



SOCIOLOGY OPTIONAL TEST – QUESTION PAPER (STI)

WEEK – 2

DAY – 4: 27-06-2025 (FRIDAY)

SYLLABUS:

PAPER 2 : A(1), A(2),B(1), C(2), C(3)

- 1) Critically examine the concept of sanskritisation with suitable illustrations. (10m)
- 2) Do you agree with the view of Andre Beteille that india's villages are representative of Indian society's basic civilizational values? Present a sociological overview. (10m)
- 3) Discuss the role of technology in agrarian change in India. (10m)
- 4) Write a short note on changing means of production and increased rural poverty. (10m)
- 5) Examine the features and relevance of Indological studies of Ghurye and Dumont. (20m)
- 6) Evaluate the efficiency of land reforms in India. Can the lacunae be addressed in Land Reforms 2.0? (20m)
- 7) Discuss the challenges during village studies in India. (20m)
- 8) Examine the factors responsible for the rural unrest in contemporary India. (20m)



ALL INDIA CIVIL SERVICES COACHING CENTRE

OPTIONAL ANSWER BOOKLET - WEEKLY



ஓபாட்டித் தேர்வுகள் பிரிவு

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ID	NMCEM	Date of Exam	27/6/25
		Subject	Sociology

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

Q.No.	MARKS	Q.No.	MARKS	INSTRUCTIONS
1.		11.		- It is advisable to attempt all questions provided in the booklet within the given timeline. - Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission certificate which must be stated clearly on the cover of the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in a medium other than the authorized one. - Use only blue and black pens to write answers. Do not use a pencil for writing the answers. However, pencil may be used for drawing diagrams, sketches, etc. - Kindly ensure that you adhere to the word limit mentioned against each question. - Do not write answers in illegible handwriting. Such answers may not be evaluated. - Please mention the question number and question before each answer, if you are submitting your answers in A4 sheets. - Marks allocated to each answer is final, and we will not entertain any kind of reevaluation. - Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.
2.		12.		
3.		13.		
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6.		16.		
7.		17.		
8.		18.		
9.		19.		
10.		20.		
TOTAL MARKS		TOTAL MARKS		

EVALUATION INDICATORS

Parameters	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Language						
Structure						
Innovation						
Content						
Number of Questions attempted						

EVALUATOR FEEDBACK

Overall Macro Comments/Feedback/Suggestions on Answer booklet

(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>		

② Dominant caste - Status - CASTE hierarchy → Ritual mobility
Secular hierarchy → education, employment

he talks about caste groups he opt for secular hierarchy by holding economic and political power.

② Bhrommijars of Behar

Critic of sanskritisation

① Objectivity → as the study is done using field analysis, there is influence of personal bias. [Leach]

② [Structural change] → some advocate the observance of structural change in society.

[Dyogendra Singh] highlight the structural impact of sanskritisation.

③ [Power dynamics] is not considered in study in terms of caste, class etc.

[Bina Aggarwal] highlight the power struggle between difference classes.

Despite criticism, the process of sanskritisation helped in understanding the deprived section who are socially excluded.

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2. Do you agree with the view of Andre Beteille that villages are representative of Indian society's basic civilizational values? Present a sociological overview.

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Andre Beteille studied the Sripuram village, Tanjore in his work "Class, Caste and power - The changing stratification of Tanjore village" in weberian perspective.

Villages are representative of Indian society

① Overview of India → he explained that functioning of village provide a overview of working of society.

② Network theory - he considered that villages are not independent entity but are interdependent on other villages or cities.

He contradicted the Metcalfe

view of india being "little republics" that are self sufficient.

③ Caste dynamics - he highlighted the restrictions and privileges provided for the caste on the basis of purity and pollution.
 eg) lower caste people in maharashtra cannot walk through upper caste roads.

④ Commensality restrictions and regulate division of labour.

Critics → Upper class perspective study where he did not address the view of depressed class.
 → Gender dimension neglected in his study.

Thus Anne Beteille study of village helped in understanding the ground level inequality. But in changing world dynamics, they require further study.

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3. Discuss the role of technology in agrarian change in India.

The integration of technology in Indian agriculture was considered technology neutral where people could access equally irrespective of the background.

Role of technology in agrarian change in India

① Land consolidation using technology provided land rights to farmers who were marginalised.

(eg) Tribals provided land rights after adequate documentation.

② Economic opportunities expanded and increased profit.

[Tk Oomen] explain about the opportunistic migration, bargaining power,

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due to green revolution adoption.

③ Gender dynamics opportunities provided to women to earn income.

② Drone Didi scheme by government to train women.

④ Improved wellbeing - the integration of technology have cascading effect.

Shanti George study on "Operation Flood" how improved income has led to educational investment, nutrition improvement.

The technology might be access neutral but not resource neutral. Thus the role of state is essential for equitable distribution of opportunities to improve the agricultural sector.

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4.

Write a short note on changing means of production and increased rural poverty.

The means of production refers to the source of income for the rural labours. The changing means of production has a significant impact.

changing means of production and increased rural poverty

① British period - They opted for semi-feudalistic and feudalistic mode of production that exploited the labourer.

(eg) The Ryotwari system that required 9/10th of produce as tax.

② during independence increasingly unemployment artisans depended on agriculture ~~tasks~~ decreasing the profit leading to rural poverty.

(eg) Disguised unemployment

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③ Socialist India reforms were introduced such as land reforms, Green revolution etc.

This had a class-caste nexus in Indian context. P.C. Joshi explain that

the agricultural class was divided into 3 →

- [Landlords Upper caste (Benami transfer)]
- [Landholding farmers (Benefit land ceiling)]
- [Middle class]
- [Landless peasants]
- [Lower caste (did not benefit)]

④ Post 1990s LPG reforms has further intensified the process where government investment drastically decreased.

eg) WTO signatory - that has Amber box ceiling.

The government instead of instrumentalisation of poverty should go for comprehensive reforms such as goal of Doubling farmers income, Evergreen Revolution 2.0 etc.

5 Examine the features and Relevance of endological studies of Ghurye and Dumont.

G.S. Ghurye and Dumont

approached their indological studies on their works "Class and caste in India"

and "Homo Hierarchicus" which analysed the Indian society.

Features and Relevance of Ghurye study

G.S. Ghurye tried to study diversified aspects of Indian society.

① Caste - he considered as a open system where mobility is possible by value system.

② Tribals - he called them as "Backward Class Hindus" who go for voluntary integration into society.



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③ Hindu culture - he considered it as a syncretic culture that can absorb all the elements in society.

This guide for the common value consciousness that unite the society together.

(eg) Karthikeyan a tribal god synchronised to Hindu god as MURUGAN.

④ Indian society should be guided by Hindu values.

Relevance → ① The present heterogeneous context has complexed the simple definition of Hindu culture.

② Considering hinduism as otherworldly religion. V K Sraoke explains religion as dialectics of thought.

③ Neglect the role of individual interest in decision making.

