

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

Q2(c)

Discuss social mobility in open and closed system.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 1 · 15 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

- Discuss social mobility in open and closed system
- Keep the discussion within a 20-mark length

Revision summary

Mobility is movement across class, status, or power.

Closed systems ascribe rank; caste and estate are the types.

Open systems claim school and market; **Marx** warned that class places can stay while persons move.

Srinivas, **Weber**, Davis-Moore, Tumin, and **Turner** name the mechanisms.

Mandal, caste associations, NFHS gender gaps, and gig work show India's mix.

Introduction

Social mobility is movement across positions of class, status, or power. Pitirim **Sorokin** treated it as vertical and horizontal, individual and group. An open system allows that movement by achievement. A closed system ties position to birth. Real societies mix the two.

Body**Closed systems**

- **Estate and caste approximate closure:** ascription, endogamy, and ritual rank block movement.
- **Max Weber's** status group, with restricted interaction and marriage, is the mechanism of closure even inside a market.
- Indian caste was never a perfect box. M. N. Srinivas's **Sanskritisation** is group mobility of style, not a free individual market in rank.
- Louis Dumont stressed hierarchical holism. Empirical work still finds blocked occupations and honour, which the **Mandal** debate later politicised as OBC mobility through the state.

Open systems

- Class systems, in the liberal claim, recruit by education and market. **Karl Marx** saw more circulation of persons than of class places: the proletariat remains a class even if a few rise.
- Kingsley Davis and Wilbert Moore treated unequal reward as a way to sort talent. Melvin Tumin answered that closure of schooling wastes talent and calls inequality functional only by

tautology.

- Ralph **Turner**'s contest mobility, as in the ideal American school race, contrasts with sponsored mobility, where elites co-opt a few.

Mixed and Indian files

- Talcott Parsons described modern society as achievement-oriented. Caste associations, reservations after **Mandal**, and private coaching show sponsored and political routes beside the exam.
- Intergenerational tables from survey data show more occupational shift in cities than in tightly endogamous rural blocks.
- **Gender closes even "open" labour markets:** NFHS and work data show women crowded into unpaid care and flexible informal jobs.
- Gig work looks open at the app gate and closed in security, skill recognition, and caste-typed tasks.

Discussion

- Open and closed are poles. Mobility of persons can coexist with stability of the structure, which is **Marx**'s warning.
- **A closed idiom can still organise open politics:** caste associations demand education and jobs.

Flow diagram

Closed ascription -> Caste estate status
Open achievement -> School market
Caste estate status -> Indian mix
School market -> Indian mix
Indian mix -> Person moves structure may hold

Conclusion

Closed systems ascribe rank and police marriage and honour. Open systems claim achievement through school and market. India mixes **Sanskritisation**, **Mandal** routes, and class circulation. Measure both the person's move and the durability of the hierarchy.

Facts & figures

Sorokin

Mapped vertical and horizontal mobility as a property of stratified systems.

Sanskritisation

Srinivas: a caste group adopts higher-status practice; group mobility inside a ranked order.

Mandal

OBC reservation as a state-sponsored channel of mobility, contested as both opening and new closure.

Turner

Contest versus sponsored mobility: race of talent versus elite co-optation.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. ·

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-1/2022/discuss-social-mobility-in-open-and-closed-system/> ·

ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams