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Total No. of printed pages = 03

Monsoon, 2023
MA Semester Examinations
Social Stratification

Course Code: MSO23503T

Full Marks – 50

Time – 2 hours

The figure in the margin indicates full marks for the questions.

Answer ALL Questions

Multiple Choice (10x1 mark = 10 marks)

1. Choose the correct answer from the following:
 - i. What is social stratification?
 - a) A process of social mobility
 - b) A system that ranks individuals/groups hierarchically
 - c) A form of political organization
 - d) An economic philosophy
 - ii. Which theorist emphasised the importance of economic factors in social stratification?
 - a) Karl Marx
 - b) Max Weber
 - c) Emile Durkheim
 - d) Herbert Spencer
 - iii. According to functionalist theory, what function does social stratification serve in society?
 - a) It fosters equality among individuals
 - b) It promotes social conflict and revolution
 - c) It ensures that the most qualified individuals hold the highest positions
 - d) It ensures the smooth functioning of society by organizing individuals into different roles and positions.
 - iv. In the context of social stratification, what does the term "meritocracy" refer to?
 - a) Social mobility based on inherited wealth
 - b) Social mobility based on individual talents and efforts
 - c) The dominance of a single social class
 - d) The hereditary transmission of social status

- v. What defines caste as a social system?
- a) Economic status
 - b) Hereditary social hierarchy
 - c) Political affiliations
 - d) Geographic location
- vi. Discrimination based on multiple social categories such as race, gender, and class is an example of:
- a) Intersectionality
 - b) Assimilation
 - c) Homogeneity
 - d) Singular categorization
- vii. What is the term used to describe the process by which minority groups adopt the culture and practices of the dominant group?
- a) Multiculturalism
 - b) Pluralism
 - c) Assimilation
 - d) Ethnocentrism
- viii. Patriarchy is a social system characterized by:
- a) Equal power distribution among genders
 - b) Male dominance and the subordination of women
 - c) Equal opportunities for men and women
 - d) Absence of gender-based hierarchies
- ix. Feminist perspectives aim to:
- a) Establish female dominance over males
 - b) Address inequalities and advocate for gender equality
 - c) Promote traditional gender roles
 - d) Maintain the status quo of gender-based disparities
- x. Environmental inequality refers to:
- a) The disparity in access to environmental resources like clean water and air among different social groups.
 - b) The global disparity in technological advancements.
 - c) The divide between developed and developing countries in environmental policies.
 - d) The even distribution of environmental hazards across societies.

Answer any TWO of the following: (Word limit 200 to 250)

2x5=10 marks

2. Explain the concept of intersectionality and how it intersects with race, gender, class, and other social categories.
3. Analyse the impact of gender roles and societal expectations on career choices, promotion opportunities, and wage disparities.
4. Define social classes and statuses within a society and how do these categories impact individuals' lives and opportunities?
5. Define environmental inequality and discuss how socio-economic factors contribute to disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards and pollution.

Answer any THREE of the following: (Word limit 400 to 500)

3x10= 30 marks

6. Define social stratification and its significance in societies. Explore Karl Marx's perspective on social class, exploitation, and the role of capitalism in creating and maintaining social inequalities. (2+8)
7. Explain how functionalist perspectives, such as those proposed by Emile Durkheim or Talcott Parsons, view social stratification as necessary for societal order and stability. (5+5)
8. Explain the historical origins of the caste system and its evolution in different societies. Analyze how the caste system operates as a social hierarchy and its impact on social structures and interactions. (5+5)
9. Define feminism and describe various feminist theories (liberal feminism, radical feminism, intersectional feminism, etc.). How do these perspectives differ in their approaches to gender equality? (5+5)
10. Write notes
 - (i) Education and Social Mobility (5 marks)
 - (ii) Meritocracy (5 marks)