

Mains 2026

Test 3

[Paper I – Sectional Test 3]

Stratification and Mobility
Works and Economic Life
Politics and Society

Time allowed: **Three Hours**

Maximum Marks: **250**

Question Paper Specific Instructions

- ❖ There are ***EIGHT*** questions divided in two ***SECTIONS***.
- ❖ Candidate has to attempt ***FIVE*** questions in all.
- ❖ Questions no. **1** and **5** are compulsory and out of the remaining, ***THREE*** are to be attempted choosing at least ***ONE*** from each section.

SECTION A

Q1. Write short notes on the following: (10×5=50)

- a) *The Power Elite*
- b) Critically examine functionalists' views on poverty.
- c) Differences are socially transformed into inequalities. Justify the statement with the help of case studies.
- d) Digital society is more inclusive in nature. Do you agree?
- e) Discuss the concerns raised by Ulrich Beck in his conception of 'Risk Society'. Support your arguments with examples.

Q2. (a) How do Karl Marx and Max Weber differ in terms of their analysis of social stratification? 20

(b) Explain the concept of power. Distinguish between power and authority. 20

(c) Protests by informal sector workers in urban India is about more than just wages. Discuss. 10

Q3. (a) How are open and closed systems of stratification undergoing transformation in the emergence of new hierarchical social order in societies? 20

(b) Examine the functioning of political parties in the democracies of the developing societies with the help of relevant examples. 20

(c) Gender is socially constructed. Discuss the statement in context of the recent developments centering around 'the determination of gender identity'. 10

Q4. (a) Examine the conceptual distinction between social inequality and social stratification. How do the nature and forms of the social stratification system determine the patterns of social mobility? 20

(b) Explain the conditions under which a collective action transforms into a social movement. 20

(c) Discuss the important concerns related to the recently promulgated UGC regulations to address discrimination in higher educational institutions. 10

SECTION B

Q5. Write short notes on the following:

(10×5=50)

- (a) Embourgeoisement thesis
- (b) Intersectionality of caste, class and gender complicates the study of social stratification in India. Comment.
- (c) Discuss the different strands of feminism. Which one according to you best explains the complexity of Indian society?
- (d) Is 'iron law of oligarchy' helpful in understanding contemporary society? Comment.
- (e) Feminisation of labour in informal sector

Q6. (a) Are social movements primordial in means and progressive in agenda? Discuss. 20

(b) Explain Melvin Tumin's critique related to the theory of social stratification. 20

(c) Discuss the relevance of Pareto's views on circulation of elite in contemporary Indian society. 10

Q7. (a) "Globalization has pushed the labour into informal organization of work." Substantiate your answer with suitable examples. 20

(b) Critically examine the concepts of nation and citizenship in the context of globalization. 20

(c) Discuss the relationship between poverty and social exclusion. 10

Q8. (a) Elucidate the basic premises of Davis' structural- functional theory of social stratification. How far is it relevant in understanding contemporary Indian society? 20

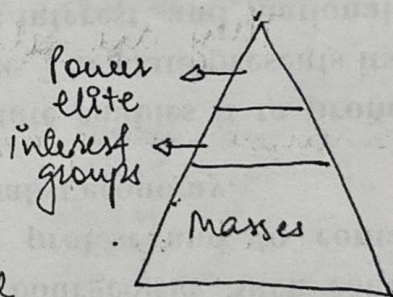
(b) Do you agree with Giddens' argument that contemporary capitalist societies have a dual labour market? Support your answer with the help of case studies and examples. 20

(c) What do you understand by cumulative and dispersed inequality of stratification? Discuss the relevance of these concepts in the context of Indian society. 10

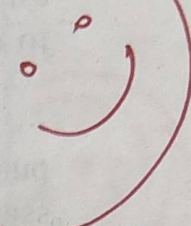
The power elite is the seminal work of C.W. Mills in which he challenged classical theories of power (Weber, Parsons) and postulated that Post WWII, American society was ruled by an oligarchy called Power Elite.

According to Mills, power is vested in institutions, not in individuals. Those who occupy "command positions" in certain institutions monopolise the power, who he called such individuals as power elite.

The power is concentrated in 3 institutions & major corporations, Federal



government and the military. and top^{are} at the top positions in these institutions possess unrepresented power and limited accountability. He cited the example of unilateral decision of these elites to go into WWII and drop nuclear bombs as a manifestation of their power.



very good
improvement

Keep it up

Best of luck

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Question No.
प्रश्न संख्या

According to Mills, these elites have similar social background, lifestyles, education etc and they guard their power through 'self recruitment' in these institutions.

However, pluralists like But Robert Dahl argued that power in USA is dispersed not concentrated in few institutions or elites like Mills suggested.

