

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

Q1(e)

"Vertical mobility brings structural change even in a closed social system." Comment

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Stratification and Mobility: Concepts

Stratification and Mobility: Concepts - equality, inequality, hierarchy, exclusion, poverty and deprivation; Theories of social stratification - Structural functionalist, Marxist, Weberian; Dimensions - Class, status groups, gender, ethnicity and race; Social mobility - open and closed systems, types, sources and causes.

Core demand of the question

- "Vertical mobility brings structural change even in a closed social system." Comment
- Keep the comment within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Closed systems still leak persons and group styles.

- **Marx:** class places can hold while individuals circulate.
- **Srinivas:** Sanskritisation may leave hierarchy standing.

Structural change needs new rules of property, office, or honour.

- **Comment:** do not equate vertical mobility with a new system.

Introduction

Vertical mobility is movement up or down a ranked order. A closed system ascribes rank by birth. The statement claims that even there, rises and falls change the structure. Comment: some mobility changes persons; structural change needs a shift in the rules of closure.

Body

Closed systems and leak

- Caste and estate approximate closure. Pitirim **Sorokin** still found some vertical movement.
- M. N. Srinivas's **Sanskritisation** is group mobility of style. The ranked structure can remain.

When mobility is not structural change

- **Karl Marx:** circulation of persons can leave class places intact. A few rise; the proletariat remains.
- **Max Weber's** status honour can absorb new wealth without opening marriage.

When it does bite the structure

- Repeated group mobility plus political power, as in **Mandal**-era office holding, can rewrite legitimate domination in **Weber's** sense.
- Demographic saturation of a rank, or a new mode of production, changes the system, not only the names in it.
- Gendered glass ceilings show that some vertical moves never arrive; that too is structure.

Comment

- The statement overstates "even". Mobility is a solvent only when rules of ascription, property, or office change.
- Treat person-move and structure-move as two measures.

Flow diagram

Vertical mobility -> Persons move

Vertical mobility -> Sanskritisation style

Rules of closure change -> Structural change

Persons move -> Not automatically structure

Conclusion

Vertical mobility in a closed system is often a leak or a style shift, not a new structure. **Marx**, **Weber**, and Srinivas warn against confusing biographies with the hierarchy. Structural change needs altered rules of closure, not only a few successful lives.

Facts & figures

Sorokin

Vertical mobility as movement across strata; systems vary in intensity of such movement.

Sanskritisation

Group mobility of ritual style inside a still ranked order.

Class places

Marx's warning that the structure of positions can survive personnel change.

Mandal

A case where mobility through the state began to rewrite the staff of domination.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2016/vertical-mobility-brings-structural-change-even-in-a-closed-social-system-comment/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com