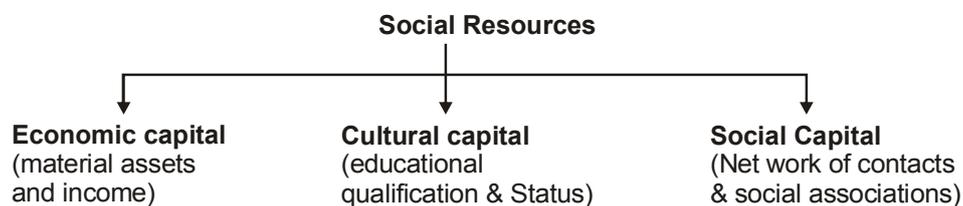# PATTERNS OF SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION

1. Social Inequality

- It is inevitable and almost natural in our everyday life.

- Patterns of unequal access to social resources are commonly called social inequality.

- Social inequality and exclusion are social as these are –

  - Not-about individuals but groups.

  - Not just economic though a link is found between social & economic inequality.

  - Is systematic & structured.

2. Social Exclusion

- It refers to ways in which individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society.

- It prevents individuals or groups from participating fully in the economic, social and political life of the society, in which they live.

- It is a combined outcome of deprivation and discrimination.

- Social exclusion is structural not accidental; i.e., it is a result of social processes and institutions rather than individual action.

- It is involuntary - that is, exclusion is practiced regardless of the wishes of those who are excluded.

- For example, rich people are never found sleeping on the pavements or under bridges like thousands of homeless poor people in cities and towns. This does not mean that the rich are being 'excluded' from access to pavements and park benches, because they could certainly gain access if they wanted to, but they choose not do.

Social Resources

Economic capital (material assets and income)	**Cultural capital** (educational qualification & Status)	**Social Capital** (Net work of contacts & social associations)

4. Social stratifications

- It is a aystem in which categories of people are ranked in a hierarchy in a Society. This is a system of structured in equalities.

- **3 Key principles of social stratification–**

  - It is characteristic of society not simply a function of individual differences.

  - It persists over generations

  - It is supported by patterns of beliefs or ideology.

5. Prejudice

- It refers to preconceived opinions or attitudes held by members of one group towards another.

- It is an opinion formed before considering any available evidence.

- It is preconceived view that are often based on hearsay rather than on direct evidence.

- Ideas that are resistant to change even in the face of new information.

6. Stereotypes

- Prejudices are grounded in stereotypes : which are fixed and inflexible characterisations of a group of people.

- Stereotypes are often applied to ethnic and racial groups and to women.

- Stereotypes fix whole groups into single, homogenous categories;

- they refuse to recognize the variation across individuals and across contexts or across time.

7. Discrimination refers to actual practices / behaviour towards another group, disqualifying a group from opportunities open to others.

8. Caste-is a discriminatory system as :

- Birth decides an individual's position in caste hierarchy

- social status in caste hierarchy decides the occupation for an individual

9. Strong co-relation is seen between higher caste & higher economic status of people.

10. Untouchability prescribes strong social sanctions against members of the castes located at the bottom of the purity - pollution scale.

11. Three dimensions of untouchability are -

- **Exclusion :** Dalits experience forms of exclusion that are unique and not practised against other groups - for instance, being prohibited from sharing drinking water sources or participating in collective religious worship, social ceremonies and festivals.

  Humiliations & subordination : The practice of untouchability leads to the imposition of gestures of deference as well as abuse and humiliation, (such as taking off headgear, carrying footwear in the hand, standing with bowed head, not wearing clean or 'bright' clothes, and so on)

- **Exploitation :** untouchability is most of the times associated with economic exploitation of various kinds, through the imposition of forced, unpaid labour or the confiscation of property.

12. Meaning of dalit :

- 'Dalit' term literally means downtrodden and conveys the sense of an oppressed people.

- The **Dalit Panthers,** a radical group that emerged in western India, used the term to assert their identity as part of their struggle for rights and dignity.

13. State and Non-state Initiatives addressing Caste & tribe discrimination.

State Initiatives

- Reservation of seats in state and central legislatures.

