

CHRONICLE

Nurturing Talent Since 1990

18 YEARS

Topic-wise Solution of Previous Papers

SOCIOLOGY

IAS Mains Q & A

for Civil Services Examination

USEFUL FOR UNION AND STATE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATIONS



18 Years Solved

Topic-wise Solutions of Previous Years' Papers

SOCIOLOGY

IAS Mains Q&A

**Also Useful for All State Public Service Commission
and Other Examinations**

Edited by - N.N. Ojha

Guiding Civil Services Aspirants Since 30 Years

Solved by - Chronicle Editorial Team

CHRONICLE

Nurturing Talent Since 1990

CONTENTS

PAPER I

1. Sociology- The Discipline.....	1-11
2. Sociology as Science.....	12-27
3. Research Methods and Analysis.....	28-42
4. Sociological Thinkers	43-86
5. System of Kinship	87-105
6. Stratification and Mobility	106-128
7. Works and Economic Life.....	129-148
8. Politics and Society	149-172
9. Social Movements.....	173-177
10. Education System and Social Change.....	178-181
11. Religion and Society	182-198
12. Science and Technology	199-202
13. Social Change in Modern Society and Development.....	203-228

PAPER II

1. Introducing Indian Society	229-243
2. Caste System	244-264
3. Social Class Structure in India	265-277
4. System of Kinship in India	278-293
5. Rural and Agrarian Social Structure.....	294-307
6. Industrialisation and Urbanisation.....	308-325
7. Politics and Society	226-341
8. Religion and Society	342-352
9. Tribal Communities in India	353-364
10. Population Dynamics	365-376
11. Rural and Agrarian Transformation in India	377-393
12. Social Change in India.....	394-408
13. Social Movements.....	409-430
14. Challenges of Social Transformation	431-456



ABOUT THIS BOOK

Sociology - IAS Mains Q & A - revised and updated edition (2023) covers topic-wise solution to previous years' papers as per the latest syllabus.

Answer writing in this Book: We have put forth answers to each question as per the demand of the question. We have adopted an elaborative approach while writing these answers to arm you with relevant knowledge related to all aspects of a particular topic. In most of the answers, we have provided additional information, not necessarily adhering to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions covering all dimensions. This will enrich your knowledge on that topic, enabling you to write better answers in future.

How to use this book: This book will assist you in your answer writing practice in two ways - use this book as a source of reference for the topics and write answers in your own unique way or alternatively, you may write previous years' answers and compare them with the standard answers provided in this book.

Importance of Sociology as an Optional: Being a generalized topic, it helps in all the four papers of the General Studies like topics from society, social justice, social issues, and related case studies in Ethics - Paper-IV. Sociology is considered as a safer optional as it doesn't require any particular knowledge or academic background for its preparation as an optional.

Optional subject has become the deciding factor in getting an interview call. Though UPSC has introduced four GS papers to give a level playing field to all, the dynamic and unpredictable questions of GS papers defeated the purpose and made Optional paper the magic wand. The toppers' score also tells it loudly that optional subject plays a defining role in determining the selection of the candidates.

So, overall this book is an ideal companion for you going to appear the Mains examination. To help the aspirants to get acclaimed with the pattern and trend of the exam, this book is a valuable gift to our readers.

Syllabus-Paper I

Fundamentals of Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline

- Modernity and Social Changes in Europe and Emergence of Sociology
- Scope of the Subject and Comparison with Other Social Sciences
- Sociology and Common Sense

Sociology as Science

- Science, Scientific Method and Critique
- Major Theoretical Strands of Research Methodology
- Positivism and its Critique
- Fact, Value and Objectivity
- Non- Positivist Methodologies

Research Methods and Analysis

- Qualitative and Quantitative Methods
- Techniques of Data Collection
- Variables, Sampling, Hypothesis, Reliability and Validity

Sociological Thinkers

- **Karl Marx**- Historical Materialism, Mode of Production, Alienation, Class Struggle
- **Emile Durkheim**- Division of Labour, Social Fact, Suicide, Religion and Society
- **Max Weber**- Social Action, Ideal Types, Authority, Bureaucracy, Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.
- **Talcott Parsons**- Social System, Pattern Variables
- **Robert K. Merton**- Latent and Manifest Functions, Conformity and Deviance, Reference Groups
- **Mead** - Self and Identity

