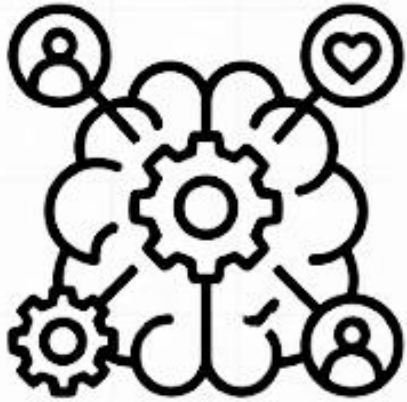




SOCIOLOGY (331)

CHAPTERWISE NOTES



SOCIOLOGY

Sl. No.	Module	Chapters (Public Examination)	Marks
1	Module 2 : Social Institutions and Social Stratification	L-12 Marriage L-13 Family L-14 Kinship L-16 Social Stratification: Hierarchy, Differentiation and Inequality	24
2	Optional Module 5A : Status of Women	L-32A Status Of Women In Indian Society L-33A Gender discrimination	14

Component	Details	Marks
Public Exam (Selected Modules 2, 5A)	Total Chapters : 6	38
Practical Exam	Practical	00
TMA	Tutor Marked Assignment	20
Final Possible Marks		58
		Marks

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1

MARRIAGE

Introduction

Marriage is not merely a personal relationship between two individuals, but an important social institution that forms the basis of the establishment of family and the continuity of society. It provides social recognition to the relationship between a woman and a man and plays an important role in maintaining social order. Every society has its own rules, types and objectives of marriage, which reflect its cultural characteristics.

Meaning of Marriage and its Definition

1. **Marriage** is an institution that fulfills the physical, psychological, social, cultural and economic needs of a man and a woman.
2. Its primary objective is to regulate sexual desires through a stable relationship and maintain order in society.
3. It gives husband and wife the right to produce children and provides children with legal recognition by society.
4. Marriage is not merely a biological relationship, but it requires the presence of a civil ceremony, religious ritual or contract.



Types of Marriage

The types of marriage are mainly divided on two bases:

Types of Marriage on the basis of number of spouses

(A) Monogamy: In this, one man marries only one woman. This is the most prevalent form worldwide.

(B) Polygamy : In this, one person has more than one spouse. It has two sub-types:

Polygyny: A man marries more than one woman (for example — among Muslims and some tribes).



Polyandry: A woman has more than one husband.

Sub-types of Polyandry:

- **Fraternal polyandry:** When all the husbands of a woman are brothers among themselves (for example: the Khas tribe and the example of Draupadi).
- **Non-fraternal polyandry:** When the husbands of a woman are not brothers among themselves (for example: among Toda and Nair tribes).

Rules of Spouse Selection

In every society there are certain prohibitive and prescriptive rules for choosing a life partner.

1. Prohibitive Rules

(A) Incest / Prohibition of close relations: Sexual relations and marriage between close blood relatives of the family (such as father-daughter, brother-sister) are prohibited.

(B) Exogamy: According to this rule, a person has to marry outside their specified group (such as clan, family or village).

(C) Endogamy: According to this, a person has to marry within their own social group, caste, tribe or religious group.

(D) Hypergamy: In this, a boy of higher caste can marry a girl of lower caste.

(E) Hypogamy: In this, a boy of lower caste marries a girl of higher caste, which was not encouraged in traditional society.

2. Prescriptive and Preferential Rules

(A) Parallel cousin marriage: Marriage between the children of two brothers or two sisters, which is often preferred among Muslims.

(B) Marriage between cross-cousins: Marriage with the maternal uncle's daughter or paternal aunt's daughter (for example: prevalent among Gond, Oraon tribes and in South India).



(C) Levirate marriage: In this, a widow marries her deceased husband's brother (usually younger brother).

(D) Sororate marriage: In this, a widower marries the younger sister of his deceased wife.

Functions of Marriage

- **Sexual satisfaction:** Marriage regularizes sexual relations and makes them socially accepted.
- **Reproduction and child rearing:** It provides a legal basis for the birth of children and determines responsibility for their physical and mental development.
- **Economic cooperation and security:** Husband and wife together fulfill economic needs (food, housing etc.) and cooperate in family functions.
- **Companionship and emotional support:** It provides a lifelong companion who gives mental and emotional support in happiness and sorrow.

