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Moksha
UPSC MAINS TEST SERIES

SOCIOLOGY (OPTIONAL)
(PAPER II)

VETERANS 2025 - TEST - 2

DATE:

CANDIDATE NAME:

AD 123

MOBILE
NUMBER:

UPSC ROLL NO:
(compulsory)

Email ID:

SIA UNIQUE ID

Marks Details (To be filled by the Examiner(s))

Parts Q.No	a	b	c	d	e	Marks Obtained	Total Marks of Question
1							50
2							50
3							50
4							50
5							50
6							50
7							50
8							50
GRAND TOTAL							250

INSTRUCTIONS

- There are **EIGHT** questions divided in Two Sections.
- Candidates have to attempt **FIVE** Questions in all.
- Questions Nos. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out the remaining, **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** question from each section.
- Write answers in ink only. Do not use pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc.
- Do not write answers in bad/illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated.
- If you wish to cancel any work write "Cancelled" across it, otherwise it may be valued.
- Do not write in the QCA Booklet anything other than the actual answer such as couplet, obscene, abusive expression

etc., nor put any sign/mark having no relevance to the answer. Do not make any direct/indirect appeal/threat to the examiner.

- Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets.
- Students submitting copies online must ensure that the **quality of scanning is not compromised. Badly scanned answers will not be evaluated.**
- Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation.

IF THERE ARE ANY CONCERNS/GRIEVANCES/SUGGESTIONS/ please mail to mokshasocio@shankariasacad.in

TIME TAKEN :

START: 9:00 PM

END: 12:50 AM

IF THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL REQUESTS WITH REGARD EVALUATION

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

(THIS WILL INCLUDE COMMENTS ON POSITIVES / AREAS OF IMPROVEMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS
WHEREVER RELEVANT)

Question Interpretation		
Content	Relevance	
	Quality	
Answer Structure		
Presentation		
<u>Other Parameters</u>		

SECTION A

Q1. Write short answers to the following questions in about 150 words each, with a sociological perspective: (10 x 5 = 50)

(a) Distinctly identify the elements of Marxist village studies in India. (10)

Marxist perspective of village studies focus on materialistic dimension of village life and analyse the conflict rooted around them.

Elements of Marxist village studies

① looking beyond unity reciprocity relation

↳ AB Desai countered the functionalist idea that villages are harmonious and peaceful societies.

⊙ Jamini's system is seen as exploitative on the lower class such as landless.

② They understood the root of caste system as economic

↳ H.G. Bailey understood the caste dominance in terms of ownership of land.

⊙ Brahmins and Kshatriya own land thus also occupy dominant position.

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- ③ Highlighted subaltern perspective of village life
 ↳ Gail Omvedt found how Dalit caste remain caste,
class were excluded, exploited.
 eg- most of the landless belong to Dalit community.
 ④ Countered the state policy & welfare as myth.
 ↳ Utsa Patnaik and AR Desai found how state's
 Policy serve dominant caste in villages.
 eg- cooperative society & community development
 benefits cornered by elite class.

Limitations of marxist perspective

- ① Yogendra Singh highlighted how marxist see every-
 thing in material notion and ignore changes.
 ② Ignored functional aspect of caste & jirami
system.

marxist notion are relevant to understand
 the migrant pattern, rising inequality in villages
 and draft inclusive policies.

- (b) Cite the factors that led to emergence of peasant consciousness during British colonialism. (10)

British period saw a number of peasant revolts and movements which were due to socioeconomic and as well as political consciousness.

Factors for peasant consciousness

First) material changes by colonial empire

such as introduction of zamindari, Ryotwari which exploited peasants via zamindars and middle man. [AR Desai] sees them as rise

of capitalist class in agriculture.

and) conflict of traditional and modern values

The land-revenue system, monetization of land are modern British policies, which contradicted traditional Jajmani system. [D.P. Mukharjee] argued that these (peasant) and Antithesis (British) countered each other.

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Third) emergence of leadership and ideology.
 leaders such as sedo-karhu, chakra bishnoi gave
new vigour and peasant aligned with them.
~~Ramchandra~~ ^{Ranjit} Gruha calls it rise of subaltern
consciousness.

Fourth) Nationalist leadership & freedom movement.
 The freedom movement aligned with peasant
 Cause such as kheda, baedauli. [Dhangare]
 sees them, how, these movements shaped post
 Independence policies.

