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Answer Question in NOT MORE THAN the Word Limit for each in the Parenthesis.
(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

ASHI TOMAR

Test (Full Length - 1)

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Q1
(a)

Sociology & common sense share a long drawn relationship in terms of shared subject matter, methodological relevance & theoretical production.

→ However, sociology's focus on interaction of common sense is different :-

Sociology

Weber defines

It as a body

of knowledge that

attempts to establish

cause + effect / causal

relationship.

Common sense

Weber calls it a:

routine knowledge

one has of everyday

world & activities.

It focuses on ← Focus → It is more personalized understanding of taken for granted knowledge

macro, micro aspects of society

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It focuses on root causes, goes beyond what meets the eyes

Questions norms, values, stereotypes through organised scepticism.

Acts as agent for social change.

⑨ Poverty in society due to prudential behaviour, Karma, Punarjāna etc. as per common sense but sociology uncovers structural inequality.

It attempts to accept what's on the surface & further reinforces it.

Doesn't question, only accepts as truth the norms, values etc are considered legitimate

Promotes status quoism in society

⑨ women's subjugation in society due to traditional roles, rituals as per common sense but sociology sees Patriarchy & gender inequality as reasons.

However, despite differences both share intimate & complementary relation & enrich each other as Moore & Reid held.

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Q1
(b)

Research methodology is procedure having research design, ideology, methods for social research to give concrete concepts in sociology.

⇒ Feminists have challenged traditional research methodology due to their 'male-stream' approach, invisibility of female stand-point.

⇒ various perspectives that challenged this :-

•) Feminist interview methodology

Ann Oakley gave this methodology to have a more female centric understanding & extraction from structured interviews

•) Critical school

Emphasis on women's issues was given & patriarchal research methods were criticised. Emancipatory concerns promoted using Praxis in this school of thought.

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-) The studies of economic conditions, poverty etc were challenged by Feminists like Ruth Lister (feminisation of Poverty) ; In Indian context, Usha Pattnaik highlighted detrimental impact of Green revolution on women.
-) Marxists were challenged as they missed the feminist viewpoints in their researches, by Feminist Marxists like Veronica Beechey etc.
- ⇒ However, Feminists perspectives on traditional research methodology are criticised for being tautological by Hammersley. Hence, a more comprehensive outlook is needed by Feminist sociologist to include all sections of women population.

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Q1
(C)

Development of sociology can be attributed to social, political, economic upheaval in European society as a result of enlightenment & modernity.

→ However, counter enlightenment thinkers like De Bonald, De Maistre etc cited the anomic & dysfunctions of these modern changes like democracy, secularism etc.

•) They offered perspectives in opposition to modernity & enlightenment thinkers like Rousseau, Montesquieu etc.

•) The counter enlightenment forces were criticised by Iming Zeitlin through ten points, where in he called sociology as a reaction to enlightenment.

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•) The positivist thinkers like Comte, St. Simon, Aurkheim etc also focussed on re-establishing the social integration & order in society.

•) This led to development of sociology as a body of knowledge w/ distinct subject matter & methodology.

→ However, few like Marxists contributed to development of sociology by focussing on inequalities created in society due to new economic system, industrialization etc.

Yes, it can be assumed that sociology developed as a result of synthesis of reaction towards enlightenment & counter-enlightenment forces.

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Q1
(a)

Objectivity is conclusions arrived at as a result of enquiry & investigations which are independent of race, religion, nationality, moral preferences or political disposition as per Robert Bierstadt.

⇒ Objectivity is desirable in sociology

•) It increases the credibility of social research by introducing reliability & validity in it.

•) The personal biases, values, prejudices are kept at bay. This reduces subjectivity in sociological interpretations.

•) Positivists assume the highest preference to objectivity. Durkheim in his "Three Rules of Sociological Method" suggests ways to attain it.

•) Objectivity is considered desirable even by Interpretists like Weber who although accepts

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difficulty in achieving it. However, Verstehen, Ideal type & comparative methods come to aid.

→ However, Objectivity is not desirable -

•) As sociology deals w/ humans who have subjectivity, gaining complete objective perspective is difficult cited Peter Berger.

