions cannot actually be separated. If seen from





the structural and cultural dimensions, for example, a change that occurs structurally actually gives a sign that at the same time a cultural change is also taking place. Both run simultaneously empirically so that it is difficult to distinguish one from the other. However, at a theoretical level the two are different, where changes in the cultural dimension occur more easily because they are more material in nature compared to changes in the structural dimension which tend to be more abstract-immaterial. On the other hand, changes in the interactional dimension signal simultaneously the two previous dimensions, where the interactional dimension is a direct impact of changes in the other two dimensions. For example, social interactions in society can occur in certain forms due to changes in the structural dimension. Also, these social interactions can also occur due to changes in the cultural system in society. In short, all three can be likened to two sides of the same coin, which to examine requires looking at the level at which social change can be described.

Agent of Change

Considering that the phenomenon of social change is a phenomenon that is inherent in human life, social change - especially in the current 5.0 era, will continue to move quickly with various increasingly complex dynamics. This social change can then be captured as an opportunity or challenge in facing various competitions which are currently increasingly fierce, which in order to be carried out well, you must be able to carry out social planning (social engineering and social planning). In this way, parties will emerge who are (then) trusted to be able to lead the change so that it goes according to what was previously planned. These parties are then known as Agents of Change.

Change agents can be defined as parties (people or groups) who help implement social change in the form of planned innovation. Agents of change in this case are catalysts and managers of social change. More specifically, this change agent can be understood as a party who has professional abilities in assisting with development planning tasks, or reshaping various things needed to be able to overcome problems that arise in a process of social change in society (Soekanto, 1992; Wibowo, 2006).


Conceptually, there are three forms of change agents, including internal change agents, external change agents, and internal-external change agents. Internal change agent means a party who is specifically trained and has the ability to carry out internal community development. Meanwhile, external change agents mean parties from outside the community institutions who are given the task of providing professional staff related to the dynamics of social change. Finally, internal-external social change agents can be interpreted as efforts to combine various parties from both inside and outside community institutions with the main consideration of taking the advantages of each party to cover each other's shortcomings. These three forms of change agents can then synergize with each other - as well as individually, to carry out various roles.

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The initial role of a social change agent is to increase effectiveness in development, which is carried out by building communication between stakeholders. In this case, change agents can initiate the formation of institutional social groups consisting of members from various backgrounds who can work together to form innovations to face the dynamics of social change. The formation of social groups initiated by agents of change is basically an important effort to create other agents of change - as an integral part of society, in order to increase public awareness of the potential, opportunities, challenges and obstacles that arise in the process of social change.

Apart from that, conceptually agents of change also have various roles to play in managing social change. Among the various roles of change agents include, firstly, as a catalyst or liaison. In this case, change agents carry out the role of mobilizing society to carry out innovative social changes that have an impact on society. Second, as a solution provider (problem solver). In this case, social change agents play a role in providing solutions/solutions to problems that occur in society, considering that the process of social change also has a regressive nature or has a negative impact on society for which a solution must be sought. Third, as a provider of help. In this case then, change agents are not only content with efforts to provide solutions. He must be able to participate directly in making a real contribution in the form of assistance efforts in the dynamics of social change, although the assistance provided will also depend greatly on the real conditions in society itself. Fourth, as a linker for change resources (resources linker). In this case, change agents can play their role by forming interconnected networks to overcome various obstacles and dynamics that arise in social change (Rogers, 1983). This network is needed considering the complex nature of social change itself which cannot be seen from just one point of view.

All of these existing roles are basically carried out as part of efforts to provide innovative change in society. So, in this effort, the change agent can then carry out several tasks related to this role, including; First, to develop a need for change in society. In this case, a change agent can carry out the task of helping society to become aware of the need to make changes to various patterns of thinking and attitudes in society, so that society is ready for the various dynamics of social change that will occur in the future. Second, to create good communication relations in society. This communication relationship is important because social change is dynamic and in one form or another can occur very quickly. Communication is then needed so that society and change agents have the same understanding to be able to face these changes. Third, to provide an analysis of the problems faced by society. Analysis is needed as part of mapping the problems that occur in order to then provide appropriate innovative solutions according to community needs. Fourth, to foster the intention to change in society. Change agents must be able to find ways to make people interested and aware of the innovative planning process (social planning) that has been planned beforehand. By having an interest in the planning process of change, society will be able to adapt well to social change.