Fifthly) Rise of national legal system and law courts.
middle class intelligentsia, bureaucracy also raised
 consciousness of peasants. such as [Sanyal]
 revolt used litigation.

The peasant movement of British India
 was not just an opposition to British, but
 emergence of the ~~British~~ peasant consciousness
 aligning itself with the demand of broader reforms.

- (c) Comment on Srinivas's conceptualization of dominant castes. What are the new dimensions of dominance in 21st century India? (10)

MN Srinivas of functionalist thought conceptualized 'dominant caste' in his study of Rampur village, thus combining both text and field based contextual reality.

By dominant caste, Srinivas differs from Ghurye's Bohminical dominance ~~and~~ indology. He stated that, dominance is not just ritual dominance, but also secular such as:

- (i) ownership of land (eg- Jats dominance in western UP)
- (ii) ritual dominance (eg- Rajputs in central India)
- (iii) government job
- (iv) political and party connections such as yadavs in UP
- (v) Number of people such as Gujjars or patel caste in Gujarat

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Srinivas also highlighted role of dominant caste in the resolution of local disputes. They also mobilize votes. People follow and imitate dominant caste to gain ritual status through sanskritization.

New dimensions of dominance in 21st century

- (i) English speaking enhances status of caste in the village hierarchy.
- (ii) Remittances from city migrant & improves social position.
- (iii) In Punjab and Haryana, NRI status has emerged as new form of dominance.

Limitations (i) Yogesh Atal highlighted that dominance is relative (one might be dominant at village but not in state)

Dominant caste study of MN Srinivas helps in finding deep rooted hierarchy, effectiveness of any scheme, vote mobilization. Thus sociological study of dominant groups is still relevant.

- (d) Outline the Gandhian vision of Indian independence portrayed through his book 'Hind Swaraj'. (10)

Mahatma Gandhi communicated with people through 'Hind Swaraj', about his idea of Indian Independence, which is a blend of simplicity, bottom up and spiritual ideas.

Gandhian views of Indian Independence

- ① Decentralized power structure - Gandhi was opposed of powerful state, but saw how people led decentralized society suited to India.
- ② Simple and spiritual society which is close to nature, limited use of machine, use of khadi. Thus it aligns with marxian notion of communism.
- ③ Opposed to capitalism and blind wealth creation, which caused dysfunctions such as colonialism. He stated a 'Trustee ship' model; where wealth is kept at the trust of people.

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④ pluralistic society - with religious tolerance and co-existence. Rajiv Bhargava highlights a principled distance of state from religion based on Gandhian secularism.

⑤ on caste and varnashram - supporting Ambedkar on empowering dalits, he supported varnashram as main block of Hinduism. Thus change of system not change of system.

Limitations of Gandhian vision

- ① Jawahar Lal Nehru saw strong role of state while maintaining decentralized approach.
- ② A. R. Desai termed Gandhi as Capitalist.
- ③ Ambedkar saw villages as backward and cities as solution.

Article 40, local bodies, gram sabha, mission, SHG and PDS are influenced by Gandhian vision which helps to balance an equity and downtrodden led vibrant growth by 2047.

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TEST-2

- (e) Who are the dominant castes? Analyse their impact on agrarian social structure and transformation. (10)

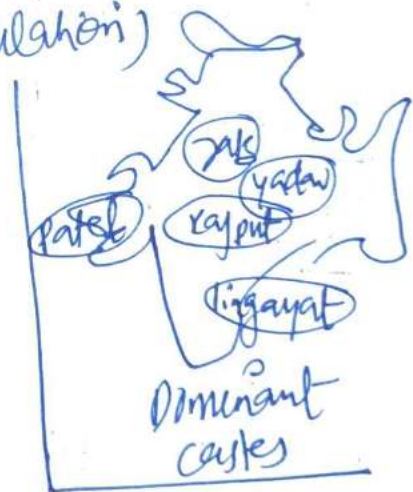
Dominant castes are the economically and ritually empowered castes, which is conceptualized by thinkers such as MN Srinivas and JC Dube in their village study.

Dominant caste

① caste who dominate secular hierarchy (land, job) and ritual hierarchy (Brahmin, Kshatriya) or demographically large (population)

② Other castes such as Vaishyas and Shudras see them as their reference group (merton) and follow them in order to improve their social status.

