

RAO'S COACHING CENTRE

SOCIOLOGY

MODEL ANSWERS

(For a Few Previous Years' Questions) (2013-17)

Short Notes 20 Marks

01. Q. Caste Mobilization in North India

Caste Mobilization in North India before Independence took place due to the following factors.

- (i) Peasant Movement like the Pasi, Ahir & Eka Movements in the Indo-Gangetic belt & Begar Movement in Bihar/UP; the Backward Castes like Ahirs, Yadavs & Pasis were mobilized by Peasant Leaders like Baba Ramachandra, Madari Pasi & latter by leaders of All-India Kissan Sabha like Ram Manohar Lohia, Narendra Dev & Sahajanda Swamy etc.
- (ii) The Dalit Movements also to a great extent mobilized SCs & BCs before Independence; specially due the contribution of Jyoti Rao Phule's Satya Shodak Samaj, Dr. Ambedkar & All-India Harijan Sevak Sangh & Adi Dharama Movement (in Punjab), etc.

Caste Mobilization, after Independence, took place due to the following factors, in North.

- (i) Electoral Politics involving elections to the Union & State Legislature & local bodies helped mobilization along caste lines; the castes who were numerically superior took advantage of one-man-one vote principle (Yadavas, Kurmis, Dalits in UP).
- (ii) Another factor which played a big role was the implementation of Mandal Commission report & opposition to it by forward castes; BCs got united to gain benefits of reservation.
- (iii) Other factors that contributed to caste mobilization in North were education, spread of awareness, caste coalitions in politics & democratic decentralization, rise of Bahujan Samaj Party & work of Ram Manohar Lohia, Jay Prakash Naryan, Lallu Yadav & Mulayam etc.

(210 Words)

02. Q. What are the Features of Neo-rich agrarian classes: The Neo-rich (new rich) agrarian classes in India refer to castes like Jats, Patidars, Vokkaligas & Thevars etc; their wealth was due to (a) green revolution (b) Commercialization of agriculture (c) exploitation of lower castes/agricultural labour (d) contacts at the cutting edge of Govt & Banks & political-power

The New rich agrarian castes/classes exhibit the following features

- (a) They are dawn mostly from intermediary castes in the rural Caste/Jati hierarchy

- (b) They are supervisory farmers or aware of the basic operations involved in paddy/sugarcane/wheat cultivation
- (c) They are semi-urbanized & due to improved communications, travel often to urban centres
- (d) They are change agents with regard to agriculture & bringing in electoral politics but oppose change when it comes to land reforms & genuine grass root democracy
- (e) Many of them, specially the young indulge in conspicuous consumption (luxury goods, cars)
- (f) They have also taken to investments & enterprises in non-farm activities (resorts, real estate, education & quarries)
- (g) They engage themselves in faction politics & practice patron-client relations
- (h) Compared to their elders, their average levels of education is higher & are more exposed to the World/Nation. (190 Words)

(30 Marks)

01. Q. What are the Socio-Cultural factors affecting family planning in India?

A. The Socio-Cultural factors affecting family planning in India are:

- (i) Illiteracy & low levels of education, specially among women, following & practicing family planning needs a minimum awareness of human reproduction & proper use of contraceptive devices. It also requires basic knowledge about their purpose
- (ii) Most poor & rural couples follow natural fertility; they are either not aware of family planning or even if aware may believe that it is an interference in nature's way
- (iii) Men think that vasectomy reduces their virility (a mistaken belief)
- (iv) Preference for male child also means that if the first few children are baby – girls, the couple are not prepared to accept family planning
- (v) Indian cultural values give importance to motherhood; in fact the more number of children a woman has, the more complete a woman she is seen as
- (vi) Cultural Preferences for large families
- (vii) Low Status of woman; a woman does not decide how many children she should have; it is the in-laws/the husband who decide
- (viii) Poverty is another impediment; for poor couples, every child is an income-generation proposition
- (ix) The shortage of women staff in the family planning/mother-child health areas
- (x) Non-involvement of religious/social leaders in advocating the need/advantages of small family

Q. No Society is completely closed or Open-Comment (150 Words)

A – The above statement implies that (short notes) opportunities for social mobility are neither completely absent nor completely unlimited. In any society, there will be some scope for upward mobility due to – (a) demographic changes (b) talent and skills cannot always be linked to birth (c) education throws up new avenues (d) new discoveries, developments like IT and globalization (e) migration of skilled people leaving some vacancies (f) social movement and revolts (eg: French Revolution) (g) Govt policies like positive action (h) some economic growth will always take place

