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Q1(b)

Significance of Village Studies in Indian Sociology

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Rural and Agrarian Social Structure

Rural and Agrarian Social Structure: The idea of Indian village and village studies; Agrarian social structure - evolution of land tenure system, land reforms.

Core demand of the question

- Significance of Village Studies in Indian Sociology
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Village studies established the field view against book-view Indology.

Rampura and **Sripuram** supplied core concepts of Indian sociology.

They linked caste to land, faction, and later to class and power.

They shaped policy talk about rural change.

Migration and gender gaps now bound their claim to represent India.

Introduction

Village studies made Indian sociology a field science. They replaced a book-view of texts with observed caste, land, and faction, and they still set how we imagine rural India.

Body

Significance

- M. N. Srinivas's **Rampura** gave dominant caste, Sanskritization, and the field view.
- Andre Beteille's **Sripuram** split caste, class, and power and named disharmonic structure.
- S. C. Dube, Marriott, and others showed the village as a system linked to town and state, not a republic unto itself.
- They trained the discipline against Indology-alone and against treating India as a Hindu scripture.

Lasting use

- Policy, panchayat, and Green Revolution debates still speak in this language.
- **Limits are also the significance:** one village is not India, women were under-seen, and Desai's class could be muted.

Flow diagram

Village studies -> Field view Rampura
Village studies -> Sripuram caste class power
Village studies -> Limit not all India

Conclusion

Village studies are significant because they grounded caste and change in interaction. They remain necessary and no longer sufficient once migration and the nation-state organise rural lives.

Facts & figures

Rampura

Srinivas's site for dominant caste and field-view method.

Sripuram

Beteille's Tanjore village of caste, class, and power.

Book view

Textual India that village ethnography corrected.

A. R. Desai

Critic who said village harmony hid agrarian class.

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