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Q5(a)

In the context of globalisation, has the scope of sociology been changing India ? Comment.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · 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

- In the context of globalisation, has the scope of sociology been changing in India? Comment
- Keep the comment within a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Globalisation widened Indian sociology toward migration, cities, and world-system links.

Village, caste, and kinship were not deleted.

Burawoy and **Wallerstein** supply the translocal frame.

Census and **NFHS** still anchor large-scale structure.

- **Comment:** changed scale and topics; same object of patterned relations.

Introduction

Globalisation densified cross-border flows of capital, media, and labour. Indian sociology's scope has widened from village and caste monographs toward migration, cities, and world-system links. The classic object-structured relations among groups has not been replaced.

Body**What changed in scope**

- Village studies after M. N. **Srinivas** remain, but call centres, campuses, and diasporas entered the field.
- Immanuel **Wallerstein** and later global ethnography, after Michael **Burawoy**, made the local a node, not an isolate.
- Gender, informal labour, and media, which Ann Oakley-style questions demand, are now ordinary Indian topics.
- Comparative work uses **Census** and **NFHS** beside transnational care chains.

What did not dissolve

- Caste, kinship, and the state are still core. Globalisation reorganises them; it does not delete the syllabus object.
- Auguste Comte's named science still studies order and change, now at several scales.

Comment

- Scope has changed in scale and in topics.
- It has not changed into a residual cultural studies of malls.
- The risk is chasing funder themes and losing the village file that still holds most lives.

Flow diagram

Globalisation -> Translocal cities media
Indian sociology -> Caste village state
Translocal cities media -> Indian sociology
Caste village state -> Indian sociology

Conclusion

In globalisation, Indian sociology's scope has changed toward translocal work, cities, and inequality in a world market. Caste and agrarian structure remain inside that scope. Comment: expansion of field, not a new discipline. Keep the joint map **Durkheim** and **Weber** taught, now with a world-system edge.

Facts & figures

Srinivas

Village and caste as the older core that globalisation re-situates.

Wallerstein

World-system: Indian social structure inside a hierarchical global division of labour.

Burawoy

Global ethnography: extending the field site along connections.

NFHS

National files now read beside diaspora and care-chain questions.

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