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Q5(b)

**Write a note on Education and equality in India.**

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2017 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 marks · Visions of Social Change in India

Visions of Social Change in India: Idea of development planning and mixed economy; Constitution, law and social change; Education and social change.

**Core demand of the question**

- Write a note on Education and equality in India
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

**Revision summary**

The Constitution and reservation treat education as an equality tool.

**Ambedkar** made schooling a caste-breaking weapon.

Private quality markets and stigma reproduce inequality.

Girl enrolment rises while puberty and honour still cut careers.

Education expands opportunity without equalising outcomes.

**Introduction**

Education in India is both a ladder of equality and a machine that copies class and caste. The Constitution promises equal opportunity. Schools and colleges still sort children by language, fee, and stigma.

**Body****Equality as promise**

- Mass schooling, reservation, and midday meals opened doors that G. S. Ghurye's ranked civil society did not grant.
- **Ambedkar** treated education as a weapon against graded inequality, not as a polite accomplishment.
- Girl enrolment has risen, a state project that still meets Seed-and-Earth withdrawal at puberty.

**Equality as limit**

- Private English schools and coaching reproduce a new middle class after 1991, while government schools hold the poor.
- Caste humiliation, dropout of first-generation learners, and campus exclusion show that a seat is not inclusion.
- **Yogendra Singh's modernisation of tradition fits the mixed outcome:** new universalistic certificates beside old ascriptive barriers.

**Sociological use**

- Education equalises when it is common and well funded. It stratifies when quality is a market.

## Flow diagram

Mass education reservation -> Opportunity  
Private coaching English -> Inequality  
Caste gender stigma -> Inequality  
Opportunity -> Disharmonic outcome  
Inequality -> Disharmonic outcome

## Conclusion

Education and equality in India form a disharmonic pair. Certificates spread. Equal learning does not. The note is that schooling is necessary for citizenship and still organised by caste, class, and gender.

## Facts & figures

### Reservation in education

A structural attempt to break ascriptive monopolies of college seats.

### Midday meal

A school-level equality device that also fights hunger and some caste eating bans.

### Coaching market

Post-liberalisation machine that turns equal exams into unequal preparation.

### Ambedkar

Education as a path out of caste, not only as human capital.

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