Mills ~~his~~ work has been criticised for presenting a 'myopic view' based only on the American society. He failed to explain power dynamics in European welfare states.

Despite these limitations, his work is quite relevant. As today the unilateral sanctions imposed by US President on several countries & use of Dan Monroe doctrine to invade Venezuela etc proves what Mills argued for. He rightly pointed out how power is concentrated in few institutions.

His insight is useful in understanding contemporary developments.

support with core or stages of contemporary example

good live argument and articulation



(6)

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Functionalists (like Herbert Gans) do not see poverty as a systemic failure, rather as a structural functional necessity that ensures social stability, order and equilibrium through differential rewards and class stratification.

Herbert Gans suggests poverty exists as its functional for majority of the section of the society. He suggests that it ensures all kinds of menial and dirty jobs are done cheaply. It also acts as a 'baseline of failure' for the society.

link?

However, — — — — —
Marxist viewed its existence as a result of exploitation and surplus value appropriation by the ruling class to maintain a reserve army of labor.

Wallerstein used Marxist framework to explain how 'core' nations perpetuate poverty in peripheral nations for accumulation.

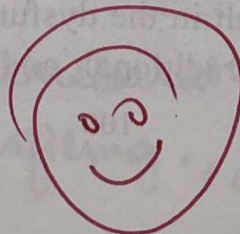
of wealth.

Functionalists perspective was critiqued by Melvin Tumin for justifying status quo, treating privilege as merit and ignoring the structural barriers to social mobility and equality.

Apart from this, Feminist scholars (Sylvia Walby) highlighted how functionalists ignore 'feminisation of poverty' and gender discrimination that pushes women into low paying jobs in informal sector.

The World Bank suggests over 90% of employed women in developing nation work in informal sector that offers low wages and no job security.

While functionalist framework provide an explanation of 'why' poverty exists, but it fails ~~provide~~ look at its dysfunctional consequences.



(10)

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While differences could be natural, but inequalities are socially constructed through unequal access to resources, power or prestige

Sylvia Walby argued that biological differences in sexes are socially converted into stereotypical gender roles through paternal structures.

→ women are expected to be 'caregivers', men as the 'breadwinners', while trans transgender are rendered invisible

Another example is of racial difference (phenotypic variations) - like skin color, facial features or physical traits were used by colonisers as an excuse for racial segregation and same was used by Nazis to justify the genocide of jews

→ In USA, a black American is more likely to be considered a suspect of crime due to racial profiling.

when differences
there are
socially
judged
in terms
of
superiority or
inferiority

Today differential access to digital services and internet determines educational outcomes. Those with access to internet and digital resources perform significantly better than others, as suggested by ASER report. This reinforces already existing social inequalities and acts as a barrier to social mobility.

According to Marxist scholars, class differences act as barriers and denies access to various resources (land, capital, Tech) and perpetuates wealth inequality.

[Eg] Oxfam report suggests top 1% of the population owns 40% of the total wealth, while bottom 50% own only 7% wealth globally.

This can however be even handled by challenging the 'exclusion' of the victims as well as the 'seclusion of the elites'.

how these inequalities perpetuate in societies

Marx / Bourgeois

can contextualise your argument accordingly

role of state welfare programs change social attitudes

line of argument weak here re-read the ans.

can be improved

8

2(d)

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Beautiful 😊

Digital technology promises inclusion however social reality of digital society is quite paradoxical as it simultaneously promotes inclusion and produces structural barriers as well (Manuel Castells)

The internet, web 3.0, blockchain were designed to create an inclusive digital spaces. However inherent structural barriers have led to digital stratification

For instance, e-governance initiatives has ensured last mile delivery of public services while simultaneously excluded senior citizens and PwDs from digital spaces. Due to lack of digital literacy and universal design principles they can't access the services.

There also exists a gendered digital divide. where patriarchal norms prevent women from owning smartphones

in rural regions and binary digital architecture excludes transgenders from accessing digital space.

According to Manuel Castells, in a 'networked society' digital networks break the monopolies of state and corporations and promote inclusivity.

However, on closer look one may discover digital inequalities and exclusion.

In a hyperconnected society, there exists communication channels for interactions, however the interactions are often shallow, performative and lead to isolation. - Reinhold
disconnection from society is (Alienation 2.0)

But, there are ongoing attempts to make digital spaces more inclusive. Through expanding internet coverage (Starlink satellites), digital library campaigns and online community events and improving digital accessibility.

54

replaced land, wealth, information - new form of property
attempts to fix info
patents, info
intellectual property
can't depend on
starting to

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Ulrich Beck conceptualised the late modern society as a 'risk society' which is stratified on the basis of individuals 'risk taking/aversion capability', and not on the basis of class or status.

According to him, modern society is characterised by systemic risks produced by the society itself which then overwhelms the institutional capacity.

