BSOC 110: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: BSOC 110
Assignment Code: BSOC-110/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all the questions.

Section I

Answer the following Descriptive Category questions in about 500 words each.

1. Explain the dialectical approach of the social stratification. 20

2. What are the types of social stratification? Discuss. 20

Section II

Answer the following Middle Category questions in about 250 words each.

3. Outline the Interactional and Attributional theories of caste. 10

4. Discuss the relationship between race and ethnicity. 10

5. Discuss cultural and social reproduction. 10

Section III

Answer the following Short Category questions in about 100 words each.

6. Caste system. 06

7. Status 06

8. Horizontal Mobility 06

9. Weberian theory of social stratification. 06

10. Socialization process. 06

1. Explain the dialectical approach of the social stratification. 20

Answer

Social stratification means the unequal arrangement of people and groups in a society. Differences in wealth, control over resources, political power, prestige and opportunities become stratification when they form relatively lasting hierarchies. The dialectical approach explains such inequality through contradictions within society rather than treating the existing hierarchy as a natural or permanently balanced arrangement. Karl Marx developed this approach through dialectical and historical materialism. Its central argument is that a society's economic organisation produces opposed interests, and conflict between those interests can bring social change.

The material basis of inequality

For Marx, people must produce food, clothing, shelter and other necessities before they can organise political and cultural life. Every mode of production combines forces of production, such as labour, tools and technology, with relations of production, or the social arrangements through which production and ownership are controlled. A particular set of relations benefits some groups more than others. For example, in a feudal order, landholding lords control land and receive labour or dues from dependent cultivators. In capitalist society, owners control factories, machinery and investment, while workers generally sell their labour power for wages.

Marx thus locates the foundation of class divisions in people's relationship to the means of production. The crucial distinction is not simply that one person earns more than another. Rather, one class owns productive assets and can appropriate the surplus generated by another class's labour. Income and lifestyle differences are important consequences, but ownership and control help explain why those differences persist.

Contradiction, exploitation and class conflict

The word 'dialectical' refers to understanding a social system through its internal tensions and their movement. Capitalism brings large-scale production, technological innovation and the cooperation of many workers. Yet its ownership remains largely private. Workers collectively produce goods but do not normally control the profits or major decisions. This contradiction between increasingly social production and private appropriation creates opposing class interests.

Marx calls the principal capitalist classes the bourgeoisie, who own capital, and the proletariat, who must work for wages. Profit is related to surplus