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SOCIOLOGY (TEST CODE : 2526)

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Center	ORN.	Date	10/07/2024

INDEX TABLE

Q. No.	Maximum Marks	Marks Obtained
1 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
2 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
3 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
4 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
5 (a)	10	
(b)	10	
(c)	10	
(d)	10	
(e)	10	
6 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
7 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	
8 (a)	20	
(b)	20	
(c)	10	

Total Marks Obtained:

Remarks:

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do furnish the appropriate details in the answer sheet (viz. Name, Registration Number and Test Code).
2. There are **EIGHT** questions divided in **TWO SECTIONS**. Candidate has to attempt **FIVE** questions in all. Questions Nos. 1 and 5 are compulsory and out of the remaining, any **THREE** are to be attempted choosing at least **ONE** from each Section.
3. The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.
4. Answers must be written in the medium authorized in the Admission Certificate, which must be stated clearly on the cover of this Question-Cum-Answer (QCA) Booklet in the space provided. No marks will be given for answers written in medium other than the authorized one.
5. Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.
6. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-Cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Is student recommended for One-to-One mentoring?

Recommended

Strongly Recommended

16-B, 2nd Floor, Above National Trust Building, Bada Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-110060

Plot No. 857, 1st Floor, Banda Bahadur Marg (Opp. Punjab & Sind Bank), Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009

EVALUATION INDICATORS

1. Contextual Competence
2. Content Competence
3. Language Competence
4. Introduction Competence
5. Structure - Presentation Competence
6. Conclusion Competence

Overall Macro Comments / feedback / suggestions on Answer Booklet:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

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All the Best

SECTION 'A'

1. Write a short note on each of the following from sociological perspective. 10x5=50
1.(a) "Marx put at the heart of his sociology—as no other sociology does—the theme of exploitation". Elaborate 10

Karl Marx pioneered the conflict school in sociology, which put at its heart the exploitation and divisions in society in 18th century Europe.

'Exploitation' at heart of his sociology

- 1) He wrote his work at a time when industrial revolution was at its peak, and problems related to modernity and urbanisation were widespread.
- 2) He thus focused on the exploitation of the working class - such as low wages, appropriation of surplus value of labour, loss of autonomy and creativity in the process of production.
- 3) He divided the society into 2 classes and traced how one class exploited the other, throughout different stages of

evolution of history → slave-master
in ancient society, peasant-lord in
feudal society and proletariat-bourgeoisie
in capitalist society.

4) His contemporary, Durkheim, focused on
the functional aspect of division of labour.
However, Marx recognised the inherent
dialectical relationship between the haves
and the have-nots.

5) In his theory of Alienation, he
puts the exploitation of the working
class at the centre stage to give reasons
for increasing alienation in capitalism.

6) His theory of religion also tells
how it acts as an 'opium of the masses'
and 'instrument of the classes' to sustain
exploitation of the working class.

He thus suggests revolution
to establish communism to put an end
to this exploitation.

1.(b)

Assess Max Weber's concept of "Ideal Types" as a unique and distinctive methodological approach in sociology.

10

Max Weber's concept of 'Ideal Type' refers to a conceptual abstraction that acts as a guide to research.

Ideal Type as a distinctive methodological approach

1) Ideal Type involves an approximation of reality by a researcher using certain variables, which are then tested against reality.

2) It, thus, helps in objective and empirical study of society.

3) It draws from the disciplines of political science, history and culture study, promoting inter-disciplinarity in sociology. Example - ideal type of authority, capitalism.

4) It allows for causal analysis,

comparative analysis and a
value - judgement - free assessment of
society.

5) It provides a partial view of
reality, and does not aim to explain
all aspects of reality, which is vast,
unorganised, dichotomous and chaotic.

Limitations of Ideal Type

- 1) Weber has not mentioned any
framework for selection of elements.
- 2) The selection of components may be
influenced by researcher's bias.
- 3) Ideal Type may not be able to
explain a phenomenon in its totality,
due to its focus on specific elements.

Despite its limitations, Ideal
Type proved to be a significant
contribution to the methodology and
scientific study of social reality.

1.(c)

Explain how Talcott Parsons AGIL model can be applied to understand and analyze the education system in contemporary societies. 10

Talcott Parsons AGIL model

explains how continuity and stability is maintained in a social system, as all units perform their roles for the fulfilment of functional pre-requisites.

