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Q8(a)

Examine critically the concept of social stratification as a basis for sustaining social inequality.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2024 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · The Nature of Society

2.2 The Nature of Society: Concept of Society; Society and Culture; Social Institution; Social groups; and Social stratification.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2024/examine-critically-the-concept-of-social-stratification-as-a-basis-for-sustaining-social-inequality/>

B. R. Ambedkar

Analysed caste as graded inequality reproduced centrally through endogamy, not merely a benign division of labour.

Dumont and critique

Purity/pollution illuminates caste ideology but can understate political economy, violence, history and change.

Dominant caste

Srinivas linked local dominance to land, numbers, status and political power rather than ritual rank alone.

Pierre Bourdieu

Showed how capital and habitus allow institutions such as schools to reproduce inherited advantage as merit.

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