CHAPTER-3

Social Institutions: Continuity and Change

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1.Define social institutions.

Answer:

Social institutions are established and organized patterns of behavior, beliefs, and relationships that serve specific societal functions. They provide stability and structure to a community.

2. Give an example of a traditional social institution and explain its role in society.

Answer:

Marriage is a traditional social institution. It serves as a framework for forming families, regulates relationships, and contributes to the socialization of individuals.

3.Explain the concept of social change in the context of institutions.

Answer:

Social change refers to alterations in the patterns, behaviors, and structures of social institutions over time. It can result from various factors, including technological advancements, cultural shifts, or economic transformations.

4.How do social institutions contribute to social order and stability?

Answer:

Social institutions provide a framework for organizing and regulating behavior, beliefs, and relationships in a society. They contribute to social order by establishing norms, roles, and expectations, fostering stability.

5.Provide an example of a modern social institution and highlight its impact on contemporary society.

Answer:

The education system is a modern social institution. It plays a crucial role in transmitting knowledge, shaping values, and preparing individuals for their roles in society.

6.Explain the term "institutionalization" in the context of social institutions.

Answer:

Institutionalization refers to the process by which a pattern of behavior or set of beliefs becomes established as a norm within a society. It involves formalizing and perpetuating certain practices.

7.Discuss one challenge that social institutions may face in adapting to social change.

Answer:

Resistance to change is a challenge faced by social institutions. Established norms and traditions may hinder the adaptation of institutions to evolving societal needs.

8.How do social institutions contribute to the socialization of individuals?

Answer:

Social institutions, such as family, education, and religion, play a vital role in socializing individuals by imparting values, norms, and behavioral expectations that align with the broader societal context.

9.Explain the role of social institutions in promoting societal values and norms.

Answer:

Social institutions serve as vehicles for transmitting and reinforcing societal values and norms. They play a key role in shaping individual behaviors to align with accepted standards.

10.Provide an example of a change in social institutions due to technological advancements.

Answer:

The rise of online education is an example. Technological advancements have transformed the education institution by offering remote learning options, changing traditional teaching methods.

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4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1.Discuss the role of family as a social institution. How has its structure and functions evolved over time?

Answer:

The family is a fundamental social institution that plays a crucial role in the socialization and upbringing of individuals. Traditionally, families were often extended, with multiple generations living together. Over time, there has been a shift towards nuclear families due to urbanization and changing societal norms. The functions of the family have evolved to include not only economic support and child-rearing but also emotional support and companionship. Despite these changes, the family remains a significant institution for shaping individual values and beliefs.

2.Explain the concept of institutionalization and provide an example of how a particular social institution becomes institutionalized.

Answer:

Institutionalization refers to the process by which a pattern of behavior or set of beliefs becomes an established norm within a society. For example, the institution of marriage becomes institutionalized when specific rituals, legal frameworks, and societal expectations are attached to the act of getting married. Over time, these practices become ingrained in the culture, contributing to the stability and continuity of the institution.

3.How do social institutions contribute to social stability and order? Discuss with examples.

Answer:

Social institutions provide a framework for organizing and regulating behavior, beliefs, and relationships within a society. For instance, the legal system is a social institution that establishes laws and norms to govern individual and collective behavior. By creating these structures, social institutions contribute to social order and stability. The legal system, through its institutions like courts and law enforcement, ensures that societal rules are upheld, contributing to the overall stability of the community.

4.Explore the challenges social institutions may face in adapting to technological advancements. Provide examples to illustrate your points.

Answer:

Social institutions often encounter challenges in adapting to rapid technological changes. For example, the education system faces the challenge of integrating digital technologies into traditional teaching methods. The healthcare system may struggle with the ethical implications of advanced medical technologies. The challenge lies in balancing the benefits of technological progress with the preservation of institutional values and societal norms. Institutions need to adapt without compromising their core functions and principles, fostering a delicate balance between tradition and innovation.

5.Explain the concept of social change and its impact on social institutions. Provide an example to illustrate your explanation.

Answer:

Social change refers to the transformation of societal patterns, behaviors, and structures over time. This can impact social institutions by necessitating adaptations to new circumstances. For instance, the rise of the internet has transformed communication patterns, affecting institutions like education. Online learning platforms have emerged as a response to technological advancements, altering the traditional methods of education.

6.Discuss one traditional social institution and analyze how it has adapted to contemporary societal needs.

