

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q7(c)

Discuss the contribution of M. N. Srinivas to the study of Indian society. Examine the influence of British social anthropologists on his ideas

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Indian Village

5.1 Indian Village-Significance of village study in India; Indian village as a social system; Traditional and changing patterns of settlement and inter-caste relations; Agrarian relations in Indian villages; Impact of globalization on Indian villages.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the contribution of M. N. Srinivas to the study of Indian society. Examine the influence of British social anthropologists on his ideas
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

Srinivas gave **Sanskritisation**, **dominant caste**, and Westernisation.

Rampura made the Indian village a modern ethnographic object.

Radcliffe-Brown's structural-functionalism trained his method.

He replaced Risley's race types with field relations.

Ghurye and Indian texts still shaped what Oxford did not supply.

Introduction

M. N. Srinivas made Indian society a field science of caste, village, and change. British social anthropology gave him method; India gave him **Sanskritisation** and the **dominant caste**.

Body

Contributions

- **Sanskritisation** explained jati mobility as copy of a locally high style, not as varna theory alone.
- **Dominant caste** named who actually rules the village by land and numbers.
- **Westernisation** named the British-modern channel of change.
- **Rampura** fieldwork showed faction, vote, and ritual in one monograph, the model for later village studies.

British influence

- Training under **A. R. Radcliffe-Brown** at Oxford taught structure, field, and the social system as relations, not race types like **Risley**.
- The structural-functional village was a British-African transplant that Srinivas Indianised with Indology and jati.

- **He kept the field ethic of Malinowski's heirs:** stay, learn the language of practice, write the system.

Limit of the influence

- British functionalism underplayed history and colonial power. Srinivas still wrote change, but slowly.
- **Ghurye**, his Indian teacher, and later critics added text, tribe, and inequality that Oxford did not exhaust.

Flow diagram

Radcliffe-Brown field -> Srinivas
Srinivas -> Sanskritisation dominant caste
Srinivas -> Westernisation Rampura

Conclusion

Srinivas contributed the working concepts of Indian sociology. British structural-functionalism trained his eye; **Sanskritisation** and **dominant caste** were his Indian inventions.

Facts & figures

Sanskritisation

Mobility by copying a high jati's ritual style.

Dominant caste

Locally powerful cultivating caste that commands village politics.

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown

Oxford teacher who modelled society as a structured field of relations.

Rampura

Mysore village of Srinivas's classic ethnography.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-2/2015/discuss-the-contribution-of-m-n-srinivas-to-the-study-of-indian-society-examine-the-influence-of-british-social-anthropologists-on-his-ideas/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com