Hindu Marriage

Objectives

In Hindu society, marriage is an important sacrament and religious duty. Its three main objectives are: Dharma (religious duty), Praja (procreation), and Rati (sexual satisfaction).



Hindu Marriage: As a Religious Sacrament

It is considered a sacred and indissoluble bond, in which the union of two souls takes place with the chanting of mantras in front of fire.

Traditional Forms of Hindu Marriage

1. Traditionally there are eight forms. Brahma, Daiva, Arsha and Prajapatya are considered appropriate.
2. Asura, Gandharva, Rakshasa and Paishacha forms of marriage are considered undesirable.



Muslim Marriage

Muslim Marriage as a Contract

Muslim marriage or Nikah is a social contract, which is performed in the presence of witnesses and a Maulvi.



Forms of Muslim Marriage

- (A) **Nikah or Sahi Nikah:** Regular marriage according to religious rules.
- (B) **Fasid:** An irregular marriage in which some rules are violated.
- (C) **Mutah:** A temporary marriage performed for a fixed period of time.
- (D) **Batil:** A marriage that is invalid due to violation of fundamental principles.

Divorce or Dissolution of Marriage in Muslim Marriage

- The husband can end the relationship by saying 'talaq' three times, but he has to pay mehr.
- Divorce taken by the wife is called Khula and divorce by mutual consent is called Mubarat.

Changes in Marriage

1. There has been a change in the form of marriage and now monogamy is the most popular form.
2. The role of parents in the choice of life partner is decreasing and mutual choice is being given importance.
3. **Legal changes:** The 'Hindu Marriage Act 1955' allowed divorce and fixed the minimum age (boy 21, girl 18)



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Define marriage and mention any two main functions of it.

Answer - Definition: Marriage is a social institution that allows a man and a woman to establish family life, regulate sexual relations and produce children.

- 1. Function 1 (Sexual satisfaction):** Marriage regularizes and controls sexual relations according to socially accepted rules.
- 2. Function 2 (Reproduction and child rearing):** Through marriage children are born and within the family their safety and care are ensured.

Q-2. What is the difference between the rules of 'Endogamy' and 'Exogamy'?

Answer- Endogamy: According to this rule, a person must marry within their own social group, caste or religious group.

Exogamy: According to this rule, a person has to marry outside a specified group (such as their family, clan or village).

Q-3. Explain the three main objectives of Hindu marriage.

Answer - In Hindu society the three important objectives of marriage are as follows:

- 1. Dharma:** Fulfilling social and religious duties is considered the most important objective.
- 2. Praja (Procreation):** Giving birth to children to continue the lineage.
- 3. Rati (Sexual satisfaction):** Fulfillment of pleasure and biological needs, although it has been given less importance than Dharma.

Q-4. Write the names of the major forms of Muslim marriage (Nikah).

Answer - The four main forms of Muslim marriage are as follows:

- 1. Sahih Nikah:** The marriage that is performed completely according to religious rules (Quran).



2. Fasid: An 'irregular' marriage in which some rules have been violated.

3. Mutah: A 'temporary marriage' performed for a fixed period of time.

4. Batil: A marriage that is completely invalid due to violation of fundamental principles.

Q-5. Describe any two major changes in the institution of marriage in modern times.

Answer - 1. Freedom in partner selection: Now youth are choosing their life partners based on mutual attraction and similar nature rather than parents' choice.

2. Legal changes and stability: The 'Hindu Marriage Act, 1955' has allowed divorce, due to which the traditional 'indivisible' form of marriage has changed.



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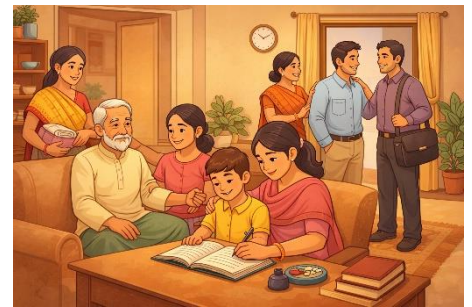
FAMILY

Introduction

Marriage is that basic institution of society which gives permanence to the relationship between a man and a woman and constructs the family. It not only fulfills our biological and economic needs, but also acts as the main medium for transmitting the rules of society and cultural values from one generation to another.

Meaning and Definition of Family

1. Family is the basic unit of society, which is a group of members connected through marriage, blood relationship or adoption.
2. Its members generally live under one roof (common residence) and provide emotional and economic support to each other.



