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Q1(c)

How do you justify Dumont's deliberate stress on ideology that produce intellectualized account of Indian society?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2020 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 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

- How do you justify Dumont's deliberate stress on ideology that produce intellectualized account of Indian society?
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Dumont made hierarchy an ideology of purity, not a heap of customs.

The binary explains caste as a coherent value system.

The cost is a Brahmanical, intellectualised India.

Srinivas, Beteille and Desai show land, class and disharmonic equality.

Use Dumont for values; do not let texts replace interaction.

Introduction

Louis Dumont stressed ideology because he thought India is a whole organised by hierarchy as a value, not by individuals as in the West. The justification is theoretical. The cost is an intellectualised India that villages only partly confirm.

Body

Why he stressed ideology

- **Homo hierarchicus** treats purity and impurity as the binary that ranks groups. Texts and Brahmanical thought reveal that structure.
- Without ideology, caste looks like a pile of customs. With it, hierarchy is a coherent social principle against Western equality.
- The contrast of **homo hierarchicus** and **homo aequalis** is his comparative sociology.

What 'intellectualized' means

- The account privileges the learned Brahmanical view. Srinivas's field view from Rampura showed dominant caste and land that texts do not dictate.
- Andre Beteille's **Sripuram** split caste, class, and power; disharmony of equality as public creed is missing in Dumont's harmonic hierarchy.
- A. R. Desai would say class is not a residue of thought.

Partial justification

- **Ideology is real:** people do speak purity. It is not the whole production of Indian society.

Flow diagram

Purity ideology -> Homo hierarchicus
Field class vote -> Corrects intellectualised India
Homo hierarchicus -> Corrects intellectualised India

Conclusion

Dumont's stress on ideology is justified as a theory of hierarchy as value. It produces an intellectualised India that must be corrected by field, class, and the Constitution's equality creed.

Facts & figures

Homo Hierarchicus

Dumont's major book on caste as a hierarchical whole.

Purity-impurity

The ideological binary he placed at the centre.

Homo aequalis

His Western contrast of individualist equality.

Sripuram

Beteille's field correction: caste, class, and power move apart.

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