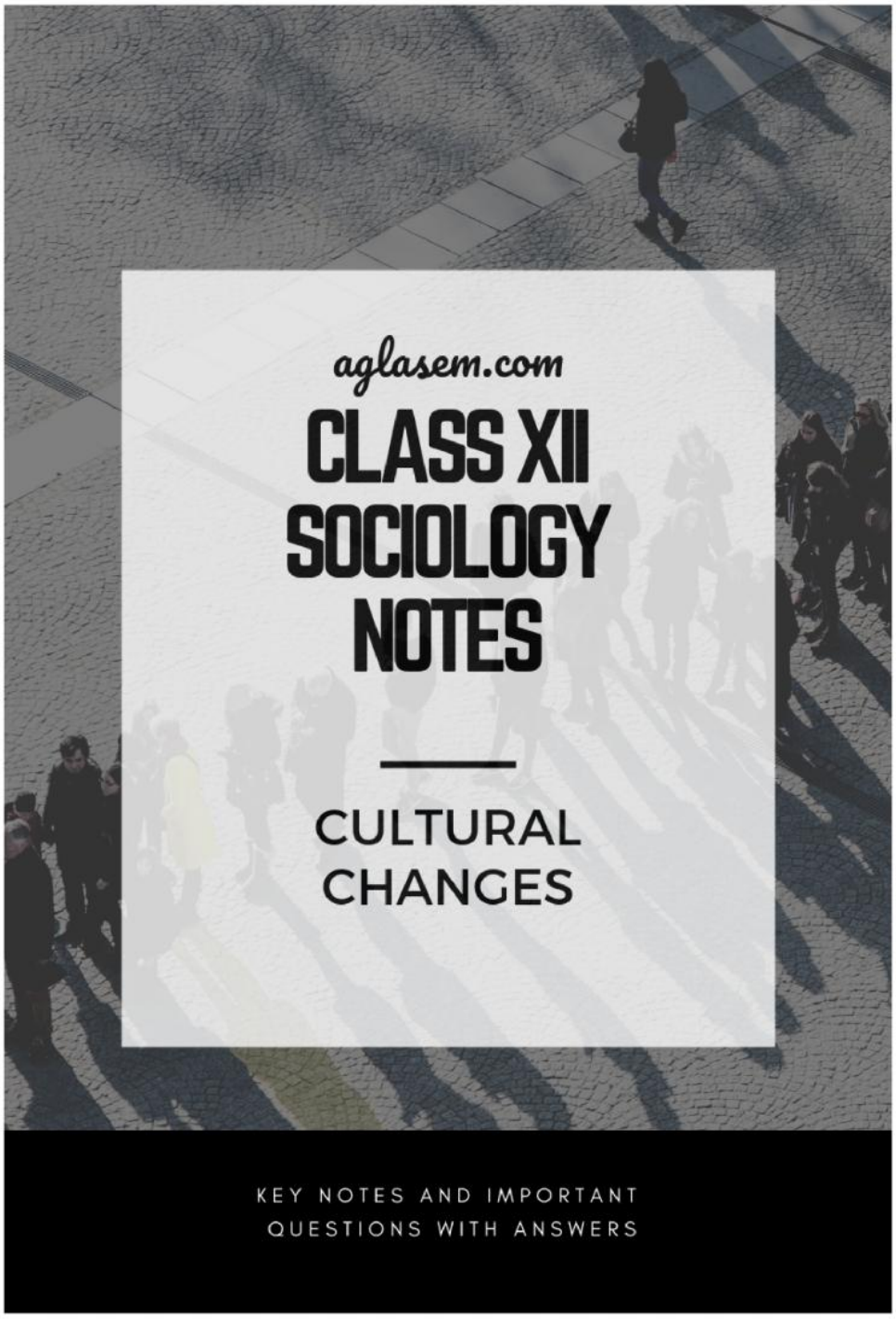

aglasem.com
CLASS XII
SOCIOLOGY
NOTES
CULTURAL
CHANGES
KEY NOTES AND IMPORTANT
QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

CHAPTER 2

CULTURAL CHANGES

1. Cultural changes during colonial rule can be understood at two levels–

- efforts of social reformers and nationalists
- Indirect-influence of four processes- sanskritisation, modernisation, secularisation and westernisation.

