Final Exam

1. The practice of holding a group of people under control by another dominant group is known as Colonization. The dominant group is called Colonizers. These people act as ruler over the people being colonized. They take control over their land and define their occupations according to their need and will. Colonization is the practice of extracting resources that are present at one place. Hence, the colonizers take great interest in seizing the land of the people. As an Indian, I feel that this concept is quite important as the effects of colonization are still felt in my country today and if it wasn’t for the British colonizing India for over two hundred years, India would have been a developed country rather than a developing nation.

The land we live on, the oceans that surround it and the atmosphere above us is all that constitutes environment. It gives us the means to survive on this planet. In sociological terms, humans’ interactions such as resource extraction or cutting of tress, is what is known as Environment. This concept is very important to me as my generation is the most prone to the changes in environment. Melting of ice caps and rising sea levels pose a grave threat to the people of my generation as it can prove to be fatal for the future

human generations.

Money is the form of payment used worldwide. It is considered to be essential to survive this time and age. We exchange money for some good or for a service that is provided to us or by us. It also eliminates the need of double wants and has been in use since ancient times. But socially in today’s age, it has acquired new meanings. One such instance is that today the more people work a job, the more money they are likely to earn. Hence, the popular saying,” Time is money.” For a student like me, money holds a lot of value as I must work along with attending college to pay for my tuition fees and to live the lifestyle I want. This would all be possible if I am able to earn money.

1. Socialization is the process of learning values and norms and then behaving in accordance with them in a society. It begins from an early stage of childhood and continue throughout our entire life. We learn to live with societal beliefs and are expected to accept them. Ascription is the allotment of certain attributes, beliefs or even norms and values, in a society. It is like inheritance but not the same as it is done by others. These are immutable in nature and cannot be change by an individual. Achievement continues along ascription. After being ascribed something, when we do the things that helps us attain the social status of our ascription, it is known as achievement. For example, if a person ascribes me the title ‘friend’ and I do the things that a friend is supposed to do, I am achieving that title.

I was ascribed to be an ‘Indian’ when I was born, and I was socialized to always stand when the national anthem of India was being played or sung. This socialization was done at home and at the school assembly where every assembly ended with the national anthem being sung by the students. Moreover, I was also socialized to respect the flag of my nation and be proud of it. We were also given extensive knowledge of every national symbol and were made to memorize tiny details about them, so they stay with us forever. I achieve my status as an ‘Indian’ still today as I am able to iterate what each color on the national flag stands for and by always standing in respect whenever I hear the national anthem whether it is being sung by anybody or it is being played on a device.

4. Hegemony refers to the group of dominant ideas, ideas and values that exist in a society. These ideas and values help fit in a society and be socialized. Counter hegemony is the one that works against these hegemonic views and tend to destabilize them. It is present to break the hegemonic values and change the societal beliefs surrounding that idea.

I hail from the state of Punjab in India which is in the northern part of Indian. I consider myself a North India with the language I speak, Hindi and Punjabi. I speak Punjabi more often. This is one of the hegemonic ideas that states that if I speak Punjabi, I would be from Punjab. I was also taught Punjabi at an early stage of childhood which means that I was socialized in the same. The counter idea to this would be a someone born in Punjab but raised at some other place who does not speak the Punjabi or the Hindi language.

Another hegemonic idea is that Punjabis are generally very hardworking since many farmers are in this state and a large amount of agricultural work is one here. Hence, since the farmers have to a lot of hard work on fields, it is generally considered that all the Punjabis are very hardworking. The counter to this would be the people living in the urban area of Punjab who are hardworking but not as much as the rural ones.

One more hegemonic idea is that Punjabis eat very oily food and spicy food. Socialization for this done automatically as only oily and spicy food used to be available though this has changed quite a lot in the last two decades. To counter this would mean to bring in other kinds of foods to Punjab. Another counter would be a Punjabi person preferring to eat less oily and spicy food over the kind he is provided.

7. The Indian culture is a very patriarchal culture. Most of the times it favors the male person, one who assumes the role of head of the family, the responsibility to provide for the family and the one that holds most of the rights in a family. These rights also include the rights of other family members. He is expected to get a proper education and fulfill his role as the head by providing all the monetary expenses. On the flip side, one who takes care of the household by doing housework is considered to be a female. The role of adjusting with others and sacrificing for another person in a relationship are also ascribed to the females. The younger girls are socialized to get senior education (up to grade 12) and then get married. Their rights are also very minimal as some of them are not allowed to leave their house. This is the basic socialization that runs throughout the nation and these all ascribed by birth. But there also be a change over the last decade as females have acquired more roles and responsibilities in a society such as that of a provider for the family. The kind of roles and rights ascribed to the males have made their life quite easy, but their responsibilities are also quite tough to handle. However, for the females, all their roles, rights and responsibilities have made them face many hardships which is quite unfair and unjust. One role that is ascribed to them silently is to be dependent on their male partner.

8. The Indian society is a very heteronormative society. One instance to prove this is that people still tend not to acknowledge the fact a person can be attracted to another person belonging to the same gender. Even in my family, my grandmother finds it absurd that such a thing exists, that they are people who are or lesbian. It was not till 2018 till India struck down a 19th century law that criminalized same-sex marriages. Even in schools and colleges there is not much taught on the same-sex relationship and societal norms actually forbid it. The basic fundament is the binary thinking. That a man should marry a woman. Moreover, they are expected to uphold the marriage till death. For instance, divorces are not very appreciated in the Indian society. People who divorce or want to divorce have to go through a lot. Even after a divorce, both the man and the woman have to face a lot of backlashes from the society.

