

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

Q4(c)

Critique the victory narratives of Green Revolution in the context of Indian society

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · 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

- Critique the victory narratives of the Green Revolution in the context of Indian society
- Acknowledge yield gains, then show social and ecological costs
- Keep a 10-mark length

Revision summary

High-yield wheat and rice plus procurement did raise output in irrigated north-west India.

Victory narratives treat that as a national social success.

Class and caste capture, **mechanisation** of labour, and regional bias contradict that story.

Groundwater and chemical costs are part of the same package.

A sociological critique keeps the grain and drops the miracle.

Introduction

Victory narratives say the Green Revolution ended food shortage through high-yield seed, fertiliser, irrigation, and procurement. Sociologically the same package also ranked regions, castes, and ecologies. A critique does not deny grain. It denies that grain was a social victory for all.

Body

What the victory story gets right

- Wheat and rice yields rose in Punjab, Haryana, and parts of western Uttar Pradesh from the late 1960s, and public procurement built a buffer.
- Famine as a national calendar risk receded for several decades.

Social critique

- Gains followed irrigation and owned land, so dominant-caste rich peasants captured machines, credit, and support prices, which **Desai's** class lens predicted.
- Landless labourers sometimes gained days of work and then lost them to **mechanisation**; real wages did not automatically become just.
- Rainfed eastern and central India were labelled 'backward' against a Punjabi model, which is regional inequality, not national victory.

- Beteille's overlap of caste and land explains why a 'farmer' in official talk was often a particular jati.

Ecological and later political costs

- **Groundwater** collapse, pesticide harm, and crop diversity loss sit inside the same package.
- Debt and distress in some Green Revolution belts later contradicted the forever-victory story.
- Victory talk also hid women and migrant labour as the unseen workforce of the miracle.

Flow diagram

HYV irrigation credit -> Yield and buffers
HYV irrigation credit -> Dominant caste capture
HYV irrigation credit -> Water chemicals monocrop
Dominant caste capture -> Critique of victory
Water chemicals monocrop -> Critique of victory

Conclusion

The Green Revolution was a production success for selected crops and regions. As a social narrative of national victory it erases class capture, regional bias, labour, and ecology.

Facts & figures

Late 1960s package

High-yield varieties, fertiliser, irrigation and procurement, first in wheat belts.

Punjab-Haryana core

The emblematic victory zone that became a misleading all-India model.

Desai

Technology in agriculture is class-mediated, not class-neutral.

Mechanisation

Reduced some labour demand after an initial rise in peak-season work.

Groundwater

Tube-well irrigation that underwrote yields also mined aquifers.