Answer:

The institution of marriage, traditionally characterized by specific gender roles and societal expectations, has adapted to contemporary needs. Today, there is a greater emphasis on equality and personal choice in marriages. Changes in divorce laws and societal attitudes reflect an adaptation to the evolving understanding of relationships, promoting more inclusive and flexible marital structures.

7.Explore the role of social institutions in addressing social inequalities. Provide an example to illustrate how a social institution can contribute to reducing disparities within a society.

Answer:

Social institutions, such as education, can play a crucial role in addressing social inequalities. For example, affirmative action policies in educational institutions aim to provide equal opportunities to underrepresented groups. By ensuring diverse representation and access to education, these institutions contribute to reducing disparities and promoting a more inclusive society.

7 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What is the role of the ideas of separation and hierarchy in the caste system?

Answer.

The caste system can be understood as the combination of two sets of principles, one based on difference and separation and the other on wholism and hierarchy.

Each caste is different and strictly separated from every other caste on the basis of restrictions. These restrictions are related to marriage, food sharing and social interaction to occupation.

Different and separated castes do not have an individual existence. They exist in relation to a larger whole. This societal whole or system is a hierarchical rather than egalitarian system.

Each individual caste follows an ordered rank—a particular position in a ladder like arrangement going from highest to lowest.

The hierarchical ordering of castes is based on the distinction between purity and pollution.

Castes that are considered ritually pure have high status, while those considered less pure or impure have low status.

Historians believe that those who were defeated in wars were often assigned low caste status.

Castes are not only unequal in ritual terms. They are complementary and non competing groups. It means each caste has its own place in the system which cannot be taken by any other caste.

Caste is also linked with occupation, the system functions as a social division of labour. It allows no mobility.This idea of separation and

hierarchy has inculcated discrimination, inequality and prejudices in Indian society.

2. What are some of the rules that the caste system imposes?

Answer:

The most commonly cited rules that the caste system has imposed are as follows:

• Caste is determined by birth-a child inherits the "bom information" the caste of its parents. One can never change one's caste, leave it, or choose not to join it. Caste is never a matter of choice.

• Membership in a caste involves strict rules about marriage. Caste groups are "endogamous" i.e. marriage is restricted to members of the group.

• Members of a particular caste have to follow rules about food and food sharing.

• An individual bom into a caste could only practice the occupation associated with that caste, so that occupations were hereditary.

• Caste involves hierarchy of rank and status. Every person has a caste. Every caste has a caste. Every caste has a specified place in the hierarchy of all castes.

• Castes involve sub-division within themselves. Sometimes sub-castes may also have sub-caste i.e. segmental organisation.

3.What changes did colonialism bring about in the caste system?

Answer.

The institution of caste underwent major changes during the colonial period.

Present status of caste in India is more a product of colonialism than of ancient Indian tradition.

The British administrators tried to understand the complexities of caste in an effort to leam how to govern the country efficiently.

The most important official effort to collect information on caste was through census. It began in 1860s.

The 1901 census under the direction of Herbert Risley was particularly important as it sought to collect information on the social hierarchy of caste i.e. the social order of precedence in particular regions, as to the position of each caste in the rank order.

The counting of caste and to officially recording of caste made this institution of caste identity became more rigid in India.

The land revenue settlements and laws gave legal recognition to the caste based rights of the upper caste.

Large scale irrigation schemes were accompanied by efforts to settle population there, and these also had caste dimension.

So colonialism brought about major changes in the institution of caste. In short the Britishers took initiative in following areas:

(i) Census-to make sure of number and sizes of the castes and sub-castes.

(ii) To understand the values, beliefs and customs of different sections of society.

(iii) Land settlement.

4.In what sense has caste become relatively 'invisible' for the urban upper castes?

Answer.

The changes in the caste system benefited the most were urban middle and upper class. Caste status ensured these groups the necessary economic and educational resources and they took full advantage of the opportunities offered by rapid development. Particularly the upper caste elite were able to benefit from subsidised public education, specially professional education in science, technology, medicine and management. They were also able to take advantages of the expansion of state sector jobs in the early decades after independence. Because of this earlier load over the rest of the society in terms of education ensured a privileged status.