Application of AGIL model in education system in contemporary society -

1) Adaptation - Institutes of education, such as schools and colleges, negotiate with environment and collect resources for the smooth functioning of such institutes.

2) Goal Specification and Goal Attainment - The function of goal specification is performed by the Curriculum in an education system. It outlines the learning

objectives, targets to be achieved, as well as degree of value socialisation to be imparted. It also acts as the standard against which goal attainment is evaluated and measured.

3) Integration - This function is performed by rules, codes and conduct which maintain discipline, prescribe expected standards of behaviour and ensure stability and co-operation in the education system.

4) Latency (Tension Management) - Teachers perform the role of latency by dealing with situations of stress and conflict through cultural and social socialisation.

Therefore, applying Basen's AGIL framework, we can understand how different units work together to ensure continuity of education in contemporary society.

1.(d)

"science without religion is lame, religion without science is blind." Explain.

10

The dichotomous ~~bet~~ relationship between religion and science is a matter of wide sociological debate.

Early sociologists like Auguste Comte, E. B. Tyler considered that the arrival of science and modernity will replace religion completely.

However, advancements in sociology have reaffirmed the complementary relationship between religion and science.

Science without religion is lame

because -

1) Religion provides the very basis and ideas, on which scientific principles develop, according to R. K. Merton.

2) Excessive focus on science can cause disenchantment, loss of identity and crisis of conscience. Thus, religion is needed

to deal with such crises. For eg. rise of cults to deal with issues of modernity.

3) Even the early scientists, like Galileo and Newton, were men of God, and our Constitution is also based on religious ideals.

Similarly, religion without science is blind because religion may promote myths, superstitions, dogmatic ideas, which are antithetical to science and rationality. For eg- Hinduism validates untouchability, impurity during menstruation, etc.

Moreover, religion is now using science to expand its objectives. The new age leaders are well educated, use social media, technology such as youtube to spread religious ideals.

Thus, the interdependence of science and religion is the beauty of modern society.

1.(e)

Examine the consequences of 'social mobility' on both the 'individual' and 'societal' levels within various societal frameworks.

10

Social mobility refers to any change in an individual or group's position in a social hierarchy defined by income, status, etc.

Consequences of social mobility

I) On Individual Level

1) An open society allows for competitive social mobility - this leads to creation of a meritocratic society, increase in incomes and status of an individual and higher intra-generational mobility.

2) It also allows for improvement of an individual's position in social hierarchy, leading to reduced discrimination, exploitation. For eg- Sanskritization of M.M. Srinivas.

3) On the contrary, a closed society and thus limitations of social mobility can cause loss of motivation, promoting deviance and delinquency among individuals.

II) On Societal Level

1) Social mobility creates the image of an open, egalitarian, competitive society - it is functional to achievement of shared goals, as per Parsons.

2) Anthony Giddens explains how social mobility acts as a political safety-valve as it ~~creates~~ ^{prevents} homogenization and polarization of society.

3) Social mobility, however, may be limited to exclusionary closure, elite self-recruitment and absence of equality of opportunity.

Thus, sociological analysis of social mobility helps us deduce the evolving nature of competition in society.

2.(a)

It has been suggested that a significant portion of Max Weber's theoretical framework was crafted through extensive and prolonged intellectual discourse with the shadow of Marx. Discuss.

20

Max Weber, a pioneer of the Interpretative school of sociology, is said to have developed his theories on the backbone of Marx's ideas, criticizing to and drawing from the works of the great sociologist who came before him.

Weber's theoretical framework crafted through intellectual discourse with the shadow of Marx as follows -

I) Nature of study of society

→ Marx, while did not write specifically for sociology, argued that society should be studied from a conflict perspective → how society is divided into 2 classes whose interests are competitive and mutually exclusive.

→ Weber, criticizing to Marx's

ideas, believed sociology should not be deterministic. Rather, interpretation of social actions, to find meanings and values attached to them, should be the subject matter of sociology.

II) Conception of class

1) Marx - defined class as social groups occupying same position in the relations of production. He believed there were 2 classes - the haves (bourgeoisie) and the have-nots (proletariat).

2) Weber - challenged Marx's idea that society is polarized into 2 classes. He believed there were 4 classes, with varying positions in the market economy. Moreover, status and power also defined stratification in society, refuting Marx's idea that class was the sole basis of division of society.