Stratification and Mobility

- **Concepts**- Equality, Inequality, Hierarchy, Exclusion, Poverty and Deprivation
- **Theories of Social Stratification**- Structural Functionalist Theory, Marxist Theory, Weberian Theory
- **Dimensions**- Social Stratification of Class, Status Groups, Gender, Ethnicity and Race
- **Social Mobility**- Open and Closed Systems, Types of Mobility, Sources and Causes of Mobility

Works and Economic Life

- Social Organization of Work in Different Types of Society- Slave Society, Feudal Society, Industrial /Capitalist Society
- Formal and Informal Organization of Work
- Labour and Society

Politics and Society

- Sociological Theories of Power
- Power Elite, Bureaucracy, Pressure Groups, and Political Parties
- Nation, State, Citizenship, Democracy, Civil Society, Ideology
- Protest, Agitation, Social Movements, Collective Action, Revolution
- Religion and Society
- Sociological Theories of Religion
- Types of Religious Practices: Animism, Monism, Pluralism, Sects, Cults
- Religion in Modern Society: Religion and Science, Secularization, Religious Revivalism, Fundamentalism.

Systems of Kinship

- Family, Household, Marriage

- Types and Forms of Family
- Lineage and Descent
- Patriarchy and Sexual Division of Labour
- Contemporary Trends

Social Change in Modern Society

- Sociological Theories of Social Change
- Development and Dependency
- Agents of Social Change
- Education and Social Change
- Science, Technology and Social Change

Syllabus-Paper II

Indian Society: Structure and Change

A. Introducing Indian Society

(I) Perspectives on the Study of Indian Society

- Indology (GS. Ghurye)
- Structural Functionalism (M N Srinivas)
- Marxist Sociology (A R Desai)

(II) Impact of Colonial Rule on Indian Society

- Social Background of Indian Nationalism
- Modernization of Indian Tradition
- Protests and Movements During the Colonial Period
- Social Reforms

B. Social Structure

(I) Rural and Agrarian Social Structure

- The Idea of Indian Village and Village Studies
- Agrarian Social Structure - Evolution of Land Tenure System, Land Reforms

(II) Caste System

- Perspectives on the Study of Caste Systems: GS Ghurye, M N Srinivas, Louis Dumont, Andre Beteille
- Features of Caste System
- Untouchability - Forms and Perspectives

(III) Tribal Communities in India

- Definitional Problems
- Geographical Spread
- Colonial Policies and Tribes
- Issues of Integration and Autonomy

(IV) Social Classes in India

- Agrarian Class Structure
- Industrial Class Structure
- Middle Classes in India

(V) Systems of Kinship in India

- Lineage and Descent in India
- Types of Kinship Systems
- Family and Marriage in India
- Household Dimensions of the Family

(VI) Religion and Society

- Religious Communities in India
- Problems of Religious Minorities
- Patriarchy, Entitlements and Sexual Division of Labour

C. Social Changes in India

(I) Visions of Social Change in India

- Idea of development planning and mixed economy
- Constitution, law and social change
- Education and social change

(II) Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

- Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes
- Green revolution and social change
- Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture
- Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration

(III) Industrialization and Urbanisation in India

- Evolution of modern industry in India
- Growth of urban settlements in India
- Working class: structure, growth, class mobilization
- Informal sector, child labour
- Slums and deprivation in urban areas

(IV) Politics and Society

- Nation, democracy and citizenship
- Political parties, pressure groups, social and political elite
- Regionalism and decentralization of power
- Secularization

(V) Social Movements in Modern India

- Peasants and farmers movements
- Women's movement
- Backward classes & Dalit movement
- Environmental movements
- Ethnicity and Identity movements

(VI) Population Dynamics

- Population size, growth, composition and distribution
- Components of population growth: birth, death, migration
- Population policy and family planning
- Emerging issues: ageing, sex ratios, child and infant mortality, reproductive health

(VII) Challenges of Social Transformation

- Crisis of development: displacement, environmental problems and sustainability
- Poverty, deprivation and inequalities
- Violence against women
- Caste conflicts
- Ethnic conflicts, communalism, religious revivalism
- Illiteracy and disparities in education



SOCIOLOGY - THE DISCIPLINE

Q. What aspects of 'Enlightenment' do you think paved the way for the emergence of sociology? Elaborate (CSE, 2022)

Ans: The 'Enlightenment', as a European intellectual movement of the late 17th and 18th centuries led by Montesquieu and Rousseau, emphasized reason and individualism. It had great influence on the emergence of sociology, though an indirect one.

Role of 'Enlightenment' for the development of Sociology

The 'Enlightenment' is important for the development of sociology because it helped in the development of secular, scientific and humanistic attitudes of mind during the late 17th and 18th centuries. This is because 'enlightenment' positioned the human being as the central figure of the universe, with rational thought at its core.