~~He is concerned~~

He suggested these risks arise due to technological advancements, industrial growth and growth of science. His main concern is that these risks are cannot be detected without the help of science; these risks are global in nature and affects everyone irrespective of class, status etc. These risks could do irreversible damage.

He used climate change as an example of manufactured risk. He argued the industrial growth led to carbon emissions that are

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responsible for climate change. It affects all (though not equally) and transcends geographical borders and once past the tipping point, climate change would be irreversible.

He also stated the individual's knowledge of risk will improve ~~of~~ his/hers 'risk aversion capability' and determine their 'social risk position' in the society.

These risks will overwhelm the traditional institutions and erode public trust in government ~~and~~. But, ~~if~~ with global co-operation, reflexive governance and future orientation this could be averted.

His theory has been criticised for overstating the extent of global risk and for offering no concrete course of action.

Despite this his theory warns ^{us about} new risks and dangers and act as a sociological intervention.

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24)

the classical dichotomy between closed system (ascriptive, limited social mobility) and open system (achievement based, social mobility) is fading away and societal stratification is shifting to new hierarchical social order.

In post industrial era, due to digitalisation, market economy, technological developments and increased specialisation, new hierarchical social order is emerging.

The new order is based on skills sets & knowledge; technological prowess; risk aversion capability; and intersectionality of gender, caste, class, race etc. This has altered both open and closed stratification system whose basis used to be (class, caste, power, gender).

Closed system's transformation

The ascriptive caste based system now offers avenues for social mobility.

By acquiring skills through education

Traditional times → now opening up towards achievement based system

one can climb up the corporate ladder
and improve one's social position. Therefore,
closed systems seem to be transitioning
away from its ascriptive nature, ^{acquiring} ~~transitioning~~
achievement orientation good

But at the same time, with
rise of digital platforms and gig economy the
traditional lower castes are being pushed
towards the bottom of the hierarchy due to
lack of skills or possession of obsolete skills.

Open system's transformation

The class based open systems that
claim to offer social mobility, have limited
avenues of mobility today.

In today's digital economy,
information asymmetry maintains status
quo of hierarchical order, restricting the
social mobility.

So
Traditional
hierarchy
is
reproducing
or
reinforced

Lower
Caste
Concentrated
Lower
Occupation
Study on
sanitation
workers

hierarchy
of status
being replaced by

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hierarchy of individuals

occupying
varying degrees
of prestige & glamour
! hard labour

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Information asymmetry is created due
unequal access to data and information is
a 'networked society'.

On study
American
Medical
Association
Tomin

Pierre Bourdieu's suggested elites transfer
their social capital from one generation to other,
ensuring 'elite self recruitment' to maintain
their position and restrict others from rising up

Very well
abstracted

Apart from this, there are feminist
scholars who suggest that intersectionality
of gender, class, caste, race etc act as

a 'glass ceiling' and 'sticky floor' for women
~~irrespective of the system (open/close) or~~
~~hierarchical social order (old/new).~~ ^{even} in contemporary
society.

11

So, instead of focusing on social
mobility, emphasis should be on equality
and equity

stick to
the q

Avoid giving
opinion

3 (b)

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According to TB Bottomore, political parties serve as a link between the state and diverse sectional interests of civil society in a democracy.

Functionalists suggest that political parties are guardian of power in a democracy. They aim to capture state power in order to use it for collective welfare and social well being.

Robert Dahl suggests that political parties provide a platform for interest articulation and have the ability to mobilise people as well as opinions to serve societal interests.

Apart from this in a developing society, they implement welfare measures when they form a government or criticise the government and holds it accountable for its actions, ~~whereas~~ as ~~political parties~~ "the opposition party".

Gabriel
Almostrefer
note

However, the reality is ~~too~~ different. ~~As~~
Robert Michels argued that ^{in a} democracy ~~just~~
~~conditions~~ all political parties are controlled
by an oligarchy, who takes all the key
decisions and ^{just} provides an illusion of political
participation. He termed it as 'iron law of
oligarchy'.

Most political parties lack internal
democracy, have opaque funding channels,
and represents the interests of the elite.

In developing societies, political
parties politicise primordial identities

→ caste based mobilisation in India;
Race / ethnicity based mobilisation in
South Africa.

This politicisation of primordial identities
often results into communalism, instability,
riots or even violence.

evaluate their role in social
transformation briefly

Pol. parties
aspect of
modern
society
but

often not
acknowledged
during
elections

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Apart from this, there has been a decline in ideological differences among parties and hence, they are unable to offer any meaningful choice to the electorate, which defeats the purpose of democracy.

Feminists also pointed out that political parties often mirror and even perpetuate gender inequalities. Parties often don't offer leadership positions to women while representation of transgender within parties is not even considered.

