

CHAPTER -3

Social Institutions Continuity And Change

2MARK QUESTIONS

Q1.Give the meaning of Caste?

Ans:

The Hindu social system has one of the important complex and interesting institutions which is known as the caste system. Word 'Caste' has been taken from the Portuguese word 'Casta' which means birth. A caste is an endogamous group whose membership is based on birth. Occupation In this is hereditary and traditional

Q2:Give any three characteristics of Caste.?

Ans:

1. Membership of caste is based upon birth
2. A caste is an endogamous group.
3. Castes were traditionally linked to occupations.

Q3.Give merits of Caste.?

Ans:

Caste does the division of labor.

Caste maintains social unity.

Caste maintains the purity of blood

Caste makes the rules of education.

Q4.How caste provides social security?

Ans:

Caste provides social security to its members. Members of every caste are always ready to help the members of their caste. There was no need for a person to be worried from any point of view because he was aware of the fact that his caste will definitely help him if any need arises.

Q5.Describe the functions of caste.?

Ans:

1. Caste determines the occupation of a person. 2. Caste provides social security to a person.
3. Caste gives mental security to a person. 4. Caste maintains the purity of the blood.

Q 6:Define Caste?

Ans:

According to Risley, "Caste is a collection of families or group of families bearing a common name, claiming a common descent from a mythical ancestor, human or divine, professing to follow the name hereditary calling and regarded by those who are competent to give an opinion as forming a single homogeneous community."

Q7:What are the causes of change in caste? Or Why is Caste changing?

Ans:

Because of socio-religious movements, • Efforts of indian government and making of legislations.

Because of the changes made by the British. Because of changes in caste due to industrialization

Q8.Give Demerits of Caste System?

Ans.

The caste system causes discrimination, inequality, prejudice, etc.

The caste system breeds untouchability. The caste system causes casteism The caste system leads to communal conflict.

Q9. Into how many parts ancient Indian society was divided?

Ans.

It was divided into the following four parts:

1. Brahmins. They used to impart education to the upper three castes.

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2. Kshatriyas: They used to protect the country from any type of aggression.

3. Vaishyas: They were either engaged in business or agriculture.

4 Fourth varna: They used to serve the upper three castes,

Q10.What is the role of caste in spreading culture?

Ans.

Every caste has its own occupations, eating habits, living standards, etc. An individual observes all the customs and rituals associated with caste and also teaches them to his children. In this way, culture goes down from one generation to another and caste plays a very important role in it

4MARK QUESTIONS

Q1.What is Hierarchy?

Ans:

There was a definite hierarchy in the caste system which means society was divided into different segments on the basis of their higher or lower status. Brahmins were given a higher status in all parts of India, Kshatriyas were in second place and the third place was of Vaishyas. Fourth and the last place in the society was given to the lower castes. The social status of any person in society was determined on the basis of this hierarchy. Brahmins were given the highest respect.

Q2.Explain the Segmental division of society.?

Ans:

Indian society was divided into many segments within the caste system but broadly it was divided into four segments. Brahmins belonged to the first segment, then Kashatriyas, then Vaishyas and at the end, the Shudras or the lower castes were there. The status, place, and functions of the members of every segment were pre-determined. Every caste had its own rituals, customs, traditions, values, etc. That is why the scope of relations of members of every caste was generally limited to its own social division. Every caste was the social unit in itself to which a person belonged.

Q3.Restrictions regarding castes. Explain. Or What was the restriction related to caste?

Ans.

There were some rules in every caste regarding restrictions on certain points like:

1. Every person had to adopt the occupation of his own caste.
2. He had to obey the rules about food and food-sharing.
3. He had to marry in his own caste.
4. Lower castes were not allowed to get an education and to enter the temples.
5. Lower castes were not allowed to touch the people of higher castes and to use the wells that belonged to the higher castes.

Q4.Restrictions on social relations. Explain. Or What were the restrictions regarding social relations?

