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Q1(e)

Westernisation and Modernisation.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Anthropology GS 2 · 10 marks · Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization

1.1 Evolution of the Indian Culture and Civilization-Prehistoric (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Neolithic-Chalcolithic), Protohistoric (Indus Civilization). Pre-Harappan, Harappan and post-Harappan cultures. Contributions of the tribal cultures to Indian civilization.

Core demand of the question

- Write a note on Westernisation and Modernisation
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Westernisation, in Srinivas, is change modelled on British and Western forms.

Sanskritisation copies a high-caste Hindu style instead.

Modernisation is structural change in economy, state, and value.

- **The two can diverge:** Western goods with unchanged caste.

Yogendra Singh kept modernisation wider than a Western copy.

Introduction

Westernisation and modernisation are two related but unequal processes of social change. One names a source of models. The other names a structural shift in technology, state, and aspiration.

Body**Srinivas on Westernisation**

- **M. N. Srinivas** used Westernisation for changes that follow British rule: English education, dress, law, science, and new jobs.
- He split primary Westernisation of the tiny elite from secondary spread through clerks, army, and town.
- Unlike **Sanskritisation**, which copies a twice-born style, Westernisation copies a colonial-modern style and may weaken some purity rules.

Modernisation as a wider process

- **Yogendra Singh** and later Indian sociologists treated modernisation as differentiation of economy, bureaucracy, and value, which can use Western, Japanese, or indigenous tools.
- A village may Westernise in cricket and mobile phones while remaining caste-bound, as **S. C. Dube's Shamirpet** already hinted for earlier development.
- The pair is not a moral grade. Westernisation is a historical channel. Modernisation is the test of whether institutions actually change.

Flow diagram

Westernisation Srinivas -> English law science
Modernisation -> Institutions technology
Sanskritisation -> Twice-born copy

Conclusion

Westernisation is change on a Western model after colonial contact. Modernisation is broader structural change and need not be a carbon copy of the West.

Facts & figures

M. N. Srinivas

Defined Westernisation as the changes that flowed from British rule in technology, institutions, and values.

Sanskritisation

His companion concept: a low jati copies the ritual style of a locally high jati.

Yogendra Singh

Treated modernisation as a structural process that is not identical with Westernisation.

Shamirpet

Dube's village study showing planned change meeting caste and faction, a brake on simple Western copy.

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