- Irving Zeitlin puts it in his 'Ideology and the Development of Sociological Theory, 1996', 'Early sociology developed as a reaction to the Enlightenment'.
- Early sociology has been a mix of 'Enlightenment' and 'counter-Enlightenment' ideas.
- The enlightenment thesis put individuals at center stage, on the other hand, for counter-enlightenment proponents, society were the most important unit of analysis.
- Enlightenment ideas of rationalism, empiricism, and change-orientation also affected early sociological thought.
- Rational and critical thinking transformed human beings into both producer and user of all knowledge. Those who did not adopt the new ways of thinking and reasoning were deemed as deficient and primitive.
- According to Thomas Bottomore, main intellectual streams that particularly influenced the emergence of sociology are political philosophy given by likes of Montesquieu, Rousseau, etc., philosophy of history, theory of organic evolution given by

Darwin, movements for social and political reform like French Revolution and development of method of social survey.

- Alexis de Tocqueville, Claude Saint-Simon, Auguste Comte (disciple of Saint Simon), Spencer and especially Emile Durkheim became the face of French Sociology with their seminal formative work.
- Comte was the first to use the term sociology and he believed that study of sociology would be scientific. He developed his scientific view, 'positivism', or 'positive philosophy'. Comte developed 'social physics' initially what in 1839 he called 'sociology'.

These developments influenced society as these were products of human interaction. Thus, it helped sociology to grow as a rational and scientific subject with critical analysis.

Q. How is sociology related to common sense? (CSE, 2021)

Ans: Common sense is defined as the 'routine knowledge that people have of their everyday world and activities'. Sociology, on the other hand, according to positivists, is the scientific study of society, social relationships including patterns of social communication and culture.

Differences

- Common sense generally takes cues from what appears on surface; sociology on the other hand looks for inter-connections and root causes which may not be apparent.
- Sociology uses reason and logic, common sense uses conjectures and stereotypical beliefs.
- Common sense is based upon assumptions, sociology is based on evidences.
- Empirical testing has no place in common sense knowledge, while sociological research may have empirical orientation.

SOCIOLOGY AS SCIENCE

Q. What is reliability? Explain the different tests available to social science researcher to establish reliability. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Reliability and validity are the two important parameters that determine the correctness and effectiveness of an observation and hence usefulness of a result. Reliability leads to repetition of the same result; validity is the degree of meeting the desired goal.

Challenges in Sociology

- There are two major challenges in sociology as outcomes of sociological research are not a result of a controlled experiment and a situation never remains the same.
- Different ideologies also guide research methodology and hence, different results will be produced every time.

Reliability and Ways to Improve

- Reliability raises many technical problems in qualitative research for sociologists as subjects change their mind as time passes. Reliability in research can be improved by inculcating objectivity in methods, approaches. Standardization of procedures and methods also increases reliability.
- When researchers measure a construct that they assume to be consistent across time, then the scores they obtain should also be consistent across time. Test-retest reliability is the extent to which this is actually the case.
- For example, intelligence is generally thought to be consistent across time. A person who is highly intelligent today will be highly intelligent next week. This means that any good measure of intelligence should produce roughly the same scores for this individual next week as it does today.
- Assessing test-retest reliability requires using the measure on a group of people at one time, using it again on the same group of people at a later time, and then looking at test-retest correlation between the two sets of scores.

- Another kind of reliability is internal consistency, which is the consistency of people's responses across the items on a multiple-item measure. In general, all the items on such measures are supposed to reflect the same underlying construct, so people's scores on those items should be correlated with each other.
- Many behavioral measures involve significant judgment on the part of an observer or a rater. Inter-rater reliability is the extent to which different observers are consistent in their judgments.

Therefore, some methods like statistical techniques, sampling, etc. are more reliable as compared to other methods like participant observation, open ended interview and so on. Subjectivity due to style of individual investigator and interference of values lead to lower reliability of sociological investigations.

Q. What are the shortfalls of positivist philosophy that gave rise to the non-positivist methods of studying social reality? (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Positivism is an approach of studying sociology which aims at applying principles similar to those in natural sciences.

Comte has described positivism in two ways:

1. Positivism as a doctrine (a philosophy)
2. Positivism as a method (research methodology)

Durkheim has used Positivism as a research methodology in his work 'Suicide'. For him, the subject matter of sociology is social fact and a researcher must abandon all preconceived notions about them.