•) Non Positivists like Schutz, Harold Garfinkel etc decline the role of objectivity in sociology

•) Gunnar Myrdal contends 100% objectivity in sociology is an elusive goal. It can neither be achieved, nor can be achieved.

However, Weber pointed that just because finding complete truth in social science is difficult should not be an excuse to shun objectivity altogether.

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81
(c)

Weberian Bureaucracy is the most legal rational authority as Weber highlights in his Ideal type of authority & bureaucracy.

⇒ Salient features (compiled by Tony & Dagnas)

-) It is hierarchical rational organization that aims to attain highest standards of efficiency in completing administrative tasks & organisational goals.
-) It is highly disciplined, effective & ordered.
-) Reliability, objectivity & impartiality are hallmarks of Bureaucracy.
-) Precision, explicitness & calculability of decisions
-) It is one of the most suitable form of organization in a capitalist society, proposed Weber.

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•) It is appreciated by Paul du Gay, Stewart Clegg as an inevitable form of authority in modern society as it follows modern values like equality, universalism etc.

→ However, the fallouts of Weberian Bureaucracy

•) Iron cage of rationality -

Due to rationalization, intellectualization of social activities & interactions, bureaucracy has become victim to excess rationality.

•) Bureaucrats became mere cogs in machine w/o much creativity, innovation left.

•) Disenfranchisement & alienation is faced in bureaucracy

•) Merton cites ritualism in bureaucracy that renders them ineffective due to red tape.

However, Weber suggested despite these challenges there would be "dictatorship of Bureaucracy"

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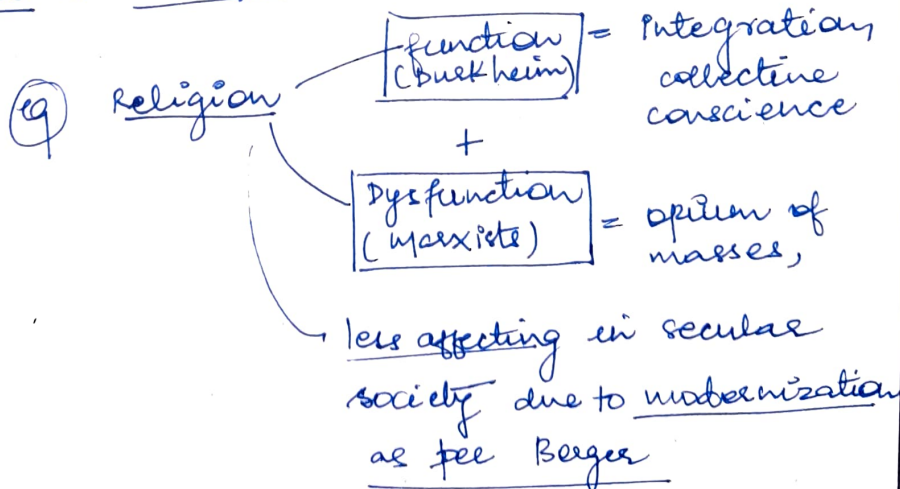
Q2a

Robert Merton was doyen of neofunctionalism who aimed to modify structural functionalist perspectives of Parsons, Brown, Durkheim etc.

⇒ Postulates given by Merton

1) modification of universal functionalism

Merton argued, any social item should not be outrightly considered universally functional. There should be an attempt to find net balance of function, dysfunction & non function.



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2) modified Functional unity

Merton posited, social items may not being functional unity for all social groups in society. It may create dis harmony as well.

(eg) Fundamental religion may unite people in society having singular religion but it's dysfunctional for pluralistic society like India, where various minorities exist.

3) Modification of Functional Indispensability

Merton refuted Parsons, Brown etc who claimed that certain social elements perform indispensable functions hence are irreplaceable.

(eg) Family's role performed by schools + other bureaucratic org. as Ronald Fletcher also held true.

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Hence, Merton gave three postulates to modify functionalism. He also gave his own functional paradigm to conduct research to obtain middle range theory.