Ans:

Society was divided into different castes in earlier times and was segregated into higher and lower castes. People of higher castes used to live inside the village and people of lower castes lived outside the village. They had to maintain distance from each other. Lower castes were not allowed to get an education with people of higher castes and were not allowed to enter the temples and to take water from the wells that belonged to the higher castes. Lower castes were not allowed to perform Upanayana Samskara.

Q5.What is meant by the term Untouchability? Or Caste gives rise to untouchability. How? Or How did the caste system give rise to untouchability?

Ans.

Caste System gave rise to untouchability. The so-called upper caste of the society considered the lower caste as inferior. They were kept away from society. They were not allowed to touch anyone. This restriction was known as untouchability. People of lower castes were supposed to live out of the village or the city. This created inequality in society.

Q6.What are the merits of the caste-system?

Ans:

1. Determination of Occupation: The caste system has always determined the occupation of every caste. Occupation of Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Lower Castes were fixed at the time of birth. It provided occupational security to everyone.
2. Making a religious base: The caste system has always given a religious base to society. Religious duties of every caste were fixed and religious rituals were to be performed by different caste.
3. To provide Social Stability: The caste system also provides social stability. Occupation, status, rules, etc. of every caste are generally fixed. A definite relationship was shared between all the castes with which stability came in the society.

Q7.What are the demerits of the caste system?

Ans:

1. Division of Society: Caste System divided society into many parts. It led to hatred for other castes which led to enmity among different castes
2. The obstacle in individual development: The occupation of everyone is fixed in the caste system. One has to adopt occupation of his caste even if he has the ability to do better work. In this way, it is an obstacle in the way of an individual's ability:
3. The obstacle in Social development: Caste System is also an obstacle in the way of social development. Everyone thinks about his own caste, own people. People hardly care about the development of society.
4. The obstacle in the way of Social reforms: Concepts of lower castes, untouchability, etc, came in front due to the caste system. It has kept lower castes at a lower place and hardly gave them the chance to come forward.

Q8.How has the caste system affected our society?

Ans:

1. Caste System has affected social mobility. A person cannot leave his place due to his occupation.
2. Caste System has created obstacles in the way of economic development of society and individuals because people of higher castes maintained a distance from lower castes.
3. Individual abilities are always suppressed by a caste system.
4. Enmity among different castes has increased due to the advent of casteism in politics.
5. Many a time it becomes a major factor in creating communal violence.

Question 12.How has industrialization affected the caste system?

Answer:

1. In many large cities, people started to live with each other without any discrimination due to industrialization.
2. The industrialization has brought wealth to the society with which the class system has replaced the caste system.

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3. The industrialization has encouraged international relations because of which people have left their ancestral places and started living in other countries.
4. Untouchability was discouraged and even the lower section of society was given certain rights.
5. People started getting educated and this changed they are approached completely.

Q9. Give four characteristics of a Family.?

Ans.

Universal Group: Family is a social and universal group. It is also known as the primary institution in human history because it exists in every society and at all times. Every member of society is definitely a member of a family. 2. Small in Size. The size of the family is limited because only those persons are included in the family who either have taken birth in the family or who have marital relations. 3. Central position in Social Structure: Our society is based on the family and different associations are formed only through the family. That is why it has a central position in society.

7MARK QUESTIONS

Q1. What is Caste System? Give its definitions.?

Ans.

Meaning of caste system. The word 'caste' has come out of the Portuguese word 'Casta' meaning birth. It is also closely related to the Latin word 'Castus' which means Pure race. Actually, the caste system is based upon birth. The caste in which the person takes birth, he has to live with that caste for his entire life. With the birth of the child, his ways of living his life are determined. It keeps some restrictions on its members which are necessary to be obeyed by the person. This caste system is one of the main bases of the Indian social system and all the aspects of Hindu social life are affected by this system. Its impact is so powerful that it has affected every group and community living in India,

Word 'caste' has been taken from the Sanskrit word 'Jana' which means birth. The caste system prevailed in other societies also but its developed form was seen in India.

