

Social Science

(Social and Political Life) (Chapter – 5) (Understanding Marginalisation)
(Class – 8)

Question 1:

Write in your own words two or more sentences of what you understand by the word 'marginalisation'.

Answer 1:

'Marginalisation' is a term that refers to those groups of the society which remained ignored in the past due to various social and economic causes. "Marginalisation" comes from the word "margin" meaning at the outskirts or periphery. When applied to a specific community or tribe, it implies that a particular class, caste or tribe is excluded from mainstream society.

Question 2:

List two reasons why Adivasis are becoming increasingly marginalised.

Answer 2:

Adivasis are becoming increasingly marginalized because of the following two reasons:

- They follow a different culture, language and traditions from mainstream Indian society which leads us to wrongfully classify them as exotic, primitive and backward.
- They are used to a way of life close to nature and with the cutting down of forests they are being forced to migrate to urban areas where they feel out of place and not in sync with a lifestyle so vastly different from their countryside background.

Question 3:

Write one reason why you think the Constitution's safeguards to protect minority communities are very important?

Answer 3:

The Constitution's safeguards to protect minority communities are very important because they ensure that India's cultural diversity is protected from becoming largely unitary and they also help to promote equality and justice to all.

Question 4:

Re-read the section on Minorities and Marginalisation. What do you understand by the term minority?

Answer 4:

The term minority is used for defining communities that are smaller in number in relation to the rest of the population. It includes issues of power, access to resources and also bears cultural and social dimensions.

Question 5:

You are participating in a debate where you have to provide reasons to support the following statement: 'Muslims are a marginalised community'. Using the data provided in this chapter, list two reasons that you would give.

Answer 5:

Two reasons in support of the statement "Muslims are a marginalized community": firstly, the Muslim community has not been able to gain from the country's socio-economic development as statistics on basic amenities, literacy rate and public employment show. 63.6% Muslims live in *kutcha* houses as compared to only 55.2% Hindus; the literacy rate amongst Muslims was the lowest at 59% in a 2001 survey. Secondly, their customs are distinct from other religious communities, so much so that they are identified as separate from the "rest of us" leading to unfair treatment and discrimination against Muslims.

Question 6:

Imagine that you are watching the Republic Day parade on TV with a friend and she remarks, "Look at these tribals. They look so exotic. And they seem to be dancing all the time". List three things that you would tell her about the lives of Adivasis in India.

Answer 6:

The three things I would tell a friend about the Adivasis in India would be:

- 'Adivasis' is a term literally means 'original inhabitants'. They lived and often continue to live in close association with forests.
- Adivasis are not a homogenous population. There are over 500 different Adivasis groups in India.
- The Adivasis have their own languages which have influenced "mainstream" languages like Bengali and Santhali, commonly spoken in urban areas.

Question 7:

In the storyboard you read about how Helen hopes to make a movie on the Adivasi story. Can you help her by developing a short story on Adivasis?

Answer 7:

Here a story has been given below for an example: An Adivasi group lived in a village. They lived there peacefully and used to fulfil their needs from the land and the forests around them. One day a few strangers reached their village along with a government document and announced that the land where Adivasis were living belonged to Mr. Sharma (an industrialist). So they will have to vacate the village because Mr. Sharma wanted to establish an industry over there. When Adivasis did not agree to leave their land, they were humiliated and tortured. Mr. Sharma finally decided to visit the village personally and tried to settle the deal by offering some money to them. While coming to the village with his son, his car met with an accident in which he was badly injured and his son fell into the valley, but was saved. When Mr. Sharma opened his eyes, he saw himself surrounded by some villagers. He came to know that they saved the life of his son with the help of medicinal herbs available in forests. Mr. Sharma learnt that those people belonged to the same Adivasi group whom he wanted to abandon from their land. Finally, Mr. Sharma begged apology from the Adivasis and withdrew his idea of locating an industry in the village. He realized that it would not be justified to ruin the life of those who saved his son's life.

Question 8:

Would you agree with the statement that economic marginalisation and social marginalisation are interlinked? Why?

Answer 8:

Yes, economic marginalization and social marginalization are inter-linked. Marginalisation implies having a low social status and a consequent lack of access to education and other resources. Social marginalization, as seen in the case of the Muslim community, is based on how their traditions, culture and dressing make us identify Muslims as different from us. This sometimes leads to unfair inequity on the basis of religious differences. As a result, minority groups may find it difficult to rent houses, procure jobs or even send their children to schools. This is economic marginalization. Thus, the two are inter-connected.

❖ Intext Question Pg- 65

Question 1:

Explain at least three different reasons why groups may be marginalised.

