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UPSC

Answer Question is NOT MORE THAN the word limit specified

(Specimen Answer Booklet - For Practice Purpose Only)

Candidates must not write on this margin

Explain the concept of Sanskritization. (Not more than 150 words)

Sanskritization refers to a process by which lower castes or tribes or any group changes its customs, rituals ideology & way of life in the direction of higher caste → why that change? intent is missing in Defn

eg: wearing a sacred thread to assert higher caste status

Process of Sanskritization includes:

1. Cultural Imitation: lower caste groups adopt high caste behaviour, customs

eg: Vegetarianism, performing orthodox lifecycle rituals etc

2. Religious transformation:

eg: Adoption of sanskritic deities, religious ceremonies

3. Shift to dominant castes that holds economic and political power

need proper understanding on the concept.

its a process followed by the lower castes to elevate their social status by adopting or imitating certain rituals and lifstyles of ritually pure (dwijas)

whenever there is a question on sanskritization " M N Srinivas " must be mentioned.

be thorough with the Proper Defn

Good

Process of Sanskritization explained properly

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in that region.

eg: Lingayats adopting practices associated with higher ritual status [Karnataka]

b) positional mobility: changing existing caste hierarchy

Shift of Sanskritization as process in contemporary society:

1. from ritual to economic status:

eg: entrepreneurial success breaking traditional caste hierarchy

2. Migration to identity assertion:

3. Sanskritization to westernisation

adoption of modern education, western lifestyles over sanskrit customs

4. Politicisation of caste mobility:

eg. Maratha & Jat Reservation movements.

Sanskritization reflects true aspirations of upward social mobility through cultural adaptation, highlighting the persistance of caste hierarchies in Indian society despite changing forms

(Refer Limitations of Sanskritization)

① Ignores cultural changes

② Impact of cultural Superiority

③ How economic inequality

Since the key word is 'Explain' you need to address the limitations of Sanskritization in brief

Good conclusion