

Dear Candidate, as per theme-based approach, please try to link the topics of Paper I with those of Paper II. This will not only facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the given topic but also enhance your analytical and articulation skills.

Paper I	6. Work and Economic Life
Paper II	C. (iii) Industrialisation and Urbanisation in India

*Handouts on the Topic: Paper II C. (iii) Industrialisation and Urbanisation in India have been given separately.

Social organization of work in different types of society
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Short Note

Slave Society

According to Marxian theory of social change, the earliest stage of human society was primitive communism. Primitive communism was a classless society marked by communal ownership of forces of production and absence of the institution of private property. However, with the increase in population, warfare and most importantly with the emergence of the institution of private property, the primitive communism stage of society was followed by a class-based ancient society, also called as slave society.

Slave society made its early appearance in ancient Greece and Rome. It was characterised by slavery as its mode of production. According to Karl Marx, slave society was the earliest form of class-based society which was divided into two distinct classes i.e. *masters* and *slaves*. Slaves refer to that section of humanity which was treated merely as an instrument of production and traded in market just like any other commodity. Masters, on the other hand, referred to the ownership class which owned not only the forces of production but also the slaves.

According to Marx, in this system of production the master has the right of ownership over the slave and appropriates the products of the slave's labour. So much so that the slave is not even allowed to reproduce. The slave is deprived of his own means of production i.e. his labour. The ruling class in such society acquired their wealth from slave labour. Such fatalistic conditions marked by extreme regulation of life often resulted in high suicide rates in slave society. Emile Durkheim had also this discussed in his study of suicide where he talks of fatalistic suicide.

However, critics argue that the Marxist account of slavery is overly simplistic. Firstly, Marx explains slavery from the economic perspective i.e. in terms of the economic exploitation of slaves (a non-ownership class) by their masters (an ownership class). Critics argue that slavery also needs to be adequately understood from racial and ethnic perspectives. Institution of slavery was not always marked exclusively by economic exploitation but also had elements of paternalistic relationships in some societies. In other words, slavery may exist in different forms in different societies and slaves themselves may be divided in terms of race and ethnicity. Please note that Marxian theory looks at slaves as constituting a class.

Secondly, eminent Indian sociologist Prof. Surinder Singh Jodhka argues that slavery co-exist in modern society and manifests itself in various disguised forms such as bonded labour, child labour, farmers' suicide, etc. (Dear Candidate, you can also relate this argument to Marx's concept of alienation and Durkheim's concept of anomie.)

Thirdly, various subaltern scholars like B.R. Ambedkar, David Hardiman, Gail Omvedt, Virginius Xaxa and Ramachandra Guha etc., argue that slavery in India needs to be understood not only in terms of economic exploitation but also in terms of cultural subordination and exclusion of lower castes and tribes by upper castes for more than 5000 years.

However, despite its limitations, Marxian analysis of slavery from economic perspective is still partly relevant to account for the prevailing poor and exploitative labour conditions particularly in the third world societies. Though for a comprehensive explanation of the labour conditions in contemporary societies, along with economic, cultural dimension must also be taken into account.

Dear Candidate, for the topics on 'feudal society', 'industrial society' or 'capitalist society' you can draw important points from our discussion on **Sociological Thinkers**.

Formal and Informal Organization of Work

Hints:

Max Weber – rationalization – ‘legal-rational authority’ (bureaucracy)

Karl Marx – bureaucracy promotes ‘ruling class ideology’

C.W. Mills – alienation in tertiary sector – ‘personality market’

Robert E. Cole – *Japanese Blue Collar: The Changing Tradition*

Robert K. Merton – dysfunctions of bureaucracy

Alvin Ward Gouldner – ‘degree of bureaucratization’ – mock bureaucracy – representative bureaucracy – punishment-centered bureaucracy

Tom Burns and G.M. Stalker – mechanistic and organic organizations

Peter Blau – formal and informal structures

Elton Mayo – human relations approach

Sociology is Simple Sociology is Scoring provided that you Study Sociology Systematically
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Labour and Society

Hints:

Auguste Comte – classical evolutionalists like Comte and Spencer argued that increase in population leads to an increase in demand in society – hence need for high division of labour – resulting in social change

Herbert Spencer – division of labour – *evolution is a twin process of differentiation and integration whereby a simple or less differentiated form transforms itself into a more complex and differentiated form* – degree of differentiation (division of labour) is directly proportional to need for integration

Karl Marx – communal ownership of forces of production in Primitive Communism – hence egalitarian society – with the emergence of institution of private property – society gets divided into two classes viz., ownership and non-ownership class – leading to inequality, exploitation and alienation – revolutionary transformation of capitalist society into communist society

Emile Durkheim – division of labour – mechanical and organic solidarity – normal and pathological division of labour

