

DSC – II - INDIAN SOCIETY

Every society has its own peculiar structure and there are some institutions universal to every society, but with their unique manifestations in each society. There are some change agents and initiatives that enable the society to change with the passage of time. This paper focuses on the structure of the Indian society and the changing aspects with the processes operating, change agents and initiatives.

Objectives: After studying these two papers on Indian society, the student can

- Get an impression about the basic composition of Indian society, its historical moorings, basic philosophical foundations of the society and the institutions.
- Learn about the changing institutions, the processes, the agents and the interventions that bring about change in the Indian society.

Learning Outcomes: This paper is expected to bring familiarity in a student about Indian society. It will present a comprehensive, integrated and empirically –based profile of Indian society. It is hoped that the structure and processes operative in the society, the change agents operating in Indian society presented in this course will also enable students to gain a better understanding of their own situation and region.

Unit-1 : Composition of Indian Society : Caste, Tribe, Religion, Language. Unity in Diversities, Threats to national integration

Unit-2 : Hindu Social Organisation: Bases of Hindu Social Organization, Varna, Ashrama and Purushartha. Doctrine of Karma.

Unit-3 : Marriage and Family in India: Hindu marriage as Sacrament, Forms of Hindu Marriage. The Hindu joint family: Patriarchal and Matriarchal systems. Marriage and family among the Muslims. Changes in the institutions of Marriage and Family.

Unit-4 : The Caste system in India: Origin, Features and Functions. Caste and Class, The Dominant Caste, Changes in Caste system, Caste and Politics in India Constitutional and legal provisions for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes.

Unit-5 : Social Change in Modern India : Sanskritization, Westernization, Secularization, and Modernization

Essential readings:

1. Bose, N.K. 1967, Culture and Society in India. Bombay : Asia Publishing House
2. Bose, N.K. 1975, Structure of Hindu Society. New Delhi
3. Dube, S.C. 1990, Society in India.(New Delhi: National Book Trust.)
4. Dube, S.C. 1995, Indian Village (London : Routledge)
5. Dube, S.C. 1958: India's changing Villages (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul).
6. Karve, Irawati, 1961 : Hindu Society : An Interpretation(Poona : Deccan-College) :: Lannoy,
7. Mandelbaum, D.G. 1970 : Society in India (Bombay: Popular Prakashan)
8. Srinivas, M.N. 1980 : India: Social Structure (New Delhi: Hindustan - Publishing Corporation)
9. Srinivas, M.N. 1963: Social Change in Modern India (California, Berkeley: University of California Press).
10. Singh, Yogendra, 1973: Modernization of Indian Tradition (Delhi: Thomson Press).