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# **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

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*By: Anita Dua*



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Mob.: 8510009872, 8510009878 E-mail: [info@neerajbooks.com](mailto:info@neerajbooks.com)

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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2024

(Solved)

## SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

**B.S.O.E.-148**

**Time: 3 Hours ]**

**[ Maximum Marks: 100**

**Note: Answer any five questions.**

**Q. 1. Differentiate between status, wealth and power.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 2, 'Organizing Principles'.

**Q. 2. Write a note on the demographic dimension of caste.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 4, 'Demography of Caste'.

**Q. 3. Explain how age, race and sex are the bases of social stratification.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-2, Page No. 17, 'Age', and Page No. 18, 'Race', Page No. 19, 'Sex'.

**Q. 4. Explain Marx's understanding on class.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-3, Page No. 31, 'Meaning of Class', 'Growth of Class'.

**Q. 5. What did Weber mean by 'Life chances'? Explain with examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 45, 'Class' and 'Life - Chances'.

**Q. 6. What do you understand by mobility? Differentiate between Intragenerational and Intergenerational mobility.**

**Ans.** Mobility means movement or to change.

Social mobility refers to the ability of individuals to change positions within a social stratification system.

When people improve or diminish their economic status in a way that affects social class, they experience social mobility.

**Also add: Ref.:** See Chapter-10, Page No. 124, 'Intragenerational Mobility and Intergenerational Mobility'.

**Q. 7. Discuss Pareto's Circulation of Elites theory.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-11, Page No. 139, 'Elite Theories', Page No. 143, Q. No. 1. 'Check Your Progress'

**Q. 8. Discuss the evolution of differences on the basis of sex.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 109, 'Perspectives on the Evolution of Sex Differences'.

■ ■

# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2023

(Solved)

## SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

**B.S.O.E.-148**

**Time: 3 Hours ]**

**[ Maximum Marks: 100**

**Note: Answer any five questions. All questions carry equal marks.**

**Q. 1. Explain the relationship between class and caste in Indian society.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-1, Page No. 3, 'Caste and Class in India'.

**Q. 2. Discuss Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore's approach to the study of stratification.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-5, Page No. 56, 'Davis-Moore Approach'.

**Q. 3. Explain Marriott's analysis of caste hierarchy in Kishan Ghari and Ram Nagla villages.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-6, Page No. 70, 'M. Marriott'.

**Q. 4. Compare and contrast Marx's and Weber's views on class.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-4, Page No. 47, 'Similarities and differences between Marx's and Weber's'.

**Q. 5. Explain the social construction of gender with suitable examples.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-9, Page No. 108, 'Sociological Theory of Sex Roles', Page No. 109, 'Perspectives on the Conduction of Sex Differences'.

**Q. 6. What do you understand by the concept of ethnicity?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-8, Page No. 96, 'Ethnicity: History, Definition and Elements'.

**Q. 7. Write a note on caste mobility.**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 83, 'Caste and Mobility'.

**Q. 8. How is class in Indian society explained by sociologists?**

**Ans. Ref.:** See Chapter-7, Page No. 84, 'Explaining Class'.



# Sample Preview of The Chapter

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# SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

## BLOCK-1: INTRODUCING STRATIFICATION

### Basic Concepts: Meaning of Social Stratification



#### INTRODUCTION

This unit is about Social Stratification. Stratification is division of something into different groups; a classification where people rated as higher or lower to one another considering their sound stature. Their social status is weighed through their stature, opulence and potential. One can make out a difference between the social status they hold on the basis of their characteristics which are either acquired or inherited. Procurement of wealth and power is it acquired or inherited. These normative principles serve and take into consideration the social classification in all societies. Social stratification is also a historical procedure which existed as a social institution of societies with a definite degree of community growth and expansion. There were some exceptions in societies where individuals had measures for social disparity like a hunter holds higher stature owing mainly to his personal expertise. The community contemplates these skills as otherworldly godlike, in origin. The difference could also be measured in terms of age and sex of the members of the society, though these societies had community differences but there were no institution. The contributing factor for this state was the restrictions on the population growth. Because less developed production technologies and dangerous and wondering nature of these societies. As far as their social structure was concerned, it was quite simple, be it basic skills away or means of communication through vocabulary which was restricted; simple technologies, basic forms of doctrine structure. The rules which commanded such communities failed any essential economic excess and collection any member.

#### CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

##### THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESS

This section is about the evolutionary process which social stratification underwent. Evolution is a process that results in the genetic material of a population overtime. Social stratification as an establishment devolved when there was a drastic change in the technologies of production. Transformation of animal raising and agriculture demanded more compound technologies and settled forms of community lie. These economic offers started to produce economic excess and collect wealth in the form of cattle or food grains. As a result, population began to prosper owing largely to exchange of commodities and trading. With passage of time Prosperity and progress was seen when tools of exchange were invented. Tools of exchange proved beneficial as they helped to calculate values of things of general use. It put a restriction and particular sections of communities who were considered to be influential and wealthy. It kept a check on their unquestionable activities. Moreover, the complicated and advanced automation and division of labor brought considerable changes. Consequently, categories net only exclusive Came into existence but a segment emerges. The social rule and urban between the structure which was complex in itself demanded and asked for more detailed organizations in the form of religion, and strata of functionaries. Strata divide a population that are similar in their education income of social status. The expert office-bearers in different forms of work, and culture specialists and the ruling were demanded. They wanted expert officer-bearers who could look into different forms. Of works such as advantage creating strategic



support, essential support and non-essential. Culture specialists were required to evaluate and play cultural programs and events in order to meet community needs. The ruling classes were to set and decide the political and economic agenda of society, thus the need of the hour brought Social Stratification into existence. To meet the growing demands of the Communities.

### **ORGANIZING PRINCIPLES**

An organizing principle is like a central reference that allows all other objects to be located, which is often using as in a conceptual framework. The three main concepts which govern social stratification are status, wealth and power. Time and observations over a long span of time prove that there is connectivity among these principles for transformative process. Various examples of people enjoying higher status and benefits than the rest of the community can be seen. The irony of the situation is that here system of social stratification does not exist. Usually in societies, communities where people possess or inherit property, assets or wealth naturally ask for respect and enjoy rights and benefits of which others or less fortunate deprive of. For example, influential people have access everywhere, be it any ceremonial, official or cultural celebrate, they are given the first preference and are made special owing to their status in terms of wealth and property they possess. Their status was considered dominant. Instead of bringing institution of social stratification, it created social differentiation which was based on merit, age or gender in the society. System of social stratification can only exist when series of successive changes are done on the basis of caste and class of specific group of people.

#### **Status**

Status is a position or rank, a social or profession in relation to other people. Status is the relative rank that an individual holds, with attendant rights, duties and lifestyle in a society based on position honor or prestige. The initial concept of social stratification is status which largely depend on the ranks and position one holds in the society. Glory, prestige an evaluative characteristics which are enjoyed by those who are fortunate enough by birth. Such characteristics which are enjoyed “by birth” are created and can never be achieved by attempts. This kind of social stratification which is by birth is also known as the principle of stratification. Caste is a suitable example of status group. The definition of caste is, a system of social hierarchal, social classes or a specific social class of people when one is a high serial status, this is an example of a high social status. The Brahminis also example of one. Example of a caste in

the Hindu culture. The caste system is a kind of social stratification where Hindu culture were grouped by their occupation within society, when these people adopted surnames, they turned to the caste system as a means to obtain a family name, thereby adopting names related to a distant ancestor’s occupation. The characteristics to which categorize status group are essentially related sude to advantages and faith to legends and tales which are preserved in societies in comparison to “principles which are attained by endeavors, irrespective of economic political or cultural perspectives.”

