



SOCIOLOGY

PhD Entrance Examination, May 2016
Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Maximum Marks: 100
Date: 19 May 2016

Duration:
Venue: LHC

Answer ANY TWO Questions

1. The Indian constitution aimed at reconstructing Indian society, and applying the compensatory principle for promoting social justice for historically disadvantaged sections of Indian society. To what extent has this promise been fulfilled sixty years later? Discuss.
2. Does Weber's theory of social action – types of action – help us understand a phenomenon such as sex selective abortion? Discuss.
3. Compare and contrast Marx and Weber's understanding of "class". Is the concept of "class" a relevant category in understanding and explaining the structures and patterns of social relationship in Indian society?
4. "By now agriculturists are ready to accept that their future lies elsewhere, perhaps in cities and towns, perhaps also in household and informal industries. If they cannot make it to those places, at least their children should. Thus, while cultivators, in general, constitute about 44.0% of the rural population, this number rises to 63.6% if we take only those among them who are over 60 years of age (IAMR 2008: 233). Most small family farms are clearly being tended to by the older generation so that their young can go out into the big, wide world. ... There has also been a steady rise in the migration of male workers from rural to urban India. In less than 10 years, from 1999–2000 to 2007–08, the number went up from 36.5% in 1999–2000 to 41.6% in 2007–08 (Kundu and Saraswati 2012: 221)."

What does this paragraph tell us about the transformation taking place in rural India? Please discuss the nature of this transformation by using any two sociological concepts that you may have studied.
