

INDOLOGY - [GIS COURSE] (1)

defn :- Indology is study of Indian society and culture

→ it claims to understand Indian society through the concepts, theories & frameworks that are closely associated with Indian civilization. ^{ancient texts, religious scriptures.}

Premise → historically, Indian society and culture are unique → need **Sociology for India**
→ developed as critique to colonial view of Indian society.

Sources → use Indian texts, scriptures, Vedas, puranas, Ramayan, Megasthenes, Al-Biruni

Classical Indology → Max Mueller (Sacred books of East); William Jones

Modern Indology → with Anthropological diffusionist approach.

Ghurye's Approach → study of Indian society, culture and social structure from Sanskrit texts as base
Methods → Diffusionist, Historical + Comparative + methodological pluralism (empirical) + Theoretical
→ **Caste** → **Caste & Race** in India; partially endorsed Rileys racial theory
→ Segmentary, Hierarchy, Endogamy, occ. rigidity, privilege, restriction
→ Caste system integral to unity & harmony → endeavour of Brahmanical.

Tribals → Backward Hindus
→ Need Assimilationist approach.

Rural-urbanisation → optimist view
→ Urbanism grew from villages

Religions → Sadhus are key role in unity of India.
→ Muslims have less cultural rapprochement.
→ criticized British for Comm. runs

Village studies → pure distinct unit.
→ villages are viable units, rejected self-sufficient view.

Triology (or conflict) → sectional in nature, Caste moieties, linguistic minorities.
→ integr

Criticism

- ① Book view, need field view to study dynamic - mns.
- ② more of a Nationalist than a Sociologist - Andre Beteille.
- ③ more of a Hindu centric view - TKoomen, Venugopal.
- ④ Ahistorical, fail to recognise qualitative changes -
- ⑤ No Common values, rather there are hierarchy of values in ^{Supreme} -
(DP multiple)
- ⑥ Brahminical view - sub-alters.
- ⑦ Economic status of Brahmins → not ritual but contributing to econs - Doniger.

Relevance / Appraisal

- ① Wendy Doniger → alternate views of traditional social orgn.
- ② Romila Thapar → Combined Indology with History.
- ③ World Sanskrit conference.
- ④ Yogendra Singh → when field studies in many areas of interest became difficult, textual analysis became fruitful basis for analysis of Indian structure and tradition.
- ⑤ Duménil & Pocard.

Structural Functionalism (MNS)

②

Meaning → Society consists of orderly & stable system with interconnected structures and functions.

Background → A.R. Radcliffe Brown

Field view

Ethnographic view

Participant obsⁿ.

dynamics of Indian Society

Methods → Empirical, objective
→ Comparative.
→ Middle Range (Sanskⁿ, DC)

Functional unity + Structural Function

Main works → Religion & Society among Coorgs of South India.
→ Remembered village.

Views → Indian villages → Village Patriotism.
→ Not isolated & non self-sufficient.
→ Various social, economic, relationship with others.

Castes → Varna is a reference framework; Caste/sub-castes are real casts.
→ imp. for harmony though some disturbance.
→ Dynamic hierarchy → ritual hierarchy
→ Secular hierarchy
→ Dominant caste; Sanskritization; Horizontal status.

Family → mostly joint family among Coorgs
→ Endogⁿ may still facilitate it.

Social change → Wesⁿ, Sanskⁿ.

Religion → exists at 4 levels → Local
→ State level.
→ Regional
→ Pan-India

Other SF: S.C. Dube → Status differentiation
→ Shamirpet

Andre Beteille

P.A. Barber

Mein Marriott

Criticism

- ① Yogendra Singh → studied micro-cosmos difficult to generalise.
- ② Marxists argue → MDS understood social str. as conservative & status quest;
→ it ignores contradiction in society.
- ③ Objective Idealism → P.T.K. Komar → fact based & connected with idealistic traditional view of India.
→ narrow empiricism.
- ④ Gail Omvedt → did not explain why Dalits did not become dominant caste.
- ⑤ Harold Gould → disagree that Sas does not involve conflict, is a form of challenge & revolt against socio-econ dep.
- ⑥ Anand Chavanthy → ignored contemporary issues like Dalit movements, peasant movements.
- ⑦ Ghanshyam Shah → remains silent on class but it is same as class movement.
- ⑧ S.C. Dube → Dominant individuals.
- ⑨

Marxist view (AR Desai)

②

Basic premise

① study historical developments in dialectical materialism lens.
eg AR Desai → social backdrop of Indian Nationalism

② Conflict perpetre :- eg Brindelma's criticism of Jajmani system.

③ Society conforming to Economic interpretation.

eg Socio-political & access to land.

④ rejected Ideological view → Culture is in economic infrastructure.
⑤ Subaltern → Rajstana. ⑥ Ashokkeda, prash → ideological state apparatus.
⑦ Hegemonist dom (Indiclas) - Jand Chakras ⑧ Pradiptho Sankar → (PQ) → New colonialists.

Other Marxists

① S.A. Dange → Brahmins suppressed due to Economic necessity.

② Kosambi

③ D.P. Mukherjee → dialectical theory to social change.

AR Desai view

① Historical Material and crisis of Nationalism :-

② Pre-British → Economy centred around agri, villages economically self-sufficient.
No major class.

③ British → changed the Base → land revenue policy, Jajmani X, Indus, market enclose.

New Soudas (absentee landlords, agent, money lender →)

material condition led to Nationalism ← all classes they have their own creator.

Initially all class, later Bourgeoisie Captured.

④ Post-Independence → Right to property & FR; work & food.
→ failed land reforms; displaced people.

⑤ Path of development → Bourgeoisie India → Socialist Industrialization.

→ uneven nature of Capitalist development → feudal & semi-feudal.

→ colonial hangover is policies →

- role of state in Capitalist transformation in India
- need strong welfare-state.
- Transform Rural Society

- ③ Peasants & Farmer movement
 ↓
 agri labour → fight for Survival.
 ↳ product & Green revolution → need MRP.

Criticism

- ① Yogendra Singh → dialectical approach lacks empirical evidence.
- ② Neglected Caste system → Central to India Society. (Jyoti Basu)
- ③ MWS → Desai is Economically deterministic.
- ④ Gail Omvedt → Marxist only see 2 polarised class.
 in India degree of inequality experienced by all class are not equal.

Critical appraisal

- ① provided fresh perspective otherwise dominated by SF.

- ② Post-Desai Marxist (Kathleen Gough, Gail Omvedt)

↓
 class is new form of trans-national Capitalism, enforced into India by

- ① Land Alienation (SF)

- ② Communist culture.

Kathleen Gough → Culture's Superstructure - rooted in Economic infra.

Daniel Thorner → Agrarian class struggle.

Left Desai →

Desai →