3. Difference between house and family: A house is only a place of residence (where non-relatives may also live), whereas relationships are essential in a family.

Sociological Significance of Family

1. Family is the 'nursery of human nature', where the foundation of personality is laid.
2. **Family of orientation:** The family in which a person is born and is identified as a son/daughter.
3. **Family of procreation:** The family which a person establishes after marriage and gives birth to children.

Characteristics of Family

- **Universality:** Family is found in every society because biological and social functions are not possible without it.



- **Emotional basis:** Members are connected through feelings of love, care and security.
- **Limited size:** It is a small group consisting only of members related by blood or marriage.
- **Social regulation:** Family trains members in social customs through socialization.
- **Common features:** These include mating relationship (sexual satisfaction), common residence, descent and economic system.

Functions of Family

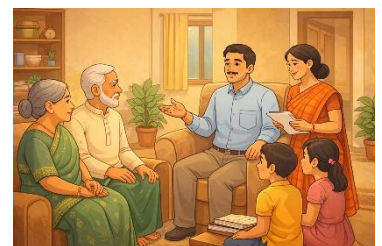
- **Biological function:** Sexual satisfaction, giving birth to children and providing physical security to members (from newborn to elderly).
- **Economic function:** Arrangement of food, clothing and shelter for members and transfer of property through inheritance.
- **Socialization:** Teaching a child the language, values, customs and behaviour of society (transmission of culture).
- **Psychological function:** Providing emotional support, security and mental satisfaction to members in difficult situations.

Types of Family

Families are classified on three main bases:

1. On the basis of residence:

- **Patrilocal:** Wife lives in the house of the husband's parents (common in India).
- **Matrilocal:** Husband lives in the house of the wife's mother (for example Garo and Khasi tribes).
- **Neolocal:** The couple establishes a new home separate from parents.
- **Avunculocal:** The couple lives in the maternal uncle's family.



2. On the basis of authority:

- **Patriarchal:** Father is the head and all administrative power rests with him.
- **Matriarchal:** Mother is the head of the family and her authority is supreme (for example Nair and Khasi society).

3. On the basis of size:

- **Nuclear family:** Only husband, wife and their unmarried children.
- **Joint/extended family:** Members of three or more generations who eat from the same kitchen and share property.

Joint Family in India

- It is an authoritarian structure where the decision of the head is final.
- In it, family interest (familistic organization) is given priority over individual desires.
- Status depends on age and relationships (elders receive greater respect).
- Blood relationships (such as brother-brother) are given more preference than marital relationships.

Factors Bringing Change in Family

- Industrialization, urbanization, western culture and modern education are major factors.
- **Effect:** The size of family has become small (nuclear), relations among members have become more equal and freedom of selection (choosing one's life partner) has increased.
- Now family is no longer a unit of production; members go outside for occupation.
- New institutions (such as crèche, old age homes) have taken over some traditional functions of the family.
- **New concepts:** DINK (DINC) - dual income couples with no children; Kibbutz - a collective child-rearing arrangement in Israel.



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Why is the family called the 'nursery of human nature'?

Answer - Family is called the nursery of human nature because the foundation of a child's personality is laid here. In the family, the child learns social norms and patterns of behaviour in an affectionate environment, which become the basis of conduct in adulthood.

Q-2. Explain the main difference between nuclear family and joint family.

Answer - Size: Nuclear family is small consisting only of husband, wife and their unmarried children, whereas joint family includes relatives of three or more generations.

Arrangement: In joint family property and food (common kitchen) are collective, whereas in nuclear family decisions are more equal and individual in nature.

Q-3. What is the difference between patriarchal and matriarchal family?

Answer - Patriarchal: In this, father is the formal head and all decision-making power lies with men (for example traditional Indian family).

Matriarchal: In this, the position of mother is central and authority rests with the mother (for example Khasi tribe of Assam and Garo tribe of Meghalaya).

Q-4. How have industrialization and urbanization affected the structure of family?

Answer -1. 1. Due to these factors, joint families have broken into nuclear families because of lack of space in cities and the problem of expenses of large families.

2. Members have to move outside for employment, due to which family is no longer a unit of production and kinship relations are not as strong as before.



Q-5. Members have to move outside for employment, due to which family is no longer a unit of production and kinship relations are not as strong as before.

