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Q4(c)

Different forms of Dalit assertion

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society
Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Different forms of Dalit assertion
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Dalit assertion appears as party, conversion, literature, and law.

It rejects Sanskritization as a path of dignity.

Ambedkar is the shared grammar across regions.

Everyday education and work refusal are also assertion.

The forms are many; the target is graded inequality.

Introduction

- **Dalit assertion takes many forms:** conversion, party, literature, street symbol, and law. All refuse the Harijan slot of pity and claim **Ambedkar**'s dignity.

Body**Forms**

- **Political:** Independent Labour Party to Republican and later **BSP**-type electoral assertion.
- **Religious:** **1956 conversion** and later Buddhist identity as exit from Hindu graded inequality.
- **Cultural:** **Dalit literature**, autobiographies, and the icon of the blue suit and Constitution.
- **Legal-social:** atrocity law, reservation defence, and temple or well entry as rights, not favours.
- **Everyday:** education, naming, and refusal of demeaning work.

Sociological sense

- This is politicisation of caste from below, different from Sanskritization, which copies the higher rung.

Flow diagram

Ambedkar -> Party
Ambedkar -> Conversion
Ambedkar -> Law literature
Party -> Assertion
Conversion -> Assertion
Law literature -> Assertion

Conclusion

- **Dalit assertion is plural in method and one in direction:** annihilation of contempt. Forms change with region; the Ambedkarite grammar repeats.

Facts & figures

1956 conversion

Mass Buddhist initiation as religious-political exit.

BSP

Electoral form of Dalit assertion in the Hindi heartland.

Dalit literature

Marathi and other traditions that made experience a public archive.

PoA Act

Legal form that names atrocity as a public crime.

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