~~Also~~ Abraham Lincoln envisioned political parties as a means to represent and fulfill the aspirations of common people. In order to ~~be~~ do that, political parties need to ensure intra party democracy; represent societal interests; provide representation to diverse sections of society; and promote collective action.

arguments must be substantiated
sociology & studies

10

(C)

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~~According~~ According to Ann Oakley, gender is a social construct and is distinct from biological concept of sex.

Recent socio-legal developments shows how gender identity is being constantly negotiated.

For instance, The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act 2019 reversed NALIA 2014 judgement and took away the right of self determination from transgenders and vested these powers in state and medical institutions. This highlights how legal gender identity still remains under state control.

Judith Butler argued that binary-gender is maintained through institutional enforcement. This is evident from World

Athletics claims that hyperandrogenic female athletes weaponise biological markers, ~~therefore~~ thereby justifying the restrictions. This shows how institutions

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enforce their ideal of 'womanhood'

Socially assigned roles and expectations to a particular gender are also being challenged. Rise of radical #B movement (no children, no marriage) in south Korea against forced patriarchal gender roles proves gender is socially constructed;

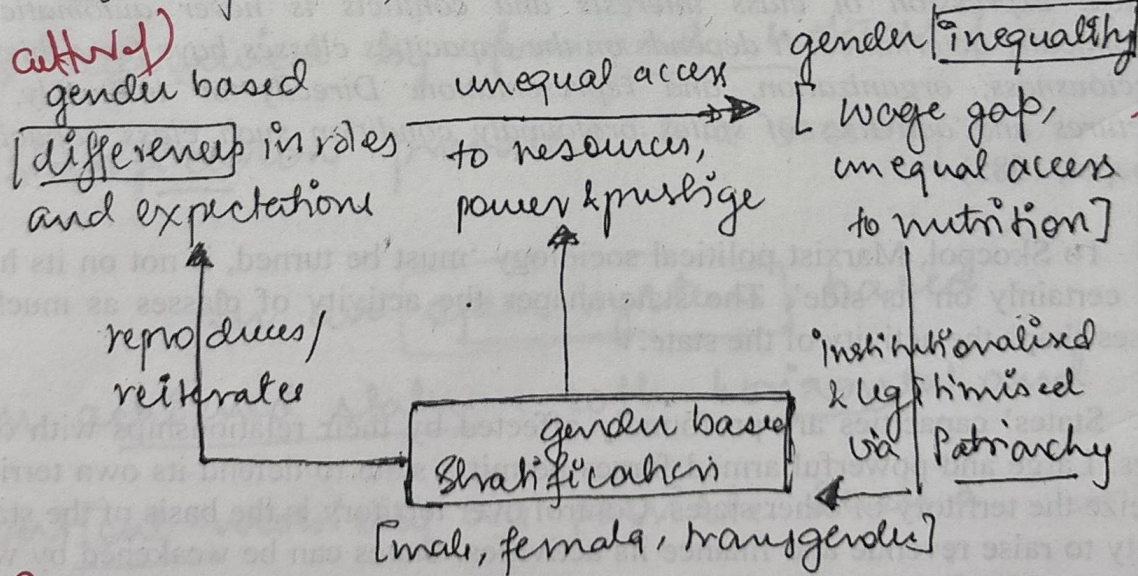
There also exists an intersectionality gender and technology. Digital spaces allow individuals to construct non binary and gender-queer identities, that alters social socialisation patterns and creates acceptance for different genders.

In conclusion, struggles over gender identity suggests it's a social construct not a static biological concept that society pushes for.

Social inequality refers to unequal distribution / access to resources, power and prestige among individuals / groups while social stratification is institutionalised hierarchical division of society into distinct strata, based on class, caste / status or power.

Social inequality and social stratification have a mutually reinforcing relationship.

Example (gender inequality and gender based stratification)



? Apart from inequality is primarily observed at micro / individual level while stratification

as a macro phenomenon
social inequality can be countered via
legislation, education, employment etc while
stratification ~~is~~ is more persistence and
social change ^{in social attitudes} is required in order to dismantle
the hierarchical order.

[Sorokin] defines social mobility as
transition of individual / group / social object
from one social position to another. He
suggested this mobility could either be
vertical or horizontal. This pattern of mobility
is determined by form and nature of
stratification prevalent in a society.

In an open system, based
on achieved status; both horizontal and
vertical mobility are possible. Such a
system is meritocratic, ~~individualistic~~ and
values individualism.

eg.
class based
societies

Therefore, through promotion / demotion in job one can move up / down the social hierarchy; while horizontal mobility can be observed when someone changes citizenship or religion etc.

In a closed system, one's social position is fixed at birth (ascribed status), which provided zero / limited social mobility.
However, no system is either completely open or closed.