For the so called SC and ST and backward castes this change became detrimental. For these the caste became all too visible. They had not inherited educational and social capital and they had to compete with already established upper caste group.They cannot afford to abandon their caste identity.They continue to suffer from discrimination of various kinds.
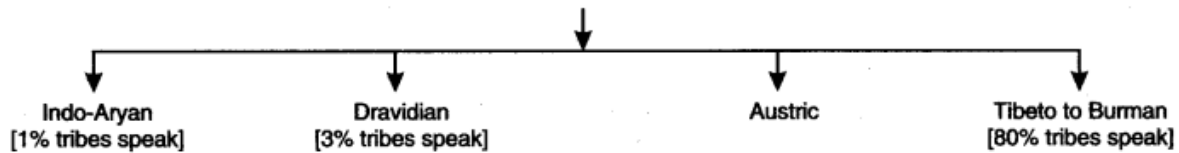
5. How have tribes been classified in India?
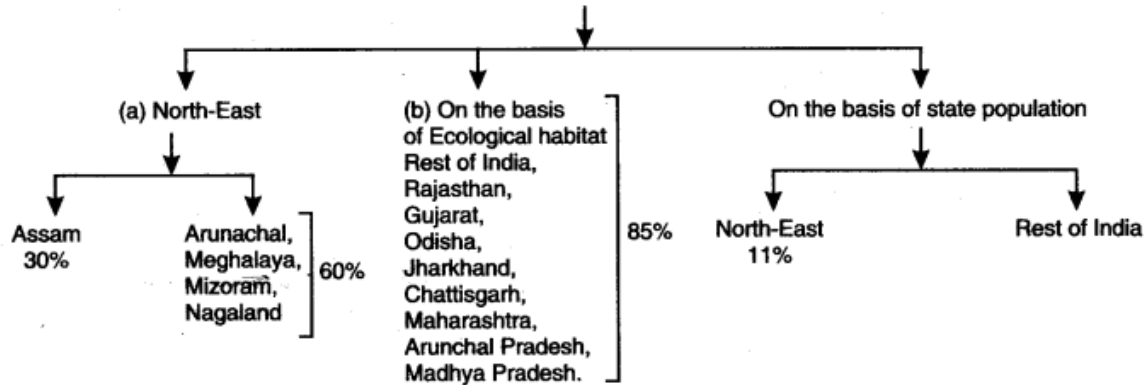
Answer.

Tribes have been classified according to their permanent and acquired traits. Classification of Tribal societies: • Permanent traits • Acquired traits

Permanent traits are language, region, physical characteristics and ecological habitat.
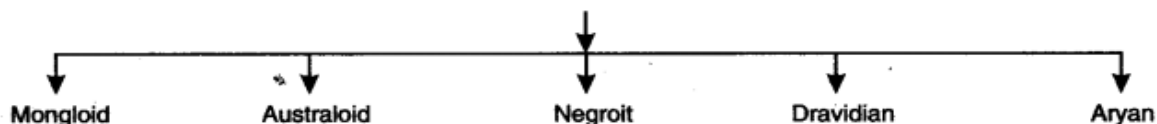
Classification on the basis of language

Indo-Aryan [1% tribes speak]	Dravidian [3% tribes speak]	Austric	Tibeto to Burman [80% tribes speak]

Classification on the basis of Region

(a) North-East

Assam 30%	Arunachal, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland } 60%	(b) On the basis of Ecological habitat Rest of India, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra, Arunchal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh. } 85%	On the basis of state population

On the basis of state population:

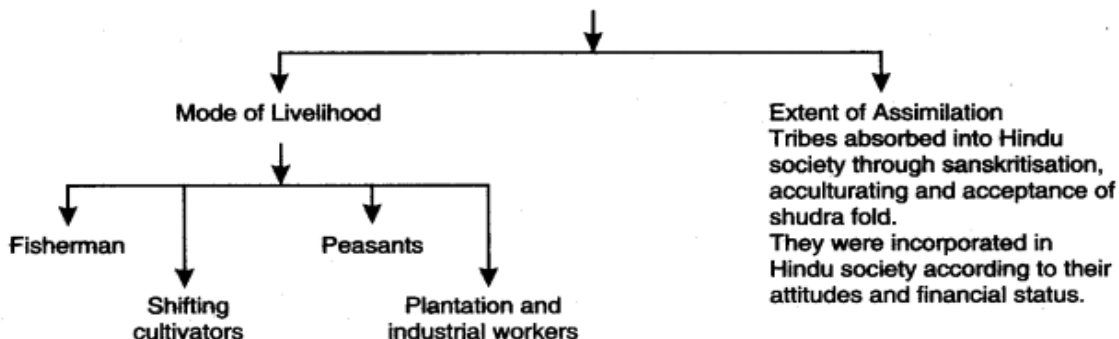| North-East 11%	Rest of India

Classification on the basis of size:

In terms of size, tribals range between seven million to less than 100 person (In Andaman Nicobar Islands). The biggest tribes are the Gonds, Bhils, Santhals, Oraons, Minas, Bodos, and Mundas each at least a million people. The tribals in India shared 8.2% of total population i.e. 85 million people according to 2001 census.