This freed functionalism from non empirical assertions & guided it towards integration of theory & research. as per Merton

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Q2b

Positivism is branch of research methodology in sociology. It attempts to study social phenomenon using methods of natural sciences.

→ Use of positivism made sociology important

1) Positivism was espoused by early sociologists like Comte, St. Simon for achieving objective science of society.

2) It made sociology credible, reliable & valid discipline that can find out rules that invariably run social world.

3) Durkheim later gave it a distinct subject matter - social facts & followed natural sciences methods like statistics, multivariate analysis in his 'Le suicide'

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-) Positivism freed sociology from clutches of theological explanations, giving it a scientific touch.
-) It also demarcated sociology & common sense understanding by giving it positivist methodology.
-) It made sociology - predictable, empirical, testable & inductive.
-) It widened scope of sociology yet differentiated it from other social sciences like philosophy, history etc.
- ⇒ However, despite these there are challenges in positivist approach to sociology -
-) Non Positivist criticised positivism for reducing humans as merely objects.

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-) They claim humans have consciousness can't be equated to scientific objects.
-) Phenomenologists like Schutz argue it's difficult to attain objectivity due to subjectivity of meanings attached by actors.
-) Positivism is criticised as 'epistemology of Real anarchism' by Feyerabend.
-) It fails to account for Internal emotions & meanings of actors, unobservable attributes like beauty etc can't be quantified hence are ignored (Carl Jung)

However, despite criticism, it is indeed true that it provided fertile ground for other schools of thought to grow

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Q2c

Phenomenology is the American school of thought that was considered most radical departure from Positivism.
Alfred Schutz, Cooley etc were proponents of this school.

⇒ It challenged principles of positivism

-) Gabriella Farina puts, Phenomenology is neither a doctrine nor philosophical thought, it's merely style of thought + method which gives different experience & result everytime.
-) This challenges fundamental tenet of positivism viz objectivity & reliability.
-) Objectivity is also refuted by the claims of subjectivity of meanings attached by actor to the social action & interactions.
-) It denies independent existence of social

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facts & meanings as Durkheim claims.

•) It also criticises use of scientific research methodology by Positivists as humans consciousness can't be treated as observable objects. (-Peter Berger)

•) It propounds use of common sense for understanding social world & focus on internal working of human mind.

However, Phenomenology faded out due to its excess subjectivity, lack of concrete concepts & methodology.

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Q5
(a)

Power elite is the term given to those who excel & exercise power on others with little or no accountability as held by CW Mills.

⇒ Power elites & their interpretation by classical elite theorists - Pareto & Mosca;

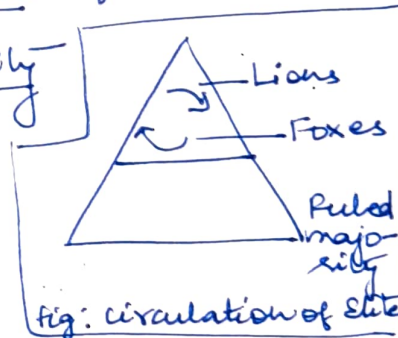
As per them, personal qualities are basis of power in a society. The governing elites form the

minority who rule over majority

via circulation of elites as foxes & lions. Foxes rule by

cunningness (eg. Chanakya) while

lions by strength & force (eg. dictators)



⇒ Even in democracy, masses remain passive & unconcerned. Thus, ruled by elites & democracy becomes only another form of elite domination

⇒ CW Mills in his Power elite, denied Previtab Pity of Elite rule unlike Pareto & Mosca.

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→ He also pointed, Power is not held by persons rather its institutionalized in federal govt, corporations & military. Those holding

key positions hold power.

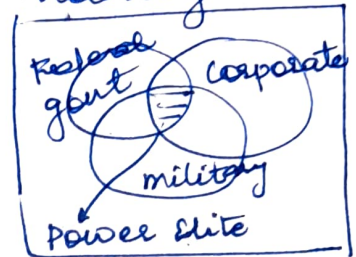
→ Power elites belong to same

socio-economic background,

they reinforce each others' positions & are

least accountable;

eg World war, attack on Hiroshima etc.



However, Power elites in India are based on ritual & cultural hierarchy & there's little circulation observed as per TB Bottomore. Plural elite theorists assume that power is widely dispersed in society. (Robert Dahl).

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Q5
(b)

TB Bottomore gave social survey as one of the historical antecedents of emergence of sociology. It is comprehensive method to extract information from representative sample set.

(eg) SECC in India → social economic condition

⇒ Benefits of social survey

•) social surveys help in systematically studying & analysing social phenomenon.

(eg) Eden & Sindair's social survey on poverty helped to prove it as a social problem.

•) social surveys provide holistic & indepth data on social issues.

(eg) NFHS-5 helped to know about 53% women anemic in India

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•) Help in policy making & formulations of social plans for mitigation of social problems

(eg) demands on caste survey being made for better targeting of beneficiaries.

⇒ Challenges of social survey

•) Sampling errors due to small sample size & generalizations.

•) Responder's bias, situation bias ← Hawthorne effect may create subjectivity.

•) Survey reduces the scope of supplementary questioning thus limiting information.

•) Vulnerable sections are less represented

(eg) women in Poverty survey are considered part of household & no separate accounting leads to feminization of Poverty (Ruth Lister)

Hence survey has challenges to deal with but it remains one of the most objective & reliable methods to be used in sociology.

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Q5
(c)

social organization of work is division of labour among different social groups, economic activity, degree of alienation etc. Karl Marx through his historical materialism analysed characteristics of different modes of production.

⇒ Characteristics of Post Industrial society

• Division of labour :

highly specialized & complex, increased interdependence, due to enhanced organic solidarity.

•) major economic activity :

based on technology, automatic

⊕ AI, machine learning

•) social organisation

secular, not based on ascriptive identity, driven by universal, achievement, self interests.

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-) Social mobility avenues are higher due to technological reach & access
-) mode of production is dominated by capitalists, technocrats etc.
-) dienation is very high due to disenchantment from one's fruit of labour, process, friends, family & one's passion & self.
-) High levels of production & innovation, commercial revolution etc.

Hence, Post industrial society would be dominated by Post fordism, Taylorism etc for better efficiency & rationalization.

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Q5
(d)

Secularization is process of losing grip of religion on social, political & economic sphere as per Bryan Wilson, driven by ideology of secularism.

Although, religion withdraws when secularization takes place. But religion is not always antithetical to secularization. Both can go hand in hand as STEVE BRUCE opined.

•) Religion itself becomes secular to coexist with secularism in society.

eg) Religious institutions engaged in buildings schools, hospitals etc.

•) Pluralism of society is a sign of secularization of orthodox religion as per PETER BERGER.

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•) New religious movements are more secular in nature as they focus on resolving mundane problems.

(eg) Mahesh Yogi meditation

•) Religion comes to rescue when secular principles fail to answer complexities of life

(eg) Religious revivalism during COVID-19, rapid social change (Bryan Wilson)

→ However, both can be antithetical:-

•) Weber predicts, religion would disappear with secularism & science on rise. As both are opposing forces.

•) Evolutionary theorists like Comte etc opined science as new religion.

•) Modernization, urbanization etc reduced role of religion.

However, religion even today remains valuable sociological concept to be studied & analysed

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Q5
(C)

Family is universal institution, it existed from primitive society & continue to stand test of time even in industrial society as per Peter Muedock.

Families are however, changing form in modern world. Alternative to traditional families like same sex families are gaining currency. These are families having union of two same sex partners. They live together either as married or cohabitation couples.

⇒ Functionalist viewpoint :-

1) Same sex families are families that give recognition to same sex couples thus upholding their cultural & legal rights.

2) This brings their integration into main-

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Stream society.

•) This widens definition of family in post modern world

•) This leads to cultural transmission & socialization of baby born into such family

•) This also enhances positive negotiation of self & identity of same sex couples.

However, there are issues in actual assimilation of same sex families into mainstream cultural & society. This

is due to logged acceptance of same sex marriages in India. lack of value

consensus with society reduces their chances of being internalized by society.

