

CBSE Class-12 Sociology Test Paper-03

Social movements

General Instruction:

- Question 1-5 carries two marks each.
 - Question 6-8 carries four marks each.
 - Question 9-10 carries six marks each.
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1. The new social movements are not just about 'old' issues of economic inequality. What are the essential elements of new social movements? (2)
2. For the villagers, 'red' and 'green' issues were inter-linked. What does this mean? (2)
3. Describe the role of peasant movements in the period between 1858 and 1914. (2)
4. Name two peasant organisations that arose between 1920 and 1940. (2)
5. What was the basic ideology of the new farmer's movement? (2)
6. The way a social movement is perceived and classified is always a matter of interpretation. Explain. (4)
7. Describe the social movements of the twentieth century. (4)
8. In the old social movements, the role of political party was central. Justify. (4)
9. Differentiate between old and new social movements in the Indian context. (6)
10. Many issues were interlinked in an ecological movement. Illustrate this using the example of Chipko movement. (6)

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1. The essential elements of new social movements are identity politics, cultural anxieties and aspirations. It occurs in ways that are difficult to trace to class-based inequality. Often, these social movements unite participants across class boundaries. For instance, the women's movement includes urban, middle-class feminists as well as poor peasant women.
2. The inter-link between 'red' and 'green' issues mean that while the villagers' survival depended on the survival of the forest, they also valued the forest for its own sake as a form of ecological wealth that benefits all.
3. The peasant movements in the period between 1858 and 1914 tended to remain localised, disjointed and confined to particular grievances. Well-known are the Bengal revolt of 1859-62 against the indigo plantation system and the 'Deccan riots' of 1857 against moneylenders.
4. Two peasant organisations that arose between 1920 and 1940 are:
Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha
The All India Kisan Sabha
5. The basic ideology of the new farmer's movement was strongly anti-state and anti-urban. The focus of demand were 'price and related issues' (for example price procurement, remunerative prices, prices for agricultural inputs, taxation, non-repayment of loans).
6. The way a social movement is perceived and classified is always a matter of interpretation because:
It differs from one section to another.
For instance, what was a 'mutiny' or 'rebellion' for British colonial rulers in 1857 was 'the first war of Independence' for Indian nationalists.
A mutiny is an act of defiance against legitimate authority, i.e., the British rule. A struggle for independence is a challenge to the very legitimacy of British rule.
This shows how people attach different meanings to social movements.
7. For much of the twentieth century, social movements were class based such as working class movements and peasant movements or anti-colonial movements.
While anti-colonial movements united entire people into national liberation struggles, class-based movements united classes to fight for their rights.

Besides bringing about the formation of communist and socialist states across the world, most notably in the Soviet Union, China, and Cuba, these movements also led to the reform of capitalism.

The creation of welfare states that protected workers' rights and offered universal education, health care and social security in the capitalist nations of Western Europe was partly due to political pressure created by the communist and socialist movements.

8. In the old social movements, the role of political parties was central.

Political scientist Rajni Kothari attributes the surge of social movements in India in the 1970s to people's growing dissatisfaction with parliamentary democracy.

Kothari argues that the institutions of the state have been captured by elites.

Due to this, electoral representation by political parties is no longer an effective way for the poor to get their voices heard.

People left out by the formal political system join social movements or non-party political formations in order to put pressure on the state from outside.

9. India has experienced a whole array of social movements in recent times involving women, peasants, dalits, adivasis, and others. Gail Omvedt in her book "Reinventing Revolution" points out that concerns about social inequality and the unequal distribution of resources continue to be important elements in these movements.

Peasant movements have mobilised for better prices for their produce and protested against the removal of agricultural subsidies. Dalit labourers have acted collectively to ensure that they are not exploited by upper-caste landowners and money-lenders. The women's movement has worked on issues of gender discrimination in diverse spheres like the workplace and within the family.

However, these new social movements are not just about 'old' issues of economic inequality. Nor are they organised along class lines alone. Identity politics, cultural anxieties and aspirations are essential elements in creating social movements and occur in ways that are difficult to trace to class-based inequality. Often, these social movements unite participants across class boundaries. For instance, the women's movement includes urban, middle-class feminists as well as poor peasant women.

The regional movements for separate statehood bring together different groups of people who do not share homogeneous class identities. In a social movement, questions of social inequality can occur alongside other, equally important, issues.

10. There are many issues that are interlinked in an ecological movement.

The Chipko movement, an example of the ecological movement, in the Himalayan foothills is a good example of such intermingled interests and ideologies. The many issues interlinked in the Chipko movement were:

The economy of subsistence was pitted against the economy of profit.

At stake was the question of villagers' subsistence. All of them relied on the forest to get firewood, fodder and other daily necessities. This conflict placed the livelihood needs of poor villagers against the government's desire to generate revenues from selling timber.

The Chipko movement also raised the issue of ecological sustainability.

Cutting down natural forests was a form of environmental destruction that had resulted in devastating floods and landslides in the region. For the villagers, these 'red' and 'green' issues were inter-linked. While their survival depended on the survival of the forest, they also valued the forest for its own sake as a form of ecological wealth that benefits all.

The Chipko movement also expressed the resentment of hill villagers against a distant government headquartered in the plains that seemed indifferent and hostile to their concerns.

So concerns about economy, ecology and political representation underlay the Chipko movement.