Definitions of a caste system

To know the better meaning of caste it is necessary for us to look at the definitions of the caste system given by different sociologists and psychologists.

1. According to Risley, "Caste is a collection of families or group of families bearing a common name, claiming a common descent from a mythical ancestor, human or divine, professing to follow the same hereditary calling and regarded by those who are competent to give an opinion as forming a single homogeneous community."
2. According to Robert Bierstadt, "When a class system is a closed group on one or more than one issue then it is"
3. According to Blunt, "A caste is an endogamous group or collection of endogamous groups, bearing a common name, membership of which is hereditary, imposing on its member's certain restrictions in the matter of social intercourse, either following a common traditional occupation or claiming a common origin and generally regarded as forming a single homogeneous community. So, on the basis of the given definitions, we can say that caste is a group whose membership is based on birth. A person cannot leave his caste until he is not thrown out of his caste. A caste is a closed group. It means no one can marry out of his caste and there are certain rules and restrictions in it."

Q2. Give in brief the important characteristics of the caste system?

Ans.

Membership is based on birth: No one can determine his caste with his wish. Membership of caste is based on birth. Membership of a person was determined by his caste in which he took birth.

2. Restrictions on social relations: Society has been divided into different castes. One is from a higher caste and the other is from a lower caste. Sense of higher and lower exists in the caste system. People of higher castes lived in villages or cities and people of lower castes lived out of the city or village and they used to keep themselves away from higher castes.

3. Restrictions on eatables. There were some clear rules in the caste system which tell us that with which caste a person can keep his social relations and with whom he can share his food. Whole food was divided into two parts 'Kachha Food' and 'Pakka Food'. Kachha food was made with water and Pakka food was made with oil. The general rule was that a person can accept Kachha food only from the members of his own caste or from any Brahmin or from his Guru. That is why most of the castes accepted kachcha food given by brahmins but brahmins did not accept Kachha food from any other caste. Brahmins accepted Pakka food from specific castes only. Brahmins accepted Pakka food only from Kshatriya people and Vaishya people.

4. Restriction on occupation: According to the rules of the caste system, castes had their specific traditional occupation. A person had to adopt the occupation of his own caste even if the other occupations were more profitable. A man had no choice except to adopt his caste's occupation. But some occupations were free to be adopted by anyone like trade, agriculture, the job in the military, etc. Even many castes were free to adopt any occupation but many castes had to practice their traditional functions like carpenter, blacksmith, barber, potter, etc.

5. Restrictions on marriage: The caste system was again divided and different castes were divided into sub-castes. These sub-castes restricted its members to marry out of its group. Endogamy is an important feature of the caste system. It means to marry in the group. Yet in some specific conditions, there were some restrictions. But, generally, they had to marry in their own caste. If anyone violated this rule then he was generally thrown out of his caste and was restricted to enter any other caste.

6. Segmental division of society: Hindu society was divided into many parts by caste system and the status, place, and function of every part were determined

by it. That is why members of a particular conscious of being the members of a group. Because of this segmental division of society, the area of interaction for a person is generally restricted to his own caste. Panchayats gave punishments to the person who violated the rules of caste. Different castes had different traditions and ways of living.

7. Endogamy: There were strict restrictions related to marriage. One was not allowed to marry out of his caste but he has to marry in his own sub-caste. If anyone violated this rule then he was generally thrown out of his caste. Anulom marriage was also allowed to a certain extent. That is why coys of higher caste used to marry girls of a lower caste. Endogamy was the main basis of the caste system.

Q3.Explain the traditional theory of the origin of the caste system?

Ans.