But mobility opportunities are not unlimited due to:

- (a) Elites control resources like quality education, high paid jobs and power
- (b) Biases of caste, race and class
- (c) Hereditary factors
- (d) Difficulties faced by the poor and low income groups in climbing the ladder
- (e) High cost of professional education
- (f) Manipulation of opportunities by upper classes in their favour

Q. Differentiate between Marx's & Weber's approaches to stratification? (20 Marks; 200 Words)

A. Karl Marx (1818-84) and Max Weber (1884-1920) were two of the most well known sociologists/thinkers to have analysed/explained social stratification. However, their perspectives/approaches differed as follows:

	Karl Marx	Max Weber
01.	According to Marx, inequality is determined only & solely by economic factors	According to Max Weber, inequality is determined by a combination of three factors namely – Economic (Class) Social (Status) and Political (Power)
02.	Property relations are the main cause of inequality (Ownership or non-Ownership)	Market relations (demand & supply of marketable skill) determine inequality
03.	Classes are basically economic groups	Classes are status groups or social groups marked by different life styles or life chances
04.	There are only two classes – Bourgeoisie (Capitalists) and Proletariat (Working Class)	There may be more than two classes depending on what they offer in the market place (manual labour, semi-manual labour & non-manual skills etc.)
05.	Class Conflict is inevitable	Class Conflict is not inevitable
06.	Classes are antagonistic to one another	Classes can Coexist without hostility

It should be mentioned here that Karl Marx was a political radical and his ideology and sociology were difficult to separate whereas Max Weber was a professional academic sociologist. He had no radical agenda.

Q. What are the reasons for increasing sexual violence against women in Public places in India in the last decade: (20 Marks)

A. In the last decade (2005-15); physical abuse/sexual assaults against women (molestation, rape) in public places have increased in India due to:

- (i) Due to globalization and economic growth, the number of women employed in service sector (where they work even in the night) and manufacturing (garments) has gone up; employers are not always in a position to provide security to & from home

- commuting making women vulnerable to sexual abuse. There are cases where transport operators/drivers themselves have abused working women in vehicles
- (ii) Women have been depicted as objects of desire/lust in media and the internet is full of pornography, available even on hand sets
 - (iii) In metros in medium sized towns/cities, there are many public places where policing is not visible; there are many desolate and ill-lit roads/places/bus stands where women are subject to abuse. This is true of even many tourist places & highways
 - (iv) Absence of safe and reliable public transport for women after sunset
 - (v) Absence or difficulty of getting one's sexual needs met and ban on prostitution in many states. In countries where prostitution is legalized, there are lesser sexual crimes against women
 - (vi) Patriarchal values and perception of women as weaker sex
 - (vii) Other relations are (a) alcoholism (b) spurt in male migration to urban centres (c) greater physical strength of men (d) number of single working women and home-along middle age and elderly women in urban areas who may be sexually abused by men known to them (e) fear/stigma of reporting to police

Q. Anti-untouchability struggles have changed in form and perspective from Gandhian position to Ambedkarite position-comment (2017) short note 10 marks 150 words

Anti untouchability struggles have changed in character from Gandhian to Ambedkarite positions. The Gandhian strategy emphasized – (i) improvement of Dalit position within Hinduism (ii) peaceful mobilisation (iii) change of heart of the forward castes through marches, prayers and persuasion (iv) mobilisation of Dalits even by forward castes etc.

The Ambedkarite (Ambedkar's own efforts and other's influenced by Ambedkar) strategy differed radically consisting of – (i) aggressive assertion of Dalit identity (ii) emancipation outside Hinduism and if need be conversion to Buddhism/Christianity perceived as more egalitarian (iii) anti-forward caste ideology (iv) horizontal mobilisation of Dalits (i.e., by themselves) (v) agitation for rights (vi) use of literature, songs and street players (eg: Dalit Panther Movement in Maharashtra (vii) no outright rejection of violence (viii) capturing power or emerging as key political player by consolidation of Dalit vote bank (ix) broader coalition with minorities & BCs and (x) making use of legal/judicial system (Civil Rights – Protection Act, SC/ST Atrocities Act).

The change in anti-untouchability struggle is due to – (a) increased education/awareness among Dalits (b) electoral politics (c) protective discrimination (d) media (e) continued discrimination (f) incidents of atrocities etc. (155 Words)