Prinivas suggested through Sanskritisation positional mobility is possible for a group but chances for individuals are close to nil.

An open society offers both intergenerational and intragenerational mobility.

Although, Goldthorpe pointed out long range mobility (i.e. moving up several strata) is rare.

On the other, closed system offers only limited intergenerational mobility.

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4 (b)

Question No.

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According to Herbert Blumer, collective action is a temporary, localised mobilisation of individuals whereas social movement is a sustained, organised collective effort aimed at bringing about meaningful social change.

Collective action could be in form of riots, protests, agitations, social gathering etc organised around common goals/interests.

In order to transform into a social movement it needs following conditions:

① According to Neil Smelser, ~~the~~ there is need to be structural strain between people's expectations and reality, followed by certain precipitating factors that excite people to come together for a common goal.

② In order to sustain the collective action, it needs effective leadership, ~~who~~ which will be organise group action, guide the group and articulate their interests.

role of
ideology

③ Charles Tilly noted that it also needs to mobilise resources for sustaining the efforts

④ Apart from this, ~~there~~ in order to evolve into ~~as~~ a social movement, there is a need of organisational structure as well, which includes - leadership, spokesperson, formal manifesto and communication network.

In short, it needs to needs organise around a common interest, then mobilise resources and finally bureaucratise in order to sustain the movement.

lastly, after turning into a movement it must adopt constitutional and legitimate means to agitate for success, else it could be easily repressed by the state.

A contemporary example of collective action transforming into a social

Blumer
life cycle
of
social
movement

opinion?

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identity
structure
system
ideology
leadership
your
example

movement is CJP (Cockroach Janata Party), which started as an online satire triggered by remarks made by the elite. It gathered momentum through social media and further consolidated as an organised movement with leaders like Sonam Wangchuk undertaking fast unto death; used spokesperson to communicate their formal demands via press conferences etc. The youth discontent took form of a movement and led to concrete political concessions (examination reforms, executive accountability etc)

Thus, depending on the path collective effort takes it can either be a success and lead to social change; it can be repressed on adoption of violence and illegitimate; or it can be mainstreamed and become part of collective conscience.

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good attempt

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The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)) Regulations 2026 that aim to tackle institutionalised discrimination in HEIs has sparked debates regarding its effectiveness as well as its implications on campus dynamics.

Some of the important concerns are:

- ① It defines (caste) discrimination narrowly, by mainly focusing on protecting marginalised groups (SC, ST, PWD) rather than offering protection to all the students. This is concerning as it violates Right to equality (Article 14).
- ② Lack of adequate legal safeguards to prevent its misuse and inadequate confidentiality norms can cause irreparable reputational damage for professor/student even before the inquiry is completed.
- ③ Deploying surveillance squads can turn the HEI into a panopticon.

(Michel Foucault) which may curb individual autonomy and freedom of speech and expression.

④ Unrealistic timelines place excessive burden on the administration who lack legal expertise and on feeling rushed could take flawed decisions.

⑤ There is a possibility that this could strengthen caste consciousness, widen the social cleavages and hinder social interactions.

While the rules were brought in as a response to institutionalised discrimination which is covert and often goes unnoticed, but without procedural balance, adequate safeguards for victim's confidentiality and anti-abuse checks, there is a risk of that this move could create and intensify institutional conflict.

6

X

8 (a)

Question No.
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Davis and Moore's theory of social stratification that presents structural functionalist perspective on stratification postulates that it is an universal phenomenon which is a functional necessity required by every society for social order and stability.

They suggest that social stratification is a mechanism of role allocation, where individuals assume their roles that corresponds to their skill set and talent.

They argued that certain roles are functionally more important than the others so higher reward is attached to those roles.

Since, there is a scarcity of talent in the labor force, more talented and highly skilled individuals are offered higher rewards for these positions. As these positions require greater investment of time, skills and efforts so individuals are compensated accordingly.

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This system of ~~also~~ differential rewards is what leads to formation of strata.

They consider, this institutionalised inequality based on differential rewards to be a functional necessity. According to them, this system distributes talent efficiently and ensure social order and stability.

Relevance

This theoretical framework provides an explanation for modern division of labor in India.

[Ex] In era of digitalisation and technological developments (AI, quantum computing etc) certain jobs associated with these fields have become functionally more important. An AI expert is considered more important than an ordinary software developer. Therefore to attract the best talent, higher salary is offered for that position.

Due to this stratification even among the highly skilled workers is emerging in IT hubs like Bengaluru, Pune, Noida etc.

this pattern applies to broader Indian society as well. the widening wealth gap i.e. Top 1% owning 40% of total wealth, while Bottom 50% owning merely 7% wealth. serves as an evidence for that.

