



# SANSKRITIZATION

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# Sanskritization?

- The concept of Sanskritization was first used by M.N. Srinivas in the analysis of the social and religious life of the Coorgs of south India.
- This term was used to describe the process of cultural mobility in the traditional social structure. He has defined it as “The process by which a ‘low’ Hindu caste or tribe or other group, changes its customs, rituals, ideology and way of life in the direction of a high and frequently “twice born” caste.

# Sanskritization: Process



- "The social movement can be considered a collective effort to establish a new system of life."
- The caste system has been considered a unique feature of the Indian social system.
- It is an important element exhibiting stratification in the Indian social system.
- In India, one caste is considered to be higher than the other caste, as castes are not considered equal.

# Sanskritization: Process

- A study was done in this area by the country's famous sociologist MN Srinivas and the concept of Sanskritization was presented.
- He used the lower caste group for the disadvantaged section of the society.
- He first used the concept of Sanskritization in 1952.
- Before these, the caste system was studied on the concept of hereditary purity or impurity.


# Sanskritization: Process

- While he tried to explain the caste system with the concept of vertical mobility.
- Prior to the concept of these, the caste system was considered to be a rigid birth-based system, which has been endorsed by sociologists like S.V Ketkar (history of caste in India), Madan and Majumdar.
- Srinivas, unlike them, has considered the caste system to be dynamic and has revealed the possibility of change in it.

# Meaning of Sanskritization:

According to M.N Srinivas-

*"A process in which the lower castes adopt the customs, rites, beliefs, life fund and other cultural traits and systems of the upper castes, especially brahmins."*

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- According to these, the caste adopting the process of Sanskritization is able to claim for entry into the upper caste only after two generations.
  - The process of Sanskritization helps in moving a group to a higher level in local caste strata.
  - Sanskritization is a process in which a caste or group elevates its social status by following the customs and traditions of a culturally distinguished group.

# Sanskritization: Characteristics

- The predominance of local dominant caste imitation.
- Sanskritization is a two-way process. Example worship of local deities.
- In the process of Sanskritization, there are only marginal changes. Lack of structural changes.
- It is a long-term process.
- It is not an individual process but a collective process.
- In this process, an attempt is made to remove the disparity between temporal and ritualistic positions.




# Sanskritization: Factors

- The promotion of the process of Sanskritization was reinforced for the following three reasons:
- As a result of the development of means of communication and transport, access to inaccessible areas also became easier, which encouraged the process of Sanskritization.
- Due to the separation of mantra utterances from various ritualistic actions of brahmins, it became easy and easy for other Hindu castes as well. It also supported the process of Sanskritization.
- The constitution has made provisions for the elimination of each type of class discrimination. Thus political encouragement is also a major reason for the process of Sanskritization.

# Sanskritization: Critical Analysis

- Many scholars have also expressed their opposition to the concept of culture given by Srinivas ji.
- Srinivas ji himself has described it as a heterogeneous and complex concept and he describes it as the sum of many concepts rather than a single concept.
- In his book “Cast and the Economic Frontier”, F.G Baitey, wrote that cultural change cannot be clearly explained by the process of Sanskritization.

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- Sanskritization another aspect that has been criticized sociologically is that “This concept supports a society based on exclusion and inequality”. This notion considers discrimination by lower caste to lower caste as their prerogative. This concept is also considered critically in view of the high caste lifestyle.
  - Nevertheless, the concept of Sanskritization has helped us in understanding the cultural social dynamics between different castes.

**THANKS**