

Indian Institute of Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences Department

Selection Procedure for PhD Admissions, December 2014

Total Marks: 100; Duration: 2 hours

SECTION B: Test for Sociology Candidates: 70 MARKS

(1) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions below:

In rural north India, there are thriving and exclusive all-male spaces in the villages which play an important role in constructing gender identities. These extend from the home to the public domain. Reserved and used almost exclusively by the male population, these are spaces where the power and legitimacy of masculinity are displayed and cemented and where men are a distinct advantage in terms of deployment of power. Masculinisation of space means an access to and control over resources of various kinds - material, sociocultural, political and ideological. Signifying both the symbolic and the material dimension of male power, these spaces validate men's control at home, in the village, community, and wider society while asserting the caste and class hierarchies which are under attack in post-Independence India. Circulating ideals of gendered separateness, they make the presence of males and the absence of females seem "natural". This masculinisation of spaces goes totally unacknowledged and unchallenged even by those most affected. It has merited little comment, discussion or condemnation from any quarter.

1. How is power understood in material and symbolic terms?
2. How are gendered identities constructed through space?
3. In what way is the concept of patriarchy reflected in this para?

(2) What is caste? What kind of changes has the institution of caste experienced in the last two decades?

(3) What is your understanding of gender equality? Write a note on violence against women in India.