#### **Wealth**

Wealth is the second frames work principle of social stratification. Wealth refers to a lot of money that somebody owns. A state of being rich. It measures the value of all the assets of worth owned by a person community company or country. Wealth is determined by taking market value of all physical and material the assists owned, then subtracting all debts essentially. Wealth is the accumulation all scarce resources. An example of wealth is money, property and business ventures of Mukesh Ambani. Major source of wealth is brought about in communities when there is mechanization, a process of helping something to make progress and succeed and when method of manufacturing is changed. Some examples are of agriculture and established industries. They were mainly responsible for bringing about the institution of social stratification. As the time progressed, so were the principles of framework which altered development. Economic development led to origination of more wealth in society, more collection of markers of wealth. The collections of markers of wealth are in the form of food grains, cattle or metals and minerals. Here the groups were categorized. The more wealth, assets, and property the greater control higher rank a group hold than to a group which had insignificant access to wealth, like landless workers, Industrial worker. The social stratification based on class is its chief example.

#### **Power**

Power is the third main principle of social stratification. Power is the ability to control of people or things or to do something. Power is defined as the ability to act or have influence over others. The principle of power is not like principles of status and wealth which are associated with characteristics of ranking and categorizing the society. The principle of power is rather a scattered feature as it is not complete in character, somewhat power is not limited to only

**BASIC CONCEPTS : MEANING OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION / 3**

one person, organization or one group of people or organization. Evidently a group with higher status in context of wealth or property, is privileged to enjoy more power in society. Still one could make out a difference between principles of advantages as power care for on the group's capability to use forcible means for other's group accordance with actions, worth and faith decided by it. According to Max Weber, power provides the persons or groups which are entitled to exercise their power over others by acceptable use of violent ways. So, State serves a favorable specimen of an organization which possesses topmost power. If possessed a command of ruler to force out and apply its supremacy of citizens of the society. More specifically when the supremacy of power is generally accepted or regulated by Groups in society power become a command, an authority. An authority is the power and right to give orders and make other obey. As an idea authority can be described as lawful power. Power as a principle too enters into the idea of social stratification when its purpose or its social effects started to be controlled by the political processes in society and the Principles of social stratification are influenced by the direct and active role of the state. An appropriate example of bias in different educational institutions and reservation of jobs. The majority feels excluded and against since job allocations and position was supposed to provide more equitable access in education are based on reservation to scarce resources in education and employment. However reservation has failed to address social inequities in favor of castes & tribes, declared as scheduled or other backward classes Max Weber treated power as at component in the development of serial stratification where he appropriately stressed the importance of politics, political parties and the part they play to emphasize and improve their reach to power

**CASTE AND CLASS IN INDIA**

As we have learnt in the previous sections that wealth and power are the chief governing principles of social stratification which determines the ranks in relative order in societies. A caste is a form of social stratification whereas class of a person is based on multiple factors like ecomenite statue, education, power achievements etc. Class and caste are basic concepts of social stratification. Caste and class as principles of social stratification play an exemplary correspondingly role and status and wealth classify the groups in societies. Caste is a chief example of status group. Caste is a stratification structure based

on ascribed status. Although each caste system works differently and generally everyone is born into a specific caste and caste of the parents generally determines the status of their children regardless of ability or merit. Whereas class is based on the principle where groups are categorized according to their approach and, comparative ability to possess wealth and to regulate the means to accumulate wealth in sorely. Undoubtedly, harmony exists among sociologists about the procedure which help to form status groups. And set up the smuk order in social stratification. Unfortunately this harmony is nowhere to be seen in the procedure of ranking and categorizing which give and help to emerge classes by the differential reach to control wealth. The principle of wealth is broadly welcomed as the main principle to social Stratification. Max Weber sees class as appearing out the market situation and on the other hand Karl Marx calls it with modes of production which regulate its reach to wealth or categorizing of groups in main role of wealth cannot be denied in determining social stratification, in both the formulations. Modes of production can be different with the changing "forms" of wealth invested for production of commodities. Similarly, market situation, also set up by supply and demand of items , industry and employment condition. This is only possible when funds means of fortune are procurable in society. Social stratification at this level go in the procedure when one part of society is more dominant that the other part of section society. To dominate people of other society means the more wealth and funds, the more dominant people of are of a particular society or proletariat. According to Marx proletariat are those working classes who do not have any wealth or property. The classes who are less fortunate and turn on bodily exertion to live. They do not have any wealth, property or assets. The matter of arguments among the sociologists relate nearly to many concepts of social stratification which will be argued later.