③ Dominant caste groups influence politics & mobilize vote banks as per Dipankar Gupta
(eg- AJGAR & NY)



Impact of dominant caste on agrarian social structure and transformation

- ① They belong to the malik section of agrarian class (Daniel Thorner).
- ② They reap surplus, practice absentee landlord and early to move into entrepreneurs business as Mario Kuttan' study of Gujarat shows.
- ③ They were first to get education, migrate to cities and get into government employment. Andre Beteille study of ssipulam shows the change in dominant structure due to migration.
- ④ They aspire the ideas of urban class society, though yogendra singh found them deeply traditional.

The dominant caste groups still play an influencing role in social transformation and social power equations.

- (a) Do you agree to the view that the transformation of the pre-British India from feudal economy to capitalist economy was a result of the British conquest of India? (20)

British rule of around 180 years saw a wide ranging change in Indian society and economic determinants. sociological study shows that the period also witnessed the emergence of capitalist economy from feudal Indian society.

1 British period changing feudalism into capitalism

① British policies of agrarian transformation policies such as zamindari, monetization of land created middle class at the cost of proletarianization of peasant class.

max see this as change from Asiatic mode to exploitative capitalist mode of production.

② Infrastructural growth and interconnectivity

The creation of railways, roadways and waterways was to penetrate Indian market, so as to generate surplus from Indian society.

Andre Schelle argues that this flooded Indian market

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- (b) What is middle class proliferation? Critically examine the consequences of the rise of the 'new middle class's on politics in India. (20)

Middle class is defined by Ralf Dahrendorf as a class having values of both upper and lower class and which exist in between these two classes. Niti Aayog projected the proliferation of middle class by upto 450mn by 2030.

Proliferation of middle class

① Rise in population of middle class. Max Weber saw it as contrary to the pauperization prediction of Marx.

② Deliberate creation by upper class. - Geric Olin
Wright saw that middle class is created by capitalists to consume surplus and sustain it.

Consequences of rise of middle class on politics

① Functional consequences

middle class actively participate in the

and destroyed traditional feudal economy.

③ The patron client relation between rulers and subject
British capture of power through subsidiary alliance
and doctrine of lapse diluted the relation of
economic interdependence, haveli system & ryotwari.
while giving rise to exploitative market system.

④ British trade policy and drain of wealth
one way trade policy by British government in India
destroyed feudal economy, all the raw material
was transported to British, which also flooded agriculture
with disguised labour.

⑤ British values aligned with the capitalist class values
The values of rationality, individuality and bureaucratic
principles brought systemic change in Indian
society.

Western sociology would argue, this created industrial
value system in India, by undermining purity-pollution
and karma siddhanta.

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British rule destroyed Indian Capitalism

① Britishers' exploitative policies and trade rules destroyed Indian capitalist class (eg- cheap British products left Indian industries uncompetitive).

② British policies were contrary to the capitalist values such as divide and rule, communal policies created disorder and prevented industrial growth.

③ British industrialization at the cost of Indian deindustrialization: [Dada Bhai Naoroji] argued that home charges and high tariff on Indian goods were to prevent Indian capitalist growth.

④ exploitative rupee-sterling exchange rate was exposed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, which kept Indian British imports cheap.

Thus, while British policies created ground for capitalist growth in India, Indian capitalist class emerged as [latent function] of the dissolution of feudalism.

debate and discourses and shapes policy matters.

Ananya Sen calls them argumentative class.

secondly) middle class is also an aspirational class with progressive change ideas such as decriminalization of politics and raising participation of females in parliament, which will make politics inclusive and sustainable.

thirdly) middle class is not as passive as upper class and participate actively in voting. They also lead the civil society groups and hold government accountable.

Dysfunctional role of middle class.

firstly) As argued by Marx that middle class promotes elitist interest, thus in politics too this prevents real change. Foucault's idea of

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discourse setting and Gramscian ideological hegemony shows how middle class is carrier of dominant ideology.

Secondly) middle class has emerged as a superficial class which lacks courage for fundamental change and remain passive to environmental issues and gender issues like marital rape thus blocking real change in politics.

Thirdly) middle class is emerging as a prominent voter bank. The recent fiasco before Delhi election shows how easily they can be diverted from real issues.

The middle class proliferation will have wide ranging impact in politics due to ambivalent nature and each political party tries to capture their interest making them king maker of Indian politics.

(c) Evaluate the role of migration on kinship systems in India.

(10)

According to 2011 census there are around 455 million internal migrants in India which influences the kinship system of Indian society.

