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Q5(d)

Examine 'patriarchal bargain ' as gendered division of work in contemporary India

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Systems of Kinship

Systems of Kinship: Family, household, marriage; Types and forms of family; Lineage and descent; Patriarchy and sexual division of labour; Contemporary trends.

Core demand of the question

- Examine 'patriarchal bargain' as a gendered division of work in contemporary India
- Keep the examination within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Patriarchal bargain is **Kandiyoti**'s name for deals with male-dominated order.

In India it maps unpaid care, respectability, and informal pay.

NFHS, time-use, **SHGs**, and gig-home work illustrate the living deal.

Agency exists inside the constraint.

Paid work without a rewrite of care is a new bargain, not the end of patriarchy.

Introduction

Deniz **Kandiyoti**'s patriarchal bargain names the deals women strike with male-dominated orders to gain security, honour, or a limited voice. In contemporary India that bargain organises who does unpaid care, who takes informal pay, and who is allowed public mobility.

Body

The concept

- Classic patriarchy offers protection and respectability in return for obedience, fertility, and household labour.
- When the bargain shifts, women may enter paid work yet keep the double day.

Indian division of work

- NFHS and time-use files show women carrying most unpaid domestic and care work even when they earn.
- **SHGs and rural livelihoods programmes can be a new bargain:** credit and meetings without a full rewrite of property.
- Upper-caste respectability may keep women out of certain public jobs; poorer women bargain with contractors in construction and domestic service.
- Gig and home-based work extend paid labour into the house, which looks flexible and remains gendered.

Examination

- The bargain is agency inside constraint, not false consciousness alone.
- It can stall as well as enable. A rise in female work participation is not automatic equality.

Flow diagram

Patriarchal bargain -> Security honour

Patriarchal bargain -> Unpaid care informal pay

India NFHS SHG gig -> Patriarchal bargain

Conclusion

Patriarchal bargain explains why Indian women trade security for a gendered load of care and informal pay. **Oakley** made housework visible; **Kandiyoti** names the deal. Contemporary files show the deal changing, not ending.

Facts & figures

Kandiyoti

Patriarchal bargain: strategies women use within historically specific patriarchies.

Oakley

Housework as work; the unpaid side of the bargain.

Time-use survey

Indian official evidence of gendered unpaid hours.

SHGs

A development bargain of credit and meetings that may leave property intact.

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