Role of Positivism in Emergence of Sociology

- Sociology as a distinct discipline emerged in the 19th century as a reaction to European modernity. At that time, Science was celebrated in Europe. To establish infant sociology as a serious discipline, it was necessary to model it along natural sciences. Thus, Positivism helped in the very survival of sociology in its early days.

RESEARCH METHODS & ANALYSIS

Q. Explain the different types of non-probability sampling techniques. Bring out the conditions of their use with appropriate examples.

(CSE, 2022)

Ans: Sampling is a process of selection of a limited number of items from a larger whole or universe of items. Process of sampling requires defining the population set first from which samples will be chosen. After that sample frame is specified and in next step, sampling method is specified.

It is of primarily two types -

- (A) Probability Sampling, and
- (B) Non-probability Sampling.

A. Probability Sampling

- In this sampling method, every element in the sample population has equal chance of being selected.
- In a population of 1000 people, each person has a one-in-a-thousand probability of being selected for a sample. Random Probability Sampling restricts population bias.

B. Non-Probability Sampling

- In many research situations randomness or probability is not possible in the sampling process either due to unavailability of data, constraints imposed or costs involved.
- Since they are not based on random selection, they cannot claim true representativeness of the larger population from which they are picked. In such situations, non-probability sampling is used.

Some Common Techniques of Non-Probability Sampling

1. **Convenience Sampling:** In Convenience Sampling or Accidental Sampling, sample is drawn from that part of the population that is closest at hand. It is used when there are enough controls and reasons to believe that such samples will lead to correct inferences.

For example, to understand the features of industrial classes, a researcher may go to industries that are most nearby and select a few employees which are known to him or easy to contact.

2. **Purposive Sampling:** It is that type of sampling in which a purpose is already there in the mind of the researcher and sample characteristics are pre-defined. For example, male population, between 40-50 years can be a target of a socio-economic survey. Quota sampling and Snowball sampling are essentially subtypes of purposive sampling.

(a) **Quota Sampling:** In this, people are selected non-randomly by fixing some quota to facilitate representation of a particular group. There are primarily two types of quota sampling - proportional quota sampling and non-proportional quota sampling. In proportional quota sampling quota are defined beforehand in fixed terms say 40%, 60% etc., in non-proportional sampling only a 'minimum quota' is specified. For example, if a researcher knows that there are 40% of females in a given population, the researcher may keep drawing samples till the desired quota of 40% is not reached.

(b) **Snowball Sampling:** In this method, the starting point is the pre-existing data of the targeted sample. It works on the referral principle. It is useful when the target population cannot be easily located. In this, one entity leads to information about other entities in a chain-reaction fashion. For example, in a survey of drug-addicts, one drug addict may lead to information about the other and so on.

Conditions of the Use of Non-Probability Sampling

- In the view of Popper, researchers should try to disprove or falsify their theories. This means looking for untypical examples of a phenomenon that do not fit a particular theory. For example, biological reasons for sexual division of labour were refuted by the study of Mbuti Pygmies of Congo.

SOCIOLOGICAL THINKERS

Q. Durkheim argued that society is more than the sum of individual acts. Discuss (CSE, 2022)

Ans: As a functionalist, Emile Durkheim's perspective on society stressed the necessary interconnectivity of all of its elements. To Durkheim, society was greater than the sum of its parts. He asserted that individual behaviour was not the same as collective behaviour, and that studying collective behaviour was quite different from studying an individual's actions.

Society as an External Restraint

Society Acts as an External Restraint on Individual Behaviour

- In his quest to understand what causes individuals to act in similar and predictable ways, he wrote, "If I do not submit to the conventions of society, if in my dress I do not conform to the customs observed in my country and in my class, the ridicule I provoke, the social isolation in which I am kept, produce, although in an attenuated form, the same effects as punishment".

Collective Consciousness & Social Integration

- Durkheim believed that society exerted a powerful force on individuals. People's norms, beliefs, and values make up a collective consciousness, or a shared way of understanding and behaving in the world. The collective consciousness binds individuals together and creates social integration.
- For Durkheim, the collective consciousness was crucial in explaining the existence of society: it produces society and holds it together. At the same time, the collective consciousness is produced by individuals through their actions and interactions.
- Society is a social product created by the actions of individuals that then exerts a coercive social force back on those individuals. Through their collective consciousness, Durkheim argued, human beings become aware of one another as social beings, not just animals.
- Durkheim also believed that social integration, or the strength of ties that people have to their social groups, was a key factor in social life.