**CASTE AND SOCIAL STRATIFICATION**

The conventional Indian society was arranged mainly on the grounds of class stratification. The role of caste was to regulate all aspects of economical political and cultural aspect of social life. It is essential to learn the difference between Varna's and jatis. Varna's are the frame to mention of classification and jatis. Is the particular caste which categorized according to the social status, the four Varna's consist of Brahmins (Priests), the Kshatriyas (warriors), the Vaisyas (traders) and the Shudras (working classes)



Varna is a Sanskrit term to describe classifies or consider. Varna, in the context of Hinduism, refers to a social class with a hierarchical caste system that classifies the community into four categories based on socio economic parameters. Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishya's and Shudras "are distinguished by the qualities born of their own nature in accordance with the material qualities" that prescribes their occupations and duties. Thereafter, a fifth Varna, also known as Panchama came into actuality. It consisted of those people who were, expelled of the caste system owing to the offence they caused to the society by offending the Conventions. They were also known as "untouchable". The gravest kind of social discrimination restricted on any group in a society. Fundamental features of caste system were; membership by birth, hereditary occupation, pollution and purity assigned to different castes in terms of Varna, hierarchy, endogamy and mutual repulsion of segregation.

#### Demography of Caste

Demography is the changing number of births, deaths, disease, etc. in a community over a period of time. Demography is the statistical study of populations especially human beings. Over the years, the demography of caste or jati in India has persisted exceptionally multifarious. It has been studied and shown that a jati is not accepted as a social group within an area of 20 to 200 miles. It is only acknowledged with recommendation to a varna which implies the importance of the varna as recommendation for sociological frame. Undeniably, the existence of jatis as territorial and local administrative unit have lived increasingly. It is announced recently by the Anthropological survey which studied and reported the existing 4635 communities or caste like groups in India. It further states that nearly all religious groups are separated into many communities to have characteristics of jatis. These jatis too have plain and essential aspects of a culture that create a feeling of belonging and identity. Conventionally castes in

villages and urban fields were constrained to follow an organized system of repay or work and mutual exchange of goods and service, etc. In other words, caste system acted on the base of exchange of collaboration and connection, forming a natural system. Not to mention, the existence of panchayat organization of the castes in rural and urban areas. These panchayats or guilds – (an organization of people who do the same job or interests) has an organizational system working beyond a central part in a distinct village or urban centre. In any case of inter-caste discord, arising out of not following the rules of exchanging of goods or services and could not be settled in the village or city council itself, then caste panchayats looks into the matter. It is entitled to safeguard the rights and benefits of the caste and served as a process to solve discords.

Essentially the strength of the caste as a network of social stratification was building on the economy which stayed agrarian mercantile on and on. The term agrarian refers to farming and the use of land for farming. The term mercantile relates of trade and communications. Besides agrarian mercantile the strong population helped to stay at the level of nearly hundred millions for several centuries, owing largely to the high rate of deaths with the advancement of life saving medical aids by the industrial revolution the spell of stable population was broken. The wide spread death rate which was caused by devastation of epidemics and natural calamities was controlled by the advanced medical aids. The conventional foundation of the economy and its unifying connection with the social structure especially the caste system was devastated by the British rule whereas new medical technology was accessible to lower the death rate. Consequently, the census records from 1931 showed population to go up. British colonial policy promoted domestic industry, foreign trade, fisheries and shipping by planting colonial settlements and exploiting its resources. Ultimately India's independent economy and footing for its conventional means of production were devastated by British colonial policy and India relied heavily on it. Consequently, there came an enormous de-urbanization and de-industrialization and lands in villages were pushed to expand. De-urbanization is demographic and social process where people shift from cities to villages and de-industrialization is a process of social or economic change caused by the removed or reduction of industrial capacity or activity in a country or region, especially of heavy industry or manufacturing industry. This huge de-urbanization and de-industrialization caused and brought economy and social structure to a standstill. It disturbed the conventional stability between