Max Weber – division of labour – process of rationalisation

Talcott Parsons – structural differentiation and value generalisation

Dear Candidate for the topic **Work and Economic Life (P-I T-6)**, please also refer the following handouts very selectively as per previously asked questions:

Handout: Ch-20 Work and Economic Life

Book: *Sociology* by Anthony Giddens (6th Edition)

Handout: Ch-6 Work and Leisure

Book: *Sociology – Themes and Perspectives* by Haralambos and Heald (Orange Colour Book)

Handout: Ch-7 Organizations and Bureaucracy

Book: *Sociology – Themes and Perspectives* by Haralambos and Heald (Orange Colour Book)

UPSC: Previous Years' Questions

Paper I 6. Work and Economic Life

Paper II C. (iii) Industrialisation and Urbanisation in India

Q. Do you think that forced displacement of labourers has caused their deprivation and resultant inequalities during the recent past years? Elaborate. (2025/20)

Q. Discuss the trend of urbanization in India. Do you think that Industrialization is the only precondition of urbanization? Give your arguments. (2025/20)

Q. Critically analyze the sociological significance of informal sector in the economy of developing societies. (2025/10)

Q. What are the major problems faced by the labour migrants while working in informal sectors of Indian States? Discuss. (2025/10)

Q. Do you think that law has been able to abolish child labour in India? Comment. (2025/10)

Q. Examine with suitable examples the recent trends in the growth of urban settlements in India. (2024/10)

Q. Is there a connection between labour migration and informal sector? Justify your answer with reference to Indian context. (2024/10)

Q. Are slums the manifestations of industrialisation and urbanisation in India? Explain. (2024/10)

Q. Define the concept of 'gig' economy and discuss its impact on the labour market and workers' social security net. (2024/20)

Q. Critically assess the impact of technological advancement and automation on the nature of work and employment. (2024/10)

Q. Describe the differing principles of work organization in feudal and capitalist societies. (2024/10)

Q. Explain how economic globalization has brought changes in the patterns of employment in the 21st century. (2023/20)

Q. What is Taylorism? Analyze its merits and demerits. (2023/20)

Q. What actionable measures would you suggest to curb the recurrent child labour menace in India? (2023/10)

Q. Discuss the phenomenon of rural-urban continuum with suitable examples. (2023/10)

Q. Discuss different forms of deprivation associated with slums. (2022/10)

Q. How do you view the growth of informal sector in India? (2022/10)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

- Q. Explain the implications of feminization of work in the developing countries. (2022/10)
- Q. How do you view the growth of informal sector in India? (2022/10)
- Q. Examine the implications of feminization of work in the developing societies. (2022/10)
- Q. Discuss different forms of deprivation associated with slums. (2022/10)
- Q. Explain the emerging challenges in establishing gender equality in the informal sector. (2021/10)
- Q. Elucidate the main problems and challenges faced by the migrant labourers in the recent 'Lockdown Period'. (2021/20)
- Q. How has the idea of 'Work From Home' forced us to redefine the formal and informal organisation of work. (2021/20)
- Q. Urban slums are sites of social exclusion. Explain. (2021/10)
- Q. Urban settlements in India tend to replicate its rural caste-kinship imprints. Discuss the main reasons. (2021/20)
- Q. Point out the main causes of 'child labour' in India. How far the State policies have succeeded in its elimination? (2020/10)
- Q. Elaborate the causes, consequences and other concerns of growth of urban settlements in India. (2020/20)
- Q. Discuss the new labour codes and their impact on formal and informal labour in India. (2020/20)
- Q. Capitalism has brought increasing informalization of work in society. Substantiate your answer. (2020/20)
- Q. What is 'social security'? Examine recent security measures adopted by the Government in India. (2019/10)
- Q. What is 'informal labour'? Discuss the need for and challenges in regulating informal labour in the post-industrial society. (2019/20)
- Q. Elaborate urbanism as a way of life. (2019/10)
- Q. Elucidate the concerns of growing urban displacement dynamics in India. (2019/10)
- Q. Do you think that 'demonetization' has accelerated the economic growth in India? How do you understand the in formalization of labour, underemployment and gender discrimination in this context? (2019/20)
- Q. Discuss the nature of social organization of work in capitalist society with reference to the 'Limits of the working day'. (2018/20)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

