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Q5(e)

Trace the trajectory of development perspectives on social change.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 1 · 10 marks · Social Change in Modern Society

Social Change in Modern Society: Sociological theories of social change; Development and dependency; Agents of social change; Education and social change; Science, technology and social change.

Core demand of the question

- Trace the trajectory of development perspectives on social change
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length of about 150 words

Revision summary

Modernisation theory pictured a Western path of social change.

Frank and Wallerstein made underdevelopment a product of the world-system.

Sen shifted the end from growth to capabilities.

Sustainable and movement perspectives pluralised the good.

Indian planning, 1991, and SHGs illustrate successive recipes.

Introduction

Development perspectives on social change have moved from a single Western path, through critiques of dependency, to human development and alternative ecological paths. Each stage renamed who changes, and toward what.

Body

Modernisation

- After 1945, W. W. Rostow's stages and Daniel Lerner's passing of traditional society treated the West as the future.
- Talcott Parsons's pattern variables supplied a social-system story of achievement and universalism.
- M. N. Srinivas's Sanskritisation and Westernisation were Indian cousins of a modernisation idiom.

Dependency and world-system

- Andre Gunder Frank argued that underdevelopment is produced by the core, not by missing modernity.
- Immanuel Wallerstein mapped core, semi-periphery, and periphery as a single capitalist world-system.
- Social change is then polarising, not catching up.

Later turns

- Basic needs, then **Amartya Sen**'s capabilities, shifted the goal from growth to what people can do.
- Sustainable and post-development critiques, and new social movements, questioned industrial change as the only good.
- Indian planning, liberalisation after 1991, and SHG-led micro-inclusion sit on this trajectory as state, market, and community recipes.

Thread

- From evolutionist optimism, to structured inequality, to plurality of ends.

Flow diagram

Modernisation Rostow Parsons -> Dependency Frank

Dependency Frank -> Wallerstein world-system

Wallerstein world-system -> Human development Sen

Human development Sen -> Alternative ecological

Conclusion

The trajectory runs modernisation, dependency and world-system, then human and alternative development. **Frank** and **Wallerstein** broke the one-path story. **Sen** and ecological movements changed the meaning of a good change.

Facts & figures

Rostow

Five stages of growth; a canonical modernisation script.

Frank

Development of underdevelopment: surplus drained from satellite to metropolis.

Wallerstein

Capitalist world-system as the unit of social change, not the isolated nation.

Sen

Development as expansion of capabilities, not income alone.