Answer - DINC (Double Income No Child): Such modern families in which both husband and wife earn but they do not reproduce children considering them a burden.

Kibbutz: A special system of Israel where the responsibility of child-rearing lies with the entire community instead of parents and children live collectively in children's homes.



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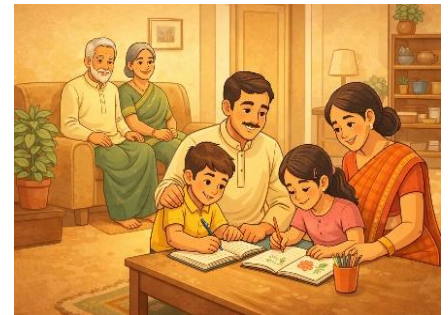
KINSHIP

Introduction

Kinship is not merely a personal relationship between two individuals, but an important social institution that forms the basis of the establishment of family and the continuity of society. It provides social recognition to the relationship between a woman and a man and plays an important role in maintaining social order. Every society has its own rules, types and objectives of marriage, which reflect its cultural characteristics.

Meaning and Definition of Kinship

- **Kinship** is a social bond whose main basis is blood relationship, marriage and adoption.
- This system is related to family relations and marriage and is recognized by society.
- Kinship is formed through the interaction of the families of orientation (where one is born) and procreation (formed after marriage).



Types of Kinship

1. **Affinal kin:** Relationships that are based on marriage, such as husband-wife, parents-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, etc.
 2. **Consanguineous kin:** Relationships that are based on descent or blood, such as parents and children, siblings, uncle-nephew, etc.
- **Fictive kin:** Those relationships which are considered kin due to social recognition rather than biological basis, such as adopted son.



Categories Based on Degree of Closeness

On the basis of closeness, kin are divided into three categories:

- **Primary kin:** Those who are very close (7 types), such as parents, siblings, husband-wife and children.
- **Secondary kin:** Primary kin of our primary kin (33 types), such as grandparents, maternal grandparents, uncle, brother-in-law, etc.
- **Tertiary kin:** Secondary kin of primary kin (151 types), such as cousins, brother-in-law's wife, etc.

Functions (Importance) of Kinship

- **Identity and status:** It provides an individual with a definite status and identity in society.
- **Security and support:** In times of crisis, kin provide economic, physical and psychological support.
- **Performance of rituals:** Kin play an essential role in social and religious rituals such as birth, marriage and death.
- **Continuity of lineage:** It helps in maintaining clan, lineage and family traditions.

Kinship Terms

Words used to address kin:

- **Elementary terms:** Short terms that cannot be further divided, such as mother, father, brother.
- **Derivative terms:** Terms formed by adding prefixes or suffixes, such as grandfather, great-grandfather, adopted son.
- **Descriptive terms:** Terms formed by combining two terms, such as brother-in-law (wife's brother), daughter-in-law (son's wife).
- **Classificatory terms:** A single term used for several relatives, such as 'uncle' (father's brother, mother's brother, maternal uncle).



Rules of Descent and Groups

- **Patrilineal descent:** Where name and property pass through the father's lineage to male heirs.
- **Matrilineal descent:** Where descent is traced through the female (mother).
- **Lineage:** A group of consanguineous relatives who trace their relationship to a real common ancestor.
- **Clan:** A group that traces its origin to a mythical ancestor (sage, animal or plant). It is an exogamous group
- **Moiety:** When the entire society is divided into two large halves on the basis of descent.

Patterns of Kinship Behaviour

Definite ways of interaction among kin:

- **Avoidance:** Direct conversation or physical contact is prohibited between certain relatives, such as father-in-law and daughter-in-law or elder brother-in-law and daughter-in-law.
- **Joking relationship:** Relationships in which joking is permitted, such as younger brother-in-law and sister-in-law or brother-in-law and sister-in-law.
- **Teknonymy:** Addressing indirectly through the child instead of using the name (for example "Chintu's father").
- **Avunculate:** In matrilineal societies, maternal uncle has the highest importance in the life of nephews and nieces.
- **Couvade:** During the wife's childbirth, the husband experiences similar childbirth pain and follows similar diet and behaviour.



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Define kinship and explain its two main types.

Answer - Definition: Kinship is a system of relationships based on blood, marriage or adoption which are socially recognized.

