Social Movements

The Jyot Curriculum
Learning Objectives

• Define social change and social movements
• Describe various social movements and how they were formed
• Discuss the role of social movements in facilitating social change
• Assess the pros and cons of social movements

Skills to Learn

• Organizing
• How to initiate change
• Critical and analytical thinking
• Public speaking
• Research

Materials Needed

• Laptop, projector, and screen
• Internet access
• Speakers
• Easel with chart paper or white board
• Markers
• Tape
• Social movements definition on chart paper

Prerequisite?

None

Facilitator’s Key

Say out loud
Video
Conversation/Debrief
Reference Powerpoint

Workshop Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defining Social Movements</td>
<td>15 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Movement Examples &amp; Discussion</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding Social Movements Activity</td>
<td>25 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video Screening</td>
<td>10 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Time</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 hour 20 mins</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Defining Social Movements

Today we will be discussing social movements and social change.

Who here is interested in social change?
[Make this question as interactive as possible. It is important that the kids remain engaged and understand the significance of this topic].

What are some of the things we are passionate to change?
[Examples listed below]

- Environment
- Institutionalized Racism and Discrimination
- Equal Pay
- Gun Control

As we can tell with this list, there are a lot of things that need to be changed in this world. However, real and serious social change always happens in the context of a social movement. Social movements can be transformational. They transform society variations of speed, depth and extent of change, depending on the subject matter at hand.

Since social movements are significant and are necessary to cause social change – we need to understand what they are.

- **Social Movement**: a group of diffusely organized people or organizations striving toward a common goal relating to human society or social change, or the organized activities of such a group.

Defining Social Movements

Now that we have a solid definition and understanding of social movements, can we come up with a few that have taken place?

Examples of social movements:

- Black Lives Matter movement
- Civil rights movement
- Environmental justice movement
- Khalistan movement
- LGBTQ social movements
- Occupy Wall Street movement
- U.S. labor movement
- Anti-war movement
- Women’s suffrage movement
- #metoo movement
- #neveragain gun-control movement (Parkland students)
Defining Social Movements (continued) 15 mins

Why are these important?

What tactics/strategies have activists used to promote their cause in a particular social movement or even in social movements overall? Ask them to tell the story a little.

What have been some pros?
- brings people together
- becomes a support group
- encourage to speak against wrongful doings

Some cons?
- could get violent
- lose vision of mission
- division in society - some people may view you differently

How do you determine whether a movement is succeeding towards its goal?

It is important to know that movements do not really have structured timeline. Some ebb and flow for years, others may die down and revive after a triggering event.

Example: The Civil Rights movement still exists today. It is not the same as it was in the 60s, but it has transformed to fit the present society’s needs and wants.

Understanding Social Movements Activity 25 mins

Split participants into groups of 4 to 5. Assign them a movement to discuss amongst their group.

What were the pros and cons of these movements? Do you agree with the strategies used?

How did we get to this point? What events led to the birth of these movements? Are they still alive today?

Video Screening 25 mins

Screen this Ted Talk video on what is missing in relying too much on digital media in movements.
Conclusion 5 mins

Today we learned that Social Movements are important and are vital if we want to see change implemented. It is also important to note that change cannot happen overnight. Many movements last more than a lifetime and transform into the needs of the community.

Things to think about as we end our session is how we can begin implementing change in our community. It is important to see how our Sikh community can move forward and progress in a direction that is safe for all.

You as the youth of the Sikh Panth are responsible for how you want to carry this generation— not just in the Sikh community, but also your local communities; where you live, go to school or where you work. As Sikhs, we should always advocate for what is right.
Sources