Role of migration on kinship

① Fluidity of kinship bonds :- migration makes kinship system weak, while seasonal migration or backward migration maintains bonding.

② - Dipankar Guptas - Ritual Tug to home shows value of shraddh, pindan still important.

③ Impact on family - migration has led to nuclearisation of family, upholding parsonian notion of nuclear family best suited for industrial society. however thinkers like Ramkharve & IP Desai argue that joint family as functional unit dominate Indian society.

④ Impact of migration on marriage -

male dominant migration creates feminization of agriculture. [Bhadani and Rudra] argues that, it puts children into child labor and female into harassment.

[Absence of male $\neq$ absence of patriarchy - Leela Gulati]

④ migration leaves elderly out of care
nuclearization of family ~~too~~ creates issue of isolation, alienation and out of geriatric care of old age parents.

⑤ De-ritualization and de-sacrilization of kin bonds
The conventional notion of Karta, lineant and discent impacted due to migration. New values such as rationality, urban education creates modernization of kinship. (e.g.) Divorce, live in intercaste marriage

migration of people is not an individual phenomenon. It impacts kinship ties, villages and even cultural values of Indian society.

(a) Compare and contrast between Beteille's and Dumont's analysis of caste.

(20)

Andre Beteille in his study of Tanjore village provided contextual understanding of caste system. which differs from Louis Dumont's study of caste in textual terms.

Difference between Dumont and Beteille's caste

Louis Dumont	Andre Beteille
① <u>ideological perspective</u> into <u>dialectics of purity and pollution</u>. ② Caste is an <u>ideological hierarchy</u> which is <u>non-competitive</u> and <u>culturally rooted in Hinduism</u>. ③ Caste system remain <u>static</u> and <u>lack mobility</u>.	① <u>field work</u> with <u>longitudinal study</u> for <u>20 years</u>, adopted <u>Weberian model of caste, class & power</u>. ② Caste system is an <u>intersection of land ownership, employment and different caste group compete for resources</u>.

- (b) Elaborate on Irawati Karve's views on kinship systems and their regional variations. Are they still relevant? (20)

Irawati Karve's study of kinship system in India gives an extensive understanding of diversity, patterns and local kinship practices, thus countering the earlier notion of indology which gave kinship uniformity in India.

Irawati Karve's kinship variations

- ① Karve ~~div~~ divided India into North, South, Central and North East to study kinship patterns.
- ② His study is based on different kinship norms such as practice of marriage and kinship terminologies.
- ③ He also highlighted how different kin groups behave with each other by comparing similar relations across regions.

④ In the substantialization of caste he showed signification and ethnicization of caste.

⑤ All caste group derive their status from Brahmin caste as source.

⑥ There is no conflict in the caste system as it remain a cultural notion.

⑦ Eurocentric model while arguing caste as exploitative and unequal while class of western society as egalitarian.

③ Politicization, land reforms created avenues for mobility in caste:

① to caste system becoming fluid with socio-economic changes.

⑤ Each caste maintain their own boundary consciousness from other caste.

⑥ Tripartite conflict between Brahmins, nonbrahmins and Adi dravid exists.

⑦ countered argument by providing evidence how caste parallels exist in other societies and western society too remain unequal.

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Similarities in Dumont and Bachelard's caste

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- ① Both observed impact of politicization of caste on caste and caste dynamics.
 - ② They both ignored gendered dimension of caste system.
 - ③ Both understood caste's functions such as Jajmani system, though Bachelard's view also explored Jajmanies dysfunction.

Dumont and Bachelard study complement each other. While Dumont gave Brahmanical and ideal view of caste, Bachelard substantiated it with ground realities through extensive field studies to give a complete and wholesome picture of caste.

Variations① North India

- ① Descriptive kinship terminologies for each kin relation.
- ② Universally patriaschal and patriocal system
- ③ Bride is new at groom's house so practice of shyness and suspicion exists
- ④ village and Gotra exogamy while caste endogamy

② Southern India

- ① Classificatory kinship terminologies for kin relations
- ② Preferential marriage is practiced.
- ③ Bride is not totally stranger so suspicious relation does not exist.
- ④ village ^{exogamy} endogamy is not a norm, while caste endogamy practiced.

③ North East India

- ① matrilinal families found in Ichasi community

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⑪ Property being transferred from mother to younger daughter.

Central India

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① mix form of norms and practices of north and south.

② some tribes of central India prefer Druidry practices (pre-marital sexual relation).