III) Work on Division of Labour

•) Marx advocated that labour was organised such that it fulfilled the need of profits of the capitalists, led to exploitation of workers and prevented homogenisation.

•) Weber, contradicting to Marx, believed in organisation of society based on rationality and efficiency. He believed that capitalists adhere to rule of law, and there is equal opportunity for social mobility available to the working class.

IV) Bases of Structure of Society

•) Marx wrote that economic base was the foundation on which all other structures, such as politics, religion, family, developed.

•) Weber questioned Marx's primary given to economy in his work on

Protestant Ethics and Spirit of Capitalism. Weber believed that it was appropriate religious values, such as those taught by Protestantism, that led to growth of Capitalism in 18th century Europe.

However, Weber also gave theoretical frameworks independent of his criticism of Marx, which are -

1) Use of Ideal Type - an abstraction to act as guide to research.

2) Rationalisation of society leading to disenchantment, loss of creativity and autonomy of individuals.

Therefore, Weber's contribution in advancing the knowledge of sociology cannot be credited only to his ~~own~~ discourses with Marx, but even though it was a solid backbone to his theories in his initial days.

2.(b)

"Durkheim's idea of social facts both established sociology as an independent field of study and provided one of the most convincing arguments for studying society as it is before we decide what it should be". Discuss. 20

Emile Durkheim, in his 'Rules of Sociological Method' (1895) defined social fact as realities present in different spheres of society.

This idea of 'social fact' established sociology as an independent field of study as follows -

- 1) Durkheim was the first sociologist to clearly define the subject matter of the discipline, as 'social facts'.
- 2) His predecessors, like Saint Simon and Auguste Comte, drew heavily from psychology, culture study and could not pen down the distinction between sociology and other disciplines clearly.
- 3) Durkheim's 'social fact' came at a time when sociology drew heavily from

history, economics, anthropology, political science, and was thus not widely accepted as a distinct field of study.

4) with 'social facts', Durkheim could advocate that society consists of social structures and institutions, which are objective in character.

5) He proclaimed that empirical analysis, causal analysis, comparative approach could be used to study 'social facts as things'.

6) Finally, he was able to distinguish 'social facts' from 'individual acts', establishing sociology as an independent field for studying scientific study of society.

His theory provided for studying society 'as it is' as follows -

1) Durkheim's ideas of 'social facts'

came as a criticism to Saint Simon's 'ethical socialism' and Auguste Comte's 'scientific society', both of which stressed on their vision of how society 'should be' in modern times.

2) He also wrote at a time when Karl Marx's ideas of communism and a 'classless, casteless, egalitarian' society were popular. Durkheim rejected them as being philosophical and not reflective of reality.

3) His theory of social facts provided for a 'positivist method of social research', which was based on application of scientific and quantitative methods for the study of society. For example - he used a multi-variate analysis to draw his theory of suicide.

4) He rejected common sense as sociological nonsense. He wanted a researcher to be value-free and objective to provide an analysis of society 'as it is', instead of a researcher's bias of 'as it should be'.

However, Durkheim is also criticized for the very same reasons. His ideas of organic solidarity, complete co-operation solidarity, functional nature of religion are said to reflect his philosophical and ideal instincts. By ignoring conflict, coercion, power structures and social divisions, he was not able to fully study society 'as it is'.

Despite the criticism, Durkheim's contribution in establishing sociology as a distinct discipline is widely regarded.

2.(c)

Critically examine 'pattern variables' as a conceptual tool, in understanding social reality.

10

'Pattern variables', as defined by Talcott Parsons, refer to a conceptual tool representing values of an action system.

Utility in understanding
social reality

- 1) Pattern variables help to explain dilemmas in role performance, that occur due to imperfect internalization of values, related to role expectations.
- 2) Understanding social transformation - using pattern variables, we can analyse how shift from ascription to achievement happened from tradition to modernity.
- 3) Analysing sources of social change - A shift from affection to neutrality in a professional setting may indicate shift towards rationalization, depersonalization.

4) Help individual in job performance, realistic goal setting and placing oneself in the wider social structure.

Limitations in using 'pattern variables' to explain social reality -

- 1) Pattern variables have reduced all diversities into two forms of societies - simple and complex. Thus, it cannot be universally applied.
- 2) It is difficult to observe and measure parameters such as 'degree of emotion possible' in a 'relationship'.
- 3) It proclaims that modern society is based completely on 'Achievement', ignoring inequalities and structural strains in creating meritocratic society.
- 4) These suffer from Tautology and Teleology, as per C.W. Mills.