  - Reservation of jobs in Government services.

  - Reservation of seats in educational institutions.

  - Abolition of untouchability-Article 17.

  - Caste Disabilities Removal Act. 1850.

  - Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (prevention of atrocities) Act. 1989.

- **Non-State initiatives-(Movements & Struggles)**

  - In pre-independence time, efforts made by Jyotiba Phule, Periyar, Ambedkar and others.

  - In contemporary times efforts made by political organizations like Bahujan Samaj Party in U.P., Dalit sangharsh Samiti of Karnataka.

  - Literary contributions-creating Dalit awareness specially in Marathi, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu & Hindi.

14. Other Backward classes/OBCs are described as socially & educationally backward. Largely the service and artisanal castes who occupied the lower rungs of the caste hierarchy.

Other Backwad Classes (OBC's)

- Commission oppointed to look into measures for the welfare of OBC's are

  (a) Kaka Kalelkar

  (b) Mandal Commission

- Upper OBC's are largely landed castes and enjoyed dominance in rural society in many regions of India while the lower OBC's are very poor & disadvantaged and are often not very different from Dalits in Socio-Economics terms.

15. Adivasi Struggles

- Term Adivasi, coined in the 1930s,

- It connotes political awareness and the assertion of rights,

- literally meaning 'original inhabitants'.

- 'Internal colonialism' faced by tribals in the name of national development (Government monopoly over forests, mining industries, displacement from their lands, dam projects acquistion of land by government).

16. Struggle for Women's Equality and Rights

- Various Women's **issues arose** in modern India as part of the nineteenth century middle class social reform movements. They were —

  - The anti-sati campaign led by **Raja Rammohan Roy** in Bengal who established the Brahmo Samaj in 1828, campaign against sati, child marriage and efforts were made for widow remarriage.

  - **Ranade** started the widow remarriage movement in the Bombay Presidency and also attacked the caste and gender oppression.

  - **Jotiba Phule** who founded the Satyashodak Samaj, was against caste and gender discrimination.

  - The **social reform movement** among Muslims was **led by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who worked for** education of girls.

  - **Dayanand Sarawati** of the Arya Samaj, worked for women's education and training in the arts of housekeeping and handicrafts and rearing of children.

  - **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar** worked for widow remarriage and fought against child marriage.

- **Main features of the Women's Movement in India since the 1970s**

  - **There has been changes in organisational structure as well as ideology. There has been an increasing importance of autonomous movements and organisations not linked to any political party.**

  - New issues **such as violence against women, the** rape of women in police custody, dowry, murders, legal changes in

land rights, employment have emerged. In 21st century, declining sex ratio, implicit social bias against the girl child are the new challenge of gender in equality.

- Recognition **of the fact that though all women suffer in a patriarchal society, they** do **not all suffer in the same** way **or to the same extent—there are differences between middle class urban women, peasant women, Dalit women etc.**

- **Recognition that both women as well as men are oppressed by gender roles a** gender-just society will allow both men and women to be free.

17. Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress

- In 1931, the **Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress** issued a declaration on the Fundamental Rights of Citizenship in India which was **committed to women's equality.** The declaration reads as follows :

- All citizens are equal before the law, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or sex.

- No disability attaches to any citizen, by reason of his or her religion, caste, creed or sex, in regard to public employment, office of power of honour, and in the exercise of any trade or calling.

- The franchise shall be on the basis of universal adult suffrage.

- Woman shall have the right to vote, to represent and the right to hold public offices.

- Special protection of women workers

- Equal rights and duties for all in regard to public offices, schools etc.

18. Stree Purush Tulana written in 1822, by a Maharashtrian housewife, Tarabai Shinde as a protest against the double standards of a male dominated society.

A young Brahmin widow had been sentenced to death by the courts for giving birth to an illegitimate child. No efforts had been made to identify or

punish the man who had fathered the baby.

19. Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, written in 1905, **wrote Sultana's** Dream. It is a short story and the earliest example of science fiction writing in India. In her dream, Sultana visit a magical country where the gender roles are reversed. Men are confined to the home and observe 'purdah' while women are busy scientists vying with each other at inventing devices that will control the clouds and regulate rain, and machines that fly or 'air-cars'.