Contemporary relevance

① while patriarchal families becoming dominant even in Thalwad community, there is greater say of females now. (eg - Live in / Love marriage.

② Caste endogamy is main fact but inter-caste and inter-religious marriages showing rise.

③ English terminologies replacing local terms (uncle) while western values on rise (4BTQ+)

The classification of banachovsky gives a broad understanding of kinship patterns. However, recent changes shows a revisit to understand Indian kinship again.

(c) Examine the features and relevance of Indological studies of Ghurye and Dumont. (10)

Indological studies try to understand Indian society from religious texts and historical insights such as manuscripts. G.S. Ghurye and Louis Dumont contributed in the Indological understanding of Indian society.

Ghurye's Indology - features

- ① Defined scope and methods of study society
eg- Indian way to study India such as,
caste, religion, Jatism.
- ② He countered British & colonial sociology treating Indian village as isolated and self sufficient.
- ③ He also complemented Indology with field study of mahadev koli & their superstitions.
- ④ He gave revised view of tribes calling them partially Hindu.

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Dumont's Indology - feature

- ① comparative study with homoequifarious west
- ② called caste system ideological and cultural which is uncompetitive.
- ③ unlike Ghurye's attributional system, he also defined caste in purity-pollution & endogamy.

Relevance

- ① study such as William Darymple, DL Bhasan, R.S. Sharma are based on Indology, which still try to study India on Indological lines.
- ② Caste features like endogamy, purity-pollution still exist so has sociological relevance.
- ③ however, field studies (MN Srinivas) stated that caste practices (subcaste) differs from Ghurye's (varnashram) model.
Recent changes such as reservation, local bodies, migration changed the perspective of Indian society as understood in Indology, but they still serve as reference point.

SECTION B

Q5. Write short answers to the following questions in about 150 words each, with a sociological perspective:

(10 x 5 = 50)

(a) Analyse the significance of legislations in preventing violence against women and children.

(10)

The government has brought many flagship laws to safeguard women and childrens from violence, showing significant socio-cultural shift.

Functional significance

① Building true consciousness among females and childrens against patriarchal hegemony.
 ↳ Uma Chakravorty sees how female internalize violence as cultural norm (Brahmanical Patriarchy)
 eg- 43% females justified wife beating.

② Changing gender norms and shift in male attitude

↳ Gilroy Walby's public patriarchy shows that violence at workplace used to restrict female at male place.

eg- POSH Act safeguarded females at workplace against sexual harassment.

③ Preventing childrens from sexual abuse

↳ child being easy targets & submissive are exploited. NCRB data shows rise in the cases under POCSO Act.

④ Raising awareness regarding corporal punishment

↳ RTI Act & NEP2000 raised awareness about physical punishment which creates emotional damage.

→ Michael Foucault disciplined punish & shows change in punishment.

⑤ Bureaucratization of family intimacy (Prevention of Domestic Violence Act)

state now interferes into domestic matter, inheritance matters & domestic violence.

↳ Foucaults. Biopower shows states way to discipline people against violence.

Despite these laws, there is scope for protection of females & child. Nancy Fraser

argues that any recognition must be followed with redistribution such as awareness & economic support.

(b) Highlight the distinct features of anti-caste movements during colonial times. (10)

Anti caste movements of colonial India emerged due to rising rationality, human rights knowledge and modernity when the middle class intelligentsia came in touch with western education.

Distinct features

firstly) These movements were mainly led by upper caste elites ^{which} ~~who~~ were urban centric. [DP].
[Mukherjee] noticed how this class was alienated from the masses.

secondly) with the participation of leaders like Jyotirba Phule & Narayan Guru, these movement attained revolutionary outlook. [Gail].

[Omvedt] in her Segregated theory highlighted the role of these movements to ~~establish~~ aim for egalitarian society.

Thirdly) The symbols and language used to create new realities and countering Brahminist hegemony gave rise to reactionary movements also. (Bhakti Bhawan Patil Sabha of Kadhalant de)

Fourthly) South Indian movements such as Temple entry and Gowdars Satyagraha & SNCP acquired not only anti Brahmins but also anti-hindi and anti north stance, alienating themselves from rational politics.

Fifthly Two divergent thoughts from Topdown Gandhian harizan and B.R. Ambedkar Bottom up dalit movement seek political empowerment to achieve caste less society.

These dalit anti caste movement today acquired a political character (Rajni Kothari) and continue to shape caste consciousness in society.