- Following the ideas of Comte and Spencer, Durkheim likened society to that of a living organism, in which each organ plays a necessary role in keeping the being alive.

Socially Deviant Members of Society

- Even the socially deviant members of society are necessary, Durkheim argued, as punishments for deviance affirm established cultural values and norms. That is, punishment of a crime reaffirms our moral consciousness.
- "A crime is a crime because we condemn it," Durkheim wrote in 1893. "An act offends the common consciousness not because it is criminal, but it is criminal because it offends that consciousness" (Durkheim 1893). Durkheim called these elements of society "social facts." By this, he meant that social forces were to be considered real and existed outside the individual.

Therefore, Durkheim gave the much needed subject matter to the nascent discipline. He defined its scope as the study of social facts. His sociological theories and vocabulary is still undisputable as being distinctively sociological. His concepts of religion, suicide and anomie are even used in inter-disciplinary studies as well. His contribution to perspectives in sociology is also immense as he was one of the early founders of structural functionalist perspective.

Q. How do sociologists construct gender in their analysis on social inequality? (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Inequality based on gender is one of the most fundamental forms of stratification. Both in Eastern and Western societies, the long held view is men are breadwinners and women are expected to take household chores. Often their status was linked to the status of their husbands or fathers.

Gender based inequalities are studied by various sociological perspectives:

The Functionalist Perspective

- The functionalist perspective suggests that gender roles exist to maximize social efficiency.

SYSTEM OF KINSHIP

Q. Discuss various theoretical perspectives on the family. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Sociologists study families on both the macro and micro level to examine this important and universal social institution.

Sociologists may use a variety of theoretical perspectives to explain events that occur within and outside of the family.

The Functionalist Perspective

- When considering the role of family in society, functionalists begin with the importance of families as formative social institutions that play a key role in stabilizing society.
- They also examine the statuses and roles that family members take on in marriages and/or families. The family—and its members—perform certain systemic functions that facilitate the prosperity and development of society.
- Sociologist George Murdock conducted a survey of 250 societies and determined that there are four universal residual functions of the family: sexual, reproductive, educational, and economic.
- Functionalists examine the division of labor within a family by distinguishing between instrumental and expressive roles. Instrumental roles typically involve work outside of the family that provides financial support and establishes family status.
- Expressive roles typically involve work inside of the family which provides emotional support and physical care for children.

The Conflict Perspective

- Just as functionalists are examining the ways in which a particular social institution operates and fulfills important tasks—or functions—for societies, conflict theorists are looking at the mechanisms through which these same social institutions reproduce systems of inequality at a macro-sociological level.

- Within families, conflict theorists highlight the role of power in family life and contend that the family is often not a haven, but rather an arena where power struggles occur.
- Arlie Hochschild's research on couples led her to publish *The Second Shift* (1989), which described a second shift, or the labor performed at home in addition to labor in the traditional, external work sectors.
- Marxian says it breeds notions of conformity. According to David Cooper in his 'Death of Family, 1972' - 'It is an ideological conditioning device in an exploitative society'. He also says it denies individual freedom and is a hindrance in development of an individual's self.

The Symbolic Interactionism Perspective

- Interactionists view the world in terms of symbols and the meanings assigned to them. The family itself is a symbol.
- To some, it is a father, mother, and children; to others, it is any union that involves respect and compassion. Interactionists stress that family is not an objective, concrete reality.
- Like other social phenomena, it is a social construct that is subject to the ebb and flow of social norms and ever-changing meanings.

Furthermore, Edmund Leach in his 'A Runaway World?', 1967' says, the modern family is isolated from larger society and kin and is a storehouse of stress and tension. 'Parents and children huddled together in their loneliness take too much out of each other. Parents fight, children rebel'.

In contemporary times, increased female labor force participation, legislation impacting gender, personal law and international migration, advances in science and technology including new reproductive technologies among others, have interacted with the family and have led to many structural and functional changes in the family.

INTRODUCING INDIAN SOCIETY

Q. Critically examine Yogendra Singh's thesis on 'Modernization of Indian Tradition'. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: According to Yogendra Singh, modernization is a form of cultural response, involving attributes which are basically universalistic and evolutionary; they are pan-humanistic, trans-ethnic and non-ideological.

Modernization of tradition includes change in traditional institutions, values and processes like caste, family, kinship, political and social organization, religion, and so on.

