

Sociology Daily Answer Writing

Week 7 - Day 1

Model Structures

1. Write a short note on Srinivas's conception of functionalism.

10

Model Structure

Introduction

- Define Functionalism

Main Body

- Srinivas pioneered structural functionalism in India through his work on Coorgs of Mysore (1940s). He initiated the tradition of macro-sociological generalization of micro-anthropological insights.
- His approach is blend of -
 - Structural Functionalism of Robert Brown
 - Anthropological view of Pritchard
- Attempt to develop an interpretation of particular social phenomenon like caste in Functional terms in larger social context
- Challenged the then prevailing dominant paradigm which focused on understanding Indian society from purely textual point of view
- Coorg study - holistic study - understanding it via field view
- In 1976 Rampura Study -- Explained Social Functionalism + Dynamic nature of caste
- Focused on Unity
 - In the study of Rampura Village, he concluded – the village is a ‘vertical unity’ of many castes. (Jajmani system)
 - In his study of Coorgs, he describes functional unity of castes by explaining the interaction in ritual context of different castes.
 - Horizontal unity in castes – extended beyond the village.
- Critique:
 - Ignored structural change.
 - Over-emphasis on solidarity, status-quoist approach

- This perspective ignored conflict in Indian society (Marxist)
 - Srinivas is often criticised for upholding upper caste values through his concept of dominant caste and sanskritization.
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2. Do you think that a lot has changed from Desai's comprehensive and systematic account of the genesis of Indian nationalism and national consciousness? 20

Model Structure

Introduction

- The growth of Indian nationalism as an outcome of struggle against British rule which systematically alienated and exploited people.

Main Body

- Explain the stages of Indian nationalism (5 stages)
 - 1st SRM - 1885: Intelligentsia out of western education; Very Narrow base
 - 2nd 1885 - 1905: Rise of INC, Bourgeoisie
 - 3rd 1905 - 1918: Wider social basis as Gandhi enters
 - 4th 1918 - 1934: MASS basis; Direct action; Working class, youth enters
 - 5th 1934-39: Rapid Changes; peasant, communist growth; Rise of national consciousness
- As earlier, still middle class - carrier of national consciousness in Society E.g. 2011 Corruption movement against Govt
- Role of charismatic leaders - still commanding influence in Indian polity
- Modern education and ideas make disadvantageous groups aware.
 - More assertive now
 - Yet few social groups use their social capital to consolidate their position
 - As Yogendra Singh mentions- both continuity and change occur
- Economic contradictions
 - So high as inequalities are way high.
 - Still unequal control over FoP

- Labour movements and marginalized class movement
- Global events still have an impact on the psyche of Indians. E.g.: America's protectionism
- Religious nationalism is rising, which disrupts the social fabric.

Conclusion

- Relevance of Desai's perspective

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