

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

Q5(e)

What role do co-operatives play in poverty alleviation in rural India ?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2022 · Sociology GS 2 · 10 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

- What role do co-operatives play in poverty alleviation in rural India?
- Keep the note to a 10-mark length

Revision summary

Co-operatives pool credit, milk, cane and crafts against usury and middlemen.

Dairy unions show a successful small-holder path.

Women's groups can add an empowerment effect.

Dominant-caste capture and politics often block the landless.

They work as poverty tools when membership and audit are real.

Introduction

Co-operatives pool small rural producers so they can face market and moneylender together. They alleviate poverty when they really belong to members. They fail when they become a dominant-caste office.

Body

Intended role

- Credit, dairy, sugar, and weaver co-operatives cut usury, raise farm-gate prices, and add local processing jobs.
- Women's self-help groups and dairy unions can weaken household patriarchy by putting a passbook in a woman's name.
- Amul-type dairying showed that small holders can share a modern value chain.

Sociological limits

- Srinivas's **dominant caste** often captures the committee, so landless and Dalit members remain clients.
- Political patronage and bad accounts turn the co-operative into a channel of faction, a classic village-study finding.
- Informal labour and circular migrants are hard to organise on a village share register.

When poverty falls

- When records, audit, and mixed membership work, co-operatives are a material alternative to both the landlord and the distant corporation.

Flow diagram

Rural co-operative -> Credit dairy marketing
Credit dairy marketing -> Poverty relief
Dominant caste capture -> Failure for landless

Conclusion

Co-operatives alleviate rural poverty by socialising credit and marketing for small holders. Their role is real in dairying and some credit belts, and weak wherever caste power eats the institution.

Facts & figures

Amul / dairy unions

A widely cited model of small-holder processing and market access.

Credit co-operatives

Intended to replace the village moneylender; performance is highly uneven.

Dominant caste

Srinivas's local power that can turn a co-operative into a faction machine.

Women's SHGs

Savings groups that sometimes link to co-operative credit and change household bargaining.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/sociology-gs-2/2022/what-role-do-co-operatives-plays-in-poverty-alleviation-in-rural-india/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com