Modernization of Indian Tradition

- **Introduction of new means of communication** like - railway, telephone and telegram hastened the process. New administrative and judicial system changed the social outlook. New types of jobs changed occupational stance. Literature and art made a cultural and psychological impact. A new type of scientific and rational thinking made ideological and value impact.
- Early **carriers of modernization were urban middle class elite** who first came into contact with westerners. Education became a big symbol of modernization and it influenced all aspects of tradition - food habits, dressing, language, and so on.
- According to Yogendra Singh, it **not only impacted cultural aspects**, but also structural aspects as well. New social classes emerged. Power situation was altered. New political systems and new economic practices led to formation of new elite classes and new deprived sections.
- **Due to industrialization and urbanization**, the professional class and working classes emerged. Trade unions emerged as new organizations. Older economic institutions like the Jajmani system perished with the arrival of the money economy.
- **Singh's imagination of modernization** in the Indian context is rooted in the twin phenomena of 'social structure' and 'tradition'. Following a critique of erstwhile sociological interpretations of Indian modernization as being simply blinded by nationalist agenda, he proposes the study of modernization from a socio-historiographical point of view.
- For ease of understanding, Singh further **divides both social structure and tradition into 'macro-structures' and 'micro-structures'** and 'little traditions' and 'great traditions', respectively. This enables us to engage with the complex historiography of Indian society more holistically and comprehensively.
- Inducing his ideas from the works of sociologists like Louis Dumont and Talcott Parsons as well as several other early thinkers of Indian sociology like G.S Ghurye, M.N Srinivas, D.P Mukherjee, Singh offers a mostly structural-functionalist and positivist depiction of Indian modernization.
- To explain modernization in the Indian context, Singh employs a method of looking at '**internal' and 'external' developments** in the socio-cultural and political history of the Indian subcontinent. Within both social structures as well as tradition, he believes that modernization occurs through a series of 'orthogenetic' or the 'internal' socio-cultural transitions as well as 'heterogenetic' or the 'external' transitions.
- Accordingly, Singh believes that for understanding Indian modernization, it is necessary to study the cultural synthesis of both orthogenetic as well as heterogenetic forms of social change and their respective impacts on Indian society.
- He **uses an integrative approach** by critically reviewing and incorporating previously studied dichotomies such as 'Sanskritization' vs. 'Islamization', 'Sanskritization' vs. 'Westernization', 'Great' and 'Little' traditions as well as 'universalization' vs. 'parochialization' to study the nature of social change in Indian society.

CASTE SYSTEM

Q. Elaborate on M. N. Srinivas's structural-functional approach to the study of Indian society. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: M. N. Srinivas pioneered structural-functionalism in India through his path breaking work among Coorgs of Mysore in 1940s. It was a holistic study of Coorg society and he analyzed how different cultural elements contribute to solidarity of Coorg society. He developed his perspective by deviating from a pure Indological perspective.

MN Srinivas's Structural-functional Approach

- His structural functionalism was a blend of approaches used by Radcliffe Brown and Evans Pritchard. He used structural functionalism of Brown and field view of Pritchard. He blended theoretical structural functionalism with empirical work.
- He used a method of direct observation to study Coorg society and introduced elements of ethnography. His approach also took into account Indological views as well, influence of which cannot be ignored.
- Srinivas had a systems view of Indian society and he studied Indian society in terms of patterns of relations, social institutions and their working in society in a holistic manner.
- Srinivas interpreted particular social phenomena like - caste, family, religion, etc. in functional terms within a larger context of Indian society. In his study of Coorgs, he described the concept of functional unity and established interpretations in the context of various rituals followed by Coorgs.

View on Indian Society

- He took a comparative view of Indian society by studying the same phenomenon within a specific regional context. He understood order and change as well. Order is understood in terms of - caste, village, religion, etc.
- He is known for understanding the dynamics of Indian society. He emphasizes upon understanding cultural changes, leading to change in Indian society.
- Study of Indian society through the institution of

caste dominated his writings. His concept of 'Dominant Caste' in his study of village Rampura, his concept of 'Sanskritization' in his study of Coorgs of Mysore highlight it.

View on Social Change

- He studied the process of change in detail in his 'Social Change in Modern India, 1962' through his twin concepts of Westernization and Sanskritization. Apart from the above general view of Indian society, he also had a specific view of various social institutions.
- His understanding of caste is primarily driven from his numerous field studies. He combines theory with practice. His understanding of caste though has some Indological elements also, but it is more oriented towards its operational aspects.
- His concepts of 'Sanskritization', 'Dominant Caste', 'Vote bank' etc. give a practical view of Indian society.

