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Q4(a)

Define patriarchy. Does it have bearings on women's entitlement in Indian family system ? Explain

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 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

- Define patriarchy. Does it have bearings on women's entitlement in Indian family system? Explain

Revision summary

Patriarchy is organised male authority in kin, property and public life.

Dube's **Seed and Earth** explains why daughters are not full heirs in practice.

Patrilocal marriage and endogamy limit women's claims.

Law grants rights that households may still deny.

Wages and office create partial counter-entitlements.

Introduction

Patriarchy is a social system in which men as a category command authority, property, and the legitimate line. In the Indian family it directly shapes what women may claim as entitlement.

Body**Definition**

- Patriarchy is not only a cruel father. It is organised male right in kinship, work, and the state.
- **Leela Dube's Seed and Earth names a Hindu North Indian form:** man as seed of the line, woman as field to be guarded.
- **It intersects caste and class:** a landless Dalit woman and a dominant-caste daughter face different walls, both patriarchal.

Bearings on entitlement

- **Descent and residence:** patriliney and patrilocal marriage send the daughter out, so the natal house treats her as a guest in property.
- **Inheritance:** even after **Hindu succession amendments**, brothers often keep the field; title on paper is not tilling power.
- **Sexuality and honour:** control of marriage is control of the jati, which Ghurye listed as endogamy and which politics still polices.
- **Care and unpaid work:** entitlement to leisure, food, and medical spending is ranked; NFHS-type patterns of anaemia show household distribution, not only poverty.

- **Law versus family:** domestic violence and maintenance statutes exist in Beteille's disharmonic order; panchayat and kin often restore the seed line.

Change

- Education, wages, and **panchayat reservation** create new claims.
- The family system still makes entitlement a negotiation against patriarchy, not a delivered right.

Flow diagram

Patriarchy -> Seed and Earth patriliney
Seed and Earth patriliney -> Weak property and honour control
Law wages office -> Partial new entitlements

Conclusion

Patriarchy is structured male command of line and resources. It has direct bearings on Indian women's family entitlements in land, residence, honour, and care. Statutes puncture it; kinship often absorbs the puncture.

Facts & figures

Seed and Earth

Dube's metaphor that makes men the line and women the field.

Hindu Succession amendments

Legal coparcenary for daughters against classic seed-line property.

Patrilocality

The wife moves to the husband's house, weakening natal claims.

Panchayat reservation

Puts women in office while family men may still proxy the seat.

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