'Indian Society'

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Nature of Indian Society:

- Nature of Indian society with detailed references on caste, class, religion, family and pluralism.

- Focus the description of the Indian social structure and its nature

- To discuss the inter-relationship between various structures and the problems of Indian society in the context of national development such as maintaining secular status, upholding democratic principles, linguistic diversities, pluralism and patriotism.

Important Objectives

- **Explain the structure of Indian society;**

- **Identify the characteristics of Indian society;**

- **Describe the relationship between the various social structures;**

- **Explain these problems of Indian society;**
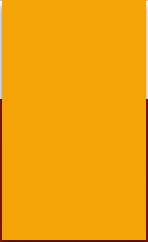
Indian Social Structure : Its Nature

- Indian society was followed in the ancient period through a synthesis of system described in the Geeta, the Manusmritis and Arthasastra.

- The normative structure consisted *of Purushartha- Dharma, Artha, Kama* and *Moksha.*

- The members were divided into hereditary caste groups, each caste with its traditional occupation.

Structure of Indian Society:

- **The Caste System**
- **The Class System**
- **The Family**
- **Religion**

Caste System?

- **Mazumdar & Madan** – *'Caste is a Closed Class'*

- **Charles Coole** – 'When a class is somewhat strictly hereditary, we may call it a Caste'.

- **G.S Ghuray** – 'Caste is the Brahmin child of the Indo-Arjun culture, cradled in the Ganges & Yamuna & then transferred in other parts of the country'.

- Caste system may be defined as an integration of interacting endogamous groups into a structure of status hierarchy.

- Traditional Indian society, a community was divided into a number of endogamous groups of intermarrying circles called castes.

- Members in each caste group followed the same hereditary occupation and were socio-economically homogenous.

- Caste is an institution of great strength and is considered as an important component of the social structure particularly in rural areas

Class System?

- The term 'class' was used in a general sense as in the writings of Adam smith, Madison and other scholars of the eighteenth century. Several of them used it interchangeably with 'group' or 'estate.

- 'Class' was particularly important in the context of social stratification.

- That class as a category came to be recognized as a relevant concept in explaining social theories, ideologies, social movements, social structure, and social change

- *Ogburn and Nimkoff* explained this system as the union of different people belonging to the same level by any factor, be it caste, wealth or occupation.

Family?

- Family was a group based on marriage, common residence, emotional bonds, and stipulation of domestic services.

- The family has also been defined as group based on marital relations, rights and duties of parenthood, common habitation and reciprocal relations between parents and children.

- Family is a social group characterized by common residence, economic co-operation and reproduction

Characteristics of Family:

- Family involves a sexual relationship between adults of opposite sexes

- Family involves their cohabitation or living together

- Family involves at least the expectation of relative permanence of the relationship between them

- Most important of all, the relationship is culturally defined and societally sanctioned-it is a marriage

Religion?

- *Lawson and MacCauley* "Religion need not be a force to be feared nor a dogma to be embraced, but simply a way of life".

- 'RELIGION IS A WAY OF LIFE'

- *Durkheim :* Equates god with society, so much so that, when you worship God you are worshipping your own society. According to Durkheim 'God is a human creation and a social creation at that God is, in fact, born in the collective experience ("effervescence") of coming together, leading to rituals'.

- *M.N. Srinivas:* In his study of a Coorg village observes that the festivals of village deities include a village-dance, collective hunt and a dinner for the entire village.

Thanks