View on Indian Village

- He views Indian village as a prototype of Indian society or microcosm of Indian society and like Ghurye, he also rejects the colonial notions of self-sufficiency of Indian village. Village exogamy is one of the prime examples that villages were interdependent.
- He considers village as integrated with the wider society. His concept of village is overburden with the caste, but he also sees marriage, family and Jajmani system as central to understanding of caste.
- Like its original framework in the West, structural functionalism in India also suffered from several limitations and was criticized for several reasons. This Perspective ignored conflict in Indian society.
- Social institutions may be dysfunctional and causing conflict in society. For example - caste is more dysfunctional than functional.

Criticism of Srinivas's Structural-functional Approach

This perspective is also considered status quoist. Generally, social patterns were considered desirable and functional in a broader context. It lacked purity in its application owing to influence of other perspectives.

SOCIAL CLASS STRUCTURE IN INDIA

Q. Explain Leela Dube's concept of 'Seed and Earth'. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Leela Dube on 'Seed and Earth: The Symbolism of Biological Reproduction and Sexual Relations of Productions', she says that when we equate woman's body with "earth" and the man's semen with "seed", one can chart out the production relations between the two genders wherein the rights over the crops and land remains with the man, and not the woman.

This is similar to how in patriarchal, hetero-normative families, the children are said to belong to the man, as they have been born out of the "man's seed", while the woman only provided her womb or "earth" for the "man's seed" to grow.

In an important article 'On the Construction of Gender: Hindu girls in Patrilineal India' Dube (1988) traces the mechanisms through which **girls develop a gendered identity** by examining the rituals and ceremonies, language and practice of families.

Her focus was on Hindu girls as she examined her own socialization as well. She begins by emphasizing that **gender differences that are culturally produced** are always interpreted as being rooted in biology.

'Seed and Earth' Analogy

- She explains this by using the 'Seed and Earth' analogy. This analogy has been examined by her in several other papers and is very important in understanding gender relations. This concept is extremely powerful and has been extensively discussed in Women's Studies in various places.
- The reason for the secondary status given to women comes from the understanding of women as passive receptacles. "Man provides the seed the essence-while the woman provides the field which receives the seed and nourishes it.
- A child shares the father's blood. Within the natal group a woman's transferability and non-functional nature is empathized while within the marital family her instrumentality is emphasized. This unequal social arrangement is perceived as the arrangement

of nature which gives different roles to men and women in procreation.

- She further explains how gender roles are lived out in terms of family structures and kinship which makes rules about recruitment, marital residence and rearrangement of the family. These in turn are impacted by the institution of caste.

Thus, Leela Dubey discussed more about issues of power and hierarchy and the status accorded to women in different kinds of societies and kinship systems. Her work helped in gendering sociology and anthropology and brought anthropological insights to women's studies.

Q. Caste system studies in India have been dominated by the "book-view" initially. How did the entry of "field-view" bring about a balance in the study of Indian caste system? Discuss. (CSE 2021)

Ans: Caste system refers to a closed system of social stratification where people or groups are hierarchically arranged on the basis of factors that are ascribed and hereditary in nature. In the early stage caste system was primarily studied by British administrators and indologists such as Metcalfe, Max Muller, William Jones along with Indian indologists such as G S Ghurye who used book-view to understand the caste system. They understood caste system through religious scriptures and puranas. For instance, Max Muller translated various Sanskrit texts into English that became the primary source of understanding caste system.

The book-view saw caste system as fixed, unchanging, closed and having little scope of mobility. G S Ghurye, Dumont, etc. even considered caste system as functional and integrative. Studies by W H Wiser of jajmani system in a Uttar Pradesh village highlighted the unity-reciprocity aspect of caste in economic sphere.

Post-independence field studies by M N Srinivas, Andre Beteille, F G Bailey etc. helped establish the field-view of caste system. Their study showed that caste system in practice differed widely from caste system

SYSTEM OF KINSHIP IN INDIA

Q. Discuss the material basis of patriarchy as an ideological system. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Patriarchy is defined by Sylvia Walby in her 'Theorizing Patriarchy, 1990' as 'a system of social structures and practices in which men dominate and oppress women'.

Patriarchy

According to Sylvia Walby, patriarchy operates through multiple structures like –

- production relations in the household where women is subjected to unpaid labor,
- discriminatory allocation of occupations in labor market,
- capture of political power by patriarchs,
- male violence which is often patterned and systematic,
- patriarchal relations in sexuality which are manifested in sexual double standards for males and females,
- patriarchal cultural institutions like education, media and so on.