(c) What is internal displacement? What are the challenges in addressing it.

(10)

Temporary or permanent movement of people within the territory of state (India) is called Internal displacement. It may be Voluntary (migration) and non voluntary.

[Walter Fernandes] understood this as a direct consequences of state policies, he calls it 'displacement by development'. According to him, around 40% of total displaced (1980-1990) are Tribals.

Thus, top down policies without socio-cultural studies, causes these displacement (~~states~~, SEZ, NPB etc)

Challenges

① Climate change induced displacement such as flood, landslide, drought
(eg) people from Bundelkhand migrating to cities

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- ② Balancing ecology with development project
↳ Bureaucratic inertia in addressing EIA, FRA-2006 & Pest at causes displacement.
- ③ Development by disposition (David Harvey)
↳ The gerentocracy, the simplification of cities for the interest of elites causes displacement from slums.
- ④ Cognitive injustice (Shiv ~~or~~ Vishwanathan)
one ~~solo~~ sided rational approach, application of science (mining at Nasir) causes displacement.
- ⑤ Feminization of displacement
RIOF journal highlighted rising sexual exploitation in drought areas. Refugees like Rohingya suffer from violence.

Such issue can be addressed with long term displacement policy, bottom up approach, and decentralized development models.

(d) What are the new dimensions of power elitism in India? How does it impact Indian democracy? (10)

Power elite theory highlights how power is inherently monopolized by few at the cost of others. India is witnessing new dimensions of power elites such as:-

- ① Technocratic elites - specialization in technology and knowledge produces new elite class (Foucault discourse power)
- ② Managerial class - with the rise of industrialization, managerial class has emerged as new contradictory class position. (Eric dir Wright)
- ③ Farmer entrepreneurs class - the traditionally elite farmers have invested into capital and emerged as new elite class in rural India (marlo suttan)
- ④ Bureaucratic elites - Despite politically inclusive democracy, the oligarchy of bureaucracy

has emerged in India (Roberto Michels)

⑤ Class-caste nexus - dominant caste turning into dominant class (Andre Schelle)

Impact on Indian democracy

- ① elite recruitment - the study of [Zelizer] thesis shows, with time, even open society restrict mobility. Thus rising inequality shows decline in economic democracy.
- ② crony capitalism - [Atul Kohli], [K.L. Sharma] show, the crisis of legitimacy of political representation due to corporate funding of election (electoral bond)
- ③ maintenance of 'ideological hegemony' (Gramsci) preventing real democratic change.

The new elites across corporate, politics and society shape and divert democracy as per their want. Transparency, public participation is the key to bring real democratic change.

- (e) Evaluate the decadal performance of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' with respect to demographic indicators.

(10)

Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao was launched to overcome the 'civilizational crisis' of declining child sex ratio (Anand Bose). The sociological impact of the scheme remained significant.

The scheme aimed to change the patriarchal mindset of society which sees girl child as burden (dowry, honour). The comprehensive ICT campaign and initiatives such as 'selfie with daughter', PCPNDT Act improved sex ratio from 914 (2011) to 944 (2021).

Despite these improvement, there remain issues with the scheme. Tulsi Patel highlighted how, BBBP, targeted only female population. The whole responsibility of family.

Planning and protection of girl child was put on mother, without significant target of male counterpart who still remain the deciding factor of women's sexual rights (patricia o'beroi).

further, the scheme lacked, distributive reforms (Nancy Fraser). Rosella Calvi and Ajinkyā Keshkar found how, dowry still a prevalent and rising social aspect in society even in modern community.

Flavia Agnes would argue mere legislation is not enough, comprehensive ground work is required to address such deep entrenched gender norms.

Dr. Betty Cohen stated, there were times when 1st girl child was accepted & 2nd was tolerated while 3rd killed, such practices still exist which needs multi stakeholder's 360° effort to overcome.

Q7. (a) Examine the nature and trend of urbanisation in India, various demographic segments?

Around 31% India's population lives in urban settlements (2011 census) and it will increase upto 40% by 2030 (NITI Aayog). This growth is not just a demographic shift but change in socio-cultural values, norms & interrelations.

Nature of Urbanization

① Regional and geographic variations

India is witnessing overurbanization (Maharashtra) and under-urbanization (Bihar) at the same time, fueling interregional variations in norms and values.

② Urbanization led by migrant population

MSA Rao's (urban sociology) shows, how migrant population keep their values and cultural patterns intact. This leads to the traditionalization of urban modernity (Yogendra Singh).