The struggle of the disabled

Disability has some common features to the public perception thus making it social.

(i) Disability is understood as biologically given.

(ii) Whenever, a disabled person is confronted with problems, it is taken for granted that the problems originate from his/her impairment.

(iii) The disabled person is seen as a victim.

(iv) Disability is supposed to be linked with the disabled individual's self perception.

(v) The very idea of disability suggest that they are in need of help.

The disabled are rendered disabl;ed not because they are biologically disabled but because society renders them so.

There is a **close relationship between disability and poverty.** Malnutrition, mothers weakened by frequent childbirth, inadequate immunisation programmes, accidents in overcrowded homes, all contribute to incidences of disability among poor people that is higher than among people living in easier circumstances. Disability also creates poverty by increasing isolation and economic strain, not just for the individual but for the family.

1 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. When considering the 'wishes' of the individual, social, exclusion is------

a. Voluntary   b. semi-voluntary   c. involuntary   d. None of the above

2. Members of stereotype group share common identities like----

a. Race   b. homogeneity   c. ethnicity   d. all the above

3.   'Dalit' means-----------

   a. Poor   b. discriminated   c. downtrodden   d. excluded

4.   Untouchability was abolished through---------------

   a. Article 15   b. Article 16   c. Artcle 17   d. Article 18

5.   Adivasis literally means--------------

   a. Forest inhabitants   b. ancient inhabitants

   c. Involuntary inhabitants   d. original inhabitants.

6.   In our everyday life social inequality is seen as a systematic and well organised------- system.

7.   Economic, social, and cultural capitals are components of ------ owned by the people in society.

8.   OBCs are described as--------and-------- backward.

9.   The Indian Government's monopoly over forests and acquisition of land in the name of 'National Development' made the tribals suffer from------- coloniaiism.

10.   Stree Purush Tulana was written by-------

11.   Economic strain & isolation create more incidents of disability among the --------- section of the society.

12.   Social Stratification is a system in which people are not 'ranked' in a hirerarchy. (True or False).

13.   Peaceful groups like ' Dalit Panthers' emerged to struggle for the rights of the Dalits. (Correct the statement)

14.   Caste as a ' discriminatory' system classified people by thier occupation and status. (True or False)

15.   Standing with 'bowed head' before a higher caste person is an act of expoitation faced by an untouchable. (correct the statement)

16.   When opinions are based on 'hearsay' it may also be termed as ....

17.   Declaration of Fundamental Rights of Citizenship in India in 1931, at Karachi session was committed to women's equialty. (True or False)

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What is social about social Inequality and exclusion?

2. What are different kinds of social resources?

3. Give the meaning of the following terms –
   - Prejudices
   - Stereotypes
   - Discrimination.

4. What is social exclusion?

5. What is apartheid?

6. What is the co-relation between caste and economic status?

7. Who is a Dalit?

8. What kind of reservations have been provided to SCs & STs by the state?

9. Examine the role of non-state authorities to the issue of caste discrimination.

10. Who are OBC's?

11. What does the term 'Adivasi' mean?

12. What is the corelation between disability & poverty?

13. What did Gandhiji call the untouchables?

14. What does the term social stratification refer to ?

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Explain the key principles that help explain social stratification.

2. What are some of the contemporary issues related to women?

3. Caste is a discriminatory system. Explain.

4. Examine the role of state's initiatives to address caste and tribe discrimination.

5. Inequalities between men & women are social rather than natural, explain with the help of examples.

6. State the declarations of the Karachi session of INC which committed itself to women's equality?

7. What are some of the common features to the public perception towards disability?

8. Distinguish between scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

9. Who wrote Sultana's dream? What does it explain?

10. Who wrote Stree Purush Tulna? What does it explain?

6 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the role of social reformers in dealing with the women's issue during the colonial period.

2. Explain the meaning of the term 'Untouchabiltiy' along with its dimensions.

3. Tribal have faced colonialism in the pre independent & post-independent India. Explain.

4. What are the major issues taken up by the women's movements over its history?