Answer:

Three reasons of marginalizing the groups are as follows:

- (a) Firstly, these groups are socially and economically backwards.
- (b) Secondly, these groups have no power to oppose the discrimination.
- (c) Third and main point is that these groups are not well-educated.

Question 2:

Why was Dadu forced to leave his village in Orissa?

Answer:

Dadu was forced to leave the village in Orissa because his land was captured by the Company holders for mining iron ore there.

Question 3:

In your own city or village, who would you think are the marginalised groups? Discuss.

Answer:

In my city if I look around then I find the people living in the slum portions are the marginalised groups as neither they have

the basic living of life nor the basic education to enjoy the rights given to them by the state.

Question 4:

Can you name some Adivasi communities that live in your state?

Answer:

Depends on the city where students live. If we look those students who belong to Delhi, then there is no Adivasi community.

Question 5:

What languages do they speak?

Answer:

Most of the Adivasis speaks Dravidian language.

Question 6:

Do they live close to the forest?

Answer:

Yes, most of the adivasis live close to the forest which is also the main reason for their illiteracy and backwardness.

Question 7:

Do they migrate to other regions looking for work?

Answer:

Yes, since most of the Adivasis do not have any permanent sort of work or job so they move from one place to another in search of work in order to feed their family.

❖ Intext Question Pg-67

Question 1:

What metals are important in present-day India? Why?

Answer:

Metals are important in present day India because of the following reasons:

(a) Metals like iron, steel, aluminum etc. are very important for the survival as all the infrastructure or development of the country is directly depends on these metals.

(b) They make up over 80% of all the elements in existence. They are not only structurally important but are also chemically important.

Question 2:

Where do they come from? Are there Adivasi populations there?

Answer:

These metals are mined from the ores which are located at different parts of the country.

Yes, all the places from where metals are mined are mostly inhabited by the Adivasis. And due to this when industries emerge in order to extract metals these Adivasis are forcefully displaced.

Question 3:

List five products that you use at home that come from the forest.

Answer:

Five products that we get from the forest are as follows:

- (a) We get medicines from the forests.
- (b) We get gum from the forest.
- (c) We get wood from the forest which is used for many purposes like making furniture, papers etc.
- (d) We get food from forests.
- (e) We also get sealing wax from forest.

Question 4:

By whom were the following demands being made on forest land?

- Timber for construction of houses and railways
- Forest land for mining
- Forest land for agriculture by non-tribal people
- Reserved by government as wildlife parks

Answer:

Timber is usually demanded by the railway for the development of railway lines.

Forest land is mostly demanded by the big industry houses to set up their industries in a large area.

Forest land for agriculture demands by non-tribal people.

Reserved wildlife parks area demanded by the government of that state or country.

Question 5:

In what ways would this affect tribal people?

Answer:

This affects tribal people in the following ways:

(a) Due to development of industries adivasis and backwards people are forced to migrate from their land.

(b) They are indirectly forced to work in the construction sites and they have no access to the territories of forest.

Question 6:

What do you think this poem is trying to convey?

Answer:

This poem is trying to convey a very serious and emotional message to us. It is showing the condition of poor adivasis who are with the greed of good living conditions are persuaded to go to Assam where their condition become more worse, they are forced to work, torched on not doing the work and if they want to run away from there then they are captured by the men of Babu and again beaten and made to work.

❖ Intext Question Pg-69

Question 1:

In your opinion, why is it important that Adivasis should have a say in how their forests and forest lands are used?

Answer:

The decisions of the government agencies have been directly affecting the Adivasis. They should have a say in their forest as they are the people who are associated with the forest for centuries and hence are directly affected by the decisions taken by our government regarding forest matters.

❖ Intext Question Pg-70

Question 1:

Why do we need safeguards for minorities?

Answer:

Firstly, it is important to know the minorities. Minorities are those which are fairly less in number as compared to other groups. We need to safeguard the minorities and their culture because in case if the person of this particular caste becomes extinct then we also lose their culture, language etc.

❖ Intext Question Pg- 71

Question 1:

Read the data related to schooling provided by the Sachar Committee Report:

- 25 per cent of Muslim children in the 6-14 year age group have either never been enrolled in school or have dropped out. This percentage is much higher than that of any other socio-religious community (page 58).

Do you think special measures are required to address this situation?

Answer:

Yes, according to me some special measures should be taken by the government to address this situation as percentage of Muslim students dropped out from the school is very high. Education is necessary for every individual and 6-14 years is that age in which the future of children develops. If these students do not get proper education at that age, then their future might be ruin.