- Q. What is labour commitment? Discuss it with reference to studies of manufacturing industry. (2018/20)
- Q. How do you relate the growth of development of metropolis and its impact on the mental and social life of people in India. (2018/20)
- Q. Write a note on Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development (IHSD) programme provided for the urban poor. (2018/10)
- Q. What do you understand by 'informalization of labour'? Write your answer with special reference to India. (2017/10)
- Q. Trace the changing nature of organization of work in capitalist society over the years. (2017/20)
- Q. Compare the pressing problems of a dalit poor family living in an urban slum with a similar type of family living in a rural setting. (2017/10)
- Q. Do you agree that the issue of child labour raises questions about and beyond the informal sector? Give reasons. (2017/10)
- Q. Discuss some of the striking issues of development induced imbalances that need urgent attention. (2017/20)
- Q. Examine the impact of heritage tourism on urban socio-spatial patterns in India. (2017/20)
- Q. Describe the nature of social organization work in industrial society. (2016/10)
- Q. "Globalization has pushed the labour into informal organization of work." Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. (2016/20)
- Q. Write a detailed note on the effects of growing slums in urban areas. (2016/20)
- Q. Discuss the changing nature of problems of working class in the informal sector of the economy. (2016/20)
- Q. Issues relating to the informal labour market in urban India. (2015/10)
- Q. The increasing importance of the tertiary sector has weakened the formal organization of work in recent times. Examine the statement. (2015/20)
- Q. Discuss the impact of globalization on the workers in the Informal sector. (2014/10)
- Q. Give a sociological analysis of the problems of migrant urban poor. (2014/20)
- Q. Examine the social impact of globalization on labour and society. (2013/20)
- Q. Distinguish between formal and informal sectors in India. (2013/20)
- Q. Examine the influence of industrialisation on caste. (2013/15)
- Q. Write an analytical note on slums in cities. (2013/15)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective: Industrial Democracy (2012/20)
- Q. Write short note on the following from a sociological perspective: Child labour (2012/20)
- Q. How do formal and informal organization of work influence labour's mobility? Explain with examples. (2012/20)
- Q. Discuss the factors which contributed to industrial modernization in India. What are the salient features of new industrial class structure? (2012/20)
- Q. Have the new economic policy and economic reforms led to weakening of labour class movements? Explain your views with examples. (2012/30)
- Q. Write short note on Self-Help Group (SHG) as an informal organization from a sociological perspective (in about 150 words). (2011/12)
- Q. What is formal organization? "The growth of bureaucracy has resulted in extreme concentration of power at larger levels of social organization." Discuss. (2011/20)
- Q. What are the linkage points between globalization and the growth of the informal sector? How have these affected the nature and functioning of the working class? (2011/30)
- Q. Rapid urbanization and sustainable development do not go together. Discuss with arguments. (2011/20)
- Q. "Work in capitalism is reduced to mere labour in which the individual does not develop freely his physical and mental energy and mortifies his body and ruins his mind." Critically evaluate the assertion. (2010/30)
- Q. Write short note on Feminisation of labour in Informal Sector (2010/15)
- Q. Write short note on Human Relations School of Thought by Elton Mayo as a social organization of work process in industry. (2010/15)
- Q. Analyse the social impact of market economy on traditional societies. (2010/15)
- Q. Evaluate the policy of SEZ (special economic zones) and the nature of social response to it. (2010/30)
- Q. From a sociological perspective, examine the effects of the BPO industry on the youth. (2010/20)
- Q. Comment on the sociological impact of globalization on people working in the Informal sector. (2009/30)
- Q. What is the impact of Globalization on the structure and mobilization of the working class in India? (2008/60)
- Q. Write short note: Informal sector in the urban economy in India (2008/20)
- Q. Discuss the social consequences of economic reforms like liberalization, privatization and globalization. (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Market economy and its social consequences (2007/20)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

- Q. Write short note: Programmes for urban development (2007/20)
- Q. Indicate social determinants of economic development. Discuss any one sociological perspective analyzing backwardness and poverty in the developing societies. (2007/60)
- Q. Write short note: Features of Pre-Industrial economic system (2007/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social Consequences of Privatization (2006/20)
- Q. Describe various aspects of urban environment in India and assess the impact of urban development programmes on it. (2005/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social determinants of economic development (2005/20)
- Q. Examine in detail the impact of new global economy on work organization and family structure in India. (2004/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social Consequences of Globalization (2004/20)
- Q. Discuss how occupational diversification has affected the pattern of social stratification in India. (2003/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social determinants of Economic Development (2003/20)
- Q. Write short note: Industrialization and social change (2002/20)
- Q. Write short note: Problems of child labour in India (2002/20)
- Q. Write short note: Types of Exchange (2001/20)
- Q. Write short note: Emerging pattern of sex-roles in modern society (2001/20)
- Q. Write short note: Privatization and globalization (2001/20)
- Q. Do you agree with the view that slums are areas of darkness and despair? Give reasons in support of your answer. (2000/60)
- Q. Write short note: Consequences of globalization for India (2000/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social determinants of economic development (2000/20)
- Q. Slums are scars on the social fabric. How can these scars be removed? (1999/60)
- Q. What is meant by privatization and how could it effect economic reforms in India? (1999/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social consequences of unplanned urban growth (1998/20)
- Q. Assess the impact of market economy on the traditional rural economic structure. (1998/60)
- Q. Write short note: Features of pre-industrial economic system (1998/20)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