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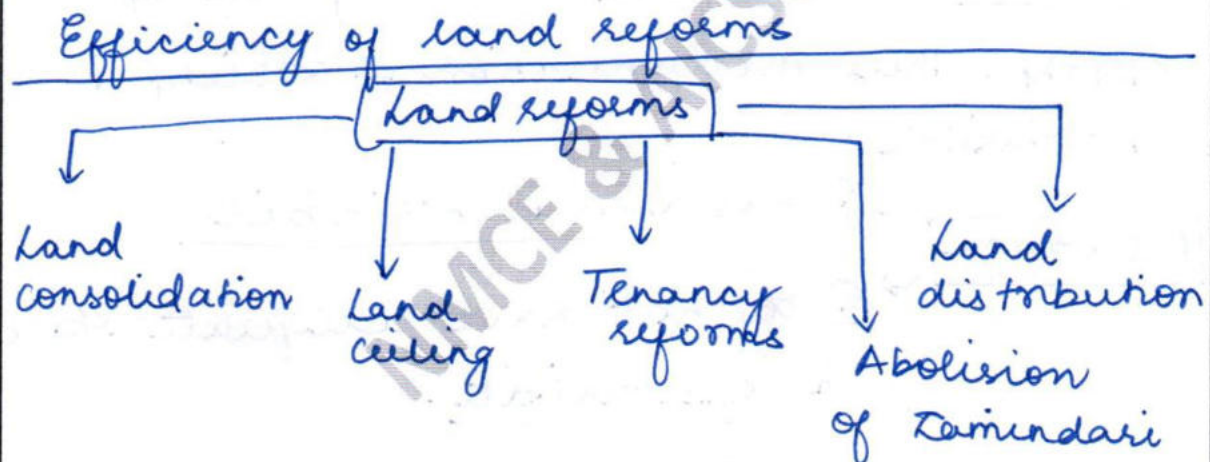
- Thus both studies provided the book view of society that vary from reality having less reference to the current sociological studies.

6. Evaluate the efficiency of land reforms in India
Can the lacunae be addressed in land reforms
2.0?

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The land reforms were introduced in post independent period to address the issue of poverty in rural regions, historical injustices and ensure food sufficiency for the country.



- ① land provided to the landless farmers.

Daniel Thorner highlight the success of land ceiling in distribution of land.

- ② Bhoodan Movement was successful that led to successful land distribution.

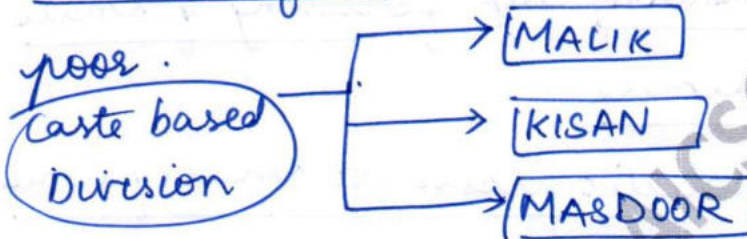
③ Land consolidation improved the productivity of the region by increasing output.

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Draw backs of land reforms

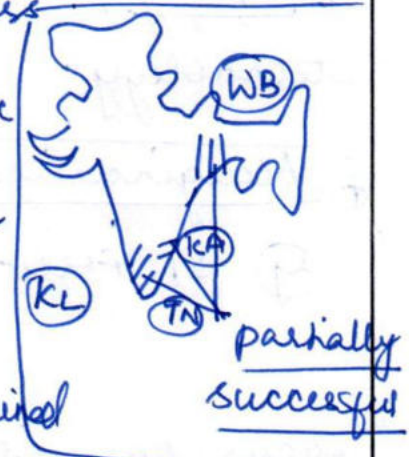
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① Perpetuate inequality were the upper caste benefited and lower caste remained poor.



② Bureaucratic hindrance which varied among regions in their success

Randhir Singh absorb crony capitalism that favours politicians



③ Absentee landlordism as explained

by Ashok Rudra where benami transfer took place.

④ Lack of political will in many state government (Andre Beteille)

Issues to be addressed in land reforms 2.0

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① Digitalisation of land records that can reduce red tapism by bureaucrats.

② Adequate livelihood by focusing on small and marginal farmers

eg PM KISAN, credit access to small farmers
etc.

③ Equity in land production by integrating technology.

④ Marginalised sections identified and improved.

eg ST Forest Dwellers Act → forest rights.

Thus, Land reforms 2.0 should focus on inclusive development, address regional imbalances and increasing migration to urban areas.

7. Discuss the challenges during village studies in India.

Many sociologists in India irrespective of their methodology went for village studies to understand the villages of India.

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Challenges during villages studies

① Economic integration of village with other villages / city that prevent holistic study.