Classification on the basis of Physical characteristics

Mongloid	Australoid	Negroit	Dravidian	Aryan

Classification on the basis of Acquired traits

Mode of Livelihood

Fisherman	Shifting cultivators	Peasants	Plantation and industrial workers

Extent of Assimilation
Tribes absorbed into Hindu society through sanskritisation, acculturating and acceptance of shudra fold.
They were incorporated in Hindu society according to their attitudes and financial status.

6.What evidence would you offer against the view that 'tribes are primitive communities living isolated lives untouched by civilisation?

Answer.

There is no reason to believe that tribes are out of contact with the rest of world or have always been the oppressed section of the society. This can be said because of the following reasons:

1.Gond Kingdoms in central India such as that of Garha Mandla or Chanda.

2.Many of the Rajput Kingdoms of central and western India emerged through a process of stratification among adivasi communities themselves.

3.Adivasi often exercised dominance over the plains people through their capacity to raid them and through their services as local militias.

4.They also occupied a special trade niche, trading forest produce, salts and elephants.

Evidences substantiating tribes as primitive communities:

1.Tribes have not a state or political form of the normal kind.

2.They have no written rules on religion.

3.They are neither Hindus nor peasants.

4.Primarily they are engaged in activities like food gathering, fishing, hunting, agriculture etc.

5.The habitat of tribes is in dense forests and mountainous regions.

7. What are the factors behind the assertion of tribal identities today?

Answer:

• Forced incorporation or tribal communities has had a negative impact on tribal cultures and,sodety as much as its economy.

•Tribal identities are today formed by interactional process.

•Because this interactional process has not been in favour of the tribes, many tribal identities are based on ideas of resistance and opposition to the overwhelming force of the non-tribal world.

•The positive impact of success such as the achievement of statehood for Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, is marred by continuous problems. Many citizens of the north¬eastern states have been living under special laws that limit their civil liberties. The vicious circle of armed rebellions provoking state repression which in turn fuels further rebellions has taken a heavy toll on the culture, economy, and society of these north-eastern states.

•Gradual emergence of an educated middle class in conjunction with the policy of reservation is creating an urbanised professional dass. As tribal societies get more and more differentiated i.e. developed dass and other division within themselves, current bases grow for the assertion of tribal identity.

•These issues are categorised to control over vital economic resources like land and specially forests, and issues relating to matters of ethnic-cultural identity.

•Due to vision within the tribes, the reason for asserting tribal identity may be different for different group of tribals.

8. What are some of the different forms that the family can take?

Answer.

Family is a very important sodal institution. In either form i.e. nudear or extended, it has post to perform. Lately, a lot of changes have come about in the structure for example, those people employed in the software industry have odd working to this, grandparents have shifted in as caregivers to young.

A family could be headed by a male or female; descent could be traced from the mother or the father. This structure and composition of the family is based on various fadors ' such as economy, polity, culture and education.

The changes in the structure of family that we see today could be

(i)Same sex marriage

(ii)Love marriage

But history and contemporary times suggest that such changes are met with violent reactions.

Nuclear Family: It consists of one set of parents and their children.

Extended Family: It consisted of more than one couple and, often, more than two generations live together. The extended family is symptomatic of India.

Diverse forms of family (i) Matrilocal-patrilocal (based on residence)

(ii) Matrilineal and patrilineal (based on rules of inheritance)

(iii) Matriarchal and patriarchal (based on authority)

9. In what ways can changes in social structure lead to changes in the family structure?

Answer.

The structure of family can be seen as social institution and also in its relationship to other social institution of society.

•The internal structure of the family is usually related to other structure of society i.e. political, economic, cultural, etc. Therefore any significant change in behaviour pattern of members of family may change the nature of society for example working schedules of young parents in the software industry in India may lead to increasing number of grandparents moving in as caregivers to the young grand children.

•The composition of the family and its structure thereby changes. And these changes can be understood in relation to other changes in society.

•The family (the private sphere) is linked to the economic, political, cultural and educational (the public) spheres.

