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Q7(c)

With increase in education and economic development is Indian society becoming more secular.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 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

- With increase in education and economic development, is Indian society becoming more secular?
- Keep to a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Some offices and laws secularise with education and growth.

Public ritual, endogamy, and communal politics have not faded.

Development can even sharpen identity, as in prosperous low-sex-ratio belts.

1991 middle-class life mixes career and piety.

India secularises unevenly; it does not become irreligious.

Introduction

Education and economic development have secularised some Indian institutions and have also fed public religion. Indian society is not becoming secular in the simple Western sense of faith retreating. It is becoming a disharmonic mix of worldly careers and louder sacred identities.

Body**Where secularisation appears**

- Offices, labs, and many classrooms follow worldly rules, **Yogendra Singh's** differentiation.
- **Constitutional secularism** is taught even when it is not practised.
- Urban work mixes castes in the canteen, muddling everyday ritual rank.

Where it does not

- Endogamy, pilgrimage, televised gurus, and communal voting have grown with markets and media.
- Educated prosperity in DEMARU states showed development without a secular gender ethic.
- G. S. Ghurye's civilisational Hindu frame returns as political culture, not as a fading leftover.

Education's two faces

- Schooling can spread scientific temper and minority-majority stereotypes, depending on the text and the town.
- The new middle class after 1991 consumes both English and temple apps.

Verdict

- More education and GDP do not equal more secular society.
- They reorganise religion as identity, market, and politics beside a secular legal creed.

Flow diagram

Education development -> Institutional differentiation

Education development -> Identity media politics

Institutional differentiation -> Disharmonic secularisation

Identity media politics -> Disharmonic secularisation

Conclusion

Indian society is not steadily becoming more secular with education and growth. Institutions differentiate; public faith and communal organisation often thicken. The accurate statement is Beteille's: secular equality is a value in a still religiously marked structure.

Facts & figures

Constitutional secularism

Legal creed that education spreads without erasing faith publics.

Yogendra Singh

Differentiation and recombination, not decline of the sacred.

Televised religion

Market-modern form that grows with development.

Beteille

Disharmony of secular values and ranked religious honour.

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