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Fifth, to articulate real actions in society. This is important so that society does not just stop at the conceptual ideas presented but also makes real moves to be able and ready to change for the better. Sixth, to develop a mindset and attitude to be able to continually renew oneself. This is also important to do in society so that when changes occur in society, society does not have antipathy and complex conflicts arise.

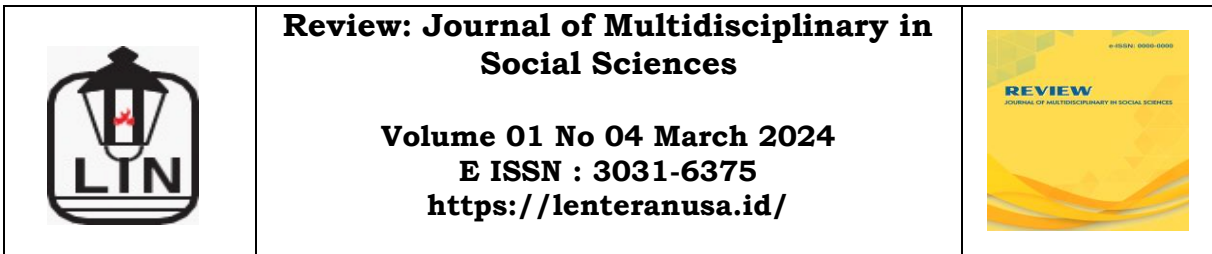
The emergence of a mindset and attitude to be able to renew oneself then becomes the "final task" carried out by the change agent so that society can adopt previously planned innovations. The attitude of self-renewal in society means that society itself will become part of the agent of social change for its own society. With the birth of a new change agent, the task of the previous change agent can be said to have been completed.

Conclusion

As part of sociological studies, social change as a process of change that occurs in social life always takes place without stopping and will continue along with human existence itself. Social change itself can be identified as occurring sociologically if there is a comparison between the current social conditions of society and conditions in the past. However, it should be understood that the essence of this change is the desire of each individual to always change to/be in a better condition (progress) and always be good in accordance with the needs and expectations of society. Apart from that, because change is something that is bound to happen, social change is also essentially an ongoing process that takes into account various important aspects of people's lives such as values, norms, structures, and other important aspects of a society.

As a process, social change in a society is not an outcome or finished product. There is a process of mutual agreement or decision taken by each individual or community group. The decisions taken are of course in accordance with the wishes or hopes of the group so that social change can be realized. These various (agreed) changes in society can concern social values, social norms, patterns of organizational behavior, the structure of social institutions, layers in society, power and authority, social interactions and so on. The changes that occur are closely related to people's lives and the emergence of a culture that emerges along with changes that occur in society. As time goes by, every society will always experience changes, both fast and slow changes. Human life does not just stop at one point, but will continue to rotate in line with the changing demands of increasingly modern times.

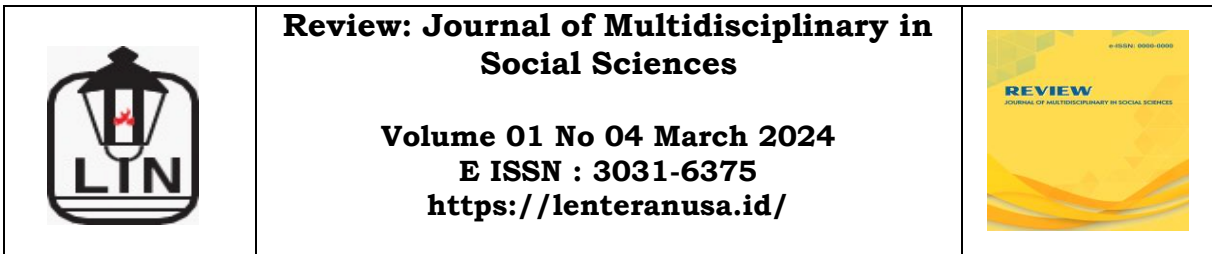
There are changes in the order of society that occur, whether consciously or not, sooner or later. It can occur automatically or intentionally, of course it occurs by paying attention to various supporting and inhibiting factors that influence social change. Coupled with increasingly rapid progress and supported by developments in the flow of technology and information, this will change the social order of society more quickly, and of course this will make people maintain their current social existence in their lives, especially those who are in a



strong religious and cultural environment to maintain and preserving various standard and established values.

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