Despite these limitations, pattern variables give a remarkable insight into characteristics of traditional and modern society.

3.(a)

The concept of 'latent and manifest functions' evolved by Robert K. Merton, has given greater 'significance and relevance' to the 'functional analysis' in understanding social reality. Elucidate. 20

Robert K. Merton pioneered a neo-functionalistic analysis in sociology, by emphasising on studying 'latent and manifest functions' in understanding social reality.

Latent functions are defined as those functional outcomes which were not intended or anticipated by the action agent, while manifest functions are those functions which are visible and intended.

For example - manifest function of education is to transmit skills & knowledge, while latent function involves formation of social networks.

These concepts have given greater significance to 'functional analysis' by adding on to the functional approach of Parsons.

Parsons, in his Postulate of functional Universality, believed that all systems perform a single role, which is functional to the society and can be rationally observed.

Merton, criticizing to this postulate, added that any given system can have latent and manifest functions, dysfunctions as well as non-functions.

His theory of 'latent and manifest functions' allows us to study and uncover hidden facts, which Peter Berger calls as 'debunking'.
for instance,

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3.(b)

"Emile Durkheim's concept of the division of labor highlight its dual nature, serving as both a functional and potentially anomic force in society." Discuss. 20

Emile Durkheim, has given this theory of Division of Labour in his seminal work, 'Division of Labour in Society'.

Through his work, Durkheim has highlighted that Division of Labour is not limited to economic sphere of society. He believes that it extends to all spheres of society, and is thus a social fact. He also explains how division of labour is based on organisational character of society.

Let us analyze how division of labour is [functional] for society -

1) In simple societies, division of labour was based on convivence as population (material moral density) and interactions (moral density) was low.

This allowed people

freedom of occupation and fulfillment of needs of society.

2) In modern society, division of labour is based on specialisation, i.e., different individuals perform tasks based on their skill, talent and ability.

3) Division of labour is thus functional, as it ensures that diverse needs of the society, with its large population, is effectively met.

4) Division of labour also ensures optimum utilisation of time and resources, as tasks are performed by individuals who are best suited to perform them.

5) Specialised division of labour in modern society also gives rise to reformative penal laws, as individuals are interdependent on each other.

6) Importantly, division of labour creates

co-operation and mutual dependence among members of society, creating a positive solidarity and strong sense of community.

This is functional in ensuring the stability and continuity of society.

However, division of labour is not universally functional, and may act as an anomic force in society, which can be explained as follows -

1) forced division of labour, which is not based on equality of opportunity or merit, may cause divisions, conflict and resentment in society.

Eg - occupational rigidity under caste structure in India leading to conflict.

2) Anomic division of labour - during

rapid social change, division of labour may fail to effectively coordinate the works of different individuals.

Also, the inherent nature of division of labour may be anomic as it gives emphasis on individual interest over collective well being, leading to breakdown of stability of society.

3) Poorly co-ordinated division of labour, may also lead to anomie, as roles performed by individuals may act in contradiction to achievement of shared goals of the society.

However, despite its potential anomic nature, Durkheim suggests reforms as a means to counter this anomie and ensure its role as a functional agent persists in society.

3.(c)

"Weber was neither very sophisticated nor very consistent in his methodological pronouncements". Discuss the statement in the context of Weber's concept of "verstehen".

10

Max Weber's concept of 'Verstehen' proclaims the use of Interpretative method for the study of social reality.

He outlined sociology as an interpretative study of social action, to outline the meanings, motives, values attached by individuals during any action.

His concept of verstehen is often regarded as 'not very sophisticated' because he did not prescribe any detailed methodology for the 'interpretation' of actions.

This can be compared to Durkheim, whose positivism was based on scientific methods such as causal analysis, empirical research and comparative approach.

In contrast, Weber advocated for a vague methodology, based on

using 'essence of scientific method'.
He made a reference to value neutrality in interpretation, but did not prescribe how it may be achieved.

Similarly, Weber's methodology is criticised as being 'inconsistent' due to contradictions in his theory and its application.

While he argues that sociology should strive towards objectivity, he makes value judgments on characteristics of religion (as explained by J.P. Oberoi and Veena Das in the context of Hinduism).