Another instance of this heteronormative society is that from since childhood, children are socialized to be heteronormative. Any sign of homosexuality are radically eliminated as though it were a disease. Although there has been some change in the last decade as the heterosexuality is being supported by the law now and people’s mindset are changing. However, this will take a long time and even longer to reach the rural level.

11. The three most important elements I consider in a governance are legislation i.e., the policy and the law-making unit of the government, the judiciary which enforces these laws and the rights given to the citizens of the country. The legislation which makes the laws are reflected very well in India as laws are enacted and policies are implemented considering the entire nation. However, this has deteriorated in the last few years as the government recently changed the farm laws leading to widespread protests in the capital city Delhi and the government not acknowledging these grievances. This also shows how poorly the rights given to a citizen (a farmer in this instance) are poorly reflected in the India democracy as the government has multiple times tried to suppress these protests by acts of violence and injustice. The judiciary in the country is falls somewhere in between as there have been multiple times where a judgement by the court has taken several years to be passed on a sensitive case but this has changed over the last decade with the judiciary system giving quick judgments and the enforcement of law has also been severe as it is as much penalizing for a normal citizen as it would be for a celebrity or a politician.

The point where I would not vote is exactly what the current situation in the country represents. The farmers being ignored by the government is not fair and I would not vote for such a government that is not respectful for the section of society which feeds the whole nation.

12. Conflict theory is a macroscopic theory which works on the assumption that people in a society are placed according to their economic and social profiles. The sole purpose of the poor people in accordance with this theory is to keep the rich people rich. This works by keeping the poor people poor economically. The struggle for resources creates the conflicts between owners and workers which leads to this theory’s main premise.

Considering the crime of robbery by a worker at his employer’s home where he steals his money or other valuable items that would yield good amount of money when sold. The conflict theory helps us understand this quite easily as we can see that the worker would feel jealous and think of it to unfair as to why a certain person like his employer has had access to more wealth than. He would question this and get infuriated knowing that this how things are in the world. So as to change his positing economically and socially, and also to have a better lifestyle like his employer, he goes and commits this crime thinking that after doing the given deed, he would be able to change his status and in the process of it he would also hinder the wealth of the wealthy, whose more income was due to his workers who have been doing a lot more work than he is .i.e., that he would make himself more wealthy, achieving a higher economic and social level and would harm his employer’s status by doing so since he is taking his wealth.

13. One social movement that I regularly follow on my social media is the farmers’ movement in India. It all started last year when the government changed the laws around how a farmer would sell his crops. Earlier farmers sold their produce directly to the state governments at fixed prices. However, with the changes made to these laws in September of 2020, farming is basically privatized, and these farmers will now have to sell to private owners. No price will be fixed and hence, that is why the farmers fear that their produce will have to be sold at prices much lower than they earlier used to get, set by the private owners who purchase, and they won’t be able to do anything about. That is why there has so much outrage among them. From Instagram and Facebook, I have witnessed the firsthand accounts of police brutality inflicted upon these farmers who have set up bases around the outskirts of the capital of India, Delhi. They have setup bases and has quite literally start to live there on their base day in and night out, away from their own homes.

This situation is easy to understand with the use of structural functionalist theory as farmers are just fulfilling the roles of the poor group of people whose sole function is to make the rich richer i.e., the private owners who will now buy the food produce. The struggle for proper economic rights is there as these protests have now gone beyond 6 months. The farmers continue to revolt to bring about a change in their position.

14. The practice of holding a group or a nation under control by another more powerful group is known as Colonization. Colonizers, the group in control, are basically the rulers of the colonized. They often seize land and resource for their own benefit. This practice is usually done for resource extraction.

My country India was among many countries which were colonized by the Britishers a few centuries back. The British became the sole rulers of the country and seized more and more control as their reign continued, affecting people in rural and urban areas. They changed the country’s economy and blundered it of its treasure. One of the main reasons why India is not a developed nation is the colonization by the East India Company.

Even today there are still things that reflect this colonial period. The prime example of this is rail-road system of the country which originally brought by the British government in India to ease transportation of resources from one place to another. These same railroads are still used to today as a means of transport for the people as well as goods.

Another example is the use of English language in the country. In India, a person speaking the English language fluently is well-educated. The government also use this language as one of its main form of communication. This all is a symbol of the British rule who brought this language in the country in the first place. Moreover, the rift created between Hindus and Muslims because of the partition that led to the formation of India and Pakistan is also one of the examples of how the colonial government impacted the country. These people who used to live as one nation have now become enemies.

In school, I was also taught to be well-versed in the English language. It was a compulsory subject. Punjabi being the native language of the state Punjab, where I was born at, was an optional subject. This resulted in the development of a biased liking towards the English language as we were taught that it is a necessity to learn it even if it meant not to learn my own mother-tongue.

15. Equality means giving everyone the same rights and treating everybody the same. But this doesn’t always assure that everyone will be impacted the same way. Difference are present for every person and thing and to accommodate those differences and then providing the resources and rights that would make everyone achieve the same thing is what is known as equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been harsh equally on every country in the world. The economies have fallen apart and the health sector has been on its knees ever since. The rich and the poor, the famous and the ordinary, all have suffered the wrath of the pandemic and it has spared no one, So in terms of this disease, it is safe to say that everybody was treated equally. But the kind of facilities or healthcare provided to the people belonging to different groups of society has not been equal. On a global scale, different countries has had access to different health and research facilities which has resulted in delays in the development and the deployment the vaccine needed to fight this pandemic. For instance, one of the first vaccines against this disease was the Pfizer vaccine. It was made in Europe. Since it requires a very low temperature to store, it was not possible for India to get a hold of it and so it had to wait for almost a month the development of its own vaccine Covishield and Covavaxin to complete in order to fight the pandemic. The efficacy of these two vaccines made in India is also a bit lower than the Pfizer one. So in this area, equity was not in effect.