Role of Women in Marriage and Family

- Role of women in marriage and family also follows a broader division of labor.
- According to Jessie Bernard in her 'The Future of Marriage, 1976', benefits that husband and wife draw from the marriage are radically different or unequal.
- Compared to single men, married men are likely to have more successful careers, but compared to single women, wives are more likely to suffer depression.

Material Basis of Patriarchy

- **Hoschild** in his 'The Second Shift, 1989' has argued that employed women are doubly harassed by men – one during their 'first shift' at their workplace and secondly in their 'second shift' in form of house-

work. According to W Yeung, as women move into paid employment in increasingly larger numbers, men's contribution to domestic tasks and child care does not seem to be increasing at the same pace.

- **Uma Chakravarti** argues that the establishment of private property and the need to have caste purity required subordination of women and strict control over their mobility and sexuality. Female sexuality was channeled into legitimate motherhood within a controlled structure of reproduction to ensure patrilineal succession.
- **Karuna Ahmad** explored four characteristics of women's employment in India in her article 'Studies of Educated Working Women in India: trends and Issues, 1979' which also reflect the larger sexual division of work in Indian society.
- **T S Papola** in his study of Lucknow women in employment shows that women were discriminated against at the time of promotions and tended to be crowded into lower status clerical and primary school jobs.
- **Vina Majumdar** (Feminist sociologists) views agrarian class structure from feminist perspective and she argues that with economic growth, gender based exploitation gets institutionalized and agrarian social structure should also be studied with a gender perspective. According to her in agrarian structure women assumes role of home maker and men as bread winner curtailing economic freedom of women.

Breaking Down of Patriarchal System

- Patriarchal system with its unlimited restrictions on women and its comparative freedom for men is gradually breaking down under the impact of new civilization and culture.
- Earning of a husband is gradually proving to be insufficient for the upbringing of the whole family, especially in the case of the middle class.

RURAL & AGRARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Q. Examine whether rural bondage still continues to be a social reality. Give your argument. (CSE, 2022)

Ans: Bondage is a condition when a person or laborer sells himself/herself to his/her employer for certain economic privileges for a specific or unspecific period. This sounds very unjust and inhuman. This can be stated as part of a system of slavery where a person is not free to share his will.

Types of Bonded Labor

- According to the National Commission on Rural Labour, there are 4 types of bonded labor practices in India. These are intergenerational bondage, loyalty bondage, bondage through the allotment of land and bondage of the distressed widows.

Exploitation in Bondage Practices

- The agreement between landlord and debtor once entered, lasts for quite some time and the debtor continues to render services for years together or sometimes for generations.
- The ignorance of the bonded laborers and their vulnerable position without any alternative available makes them subjugated to the moneylenders.
- This system of bondage is basically due to economic factors that are further supported by social and religious factors. People are extremely poor and they are unable to find work for their livelihood.
- The landholdings are not adequate to support their family system. The people are not educated enough about loans and the constant rise in prices leads to other uncertainties. Natural calamities and disasters make it more awful.
- The social wrongs like caste-based discrimination and the dowry system have put people into heavy debts. The Indian education system is unequal and not compulsory therefore in some areas generations are left uneducated.

- Religion references are used to make people convinced about the legitimacy of the upper class and lower class differences.
- These arguments are supported by using religious texts. Such customs banned lower class people from owning land.
- All these factors make rural laborers more immature, illiterate and unstable. The existence of feudalism is heavily responsible for the continuity of bondage in the agrarian system. Child labor and sexual exploitation are other miseries of bonded labor.
- According to Utsa Patnaik, Persistence of Feudalism in Indian agriculture is greatly responsible for the continuity of bondage in the countryside. In the rural sector feudalism is persistent because traditional landlords do come from the upper caste and hence the relationship between caste and agriculture is absolutely profound.
- Surinder Jodhka opines that bonded labour practice in the country is the product of the survivalist necessity of the rural poor corresponding with the innovative saving techniques identified by rural rich.
- The Green Revolution and other regional disparities promoted rural to rural migration in a big way. These migrant workers have been termed 'footloose labour' by Jan Breman, but this does not imply freedom.
- Labor from backward regions like Bihar, eastern UP, Bengal, etc. migrates to prosperous regions like Haryana, Punjab etc.
- Bonded labour system has been enlisting in Indian Society among agricultural labourers in the name of beggars and ryots.
- Today it has extended to workers working in brick kilns, bidi factories, stone quarries, glass factories and in detergent, carpet, gem stones and many other factories.