③ Humanization of cities

around 80% of urban population lives in slums such as Dharavi, engaged in culture of poverty (Oscar Lewis) and culture of hostility (gangs, drug cartels).

④ Environmental consequences of urbanization

overpopulation, encroachment of green spaces takes heavy toll on climate. Delhi featured among most polluted cities (IQ Air).

Trend in Urbanization

① Driven by market and consumerist culture with the growth of middle class in cities, Pawan Verma noticed, consumption driven cities.

② Westernized urban spaces

Western values such as live in relationship, nuclearization of families, individualization dominant urban places. This shows one-dimensional

man trend highlighted by Herbert Marcuse.

③ Urban places becoming more sick & unsustainable
As seen during covid 19, urban flood and heat islands, highlighting [Urban Sickness] notion of sick society.

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Indian cities: safe for various demographics

- ① Females - feminist thinkers argue that patriarchal oppression dominate cities, such as public patriarchy by [Silvia Walby]
- ② Old age - nuclearization of family and rising old age population leaves them vulnerable ([Prosenjit Biswas])
- ③ Childrens - drug addiction, social media creating deviancy among kids.

Urbanization must be accompanied with distributive schemes (Nancy Fraser) to make the socially, economically and environmentally sustainable and safe for all demographics.

(b) Examine the cultural consequences of an increasing dependency ratio? Is India prepared to cope with a burgeoning geriatric population? (20)

The population of 60 plus age group will increase to become 16% by 2040 from current 8% (NITI), showcasing significant socio-cultural shift with functions and dysfunctions both.

Functional consequences of rising dependency ratio

- ① Reverse dependency - where old age people earn and support families, reducing pressure on the working age.
- ② Silver Economy - such as geriatric care devices, and health care gives rise to jobs and opportunities for females to work.
- ③ Elderly population are known for the storehouse of knowledge and wisdom, giving guidance and emotional support.
- ④ Child care in double income families such as

II families of Guingoram.

Dysfunctional consequences of ^{rising} dependency ratio

① sandwich generation - which struggles in fulfilling the needs of both childrens and parents and causing emotional and physical stress.

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② expenditure will increase and savings will deplete : it increases inequality for the working age, minimizes quality expenditure such as health and education, thus intergenerational transfer of burden.

③ challenges for state policies - such as rising non-communicable diseases, pandemics takes heavy toll on elderly and childrens and creates emotional trauma. (eg) - Alzheimer, Alienation, Isolation.

④ issues like cultural and age gap causes friction and conflict, violence, specially with feminization of ageing

Preparedness of India

① policies such as National old age policy and old age & senior citizens Act 2007, puts in practice responsibility of children to take care of elderly.

② pension schemes (NPS) and vaya vandana yojna, National Action plan for non communicable disease to protect elderly & give income support.

Challenges

① lack of geriatric care in villages increases exclusion of 90% elderly population.

② Nuclearization of families and loss of cultural values puts them into marginalization.

with the rise of elderly population in India, recognition must follow socially complementary steps like investment in health, raising awareness about elderly and promotion of silver economy for safe and satisfying aging.

(c) What are the challenges faced by informal rural labor in India

Informal sectors constitute around 90% work force in India and most of the rural labor comes under informal economy. This sector is highly vulnerable to socio-economic challenges.

Challenges of informal & rural labor

① Exploitation by employers due to lack of social security net. Keith Hart found easy entry and exit of employers will.

② feminization of informal sector (70% women) without proper implementation of POSH Act makes them vulnerable to sexual harassment. Silvia Walby argues, sexual harassment is a tool of males to assert dominance at workplace.

③ Intermittent working at the mercy of algorithms Shoshana Zuboff's surveillance capitalism explores the vulnerability of platform workers & gig

workers who are disciplined using clicks and talking (Foucault)

④ In the absence of male protector due to migration, females and children are exploited into child labour & prostitution (Budhman & Kundra)

⑤ Agricultural labour in rural areas are exploited by landlords such as bondage labour, begari & Jean Berman termed them footloose labour who are easy to exploit.

⑥ The informal and rural labor are excluded from many welfare schemes (Mukisan not for landless) due to topdown approach of bureaucracy.

Reforms such as one nation - one card, MGNREGA and e-Shram portal tries to de-alienate this sector from state, and reach out to them with social security net to achieve SDG goals.