•Sometimes the changes in the families and corresponding changes in the society occur accidently e.g. due to war or riots people migrate in search of work or for security reasons.

•Sometimes these changes are purposefully brought about, e.g. due to independence and openness of ideas, people choosing their jobs, life partner and life style and such changes are very frequent in the Indian society.

10. Explain the difference between matriliny and matriarchy.

Answer:

Matriliny.

•Societies of Meghalaya Khasi, Jaintia, Garo tribes and societies of Kerala, Nayyar family property inheritance goes from mother to daughter whereas control passes from maternal uncle to Nephew.

•It means a women inherits property from mother and passes on to her daughter while a man controls his sister's property and passes on control to his sister's son.

•This matriliny generates intense role conflict for men because they are in conflict between their responsibilities to their own house on the one hand and to their wife and children on the other-"Should I pay more attention to my family or my sister's family."

This role conflict is for woman also.

She possesses only token authority, men are the defacto powerholders. Despite matriliny men are the powerholders.

Matriarchy

•In such societies the women exercise authority and play dominant role.

•Practically it is only a theoretical concept as it never allows the women to have real power of dominance.

•Realistically it is not existed even in matrilineal families.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1.What is a social institution?

A. A political party

B. A set of rules for individual behavior

C. Established and organized patterns of behavior, beliefs, and relationships

D. A technological advancement

Answer: C. Established and organized patterns of behavior, beliefs, and relationships

2.Which of the following is an example of a traditional social institution?

A. Social media

B. Marriage

C. Online education

D. E-commerce

Answer: B. Marriage

3.What does institutionalization refer to in the context of social institutions?

A. The process of creating new institutions

B. The formalization and perpetuation of specific behaviors or beliefs as norms

C. The dissolution of existing institutions

D. A type of social revolution

Answer: B. The formalization and perpetuation of specific behaviors or beliefs as norms

4.How do social institutions contribute to social stability?

A. By promoting constant change

B. By resisting any form of change

C. By providing a framework for organizing and regulating behavior

D. By excluding individuals from societal norms

Answer: C. By providing a framework for organizing and regulating behavior

5.Which social institution is often considered a key agent of socialization?

A. Healthcare

B. Religion

C. Legal system

D. E-commerce

Answer: B. Religion

6.What is a challenge faced by social institutions in adapting to technological advancements?

A. Increased efficiency

B. Resistance to change

C. Simplification of processes

D. Rapid adaptation

Answer: B. Resistance to change

7.Which social institution is primarily responsible for the formalization of laws and norms in a society?

A. Education

B. Family

C. Legal system

D. Religion

Answer: C. Legal system

8.What is the term for a period when a large proportion of the population is in the working-age group?

A. Dependency dividend

B. Demographic shift

C. Economic boon

D. Demographic dividend

Answer: D. Demographic dividend

9.Institutionalization involves the _____ of specific behaviors or beliefs within a society.

A. Eradication

B. Formalization and perpetuation

C. Rejection

D. Ignorance

Answer: B. Formalization and perpetuation

10.What role does education play in addressing social inequalities?

A. Reinforcing inequalities

B. Ignoring inequalities

C. Aggravating inequalities

D. Addressing and reducing inequalities

Answer: D. Addressing and reducing inequalities

Fill in the Blanks:

1.The demographic _____ refers to the composition of the population based on factors such as age, gender, and other elements.

Answer: structure

2.Social institutions contribute to social order and stability by establishing _____, roles, and expectations.

Answer: norms

3._____ refers to the process by which a pattern of behavior or set of beliefs becomes established as a norm within a society.

Answer: Institutionalization

4.One traditional social institution that has evolved over time is _____, adapting to contemporary societal needs.

Answer: marriage

5._____ refers to the transformation of societal patterns, behaviors, and structures over time.

Answer: Social change

6.The education system is an example of a modern social institution that has adapted to include online learning platforms, reflecting _____ advancements.

Answer: technological

7.Social institutions, such as _____, play a vital role in shaping individual behaviors to align with accepted standards.

Answer: family

8.The rise of the internet has transformed communication patterns, impacting the institution of _____.

Answer: marriage

9.Affirmative action policies in educational institutions aim to provide equal opportunities to _____ groups, addressing social inequalities.

Answer: underrepresented

10.The legal system, through its institutions like courts and law enforcement, ensures that societal rules are upheld, contributing to the overall _____ of the community.

Answer: stability