Two types:

- 1. Consanguineous kin:** Those related by common blood or ancestor (such as siblings).
- 2. Affinal kin:** Those who become relatives through marriage (such as brother-in-law and sister-in-law).

Q-2. What is the main difference between 'Clan' and 'Lineage'?

Answer-

- 1. Lineage:** Members know their real common ancestor and can give an exact account of generations.
- 2. Clan:** The ancestor is imaginary or mythical (such as a sage or totem) and it is not possible to give an exact account of generations.

Q-3. Explain the difference between 'Avoidance' and 'Joking relationship' in kinship behaviour.

Answer - Avoidance: Avoidance: Distance and formality are maintained between relatives and direct conversation or contact is prohibited (such as father-in-law and daughter-in-law).

Joking relationship: Relatives are socially permitted to joke with each other and it is not considered improper (such as brother-in-law and sister-in-law).

Q-4. Explain 'Classificatory' and 'Descriptive' kinship terms with examples.

Answer - Classificatory terms: When a single term is used for different categories of relatives, such as the term 'uncle' used for father's brother, mother's brother and maternal uncle.

Descriptive terms: When a specific term is used for a specific relative, such as 'father' used only for one's male parent and 'mother' only for one's female parent.



Q-5. What is the importance of kinship system in an individual's life?

Answer - The kinship system has the following importance for an individual:

1. It provides identity and status in society.
2. In times of crisis, it is the biggest source of economic and psychological security.
3. It maintains social order by regulating inheritance, property and marriage rules.



4

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

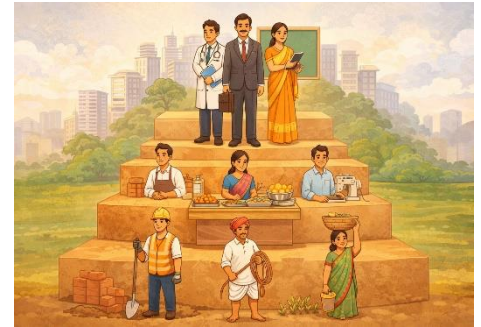
Introduction

In the study of sociology, **social stratification** is the process by which society is divided into different layers or categories on the basis of power, wealth and prestige. It is an institutional form of inequality, where people at the upper level have privileges and people at the lower level have limited resources.

Difference and Inequality

Difference: It is a universal characteristic that exists among individuals on the basis of gender, age or occupation. It is often complementary (such as male-female or weaver-carpenter).

Inequality: It is related to the unequal distribution of privileges and resources, which leads to the formation of categories in society.



Physical inequality: It is based on natural factors such as age, health and physical strength.

Concept of Stratification

- This term is borrowed from geology, which means the different layers of the earth. In sociology, it means the **division of society into levels**.
- **Power:** The ability to impose one's will on others.
- **Wealth:** Material possessions such as land, buildings and livestock.
- **Prestige:** The respect and honour received in society.
- **Universality:** Social inequality exists in every society, but formal stratification (such as class or caste) was not found in hunting and food-gathering societies.



Important Thinkers and Concepts of Stratification

1. Karl Marx: According to him, society is divided into two opposing classes - the ruling class (owners) and the working class (workers).

- **Class conflict:** The class that controls the means of production exploits the other.

2. Max Weber: He added 'status' and 'power' to Marx's idea of class.

- According to him, economic and political systems do not always operate together.

Status

1. It is the **social position** a person occupies in society, and **role** is the behaviour expected from that position.

2. Ascribed status: That which is obtained by birth (such as caste, gender) and cannot be changed.

3. Achieved status: That which a person obtains through ability and competition (such as civil officer).

Caste

- A major feature of Indian society based on the ideas of **purity and pollution**.

- **Varna system:** Society is divided into four groups **Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra**.

- **Characteristics:** Caste is endogamous (marriage within one's caste), occupation is fixed and it has its own 'caste panchayat'.



- **Sanskritization:** The process by which lower castes attempt to improve their status by adopting the lifestyle of higher castes.

Caste vs Class: Caste is a '**closed system**' (birth based), whereas class is an '**open system**' (can be changed through effort).



Importance of Caste in Contemporary India

In contemporary India, class system is important, but caste has not become completely irrelevant even today. Its main reasons are as follows:

1. Caste still plays an important role in matters of marriage.
2. Religious rituals are often performed on the basis of caste.
3. Committees and organizations are formed in the name of caste.

TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. What do you understand by 'Social Stratification'?

Answer - It is the hierarchical division of society into different groups based on the unequal distribution of wealth, power and prestige. In this, people at the upper level receive special privileges and people at the lower level remain subordinate to them.

Q-2. What is the main difference between 'Ascribed' and 'Achieved' status?

Answer - 1. Ascribed status: It is obtained by birth and cannot be changed, such as caste or gender.

2. Achieved status: It is obtained through one's effort and ability, such as becoming a doctor or government officer.

Q-3. Explain Karl Marx's theory of stratification.

Answer - According to Marx, the main basis of stratification is economic.

Society is divided into two classes on the basis of ownership of the 'means of production': **capitalists (exploiters) and workers (exploited).**



Q-4. Mention any two major characteristics of the caste system.

Answer - 1. Endogamy: The compulsion to marry within one's own caste.

2. Hierarchical order: The ranking of castes based on the idea of ritual purity.

Q-5. What is the concept of 'Sanskritization'?

Answer - It is the process through which lower castes adopt the lifestyle, food habits and rituals of higher castes in order to increase their social prestige in society.



5

STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIAN SOCIETY

Introduction

In Indian society, the status of women has continuously changed over time. From the respectable position of the Vedic period to the decline of the medieval period and the reform movements of the modern age, this chapter explains the social journey of women from a historical and cultural perspective. This lesson clarifies how education, law and social awareness have influenced the status of women.

Status of Women in Ancient Period

The status of women in ancient India can be understood by dividing it into different periods. This division is not completely historical, but is made from a cultural perspective.

These periods are –

1. Vedic Period
2. Epic Period
3. Period of Jainism and Buddhism
4. Period of Dharmashastras



Vedic Period

- Time – approximately 1500–1000 BCE.
- In this period the status of women was high.
- Women were educated and studied the Vedas.
- They participated in Sabha and Samiti.
- They participated in religious rituals along with their husbands.



- The age of marriage was higher.
- Widow remarriage was prevalent.
- There was not much discrimination between sons and daughters.

This period is considered the best period for the status of women.

Epic Period

- In this period, changes occurred in the status of women.
- They received respect, but their freedom decreased.
- Male dominance increased in family life.
- Women's rights began to become limited.
- Social control increased.



Period of Jainism and Buddhism

- Women got the opportunity to adopt religious life.
- Jainism and Buddhism gave the right to spiritual advancement.
- Bhikkhuni Sangha was established.
- Even then, there was no complete equality in society.
- Women were still under many social restrictions.

Period of Dharmashastras

- In this period, the status of women declined.
- Dharmashastras considered women subordinate to men.
- Child marriage became prevalent.
- Opposition to widow remarriage increased.



- Women's education became limited.
- Social and religious freedom decreased.

Medieval Period

- This period is considered to begin from the 11th century.
- In this age, the already declining status of women deteriorated further.
- Foreign invasions affected society.
- Women began to be confined to the home.
- Purdah system expanded.
- Child marriage became prevalent.
- Influence of Sati system increased.
- Educational opportunities became very limited.
- Participation in social and political life almost ended.

In this period, the status of women reached a very low level.

Modern Period

The beginning of the modern age is considered from approximately the 19th century. In this period, social reform movements started and efforts were made to improve the status of women.

The modern age is divided into two parts –

1. **British Period (1800–1947)**
2. **Post-Independence Period (1947–present)**

British Period

- Social reform movements began in this period.



- Social reformers attempted to improve the status of women.

Major Reforms

- **1829** – Sati system was abolished.
- **1856** – Widow Remarriage Act passed.
- **1929** – Child Marriage Restraint Act implemented.
- **Emphasis was given to women's education.**



- Women got the opportunity to participate in social reform movements.

Post-Independence Period

The Constitution of independent India granted equal rights to women.

Constitutional Rights

- Right to equality
- Right to vote
- Equality of opportunity

Major Laws

- Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
- Hindu Succession Act, 1956
- Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961
- Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

Social Changes

- Educational opportunities increased.
- Women's literacy rate increased.



- Employment opportunities increased.
- Reservation was provided in Panchayats.

TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Describe the status of women in the Rigvedic period.

Answer - In the Rigvedic period (early Vedic age), the status of women was highly respectable. They had the right to education and performed the 'Upanayana' ritual. Their participation in religious activities was considered as important as that of men.

