

2nd Lesson

approaching the end of the twentieth century, societies all over the world are changing. In countries of many different kinds information now plays an increasingly important part in economic, social, cultural and political life. This phenomenon is taking place regardless of a country's size, state of development or political philosophy. Changes that are happening in Singapore.

the changing society : the historical perspective:

changes in society that are drastic in nature have been identified with three major epochs of history, generally referred to as :

- the pre-industrial agrarian society ,
 - the industrial society,
 - the post-industrial society which is evolving currently
- in the pre-industrial society, most people were engaged in the extraction activities of agriculture fishing and mining. the social structure was fairly simple,.Ownership of land provided the power base. life for the people centred round cultivation of land for raising crops for food. cultural and social life were confined to the environments in which they flourished. in the competition for scarce resources, the mighty took everything or a major share of every thing.

the industrial society has been organised around energy as the main source for the production of goods and services on mass scale, the majority of the work force was engaged in the manufacturing activities and the distribution of the outputs. there was a drastic

change in the social structure . power and prestige passed from the landowners to the industrial class. the principle of economic production was influential in shaping the value and ways of life . many countries in the developing at present are passing through this stage of growth and development. the post- industrial society (Information Society) has been emerging slowly but surely in the last 3 decades. the most prominent representations of of this type of society are the United States countries of Western Europe and Japan. the attributes of this post-industrial society are :

- the centrality of theoretical knowledge as the sources of innovation
- distinct change from a commodity producing to a service economy
- the pre-eminence of a managerial, professional and technocratic class.

the process of change is affecting people and organisation the change is causing disorientation and stress as is trying to cope with too many changes in too short a time the accelerated speed of history bring consequences of its own independent of the actual direction of change.

the role of information in relationship to change is important and the chief agent of the transformation of society in this stage is the transformation technology .
