

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q2(c)

Discuss the problem of religious minorities in India and suggest measures to solve them.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Religion and Society

Religion and Society: Religious communities in India; Problems of religious minorities.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the problem of religious minorities in India and suggest measures to solve them
- Keep **constitutional secularism** and social security in view

Revision summary

Minority problems include riots, development lag, gender double binds, and cultural misrecognition.

Muslims have been shown to lag in education and public jobs in several studies.

A secular Constitution is the frame; practice is uneven.

Measures are equal protection, education and credit, and women's equality inside communities.

Hinduisation is not the same as national integration.

Introduction

Religious minorities in India are not only smaller numbers. They are groups whose security, representation, and everyday dignity are at risk when the majority's culture is treated as the nation. The problem is sociological as well as legal.

Body**The problems**

- **Security:** riots, targeted violence, and rumour economies make Muslims, Christians, and smaller groups into a feared other, which G. S. Ghurye's civilisational Hindu frame does not dissolve.
- **Development:** **Sachar**-type evidence showed Muslims lagging in education, credit, and public employment in many states, a class and identity trap together.
- **Personal law and gender:** minority women can face a double bind of community control and majoritarian suspicion, which feminist sociology, after scholars such as Leela Dube's gender lens, would not ignore.
- **Cultural misrecognition:** diet, dress, and worship become loyalty tests. Secularization of the state is uneven when festivals of one community occupy the public square unopposed.
- **Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi issues differ:** some are about identity and history, others about tiny numbers and institutional trust, so one minority box is too coarse.

Measures

- Enforce equal protection and fast riot justice; police reform matters more than sermons.
- Education, scholarships, and fair credit, on the lines of post-Sachar institutional recommendations, treat lag as a public problem.
- Protect places of worship and personal safety without making the community a permanent suspect.
- **Keep the constitutional secular state:** no second-class citizenship, and no ghetto of personal law that denies women equality.
- Inter-group local institutions, press freedom, and minority presence in administration reduce the sense that the republic has one owner.

Sociological caution

- Yogendra Singh's modernization of tradition can include a majoritarian recasting of tradition. Policy must not confuse Hinduisation with national integration.
- Class allies among the poor of all faiths are needed, as Desai would insist, so minority policy is not only identity management.

Flow diagram

Religious minorities -> Security deficit
 Religious minorities -> Development lag
 Religious minorities -> Misrecognition
 Equal law inclusion secular state -> Fair citizenship

Conclusion

Minority problems in India are violence, lag, and misrecognition under a disharmonic democracy. The measures are equal law, socio-economic inclusion, and a secular public sphere, not assimilation into a single religious culture.

Facts & figures

Sachar Committee

Documented socio-economic and educational lag among Muslims and urged institutional inclusion.

Constitutional secularism

Equal citizenship and no state religion, tested in riot and representation politics.

Personal law

Community family law can protect identity and can also freeze gender inequality.

Yogendra Singh

Modernization of tradition warns that tradition can be politically recast, including in a majoritarian direction.

wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams