



Chapter - 24

MEANING OF MARGINALISATION

NOTES:

- When a group of people or communities are excluded from the majority because of their language, customs or religion, it is called Marginalisation. In India, you can take the example of Dalits or Muslims who are considered minority communities.
- A social process of being confined to lower social standing is marginalisation.
- It involves people being denied their fundamental rights that results in lowering their social and economical status.
- It is a situation when a particular social group is forced to live on the fringes rather than in the mainstream.
- A marginalized section of the society does not get proper opportunity of socio-economic development.
- Their marginalisation can be because they follow different customs or speak a different language, belong to a different religious group.
- They may also feel marginalised because they are poor, considered to be of 'low' social status.
- Sometimes, marginalised groups are viewed with hostility and fear. This sense of difference and exclusion leads to communities not having access to resources and opportunities and in their inability to assert their rights.
- Marginalisation is seldom experienced in one sphere. Economic, social, cultural and political factors works together to make certain groups in a society feel marginalised.
- The term 'Adivasi' literally meaning 'original inhabitants'. They are communities who lived and often continue to live in close association with forests.
- Around 8% of India's population is adivasi.

- Adivasis have a deep knowledge of forests. They were hunters and gatherers and lived like nomads. They practised shifting agriculture and have also cultivated at a single place.
- Their deep knowledge of forest made them indispensable to the rulers of various empires during the pre-colonial period in India. They have their own language and have influenced the formation of various Indian languages.
- Santhals, Nagas, Kukis, Bruhads, Angamis, Gonds, Bhillars are well known adivasis.
- Among their languages Santali has the largest number of speakers.
- Adivasis are being increasingly marginalised for the following two reasons:
- Changes in forest laws have deprived the Adivasis of access to forest produce.
- Construction of factories and other projects in tribal areas has forced many tribal people to migrate to other places in search of a livelihood.
- Minority is the community that is numerically small in relation to the rest of the population. A particular religious section, which has a low percentage in population compared to the major religious community is called a minority.
- The safeguards to protect minority communities are necessary, because the majority community may culturally dominate the minority communities and the minority communities might become marginalised.
- The constitution of India provides safeguards to linguistic and religious minorities, as a part of its fundamental rights and ensures that minorities do not face any disadvantage or discrimination. In India; Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, etc. are included as a minority.



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