He also uses 'value judgements' to highlight the functional nature of bureaucracy, which goes inconsistent to his motive of a value-neutral sociology.

Nevertheless, Weber's verstehen provided a shift from the society towards the individual, and led to development of microsociological theories.

- 4.(a) "Parsons' concepts regarding social systems and his action theory are deeply influenced by the ideas of those who came before him." Elaborate on this connection. 20

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4.(b)

The idea of division of labour was looked differently by Marx and Durkheim. Explain. 20

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4.(c)

How does Mead's concept of the 'I' and the 'Me' contribute to our understanding of self-identity and social interactions?

10

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SECTION 'B'

5. Write a short note on each of the following in not more than 150 words. 10x5=50
5.(a) "Parson regarded power differential as necessary for the effective pursuit of collective goals." Discuss. 10

Parsons gave a functional theory of social stratification, highlighting the differences in position and power as necessary for achievement of shared goals.

He regards power as being diffused and distributed, though inequality and hierarchy persists. He believed that power holders exercised power for the collective benefit of society.

Rejecting to constant sum theory of power, he believed that power was variable, which continued to grow with the achievement of shared goals.

According to him, these shared goals were based on collective values, and a value consensus backs the differential distribution of power.

Further, he explains how power inequality is a functional pre-requisite for the smooth functioning of society, as it ensures that those goals are prioritized, which are in the collective interest of the social system.

Thus, such power differentials are inevitable, as they are the consequence of an open society based on free competition.

For example - in a capitalist society, the owners of productive forces hold more power, which they use for improving productive capacity, which ultimately benefits all sections, according to Parsons.

His theory is criticized by Marxists, who see power differential as a result of unequal control over means of production. Yet, the relevance of his work in explaining existence of power differential remains critical.

5.(b)

Utilizing Durkheim's Suicide theory, examine the pattern of elevated suicide rates in present-day Indian society.

10

Durkheim, in his 'Le suicide' provided an empirical analysis of suicide as a social fact, resulting from social currents, instead of an individual act.

He explained that suicide is a result of suicidal currents, prevalent in societies as forces of integration and regulation of conscience collective.

Using this, we can examine elevated suicide rates in Indian society as follows.

I) FORCES OF INTEGRATION

(extent to which an individual adheres to conscience collective)

1. High integration → Altruistic Suicide
For instance, Jain practice of fasting till death (Sallekhara), soldiers martyred at border - explained through high degree of attachment of individual with the society.

2. Low Integration → Egoistic suicide
for example - farmer's suicide,
suicide by students in universities due
to caste discrimination, due to low
level of attachment and feeling of
helplessness.

3. II) FORCES OF REGULATION

(degree to which conscience collective is
binding on individual)

↓
high → Fatalistic suicide

low → Anomic
Suicide

Eg- students suicide in
kota, suicide by young
women due to domestic
violence → as they feel
suffocated by social norms

Eg- suicide by
CEO owner of
Siddhartha - it
explains suicide
due to economic
or domestic loss.

Therefore, Durkheim's theory offers
a breakthrough in the sociological analysis
of suicide, specially in a densely
populated and strongly binded society
like India.

5.(c)

"Pressure groups are the corner stone of a democracy". Critically analyse.

10

Pressure Groups refer to groups of individuals that come together for the achievement of shared goals.

Eg - farmer's body, labour union, student's association, etc.

Pressure groups as cornerstone of democracy

1) Pressure groups help in interest articulation and political mobilisation of different classes. Eg. women's organisation

2) They act as a linkage between individuals and states.

3) They help states in policy formulation, analysis and provide policy inputs.

Eg - Textile union pointed out inverse duty structure in imports.

4) They help in safeguarding the interests of the marginalized groups, reducing relative deprivation.

Eg - Tribal groups.

5) They act as agents of positive social change, eg - Naz Foundation for rights of Transgenders.

Pressure groups as threat to democracy

1) A few major groups may monopolise and enforce their self-interests.

2) Pressure groups themselves may be organized lacking internal democracy.

3) They may promote parochial, sectional interests, compromising national interest. Eg - Caste, tribe groups.

4) They may act as agents of foreign ~~govt~~ actors, obstructing development.

Eg - environmental groups against Kudankulam nuclear plant

Thus, a sociological analysis of pressure groups provides a detailed and analytical picture of their role in a democracy.

