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Q6(c)

How can skill development programme induce social change? Illustrated.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Rural and Agrarian transformation in India

Rural and Agrarian transformation in India: Programmes of rural development, Community Development Programme, cooperatives, poverty alleviation schemes; Green revolution and social change; Changing modes of production in Indian agriculture; Problems of rural labour, bondage, migration.

Core demand of the question

- How can skill development programme induce social change? Illustrate

Revision summary

Skills can shift **hereditary occupation** and women's mobility.

ITIs, livelihoods missions and apprenticeships are illustrations.

Change needs actual jobs, not certificates.

Informal gig work can swallow the skilled poor.

Caste networks and care loads still ration the good trades.

Introduction

Skill programmes induce social change when they convert a ranked labouring body into a credentialed worker with a better bargain. They fail when they only relabel informal underemployment.

Body

How change can happen

- Skills plus placement can shift a mazdoor household toward Beteille's middle-class office path, especially with reservation and hostels.
- Women's non-traditional trades puncture Seed-and-Earth limits on mobility, as some ITI and DDU-GKY batches show.
- Adivasi and OBC youth in formal trades can weaken **hereditary occupation**, which Ghurye listed as a caste feature.

Illustrations

- Industrial Training Institutes and apprenticeships in manufacturing belts.
- Rural livelihood missions that skill SHG women for dairy and non-farm micro-enterprise, when credit actually follows.
- Digital skilling after COVID, which also illustrated the device disparity NEP worries about.

Limits

- Informalization absorbs 'skilled' youth as gig and contract labour, the Corona migrant story.

- Dominant-caste networks still allocate the good internships.
- Without land rights and English-caste filters, skill is a small lever.

Sociological condition

- Skill induces change when the labour market is not a caste queue and when social security covers the first job.

Flow diagram

Skill programmes -> Credentials bargain
Credentials bargain -> Occupational social change
Informal gig caste nets -> Block

Conclusion

Skill development can induce social change by opening occupation, gender mobility, and a modest class shift. Illustrations work only where jobs, caste barriers, and care loads are also moved.

Facts & figures

ITI / apprenticeship

Classic public skill paths into industry.

DDU-GKY / NRLM skilling

Rural examples aimed at youth and SHG women.

Hereditary occupation

Caste feature that skill policy claims to break.

Gig absorption

Informal markets that can cancel the promised class shift.

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