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Q4(b)

Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of this society. Discuss with reference in class societies.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 1 · 15 marks · Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx

Sociological Thinkers: Karl Marx - Historical materialism, mode of production, alienation, class struggle; Emile Durkheim - Division of labour, social fact, suicide, religion and society; Max Weber - Social action, ideal types, authority, bureaucracy, protestant ethic and the spirit of capitalism; Talcott Parsons - Social system, pattern variables; Robert K. Merton - Latent and manifest functions, conformity and deviance, reference groups; Mead - Self and identity.

Core demand of the question

- Schooling does not ensure upward mobility of all members of this society. Discuss with reference to class societies
- Keep the discussion within a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Schooling is the liberal mobility ladder in class societies.

Bourdieu, Bernstein, and Bowles-Gintis show reproduction through culture, language, and discipline.

- **Marx**: persons may move while class places remain.

Indian coaching and incomplete enrolment display the filter.

Credentials are necessary for some jobs, not sufficient for universal rise.

Introduction

Class societies promise mobility through school. The promise is real for some and a filter for many. Schooling certifies; it does not dissolve class places.

Body

The promise

- Talcott Parsons and liberal policy treat the school as an achievement ladder.
- Ralph **Turner**'s contest mobility is the official story of the exam.

Why not all rise

- **Pierre Bourdieu**: cultural capital and habitus convert family class into school success.
- **Samuel Bowles and Herbert Gintis**: school reproduces labour discipline for class places.
- **Basil Bernstein**: restricted and elaborated codes track home class into language.
- **Karl Marx**: circulation of persons can leave class structure intact.

Indian class society

- Private coaching, English, and elite colleges convert money into ranks.

- Reservations open some doors and still meet unpaid care and informal work after the degree.
- NFHS and education tables show steep class and caste gradients in completion.

What school does

- It is a necessary credential in many markets.
- It is not a sufficient engine of universal upward mobility.

Flow diagram

Schooling -> Credentials

Credentials -> Some rise

Conclusion

In class societies, schooling sorts and legitimates more than it equalises. **Bourdieu**, Bowles-Gintis, and Indian coaching markets show why not all members rise. Mobility of a few is compatible with a stable class structure.

Facts & figures

Bourdieu

Cultural capital: school rewards what the dominant class already teaches at home.

Bowles and Gintis

Correspondence of school authority with workplace class structure.

Turner

Contest versus sponsored mobility as types of school-society link.

Coaching market

Indian class conversion of money into exam ranks.

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