

Q) Write notes on the following

- a) Types of Society
- b) Caste and Class Dynamics in Pakistan

Answer

a) Types of Society

We find

six types of societies in sociological sciences, the attributes of which are as under:-

1) Hunter-Gatherer Society

This society depends on nomadic, small aggregations that have somewhat egalitarian attributes

Social Structure:

These societies are small, kin-based with no clear division of labour

Example:

Irula and Mbuti tribes

According to Marshall Sahlins:

"The original affluent society is the hunter-gatherer, not because it has so much but because it wants so little."

b) Herding and Advanced Herding Society:

Such form of society first originated some 3000 years ago. This society has semi-nomadic character and depends on herding of domesticated animals.

Social Structure:-

In this society, the ^{social} structure is kin-based and status is determined by herd ownership.

Example:

Nuer in South Sudan and Pastoralists in Kohistan region of Pakistan

c) Horticulturalists Society

Such a society doesn't use sophisticated tools for cultivation but largely depends on the produce of small plants or large cultivated trees.

Social Structure:-

Here the social structure is kin-based and status is determined by ownership of surplus.

Example:

Societies in Gilgit Baltistan and Smoans in South Pacific

d) Agriculturist Societies

These societies are planned around maintenance of agricultural land and production of crops on large scale.

Social Structure:

This is the society where a strict class system emerges consisting of feudal lords and peasants.

Example:-

Villages of Rural Sindh where 'waderas' still wield power.

e) Industrial Society

This society emerged between 19 century to 20 century. Here the economy depends on mass production of commodities and automation.

Social Structure:

This society exhibits an organic solidarity where personal ties are not strong but division of labor strictly prevails.

Example:-

Urban areas of Hungary and Brazil.

According to Ulrich Beck, the world

is currently in a transition state from industrial to post-modern era.

f) Post-Modern Society

This society is characterized by plurality, open society, role fluidity and constant influx of commodities and information.

Social Structure :-

In this society, the breakdown of 'solid' social norms and rise of 'fluid' gender roles occurs.

Example -

New York City and other prominent urban centers of USA.

According to Jean Baudrillard -

This is a society where "there is more and more information and less and less meaning."

b) Caste and Class Dynamics in Pakistan

i) Introduction

The caste and class dynamics in Pakistan ~~are~~ exhibit both functional and dysfunctional aspects. While these social

Structures provide a social hierarchy. Improve social cohesion and harmony. They also hinder social mobility, issue-based politics and national solidarity.

ii) Caste Dynamics in Pakistan

The caste refers to the collectivity of social restrictions on social mobility, change of membership, occupation, marriage and social relationships owing to consciousness of superiority in one way or another.

In Pakistan, although the restrictions of caste are not as rigid as in India, but they still hold substantial power.

iii) Positive Impacts of Caste System

- A tool for social control by regulating marriage.
- A tool for promotion social cohesion.
- A social safety net in situations of disasters and calamities.
- A tool for political mobilization (within a caste).

iv) Negative Aspects of Caste System

- It restricts individual freedom
- It restricts exogamy
- It can promote inter-caste divisions/clashes

v) Class Dynamics in Pakistan

Class system is another social stratification system that is based on socioeconomic status.

A look at the class dynamics of Pakistan highlights that the class system is rapidly changing owing to globalization and industrialization of Pakistan.

Based on Weber's classification, we see four classes in Pakistan.

vi) Classes Prevalent in Pakistan

(i) Propertied Upper Class

This class has ownership of land and controls most of the resources.

(ii) Property Less White Collar Class

This class is educated, degree-holding middle class that holds managerial posts or sells its skills. Most of Pakistani population belongs to this class, i.e. 46%.

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(III) Petite Bourgeoisie

This class has entrepreneurs who hold small businesses or small amount of land.

(IV) Manual Workers

This is the uneducated class that works as manual labor to earn a living.