5.(d)

Robert K. Merton's theory of deviance, was a departure from constructing 'total theoretical systems' in explaining social phenomena. Discuss. 10

Robert Merton's theory of deviance came as a departure from 'total theoretical systems' as it proposed a middle range theory to explain presence of deviance in society.

Before Merton, sociologists like Durkheim and Parsons had attempted to explain crime in society, which were 'total theoretical systems' based on vast generalizations, claiming to explain crime in all its aspects.

In this regard, Merton's deviance proposed a simple, conceptual understanding. He rejected the earlier dichotomy of 'conformist' and 'deviant' and explained how deviance exists along a spectrum -

there are culturally approved means and structurally advocated goals - and ~~no~~ ^a deviant follows atleast one of those (except a retreatist).

Moreover, he explained how deviance cannot be universal. What is deviance in one society may be conformity in another, due to different cultural contexts.

Eg. homosexuality.

finally, he also rejected earlier functional 'total theoretical systems' that claimed that American society was based on open competition and meritocracy.

He highlighted inability to access quality education and jobs by the lower classes (eg. blacks) as causing structural strain, leading to deviance.

His theory of deviance was thus a bridge between sociology and psychology.

5.(e)

In Marx's view, social stratification is created by people's differing relationship to the means of production. Discuss. 10

Marxian theory of social stratification

talks about class as the basis of stratification, which is defined as a social group sharing similar relationship to means of production.

He explains how means of production or economic base forms the basis of foundation of society, which is also the source of all inequality.

He divided society into two classes - the haves and the have nots.

The first class has monopoly over means of production, such as land, capital, labour and is called as the bourgeoisie.

The latter, though, uses his labour in the process of production, but does not have any control over the means of production. He is the exploited, underpaid class - the proletariat.

Thus, social inequality and stratification is a result of the dialectical relationship between the two classes, and the patterns of dependence, exploitation and commodification created by such differential relationship to means of production.

It explains how capitalists appropriate surplus value of a labour, by paying him meagre wages, and legitimize this through policies and laws, which are also controlled by them.

Marx believes that this pauperization will eventually lead to true class consciousness. A class for itself will develop due to homogenization, and polarization of society will lead to revolution for establishment of Communism.

6.(a)

“Durkheim’s understanding of religion, like any other social theory, emerged and had greater relevance in a particular ‘social context’.” Critically analyze the statement. 20

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- 6.(b) ✓ "Explain the fundamental principles of Davis and Moore's theory of social stratification. To what extent does this theory remain applicable in comprehending the dynamics of modern Indian society?" 20

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6.(c)

Critics of the “classical pluralist theory of power” argue that it does not accurately reflect the dynamics of power distribution in modern societies? Analyze.

10

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7.(a)

Analyze the influence of the growing globalization on 'nation-states' and the concept of 'national identities' in the contemporary era.

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7.(b)

“Social movements have been subject to diverse interpretations”. Explain.

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7.(c)

“Religion continues to hold a prominent place in Indian society, but there have been notable recent developments that indicate a growing trend towards secularization in India”. Explain.

10

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8.(a)

Examine and highlight the similarities and differences between C. Wright Mills' understanding of the elite in the power structure and the perspectives of Pareto and Mosca on the same subject.

20

Elite Theory in sociology came as a landmark in explaining the nature of power structure, nature of governments and division of power across societies.

Pareto and Mosca pioneered the Classical Elite Theory, focusing on the individual attributes of rulers, while C.W. Mills gave an 'institutional perspective' on the nature of power elites.

Similarities in their theories

- 1) Both perspectives believed in the inevitability of the elite rule.
- 2) Both ~~groups~~ Pareto and Mills found that elites rule represents interests of the upper classes, while the 'ruled class' remains unrepresented.

3) Both perspectives believed that Society was divided into - the ruling class, which was in minority, and the 'ruled class', which was in majority.

4) Both Pareto and Mills rejected democracy as being a representative form of government. Both believed that democracy was unworkable as elites would capture power.

Differences in their perspectives

	<u>Pareto and Mosca</u>	<u>C. W. Mills</u>
Scope	Explained elite rule across all societies and forms of government.	Focused on and limited to <u>America</u> , which he called as ' <u>post-capitalist militarism</u> '.

Nature
of elites.