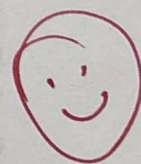
However, Melvin Tumin criticised their theory for ignoring the dysfunctional aspect of stratification i.e. social conflict, poverty etc. He also criticised them for assuming every individual gets equal opportunity to showcase their talent. In India, structural barriers imposed by caste system, limit these opportunities for the underprivileged section.

Apart from this, 90% the labor force is employed in informal sector where lower wages are result of structural precarity rather than lack of talent.

Therefore, this theory only presents partial social reality. is partly relevant to understand contemporary Indian society.

Caste system
/
Habitual
castes
historically
disadvantaged
/
unable to
compute
equal for
being
policy
intervention
by govt.

13

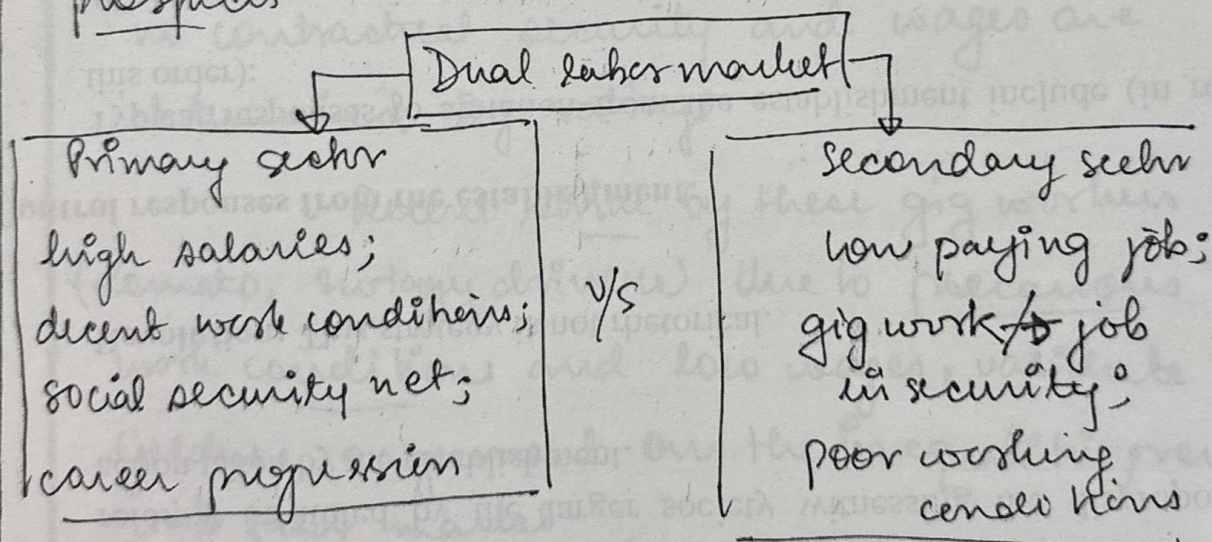


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Anthony Giddens argued that contemporary capitalist societies are structured around dual labor market [primary and secondary sector]

According to him, this division into two labor market is created by market capacity (skills, education, qualifications) of the labor force.

this division creates inequalities by separating the working class on the basis of wage, job security and career prospects



Giddens argued that social and economic closure (credentials, quality education, social capital) act as barriers and prevent mobility from secondary to primary market.

His argument are relevant in case of capitalist societies.

Case Study 1: Platform/gig economy →
(Swiggy and Zomato)

Primary segment → software developers, data analyst, managers and other highly skilled professionals who enjoy job security high salary and air conditioned cabins

Secondary segment → delivery partners, drivers and others have no social security net, no contractual security and wages are determined by ratings

Recent strike by these gig workers (Zomato, Swiggy drivers) due to precarious work conditions and low wages, validate Goldens argument on the inequalities prevalent in the labor market.

Case Study 2 → Global Apparel industry

primary → designers, marketers, legal counsel in the west are flourishing while there sweat shops in countries like Bangladesh,

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Vietnam that represent secondary segment of this industry is facing oppression and exploitation with limited or no avenues for career progression.

This too aligns with Giddens arguments and claims. He rightly points out the changes in the labor market but presents an incomplete picture.

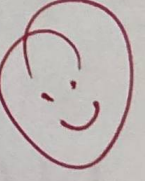
ACW Mills suggested that in capitalist societies, white collar workers in the primary sector (corporate managers, salespersons) are forced to sell pieces of their personality leading to their alienation.

Apart from this, algorithmic surveillance, lack of work life balance, extreme burnout etc worsens the work culture. — alienation

while on the other hand, secondary sector offers more flexibility and work life balance. And with measures like new labor codes, EPFO 3.0 in India their situation is bound to improve.

So, modern labor market is much more complex; therefore instead of binary categorisation it should be viewed as a spectrum.
~~existing~~

13x1



8 (C)

Question No.
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Are you sure?