- Q. Write short note: Industrialization and social change (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social profile of slums (1997/20)
- Q. Write short note: Urban neighbourhoods (1996/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social consequences of market economy (1996/20)
- Q. Write short note: Types of exchange (1996/20)
- Q. Write short note: Social consequences of economic development (1995/20)
- Q. Discuss the salient features of urbanization in India. What steps would you suggest to tackle the negative aspects of urbanization? (1995/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social basis of trade unions (1995/20)
- Q. Write short note: Industrialization and occupational diversification (1995/20)
- Q. Evaluate the role of state in social and economic reconstruction of Indian Society since independence. (1994/60)
- Q. Discuss the functions of traditional economic institutions in India. Analyse the factors responsible for change in them. (1994/60)
- Q. 'The market cannot function without State'. Critically examine the statement within the Indian context. (1992/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social consequences of market economy (1992/20)
- Q. Privatization of economy can often result in growing social inequalities, exploitation and corruption. How far are these fears justified in the Indian context? (1991/60)
- Q. What are the main social determinates of economic development in India? Examine this question with special reference to the growth of entrepreneurship and the rise of business houses in India. (1990/60)
- Q. Examine the social consequences of economic development with special reference to India. (1989/60)
- Q. Write short note: Pre-industrial Economic System (1989/20)
- Q. Write short note: Industrialization and Caste (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Formal organization (1988/20)
- Q. Write short note: Urban decay: the culture of overcrowded neighbourhoods and slums in industrial cities (1986/20)
- Q. What is the link between industrialization and urbanization? What happens when urbanization outstrips industrialization? Answer with reference to India. (1985/60)
- Q. Write short note: Social aspects of Industrial economic system (1984/20)

----- **Dialectics IAS (Sociology)** -----

Q. Write short note: Changing concept of property (1984/20)

Q. Discuss the social consequences of economic development in India. Do you share the view that it has increased economic inequality and failed to promote social justice?

(1984/60)

Q. Discuss industrialization and urbanization as interrelated factors of social change in India.

(1982/60)

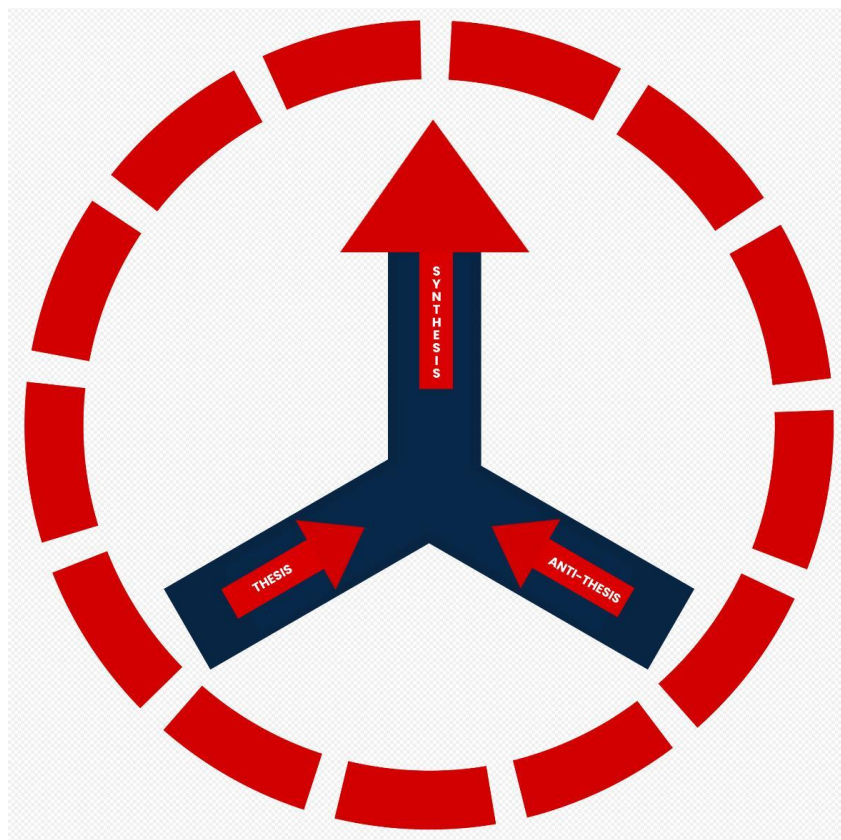
Q. What are the features of economic development? Outline the social determinants and consequences of economic development in India.

(1982/60)

Online Module I: 15 August 2026

Test Series Batches (Online): June, October and January

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