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Q3(b)

Assess the contributions of S. C. Dube in Indian village studies

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Emergence, growth and development of Anthropology in India

4. Emergence, growth and development of Anthropology in India-Contributions of the 18th, 19th and early 20th Century scholar-administrators. Contributions of Indian anthropologists to tribal and caste studies.

Core demand of the question

- Assess the contributions of S. C. Dube in Indian village studies
- Keep the answer to a 15-mark length of about 200 words

Revision summary

Dube's Indian Village made **Shamirpet** a full caste-and-faction monograph.

He treated the village as tied to town and state, not as a republic.

India's Changing Villages studied **Community Development** on the ground.

Brokers and factions divert planned benefits.

His niche is village structure plus the development state.

Introduction

S. C. Dube made the Indian village a study of structure and of planned change, not a timeless little republic. **Shamirpet** is still the case through which that contribution is taught.

Body**Shamirpet and the village monograph**

- **Indian Village** (1955) on **Shamirpet** near Hyderabad mapped caste, kinship, faction, ritual, and economy in one settlement.
- He showed the village as a part-society tied to town, state, and market, against the isolated republic myth.
- Comparison with **M. N. Srinivas** at **Rampura** and **McKim Marriott** on festivals shows Dube's extra stress on administration and development staff.

Development anthropology

- **India's Changing Villages** followed **Community Development** and National Extension into the same social field.
- Dube recorded how schemes meet caste brokers, factions, and official ritual. Benefit does not flow as the plan drawing shows.
- That sceptical ethnography of programmes is his lasting method for later ITDP and panchayat work.

Limit and later use

- **Shamirpet** is a Telangana case, not all India. North Indian jajmani and Kerala agrarian class need other monographs.
- He was less a kinship theorist than **Irawati Karve**, and less a Sanskritisation theorist than Srinivas. His niche is village plus development state.

Flow diagram

Dube -> Shamirpet monograph
Dube -> Community Development
Shamirpet monograph -> Caste faction state

Conclusion

Dube's contribution is the village as a political and administrative field, proven at **Shamirpet** and in the **Community Development** studies. He taught that planned change has a social structure.

Facts & figures

Shamirpet

Telangana village of Dube's 1955 monograph Indian Village.

India's Changing Villages

His account of Community Development and extension as social processes.

Rampura

Srinivas's Mysore village, the usual comparison for Dube's more administrative eye.

Community Development

1950s state programme that Dube used as a field, not as a success story.