Yet, LGBTBIAT activists have driven social movements for their rights & interests

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Q6a

Wallerstein's 'World system theory'

explains characteristics of economic system of first & third world & their interrelationships. This also affects social & cultural features of nations as maximise assume them to be superstructure being affected by economic infrastructure.

⇒ characteristics of —

first world

(eg) USA, Western nation

-) These nations are capitalists in nature.
-) They have strong economic system along w/ most human resources engaged in high paid occupations.

Third world

(eg) Latin America, Asia etc

-) These are non capitalist, agrarian economy based nations
-) Weaker economic system, dependency on first world is created artificially as per A Gunde Frank.

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-) First world extract cheap raw material through peripheral & third world.
-) They produce high value products to be imported to poorer nations
-) Part of developed - Global North, domination over global governance (WTO)

-) These produce raw material & have less resources for manufacturing
-) They are dependent on first world for finished products due to lack of capital, low skilled labor.
-) Suffer from under-development due to 'unequal exchange' as per Aghisi EMMANUEL.
-) Part of less developed Global South

⇒ However, Marxist theories are criticized -

-) liberal theorists proved them wrong by citing success of South Korea & other East Asian economies
-) Gunnar Myrdal pointed, it is due to

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Institutional deficiency & structural issues in third world, responsible for less developed status.

•) Amartya Sen also opined, connection b/w developed (first world) & third world has been beneficial for third world nations they could attain in matter of decade what took centuries for first world.

(eg) Healthcare facilities - penicillin,
IT / digital technology etc.

Hence, first & third world share unequal, mutually beneficially & complex relation in era of globalization.

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Q66

Objectivity & value neutrality are pillars of scientific methodology in sociology, considered extremely desirable by positivists like Comte, Durkheim etc

⇒ How Objectivity as per Bierstedt, is conclusion independent of any bias based on race, religion, moral preferences or political dispositions.

⇒ value neutrality is freedom from subjective dispositions based on personal, cultural, temporal etc values or prejudices.

⇒ These are desirable in social research as -

- 1) They make sociological research more objective, reliable & valid.
- 2) They free it from personal values & other subjective interpretations.

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- o) Easier to establish causal relationships b/w variables.
- o) They bring more empiricity, predictability & testability of social research. Thus concrete conceptualization & generalization established
- ⇒ However, there are challenges in attaining these
- o) Weber contends, It's difficult to attain 100% objectivity in social science however ideal types, Verstehen etc help.
- o) Value freedom is lost in social research due to the socialization effect of researchers. Weber suggests 'value relevance' in his 'Methodologies of social sciences'
- o) At time of subject matter or problem

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Identification, objectivity & value neutrality are lost.

(eg) Merton holds that Pt is based on researchers individual choices (studies on suicide)

•) For some, particular social phenomenon might be a problem while not so for others.

(eg) Caste for Ghurye vs for AR Desai.

•) Data accumulation for hypothesis testing can vary thus dilution of objectivity.

(eg) Barriers faced by William Whyte in Italian gangster study.

•) Values affect data interpretation

(eg) Redfield's & hensel's study of same Mexican village yet different interpretations

Hence, it is difficult to maintain value neutrality & objectivity yet can be done through ways & means suggested by Durkheim & Weber.

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Q60

Sects & cults are new religious movements. These are religious organization existing on Sect-church continuum given by Weber & Troeltsch.

SECTS - "Theodicy of the disprivileged" (-Weber)

These are religious org^s which as per David Aberle's typology deviate from established religion or church. These are more institutionalised than cults & social roles are well organised & defined.

•) These are break away of dominant religion which has become orthodox.

(eg) Buddhism started as a sect against orthodox Brahmanism.

•) These are closed groups, not allowing membership w/o initiation.

(eg) Arya samaj

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CULTS - are less organised & institutionalised.

These are religious groups having beliefs different from dominant religions, more individualistic, revolve around charismatic personality.

eg) ISKCON, OSHO cult etc.

•) OLRIDGE explains reasons for existence of cults as they offer solution to modern day & mundane problems, fulfill spiritual questions & curiosity by directly connecting preacher & followers.

