

Sociology Daily Answer Writing

Week 8 - Day 2

Model Structures

1. Discuss the problems of religious minorities in India.

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Model Structure:

- Jagnath pathy listed our following criteria for defining minorities in India:
 - a. Subordinate in some way to the majority.
 - b. Distinguishable from the majority of certain physical or cultural features.
 - c. Treated differently and inferior to the majority group collectively.
 - d. Excluded from full participation from the mainstream of the society.
- The pluralist character of the Indian society is reflected in the multitude of religious communities that inhabit the country.
- The numerical strengths of some of these communities are more overwhelming than the others. The basic criterion for a community to be designated as a religious minority is the numerical strength of the said community. Six religious communities have been designated as minorities by the union government. These six communities are Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians, and Jains.
- A number of problems have surfaced with regard to the religious minorities.
 - These problems range from discrimination faced by them to their forced conversions.
 - Other constraints faced by these communities also include problems of poverty and the consequent feeling of alienation that has developed among them.
 - They increasingly feel alienated from the society at large, due to the deprivation faced by them as a direct result of discrimination.
 - This has produced an acute impact on the social and economic life of the members of the minority communities.
 - Fear of loss of identity is a major problem faced by religious minorities. They feel threatened by the proposition of losing their own identity to the majority religious community.

- Because of the socio-cultural differences, a difference of practices, backgrounds, and histories minorities have to scuffle with the identity issue which gives rise to the problem of adjustment with majorities.
- Moreover, in recent times, an alarming rise in the hate crimes against the minority communities in India, including the desecration of places of worship.
- Programs like the Ghar Wapsi Movement, have led to the rise of forced conversions in different parts of the country.
- Sachar committee highlighted the backward status and deprivation faced by Muslim communities in India.
- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was established to provide constitutional rights to these minorities.

Conclusion

- Various government schemes like Naya Roshni, Padho Pardesh, Seekho aur kamao, job reservation (Maharashtra) etc. are constituted for their welfare.
- Thus, the development and well being of these minority religious communities rests on the amendments to existing laws and the better implementation of the same. Immediate attention is required to protect the rights of these communities and to improve their conditions of welfare.

2. With the growing concern for the environment the social movements are assuming a new character. Comment. 10

Model Structure

(The question is about environment movements within the context of new social movements)

Introduction

- New social movements theory says postmodern movements do not follow the two traditional social movements challenging the social order: class-based or gender-based movements, thus are difficult to explain with traditional social movement theories.

- Environment movement is one such new social movement which is unconventional in a way that it doesn't strive for the benefit of particular group of people but for the benefit of all

Main Body

Guha & Gadgil provide the following four-fold classification of women's movements:

- Eco-feminism:
 - Eco-feminism emerges from the nexus between women and nature
 - Eco-feminism can be summarized as an environment movement of women against the state
 - Prominent movements are Chipko movement, Appiko movement
 - Vandana Shiva and Medha Patkar have written extensively on eco-feminism
- Eco-Marxism:
 - Eco-Marxist movements are generally violent in nature
 - Eco-Marxist movements have oppressor vs. oppressed dynamic in which it is a people's environment against the state
 - Kudankulam protests and Sterlite protests in Tamilnadu can be categorized under eco-Marxism
- Gandhian Crusaders:
 - The environment movements which follow Gandhian methods of struggle such as Ahimsa and Satyagraha
 - E.g., Chipko movement wherein tribal women did civil disobedience
 - Ramachandra Guha extensively writes about Gandhian Crusaders
- Alternate Technologists:
 - Environment movements wherein technology is the revolution
 - E.g., Moving from BS-IV to BS-VI