Social Reform Movements in the 19th & Early 20th Century

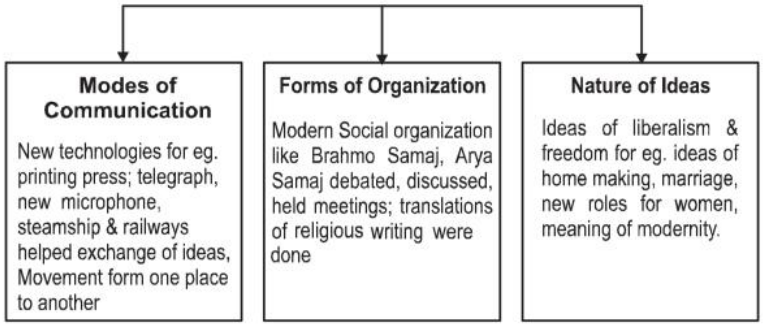
The well known issues or the social evils that plagued Indian society were

- Sati
- Child marriage
- Widow remarriage
- Caste discrimination

Caste discrimination was the central idea of reform for Buddhist, Bhakti and Sufi movements.

- The 19th Century social reform attempts was the modern context and mix of ideas.
- Modern ideas of Western liberalisation and traditional literature were combined creatively.
- Social organisations like Brahmo Samaj in Bengal and Arya Samaj in Punjab were set up.

2. Modern Framework of Change in Colonial India according to Sociologist Satish Saberwal



3. Sanskritisation (term coined by M.N. Srinivas) is a process by which some members of a low caste or tribe try to imitate/follow, the customs, ritual, beliefs, ideology and lifestyle of a high, in particular 'twice born' dwija caste.

4. De-sanskritisation is the process where influence of non-Sanskritic castes was found to be dominant instead of high castes.

5. Sanskritisation has been criticised at different levels.

- No structural change only positional change for some individual.
- Assumption of upper casstes as being superior hence to be imitated
- justification of the practice of inequality & exclusion as marked priviledges of upper castes hence a discriminatory system.
- process that is gendered – though progressive for men, upper caste practices like purdah system, low age of marriage, dowry in place of bride price are regressive as far as women are concerned.
- Erosion of Dalit culture would be an expected outcome.

6. Assertion of Dalit identities in recent years & backward classes movement leading to rejection of upper caste culture.

7. Westernisation

- M.N. Srinivas defines Westernization as the changes brought about in Indian society and culture as a result of 150 yrs of British rule, changes occurring in technology, institutions, ideology and values. He believed as lower castes sanskritised, the upper caste

were westernized by considering the British colonialists as reference group.

- Different kinds of westernization
  1. Emergence of a westernized sub-cultural pattern brought forward by the western educated middle class
  2. General spread of western cultural traits in the fields of food and eating habits, clothes and life-styles due working or serving the british colonialists over a long period.
  3. Impact of westernization can be seen in the fields of art, literature, music, architectrure etc.
- In contemporary times, conflicts between generations are seen as cultural conflicts resulting from westernisation.

8. Modernization refers to improvement in technology, production processes; path of development taken by much of West Europe or North America.

- Modernisation assumes that local ties and parochial perspective give way to universal commitments and cosmopolitan attitudes
- a scientific and rational approach develops
- work is based on achievement not birth, individualism is encouraged.

9. Secularisation : In the west-modernization seems to have led to secularization-a process of decline in the influence of religion especially in the public sphere.

10. Rituals have secular dimensions : It provides occasion to socialize with friends and kin, to show off wealth and style to enhance social status.

11. Secularisation of caste

- formation of caste based associations and political parties.
- seeking votes and fielding candidates on caste lines - assertion of rights, by caste based organisations

2 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. What were the various social issues taken up by the social reformers in the 19th century?

2. Name some of the modern social organizations formed in 20th century.
3. Why was 'Dharma Sabha' formed?
4. Give the meaning of the terms -
   (a) Sanskritisation
   (b) De-Sanskritisation
   (c) Westernisation
   (d) Modernization
5. What are some of the basic assumptions of modernity?
6. Examine the relationship of modernisation and secularization.
7. Sanskritisation is a gendered process. Justify.

4 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Write a short note on secularization of caste.
2. Process of Sanskritisation encourages inequalities and discrimination. Explain

6 MARKS QUESTIONS

1. Explain the three aspects responsible for the modern framework of change in colonial India.
2. Examine the different levels at which sanskritisation as a concept has been criticized.