Hence, sects & cults are crucial religious org. as they are gaining prominence in modern world & rapidly changing society. Am Shah calls for focused sociological analysis of these org. in India.

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Q8a

Revolution is a social movement having radical overtones & far reaching outcomes. James Jasper contends, revolution at minimum overthrow the government.

⇒ Revolution - rooted in social movement

- 1) Revolution is a type of social movement i.e. its a collective action aimed at bringing or resisting changes in society.
- 2) It is driven by an ideology, leadership, & collective mobilization which are considered crucial elements of social movement as per by M.S.A. Rao.
- 3) It has mass discontent leading to uprising along w/ political crisis & elite participation
- 4) It brings radical change in society's polity,

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culture or economy.

Q) French & American revolutions.

*) It's created due to relative deprivation,
social unrest \leftarrow disturbance in social
equilibrium as Neil Smelser suggests.

\Rightarrow Not all social movements culminate in revolutions -

*) Theodor Skocpol opines movements like
agricultural-green revolution are manifest-
ations of revolutions beyond traditional
definitions.

*) Few social movements that can't mobilize
mass support, elite participation or
can't bring radical change don't transform
into revolutions.

*) Non revolutionary nature of social
movements can be attributed to methods

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adopted like peaceful agitations etc.

•) Further, Goldstone opined certain social movements can be revolutionary in nature depending on political regime.

(eg) India - women's rights movement while same can be a revolution in quest.

•) Political Ideology & leadership decide whether social movement would convert to revolution.

(eg) Naxalism → revolution (Marxist)

Bhoodan & Gramdan → Non violent

Hence, revolution is basically

a subset of social movements w/

several pre requisites

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Q86

Education & mass media are major social change agents that can eliminate social inequalities, exclusion & deprivation.

However, education & mass media promote inequalities & conservatism -

EDUCATION -

- 1) Marxists claim it promotes interests of Bourgeoisie class. The Have nots don't benefit much & remain unequal & deprived.
- 2) Paul Willis posits working class children attain working class values through education & conform to serving capitalist class.
- 3) Althusser & Gramsci assign education

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as ideological state apparatus & cultural hegemony is promoted.

•) Commercialization & privatisation reduce accessibility of poor & weaker to good education as Abhijit Pathak showed.

•) Education promote gendered roles as Sen & McRobbie held, furthering patriarchy & gender inequalities.

⇒ MASS MEDIA

•) Digital divide could not allow all sections of society to benefit hence inequality remain high.

•) Manuel Castells shows role of mass media in info-spread but Marxists opine mass media is owned & colonized by capitalists.

•) It is merely used as ideological device.

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to promote conservative ideas to avoid awakening of masses

⇒ However, education & mass media - act as social ^{change} agent -

-) SC Dube cites education as a source of intergenerational equity (eg) BR Ambedkar
-) It helps in social mobility, lower castes can experience it individual, group level. (KL Sharma)
-) Mass media provides access to info, skills etc, help in acquiring white collar jobs
-) They help in mobilizing resources for vulnerable sections like women, sexual masses etc.

Hence, they act as mixed bag of positive changes & challenges, should be democratised liberalized & humanised for more benefits.

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Q8c

Reserve army of labour is a Marxist concept, refers to that section of worker which is hired & fired by employer as per economic boom & recession.

•) It is labour force, having least wages, available at terms of employer due to their low bargaining power.

•) Keeps the wage demands of other workers in check.

•) vulnerable sections having less employment opportunities, skills constitute Reserve army

(eg) women, Blacks, lower castes etc

⇒ Feminists position

•) Veronica Beechey cites women labour force as reserve army due to their engagement

in informal sector (80-85% women force)

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- 1) Ann Oakley points lower participation of women in employment, low skills etc due to patriarchal notions of society.
- 2) Sylvia Walby highlights paid employment inequality faced by women as an outcome of public patriarchy.
- 3) Kazuma Ahmad opines women in paid employment suffer from pink collarisation, wage inequality, glass ceiling which transform women into Reserve army.

However, this seems to change w/ more participation of women & awareness about their rights & legislations like equal remuneration minimum wages act.