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These terms were coined by Robert Dahl but used by Andre Beteille in Indian context.

Through these concepts they tried to explain how caste/status, class and power interact and influence individual's social position.

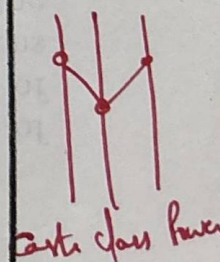
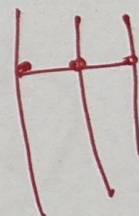
Cumulative Inequality is result of intersectionality of caste, class and power. When these three bases of stratification reinforce each other.

Ex: A poor dalit woman is at highly disadvantageous position, due to lower class, lower social status and her poor lack of influence compared to rich upper caste female officer.

Reversed inequality occurs when these three axes operate independently i.e. class, caste and power don't compound over each other.

Ex: A Dalit police officer (lower caste, upper class, power position) is at better social position than a poor Brahmin priest (upper caste,

but low on
social
status
power



(lower class, lack of influence).

Andre Beteille analysed the changing relationship between caste, class and power and suggested that closed agrarian societies (cumulative inequality) ~~are~~ ^{was} transitioning into an open market driven and meritocratic society (dispersed inequality).

also talked
about by
Srinivas

The rise of dominant caste (Jats, Yadavs etc) in northern India and reservation policies of state for SC/ST/OBC and EWS (ex poor brahmins) substantiate Andre Beteille's claim.

good

Study by
Srinivas
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However, on closer look, cumulative inequality persists in rural areas and tribal pockets as dalits and adivasis are still considered marginalised sections of society.

The situation is relatively better in urban areas where heterogeneity and anonymity provides certain relief.

It can be concluded that cumulative inequality and dispersed inequality are ~~not~~ existing simultaneously in India.

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U.P.S.C.

for practice
use only
सिर्फ अभ्यास
के लिए

The embourgeoisement thesis postulates that post WWII economic prosperity, rising wages and expansion of welfare state caused working class in advanced capitalist societies to adopt bourgeois lifestyles, consumption patterns and political attitude.

It ran contrary to Marx's prediction of class polarisation and proletarianisation. Post WWII scholars suggested that manual working class were assimilating into the expanding middle class and as result there is erosion of class consciousness among them.

Goldthorpe and Lockwood in their landmark study of affluent workers tested this thesis and subsequently rejected it.

On observation they found that embourgeoisement didn't occur rather these affluent workers formed a "new working class".

V. Goswami

THIS IS how
you must
contextualize the
argument



This new working class according to them treated work as a means to an end (ie wages); prioritised family over working class community and supported trade unions for their own financial gain rather than class solidarity.

Later, Fiona Devine reconducted the study of affluent workers and found that lifestyles remained family centered, but workers still maintained their working-class identities and resisted assimilation into middle class.

While the thesis as such was rejected, but its relevance lies in the ongoing discussions on rising consumerism, decline in trade union activities across the developed and developing world.

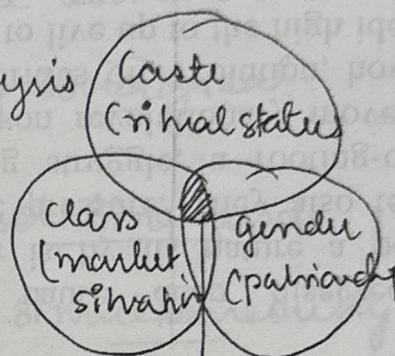
Conf/emporary development in capitalism
↓
T in salary, ↓ working participation from management, human relations app, employees slotted into male partners in the business venture.
Good

6

Traditional studies on social stratification treated caste, class and gender separately.

However, ^{contemporary} ~~feminist~~ scholars highlighted that their inter-sectionality ^{has} resulted in cumulative effect and increased the complexity of stratification analysis.

This complexity is evident in various stages of research $\Rightarrow$ hypothesis formulation, data collection and analysis etc.



[Ex] A poor Dalit woman experiences patriarchy very differently from an elite Dalit woman as well as from an upper caste woman. While sociological analysis is often conducted either through the lens of caste, class or gender. ~~Due to this~~ and therefore it fails to capture the lived social reality of these women comprehensively.

Life
Satish
Deshpande

Uma
Chakravarti

Susha bi
Vivek Kumar
et.

Apart from this, official census data and other records too have gender-aggregated data, or caste/class-aggregated data, but there is inadequate data available on the cumulative effect of these three. This hinders data collection during sociological research.

now
caste
census

Apart from this, isolating and observing these 3 variables simultaneously or in relation to one another is also difficult. Since, in several instances, the impact of intersectionality is not apparent.