Pareto and
Mocca

1) Focussed on individual attributes (psychic characteristics) of elites.

2) Elites were divided into lions and foxes, who ruled based on strength and cunningness respectively.

3) There is circulation of elites as lions and foxes replace each other. These are drawn from ruling elites or upper classes.

C. W. Mills

1) It was not individuals but institutions that exercised power.

2) Institutions of large corporations, government and military held power.

3) The leaders of these institutions share similar social background, engage in elite self-recruitment and interact among themselves.

Social
change

Social change takes place when one category of elite becomes complacent, loses its vigour and decays in quality, being replaced by the other elite type.

Social change is not common as the holders of power keep circulating power among themselves.

However, both perspectives are criticised as -

1) They ignore the role of masses in influencing decisions (eg- farmers protest led to withdrawal of farm laws)

2) Altruistic motives exist (eg- Gandhiji).

3) Pluralist theories highlight how power is dispersed among different political parties, pressure groups, etc.

Nevertheless, the Elite Theory holds immense significance in the expansion of our understanding of power structures in society.

8.(b)

"What key factors have acted as catalysts for revolutions throughout history"? Discuss with the help of different sociological perspectives.

20

Revolutions are social movements that lead to a fundamental change in the nature of society, involving large sections of population and possible use of violence.

Factors that have acted as catalysts for revolutions throughout history

1) Relative deprivation Theory - It explains revolution as a means to counter unequal distribution of resources, opportunities and feelings of relative deprivation by a group of people.

Example - French Revolution as a movement of the Third Estate against lack of voting rights, low incomes, etc.

2) Cultural Deprivation Theory - Revolutions have also occurred when a section feels that their lifestyle, culture is endangered, due to attempts of homogenization by

the majority.

Example - Naxalite Revolution

due to loss of land rights, which had an emotional as well as economic significance.

3) Resource Mobilisation Theory -

It states that the availability of resources is a prerequisite for collective action, sustained protest and spread of ideology.

For example - Indian National Movement could sustain because of contributions of all persons (Swaraj fund, INA Relief fund) as well as help of the capitalists.

4) Social Unrest Theory - It describes how revolutions occur when a section of society faces exploitation, discrimination leading to conflict, social divisions and unification for fundamental change.

Example - Marxian call for Revolution to establish communism driven by alienation, pauperization faced by the working class.

5) Structural Strain Theory -
Mel J. Smelser highlights that a revolution will take place when there is a strain or mismatch between the ideals proclaimed by society and the realities experienced by individuals.

for example - American Revolution was a result of strain between British Parliament and needs of the people of America.

6) Theory of historicity - T.K. Oommen believes that history provides the foundation on which revolutions grow and develop.

for instance, the Bolsheviks

Revolution in Russia was drawn on the loss of Russia against Japan, economic crisis due to participation in 1st world war and other historical grievances.

7) Social Identity Theory -

Revolutions emerge as a need to reaffirm own identity and relate oneself to the social group which may be challenged by the ruling class.

Eg. Arab Spring :

Therefore, different sociological perspectives enable us to study how revolutions, though seemingly similar in characteristics, differ in terms of their origin, spread, methods and goals.

8.(c)

Modernity has many children, one of them is 'fundamentalism'. Critically examine the relevance of the statement.

10

Fundamentalism refers to the use of religious military for protection of one's religious identity.

Modernity, or the spread of rational ideologies, scientific temper and urbanisation, is said to have many functional impacts, such as creation of a meritocratic society. However, a dysfunction of modernity has been 'fundamentalism'.

T. K. Madan explains how modernity leads to uniformity, as people shift towards rational ideas and similar lifestyle. In such a case, proponents of religion, fearful of their loss of identity, use violence to bring religion back to public life.

Secularization Theory also

explains how fundamentalists oppose modern values, overglorify dilution in their religion, and adopt radical means to protect their social identity.

In present times, the rise of Taliban, right-wing nationalism can be seen as indicators of fundamentalism.

However, this idea is criticized by some. Some argue that fundamentalism is a ~~result~~ of not unique to modernity, but was present even in traditional society.

For instance, expansion of dynasties in the medieval world, to 'Christianize, Islamize, Hinduize' the world can be seen as manifestations of fundamentalism.

Whatever the ~~cause~~ ^{origin}, the problem of fundamentalism needs immediate address through spread of rational ideas and vocal criticism of violence.