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Q4(e)

Differential sex-ratio and its implications.

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

- Differential sex-ratio and its implications
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Differential sex ratio is a deficit of females, sharpest in child counts.

Prosperity plus ultrasound plus patriliney produced it.

Implications include bride import, trafficking, and gendered violence.

Scarcity does not automatically empower women.

PCPNDT and succession reform are the policy pair.

Introduction

A differential sex ratio means fewer females than males in a population, especially among children in prosperous Indian belts. It implies son preference made demographic, with marriage, violence, and trafficking as aftershocks.

Body**Pattern**

- **Child sex ratio** decline is worse where ultrasound meets **Seed and Earth** kinship and dowry.
- **PCPNDT** exists because the difference is produced, not natural.

Implications

- **Marriage squeeze**, imported brides, and trafficking into low-ratio regions.
- Surplus young men and honour politics can thicken violence.
- Women's bargaining inside the household may not rise; scarcity of wives can increase control.

Sociological reading

- This is patriarchy as a population fact, not only a family attitude. Human development without gender justice can still buy the test.

Flow diagram

Son preference technology -> Differential sex ratio

Differential sex ratio -> Marriage squeeze

Differential sex ratio -> Trafficking violence

Conclusion

Differential sex ratio is missing girls as a social structure. Implications run from marriage markets to crime. Law and property rights must travel together.

Facts & figures

Child sex ratio

The sensitive indicator of sex selection.

PCPNDT

Legal brake on diagnostic sex selection.

Marriage squeeze

Shortage of brides in high-deficit districts.

Seed and Earth

Kinship ideology that structures the demand for sons.

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