Due to these complexities, analysis of social stratification becomes difficult and fails to provide any significant insights to the policy makers.

5

Creation of a comprehensive database could be started followed by transitioning away from 'either/or' categories towards analysing the intersectionality of caste, class and gender.

need for
multi-dimensional
app to address
intersectionality
definition &
discrimination
- suggestions?

conflict with functionalist & Marxist

Feminism is a theoretical framework as well as a social-political movement that analyses how patriarchy produces gender inequality and seeks to transform social institutions to ensure gender justice.

Strands of feminism

- ① Liberal feminism - that focuses on legal reforms, equal constitutional rights and equal education and employment opportunities within the society.
- ② Radical feminism - views patriarchy as an oppressive structure and blames men and society for women's exploitation (Shulamith Firestone)
- ③ Marxist / socialist feminism that links gender oppression and inequality to capitalism, private property and unpaid care work.
- ④ Intersectional or Dalit feminism that analyses how gender interacts with caste, class, race, ethnicity etc to produce gender inequalities.

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Different feminism

Intersectional feminism is the best fit for Indian society which is inherently complex. Due to prevalence of diverse set of races, tribes, castes & subcastes, religious communities etc, the western models that treat all women/transgender as a single, homogeneous category is unfit. while Dalit feminism analyses the unique experiences of the different genders.

Ex A subaltern woman faces triple burden of caste, class, gender, power etc simultaneously in form of caste based discrimination, glass ceiling at work, lack of representation in parliament etc. A

Studies?

So, Dalit feminism as a theoretical framework is more capable of analysing the complex reality while as a movement its capable of representing the interests of marginalised groups.

5

Robert Michels conceptualised 'Iron Law of Oligarchy' in his work 'Political parties'.

According to this theory, all forms of organisations, regardless of how democratic / autocratic they may be initially, will eventually and inevitably develop oligarchic tendencies.

This theory finds relevance even in contemporary society.

For instance, the 'internet' was aimed at promoting decentralisation and equitable access to information. But with advent of Platform Capitalism - a modern 'digital oligarchy' seems to be emerging, where a handful of tech giants and their CEOs control the data and algorithms.

Another contemporary example is of political parties in India. Though formed

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On basis of democratic ideals have succumbed to elite rule, where few members take all the decisions. This erodes democratic ideals of party as well society, and opens up avenues for corruption and nepotism. It can be argued that iron law of oligarchy is one of the factors behind prevalence of 'dynastic politics' in India

But critics like Robert Dahl suggests this theory doesn't reflect the full social reality. According to him, there are countervailing elites and systems of checks & balances just prevents 'iron law of oligarchy'

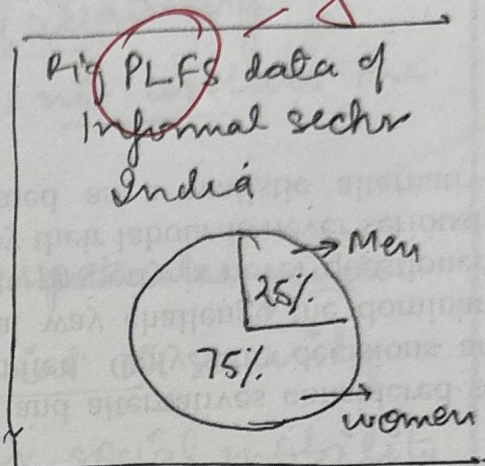
Despite this, Michels theory is indispensable for understanding the power dynamics prevalent in modern society.

role of
interest /
pressure
groups
&
civil society

recent
CJP
protest
of
Jantar Mantar
Delhi

As per ILO report, nearly 60% of the working women globally are employed in informal sector. ^{this share} rises to 90% in case developing countries.

Feminisation of labor in informal sector refers to rising number of ^{share} female labor (in comparison to male labor) in the informal labor force.



this phenomenon is evident worldwide. And the key drivers of this change are —

- ① Informalisation of the economy and labor force itself as the MNCs move their production bases to developing countries in search for cheap labor supply and lower production cost
- ② Dual burden of work and domestic responsibilities forces women to opt for home based or low skill jobs that offers some flexibility
- ③ Patriarchal structures in market economy act as 'glass ceiling' and prevent women

from entering highpaying jobs in formal sector.

Due to feminisation of work force in informal sector, the goal of attaining gender equality (SDG 5) is still not within the reach:

widening wage gap, perpetuates gender inequality, increases financial insecurity of women and hinders their social mobility

Marxist argues that this indirectly is linked to exploitative capitalist system.

which favors informalisation through gig platform economy in order to maximise their profit. ~~In order, to prevent this women need to mobilise and resist these exploitation policies.~~

Pls suggest policy measures

Apart from this, the state needs to adopt welfarist measures ~~direct~~ that directly addresses this issue