



**ITPG COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY**

**“M.N. SRINIVAS”**

---

**By- Dr. SMITA VERMA**



# M.N. SRINIVAS

---

- First generation sociologist in the post independent India.
- Structural, Functional, perspective from Radcliff Brown.
- Structural, Functional means a perspective which says that different parts of the society contributes to the the society functioning of the whole i.e. continuity of society.
- He believed in the field work/gathering empirical data.

# SRINIVAS EXPLAINED 2 BASIC CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND INDIAN SOCIETY

---

## Textual View

- Knowledge about elements which make up Indian society e.g.-
  1. Religion
  2. Society
  3. Caste
  4. Village
  5. Sacred texts
- The view is called as  
INDOLOGICAL APPROACH

## Field View

- Srinivas believed that knowledge about regions of Indian society can be attained and understood through FIELD WORK i.e.
- Referred to as Field View and the empirical method of anthropology to study the caste system in village.

❖ Introduced term like:-

---

1. Westernization

2. Sanskritization

- To explain the process of social change
- Also introduces the term “Dominant Caste” to show flexibility & mobility within the caste i.e. where in a caste of lower social rituals could still have powers.
- Have political and economical control in an area.
- His structural and functional approach allowed the exclusion of religious minorities/groups who were not in the Hinduism fold.

# WESTERNIZATION

---

- It refers to the changes brought about as consequences of the contact with the western world culture (particularly with British).
- S.N. Srinivas first used this concept in an essay titled “A NOTE ON SANSKRITIZATION AND WESTERNIZATION” in a journal for eastern quarterly in 1956 and subsequently included in a book Caste in Modern India in 1962.

# SANSKRITIZATION

---

- The term “Sanskritization” was first used in Srinivas work i.e. Religion and Society among the coorgs of South India.
- Sanskritization is used to explain the process of upward mobility within the Hindu cast system.

- For him Indian traditions are those who are manifest within the caste system and village (Hindus and in no sense secular).
- Hindutva ideology (Dominant caste, Sanskritization).
- The proponents of this perspective focus on the:-
  1. Ordering (understanding).
  2. Patterning of the social world.
- As our life is guided by social structure which are stable patterns of social behavior.
  
- Social structure gives shapes to our lives :-
  1. Family
  2. Community
  3. Certain rituals i.e. Handshake etc.
  4. religious organization

# INFLUENCED BY MENTOR G.S. GHURYE

---

- Structural and functional approach to the study of society as a complex system whose parts work together to promote
  1. Solidarity
  2. Stability
- It asserts that our lives are guided by social structures which are relatively stable patterns of social behavior.
- Social structure gives shape to our lives:-
  1. Family
  2. Community



- Each social structures has a social function society
- 

- Examples :- Education 1. Socialization

2. Learning

3. Social interaction

4. Theoretical empirical analogy

5. Socio culture arrangement

6. persistent

7. Cohesive harmony

# SOCIETIES CAN BE SEEN AS

---

1. Persistent
  2. Stable
  3. Cohesive
  4. Generally inherited
- Every society as a whole and its parts are interrelated.
  - This approach relies more on field work tradition for understanding social reality so that it can be understood as an contextual perspective of the social phenomenon.

# MODERNIZATION

---

- A popular term to explain the process of change brought about in a non western country by Direct or Indirect contact with the western world.
- Which has disquieting positivist spirit touching public institutions private aspiration.
- A revolution in communication wider economic & political participation and social mobility.

# BRAHMINIZATION

---

- Srinivas first used the term “BRAHMINIZATION” instead of Sanskritization to explain the process of social adoption of the way of life of upper caste by the lower cast.
- Imitation of the Brahminical customs, manners etc. by lower caste seeing Brahmin as a role model of emulation for Sanskritizing groups.
-



# DOMINANT CASTE

---

These caste  
which are  
locally  
dominant due  
to the :-

- Landed property
- Political power
- Numerical strength
- High position in the local social hierarchy

- Talks of:-

---

1. Field view(field work)

2. Textual view (textual view i.e. Indological view)

- Work on caste system and village studies (The later which in case formed Microcosm) Indian society.
- In his study of caste system he used the term Jati instead of caste.
- Jatis are sub caste and different from the forld of varna.
- Each social structure has a social function or consequences for the operation of the society as a whole.