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Q5(d)

To what extent is patriarchy a cause for the problems of women? Discuss

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Sociology

Sociology - The Discipline: Modernity and social changes in Europe and emergence of sociology; Scope of the subject and comparison with other social sciences; Sociology and common sense.

Core demand of the question

- To what extent is patriarchy a cause for the problems of women? Discuss
- Keep the discussion within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Patriarchy is systemic male dominance across household, work, and state.

It is a major cause of unpaid care, violence, and restricted agency.

Oakley, **Walby**, and **Engels** supply the core tools.

Class and caste intersect; they do not erase the gendered pattern.

- **Extent:** necessary and large, not a sole cause of every problem.

Introduction

Patriarchy is a system of male dominance across household, work, sexuality, culture, and the state. It is a major cause of women's problems. It is not the only cause, because class and caste organise which women suffer what.

Body

Extent as a cause

- Sylvia **Walby** named linked patriarchal structures. Ann **Oakley** made unpaid housework visible as a problem of work, not of nature.
- Friedrich **Engels** tied women's subordination to private property, a Marxist root that still leaves patriarchy a relatively persistent order.
- Violence, restricted mobility, and son preference, which **NFHS** files, are organised as male right, not as accidents.

Extent as not the only cause

- **Karl Marx:** class decides who can buy safety and schooling. Poor women face a double load.
- Caste honour can intensify control of women as status property, a Weberian closure.
- Talcott Parsons's expressive female role was an ideology of industrial family, not a law of nature, yet class still shapes who stays home.

Discussion

- Patriarchy is a necessary cause of the gendered pattern of problems.

- It is not a sufficient cause of every woman's situation. Intersection is the extent-limit.

Flow diagram

Patriarchy -> Unpaid care wage gap

Patriarchy -> Violence mobility

Class caste -> Intersection

Patriarchy -> Intersection

Conclusion

Patriarchy causes a large share of women's problems in labour, body, and law. Oakley, Walby, and Engels name the mechanisms. Class and caste decide intensity and form. The extent is structural and high, not total and single.

Facts & figures

Walby

Patriarchy as related structures: household, paid work, state, violence, sexuality, culture.

Oakley

Sex/gender split and housework as labour in the study of women's problems.

Engels

Linked monogamous family and property to women's subordination.

NFHS

Indian indicators of spousal violence, anaemia, and decision-making as patterned, not random, harm.