SC Dubey in his study of Shamis-pet village highlight the linkage of Hyderabad.

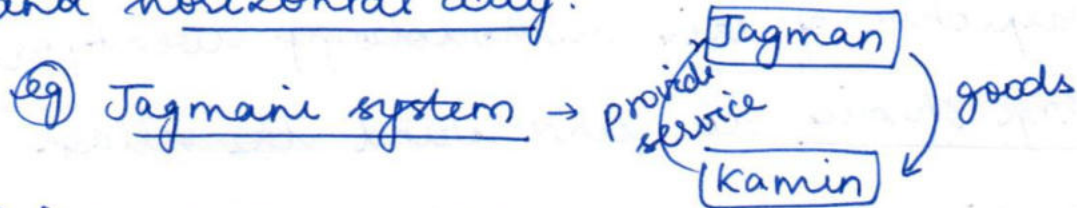
② Value neutrality v/s questioning whether the researcher should be objective or criticise the problem.

eg Andre Beteille entry to Chennai was restricted by Agrahara people that can impact studies.

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③ Complex functionality of villages where there is a interconnection in vertical and horizontal way.



④ Cultural diversity that prevent the generalisation / pattern recognition of the village studies.

eg) South Indian cross cousin marriage illegal in North India.

⑤ Inequality practised in villages that prevent the effective outcome of the study.

eg) Commensality restrictions and birth based Division of labour.

Thus the counter the challenges in village studies, the researcher can opt for triangulation, value freedom to understand them etc and evaluate without biasness.

6. Examine the factors responsible for the rural unrest in contemporary India.

The recent rural protests and violence in various regions of India highlight the problem of rural regions that impact the effective functioning of the democracy in country.

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Factors responsible for rural unrest in contemporary India

① Regional disparities that have been created due to the failure of green revolution where some regions profit and rest are negatively impacted.



② Globalisation that sets a panic among rural people due to subsidy decision making.

eg) Free trade agreement on apples that negatively impacted rural Kashmir.

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③ Prothentic migration of rural people from rural to urban for job opportunities or from ^{to} rural (GR area) from rural (dry land) for work, that are often resisted by the section.

Robert K Park about "Marginal Man" when moves from one society to the other having cultural change.

④ Feminisation of Agriculture due to increased gender selective migration to cities but inadequate land rights provided to women.

Uma Chakravathy "Gender in Caste" explain the exploitation of women in society

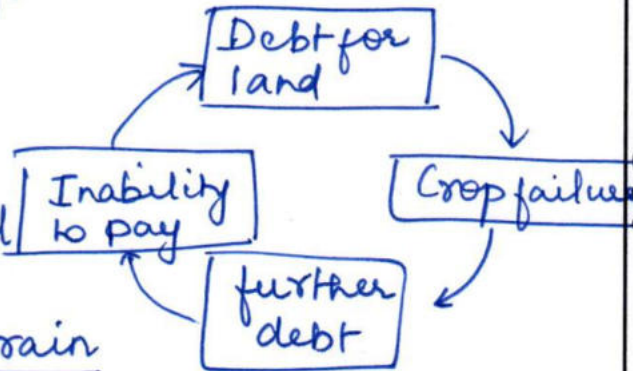
- Brahmin women [Cultural exploitation]
- lower caste women [Physical exploitation]

⑤ Agriculture unprofitable as a profession

to be adopted by rural community and visions cycle of debt.

⑥ Poverty persistence

due to intergenerational effect and self constrain by the group.



eg 60% of landless labourers are OBC, SC, ST

⑦ Dominance of caste that is being questioned by the lower caste by political mobility having similar ideas.

eg Dalit Movement for political power.

Thus rural unrest indicate reforms in the society that will reduce inequality, rural-urban gap, prevent migration by providing Provision as Urban for Rural Areas (PURA) etc to control and handle the situation ensuring a Rural-Urban continuum for balance.

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