1. Traditional Theory. Traditional theory related to the origin of the caste system is written in Hindu religious texts. The most ancient explanation in Vedic literature about the caste system is based upon one mantra of Purush Sakta of Rigveda. According to this mantra, all the four varnas had originated from the different parts of the body of Brahma, Brahmins were originated from the mouth of Brahma, Kshatriyas from arms, Vaishyas from legs and Lower Castes had originated from the feet of Brahma. In Manusmriti, Manu gave the functions of all four varnas. Brahmin will give education because he came from mouth, Kshatriya will use weapons and will protect the people because he came from arms. Vaishya will do the work of trade, agriculture, and rearing of animals. In the end, lower castes will serve the upper three Varnas. In Mahabharata' it is also written that how different castes and sub-castes originated. In the Vedic age there was no existence of Pratiloma marriage, only Anuloma marriages were there. Because Pratiloma marriage was not sanctioned by society. That is why the children produced by this marriage were not given any varna and they were differentiated from Hindu society. Later on, they became lower castes and sub-castes. But the traditional theory has been criticized because the explanation of the varna System is there in this theory but there is no name of the caste system in it and caste and varna both are different from each other. Critics also disagree with the fact that all the castes and sub-castes were originated due to the Anuloma and Pratiloma type of marriage. While criticizing Manu, many scholars say that the division of castes had not originated due to the varna system. If it could have happened then the number of sub-castes would have been lesser than that of main castes but it is actually opposite to it.

Q4.Explain the social theory of the origin of the caste system.?

Ans.

Racial Theory. Many scholars have given the racial theory about the origin of the caste system. According to Risley, Maciver, Weber, Crober, etc. racial element is very important in the origin of the caste system, Ghurye, Dutt and Majumdar also: supported it. According to Risley, three factors were responsible for the origin of the caste system- 1. Racial exchange

2. Interrelation due to exchange, and 3. Sense of class difference The caste system in India was started after the arrival of the Indo-Aryan people. The society of this race was divided into four parts and they also applied this concept to India. Firstly, Aryans defeated the original inhabitants of India, and then they established one-sided marital relations with them because females among the Aryans were less in numbers. From here the custom of Anuloma marriage was started. Pratiloma marriage was not given sanction because Aryans refused to marry their daughters with Indian people. When the needs of Aryans fulfilled then they stopped the custom of Anuloma marriage. Racial mixture increased due to Anuloma marriage and different castes came into being. According to Ghurye, Aryan people had given themselves higher status than the original inhabitants of India. They started the policy of living away from original inhabitants to maintain racial purity. They kept themselves in higher three varnas and had given the status of a slave to the original people of India. With the passage of time society was divided into groups of higher or lower status Majumdar was of the view that cultural conflict and racial exchange led to the origin of the groups of higher and lower status in India. Many reasons were there of racial mixtures, like less number of females in India, developed Dravidian culture, their matrilineal system, worship of gods and goddesses, wish to live life at one place, different customs, etc. After the conquest of the Aryan people over the Dravidian people, mutual exchange and cultural conflict were started among them, That is why many social groups came into being which became endogamous. From here the status of every group or caste was determined according to racial purity and on the basis of living away from other groups. The racial theory has been criticized because it has explained the restrictions of marital relations but has not explained the rules of food and food sharing. Muslims and Christians are unable to take the form of a caste. Even they have cultural differences

Q5. Explain the geographical and occupational theory of the origin of the caste system.?

Ans.

Geographical Theory. Gilbert gave the geographical theory about the origin of the caste system. According to him, the caste system came into being due to the living of different groups in different parts of the country. This view is also expressed in Tamil Literature. This view can be explained on the basis of many examples. For example, brahmins living near the bank of Saraswati river were known as Sarswati Brahmins, and people living in Kannauj were known as Kannaujias. In this way, the names of many other castes were kept on the basis of their living place. But this theory has been criticized by most scholars because many castes exist in one geographical area and the names of all these castes are not related to that geographical area.

