Mid-Semester Examination

HS0.202: Thinking and Knowing in the Human Sciences - II

Max Marks: 45

21 September 2022

Instructions:

Answer ANY THREE of the following questions (in 700-800 words). You HAVE to attempt at least ONE question from both PART A and PART B.

PART A

(handwritten annotations: 2) hand marden to colonialist / 1) anthropology → sociology → British colonial studied / to get resources. anthropometics - measured their races and write)

→ 1) How and why did Sociology emerge as a structured, academic discipline? (CO-1, CO-2)

2) How is 'culture' understood in Sociology? Use any one instance of a predominant culture to explain the various features of 'culture'. (CO-2, CO-4, CO-5)

→ 3) How does a sociologist understand 'deviance' and its role in society? (CO-2, CO-4, CO-5)

(handwritten annotations: individual acting outside of typical social norms / norms are unwritten / rules written by society - enforced by those around you / 4 examples - buds go to groom's house / punishment from society "excommunication" / when given a finance bill / positive → change - milk / negative ...)

PART B

4) Read the following passage, and attempt the question given below:

"An efficient instance of resource partitioning is provided by the hunting practices of the ecological guild of three non-pastoral nomadic castes of Tirumal Nandiwallas, Vaidus and Phasepardhis. Between themselves these three castes used to do most of the hunting in the uncultivated tracts away from villages in the semi-arid region of western Maharashtra. The Phasepardhis were primarily hunter-gatherers, bartering some of the game for other goods. The Tirumal Nandiwallas and Vaidus had other primary occupations such as performance of bull play, dispensing herbal medicines, selling trinklets, midwifery etc., but hunted extensively for their own consumption.

The three groups differed markedly in the hunting techniques used. The Tirumal Nandiwallas specialised in hunting with dogs, the average number of dogs per household being five. These dogs were used in locating, chasing, and killing much of their prey, which predominantly included hyena, leopard cat, wild pig, hare and porcupine. The Vaidus kept a smaller number of dogs, an average of 1.5 per household. By contrast, they specialised in catching smaller carnivores like mongoose, toddy cat and domestic cat in traps baited often with squirrels. They also specialised in catching freshwater animals such as crabs, turtles and crocodiles in the past. The Phasepardhis never used dogs, but instead used a trained cow to enter a herd of blackbuck or deer, laying snares as they moved hiding behind the cow. They also used to snare birds, particularly partridges, quails and peafowl, on a large scale.

We therefore have a number of instances of sympatric castes, i.e. castes which overlap in their geographic distribution diversifying their niches by specialising on different resources. An equivalent of Gause's principle of competitive exclusion, namely, that no two castes occupying identical ecological niches can coexist in a sympatric fashion, appears to hold.

Different caste populations traditionally moderated or largely removed intercaste competition for limiting resources through diversification in resource use or territorial exclusion...The nomadic-pastoral as well as non-pastoral castes achieved this moderation of intercaste competition by assigning exclusive rights to move over certain territory to individual households...Every family of Tirumal Nandiwallas had and even today has an exclusive right to visit certain villages, respected by all other families of their caste, with heavy punishment levied by the caste council for any transgression of this convention. The rights are heritable and may be sold, but only to another family of the same clan within the caste. *structural functionalism*

4) What theory of social stratification has been employed by the author? Explain how this theory has been employed. (CO-3, CO-5) *negation of negation*

5) What are the three features of Hegelian dialectics, and how does Marx use these principles? (CO-3, CO-4)

6) According to Weber, what are the key elements that help us classify a social formation? Explain with examples. (CO-3, CO-4)