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Q3(c)

Discuss the consequences of Across Region marriage on kinship system in modern Indian society.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · 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

- Discuss the consequences of Across Region marriage on kinship system in modern Indian society
- Keep the discussion within a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Across-region marriage links distant kinship belts through migration and bureaus.

Alliance stretches; cousin-exchange and local mama networks weaken.

Caste matching and natal isolation can persist or worsen.

Feminist cases of abandonment mark the dark edge.

Kinship is re-spatialised, not abolished.

NFHS still shows the wider patriarchal context.

Introduction

Across-region marriage links spouses from distant language and kinship belts, often through bureaus or labour migration. It pulls against Irawati Karve's north-south types and against village endogamy of caste. Consequences for kinship are real and uneven.

Body**What changes**

- Affinal networks stretch across states. The local circle of mama and cousin-exchange, in the Dravidian type, cannot repeat as before.
- Language and food in the household become negotiated. Children may grow bilingual kin terms.
- Patrilocal absorption of the bride can intensify isolation when natal kin are a train away.

What persists

- Caste matching often still operates at a distance. The marriage is regional, not always inter-caste.
- Honour, dowry bargains, and son preference, which NFHS still records, travel with the bride.

- **Karve's** north Indian pattern of natal distance can worsen, not vanish.

Consequences

- **New support gaps:** less everyday help from sisters and mothers. More phone kinship.
- Risk of abandonment and trafficking stories in some north-Indian bride-import cases, which feminist work documented.
- Slow cosmopolitisation of the urban middle class, after the new-middle-class consumption map.
- Legal parentage and live-in case law sit in the same modern field of the household.

Discuss

- Kinship is not ended. It is re-spatialised.
- The system becomes more conjugal and more brittle for the in-married woman.

Flow diagram

Across-region marriage -> Long-distance affines

Long-distance affines -> Thin natal support

Caste honour -> Across-region marriage

Thin natal support -> Bride isolation risk

Conclusion

Across-region marriage stretches alliance, thins everyday natal support, and can isolate brides even while it looks modern. Caste and patriarchy often persist at a distance. **Karve's** regional systems mix rather than melt. Consequence: a more conjugal, more fragile kinship for many women, with phone ties substituting for the courtyard.

Facts & figures

Karve

Regional kinship types that across-region unions mix and strain.

Patrilocality

Bride's shift to husband's place; distance raises isolation when natal kin are far.

NFHS

Marriage, natal contact, and gender indicators that frame the household.

Bride migration studies

Documented risks of desertion in some long-distance matches.