Occupational Theory: Nesfield and Dahiman gave the occupational theory about the origin of the caste system. According to Nesfield, different castes were originated on the basis of different occupations and he completely disagrees with racial factors. The racial mixture was at its advanced level even before the origin of the caste system. According to him, the caste system has not been originated due to religion because religion cannot give that fundamentalist base which is necessary for the caste system. In this way, according to Nesfield, the only occupation is responsible for the origin of the caste system.

According to Dahlman, earlier Indian Society was divided into three parts—Priests, King or Ruler, and Bourgeoisie. Occupations of all three classes were related to religious, political, and economic activities. Then, with the passage of time, these groups were divided into smaller groups on the basis of occupation and relations. Earlier, they had taken the form of business enterprises and then were changed into business federals. Later on these federals were developed into castes.

This theory has also been criticized: It is not correct to tell the direct relation between religion and caste. This theory is away from racial theory because there is some racial difference between higher and lower groups. With this, if the caste system was originated from business enterprises then why it originated only in India and not in any other country. This theory cannot provide answers to these questions.

Multiple choice

Q 1. Societies where women inherit property from their mothers are called:

- (a) maternal societies**
- (b) matriarchal societies**
- (c) matrilineal societies**
- (d) matrilineal societies**

Ans: (d) matrilineal societies

Q 2. The hierarchical ordering of castes is based on the distinction between

- (a) Occupation and status**
- (b) Religion and rituals**
- (c) Norms and authority**
- (d) Purity and pollution**

Ans: (d) Purity and pollution

Q 3. The tribal communities were mainly dependent on the _____ for their living.

- a) forests**
- b) factories**
- c) agriculture**
- d) none of the above**

Ans: a) forests

Q 4 .The _____ sociologist and social anthropologists was known for his works on the caste system and terms such as 'sanskritisation' and 'dominant caste'.

- a) Mahatma Jotiba Phule**
- b) Mysore Narasimhachar Srinivas**
- c) E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker**
- d) Sri Narayana Guru**

Ans: b) Mysore Narasimhachar Srinivas

Q5.Caste is determined by _____.

- a) birth**
- b) karma**
- c) occupation**
- d) life style**

Ans: a) birth

Q6.Who gave the concept of "Dominant Caste"?

- a) M.N.Shrinivas**
- b) Karl Marx**
- c) Weber**
- d) Durkheim**

Ans: a) M.N.Shrinivas

Q7.Who gave the concept of "sanskritization"?

- a) Karl Marx**
- b) Auguste Comte**
- c) Ward**
- d) M.N.Shrinivas**

Ans: d) M.N.Shrinivas

Q 8.Who is the founder of the Satyashodhak Samaj?

- a) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule**
- b) Ayyankali**
- c) Savitri Bai Phule**
- d) E.V. Ramasami**

Ans: a) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

Q 9. The watchwords "One Caste, One Religion, One God for all men" were given by:

- a) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule**
- b) Ayyankali**
- c) Savitri Bai Phule**
- d) Sri Narayana Guru**

Ans: d) Sri Narayana Guru

FILL IN BLANKS

Q 1.The English word 'caste' is actually a borrowing from the Portuguese casta, meaning ____.

Ans: pure breed

Q 2.In Sanskrit the word 'caste' is referred to by two distinct terms ____ and ____.

Ans: varna and jati

Q 3. ____ was the first headmistress of the country's first school for girls in Pune.

Ans: Savitri Bai Phule

Q4. ____ refers to a process whereby members of a lower caste attempt to raise their own social status by adopting the ritual, domestic and social practices of a caste (or castes) of higher status.

Ans: Sanskritisation

Q 5. ____ is a term used to refer to those castes which had a large population and were granted land rights by the partial land reforms affected after Independence.

Ans: Dominant caste

Q6. ____ is the practice of marrying within the caste.?

Ans: Endogamy