Q-2. How does the patriarchal system affect the status of women?

Answer - In a patriarchal system, men are given a higher position and the head of the family is an elder male. Lineage continues in the father's name and property rights also belong to men. According to many thinkers, this system is responsible for the oppression of women and their lower social status.

Q-3. Explain the development of the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

Answer - To prevent child marriage, a law was first made in 1929, in which the age was 14 (girl) and 18 (boy). Later, through the Hindu Marriage Act 1955 and then the 1976 amendment, it was increased to 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys.

Q-4. Question-4. What were the reasons for the decline in the status of women in the medieval period?

Answer - In the medieval period (1100–1700 CE), insecurity increased in society due to external invasions. Because of this insecurity, social evils such as child marriage, Sati system and Purdah system became dominant, which badly affected women's freedom and education.

Q-5. What does the Indian Constitution declare for women's equality?

Answer - The Indian Constitution implemented in 1950 declares that men and women are equal. The Constitution prohibits any form of discrimination between men and women and provides equal opportunities for education and employment for both.



6

GENDER DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

Introduction

In society, both women and men are equally important, yet in practical life they are not treated equally. This chapter explains the causes of gender discrimination, its effects and the measures to establish gender equality.

Meaning of the Term Sex

- Sex refers to the biological differences between women and men.
- It is determined on the basis of birth.
- Due to biological characteristics, there are physical differences between women and men.
- Sex is natural.



Meaning of Gender Discrimination

- When women and men are treated differently, it is called gender discrimination.
- It is based on social and cultural beliefs.
- Different expectations are kept for boys and girls in society.
- Differences are made in work, opportunities, education and rights.

How does gender discrimination manifest in our society?

- Barriers in girls' education.
- Inequality in employment opportunities.
- Discrimination in property rights.



- The burden of domestic work mostly on women.
- Decision-making power remains with men.

Gender Discrimination in Different Social Institutions

Major institutions of society influence gender discrimination.

Family

- Difference in the upbringing of boys and girls.
- Discrimination in food, education and freedom.
- Responsibility of domestic work on girls.
- Greater importance given to sons.



Religion

- Male dominance in religious rules and traditions.
- Limited participation of women in some religious activities.

Education

- Barriers in girls' education.
- Higher dropout rate in rural areas.
- Less representation in higher education.

Economic Institutions

- Unequal wages for equal work.
- Fewer employment opportunities.
- More work in the unorganized sector.



Political Institutions

- Less participation in decision-making processes.
- Less representation.

Gender Discrimination: A Feminist Analysis

- From the women's perspective, discrimination is embedded in the structure of society.
- Patriarchal system makes women subordinate.
- Equal opportunities and rights are necessary.

What is Gender Equality?

- Providing equal rights and opportunities to women and men.
- Equality in education, employment and political participation.
- Change in social attitude.

How can Gender Equality be Achieved?

- Expansion of education.
- Awareness campaigns.
- Effective implementation of laws.
- Economic self-reliance of women.
- Equal social behaviour.



TOP 5 QUESTIONS

Q-1. Explain the difference between sex and gender discrimination.

Answer - Sex is related to the biological differences between women and men, which are determined at birth. In contrast, gender discrimination is unequal treatment based on social and cultural beliefs, in which women and men are given different status in rights, opportunities and responsibilities.

Q-2. Describe the major causes of gender discrimination in society.

Answer - Patriarchal system, traditional beliefs, conservative thinking and lack of education are the major causes of gender discrimination in society. Boys are considered heirs and earners of the family, whereas girls are considered limited to domestic work. This thinking increases inequality.

Q-3. How does gender discrimination manifest in the family?

Answer - In the family, differences are seen in the upbringing, education, food and freedom of boys and girls. Boys are given more opportunities and importance, whereas girls are assigned responsibility for domestic work. Decision-making power also mostly remains with men.

Q-4. Explain the meaning of gender equality.

Answer - Gender equality means providing equal rights, opportunities and respect to women and men. Equal opportunities should be available in education, employment, property and political participation. Giving equal status to both without any discrimination in society is gender equality.

Q-5. Describe the measures to establish gender equality.

Answer - To establish gender equality, expansion of education, social awareness, economic self-reliance of women and effective implementation of laws are necessary. Adopting equal behaviour in family and society and changing conservative thinking are also important steps towards equality.

