

Society Class 08

17th August, 2024 at 2:30 PM

DIVERSITY (2:35 PM)

- **Concept of diversity:**
- **Collective difference which marks one group different from the other.**
- **Manifestation of diversity:**
- **Linguistic**
- **Religious**
- **Regional**
- **Racial**
- **Ethnic**
- **Problems associated:**
- **Linguistic nationalism**
- **Communalism/religious fundamentalism**
- **Regionalism**
- **Racial intolerance**
- **Ethno-nationalism**
- **It is said that every individual is governed by two aspects i.e. culture and livelihood.**
- **If any one of them or both of them are discriminated against or dominated then it creates the situation of objective reality.**
- **However, there is a third-party intervention that leads to a subjective realization of objective reality which leads to a feeling of relative deprivation and which creates a feeling of resentment.**
- **The above-mentioned framework can be applied in the following context:**
- **Bofors scam and the role of media in exposing the scam.**
- **JP Movement which mobilizes the masses against authoritarianism and corruption.**
- **Anti-corruption movement by Anna Hazare.**
- **Role of Asom Jana Sangram Parishad during the 1979 Assam crisis.**

- The persistence of caste-based discrimination is considered to be the retribution of past karma. However, with the emergence of leaders, there was a subjective realization of objective reality which led to resentment.
- (Although it is important to ensure one has a realization about reality it should not be a false realization. Hence the role of a third party is extremely important).

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY (3:09 PM)

- **Status:**
- India is a land of extreme linguistic diversity.
- According to the Census 2011, 121 major languages and approximately 1599 other languages are spoken in India.
- So it is characterized by 'kos kos par badle pani char kos par vaani.'
- Language is an integral part of our culture hence it is the source of both cohesion and conflict.
- **Advantages of linguistic diversity:**
- i) Many Indigenous languages contain valuable knowledge, it reflects the country's rich cultural heritage as these languages have their unique history, literature, and cultural nuances.
- ii) Vernacular media can help in providing legitimacy to government policy and programs and ensure better service delivery.
- iii) It exemplifies the salad bowl nature of India's multiculturalism.
- iv) It enhances the soft power and credibility of our democracy at the international level.
- v) It can help in achieving the goal of universal education by imparting elementary education in the mother tongue.
- vi) Respect for linguistic diversity fosters a culture of tolerance which in turn promotes social cohesion.
- **Challenges:**
- i) It might create an environment of linguistic chauvinism which when creates a feeling of relative deprivation can create conflict in society.
- ii) It can give rise to language-based regionalism.
- iii) Communication barriers between the states.
- iv) It might create challenges for migrants or challenges for businesses to operate across the region.
- v) Social inequality for minority language speakers.
- vi) It creates administrative challenges.
- vii) Difficulty in finding jobs or accessing services for non-dominant speakers.

- viii) Native languages are dying due to lack of use and preservation.
- Question:
- Implementation of language provision proved to be a challenging task in the initial two decades of post-independence. Discuss.
- Conslusionary remarks: Post-1967 the problem gradually disappeared from the political scene demonstrating the capacity of the Indian political system to deal with the problem democratically and promote national consolidation.
- Question:
- To what extent linguistic reorganization of states has contributed to Indian unity? Discuss.
- Arguments in favor:
- i) If we want to ensure a massive spread of literacy universal education and the development of tolerance linguistic reorganization is needed.
- ii) It helped in the development of provincial languages.
- iii) Linguistic reorganization helped resolve the basic source of conflict and helped in keeping political extremism at bay.
- iv) Democracy can be realized in letter and spirit if administration and politics are carried out in the language that is commonly understood by all.
- v) According to Rajni Kothari, it created homogeneous political units that can be administered through a medium that a large population can understand.
- vi) Linguistic reorganization made people feel that their right to self-determination was respected.
- Arguments against:
- i) Linguistic reorganization did not resolve all the problems as we are extremely diverse. It was like an opening of Pandora's box.
- For example, demand for Gorakhaland, Mithilanchal, etc.
- ii) It has aggravated the consciousness among people concerning their linguistic identity which has accelerated linguistic chauvinism.
- iii) Linguistic reorganization involves the possibility of political, administrative, and economic dislocation.
- iv) It can threaten unity in diversity as when demands are not met it may lead to negative regionalism.
- v) It also had a spillover effect where different bases of creation of small states started emerging.

RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY (3:55 PM)

- **Extent of diversity:**
- **Inter-religious and intra-religious**
- **Inter-religious:**
- **Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism**
- **Intra-religious:**
- **Different sects and cults.**
- **Sects:**
- **It is defined as an offshoot of the existing religion due to disagreement over the interpretation of the core beliefs or different interpretations of the beliefs.**
- **For example, in Christianity, Catholics and Protestants, Shia and Sunni in Islam, etc.**
- **Vaishnavite, Shaivite, Shakta, and Smarta in Hinduism.**
- **A sect is defined as a close-knit group that consists of deeply committed members and any dissent is not tolerated.**
- **The individual voluntarily joins the sect and agrees to follow the beliefs.**
- **Sects do not have a hierarchy of officials. However, if any authority exists it is of the charismatic leader.**
- **Sects are largely emerging among those groups that are marginalized. For example, the Ravidasiya sect, Kabir Panth promoted the idea against caste-based discrimination.**
- **Cult:**
- **It is defined as a loose-knit organization that is the result of cultural innovation or cultural importation.**
- **It is organized around charismatic personality and it often does not challenge mainstream religion.**
- **It accommodates dissent, it is a voluntary organization that is open to all.**
- **Reasons for the growth of sect and cult:**
- **According to Olridge,**
- **i) Religion guarantees salvation in the afterlife, and cult provides relief in this life.**
- **ii) Religion addresses spiritual needs and cult provides solutions to mundane problems.**
- **iii) Religion points out challenges in direct communication with god however cult provides a medium where devotees can directly interact with charismatic personalities.**

- iv) Sects provide an alternative perspective to the youth who might feel trapped due to social constructs such as the caste system.
- v) Sect may also emerge as a result of urbanization or growing individualism.
- For example, people from the middle class are joining sects and cults to access community living.
- vi) Urban educated upwardly mobile class may feel relatively deprived due to spiritual deprivation in the backdrop of capitalism and consumerism.
- vii) With modernization and secularization significance of religion has declined. However, growing uncertainty or challenges posed by modernity there is a religious revivalism and one of the manifestations is the growth of sects and cults.
- viii) Today's society is driven by social media where the visibility of sects and cults has increased and therefore their proliferation.
- Question:
- Analyze the salience of the sect vis-a-vis caste, region, and religion in Indian society. (10 marks)

TOPIC OF THE NEXT CLASS: Rest of the topic of diversity