BSOC-132: SOCIOLOGY OF INDIA

Tutor Marked Assignments

Programme Code : BAG/BAM
Course Code: BSOC-132
Assignment Code: 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 400 words each.

1. Discuss the concept of unity in diversity in India. Examine the major forms of diversity and the forces that promote national integration. 20

2. Explain the major features of family in India. Discuss the changing patterns of family in contemporary Indian society. 20

Section II

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

3. Explain the distinctive characteristics of tribes in India and discuss the major issues relating to tribal livelihood. 10

4. Discuss the emergence and development of Dalit movements in India with special reference to the contributions of major leaders. 10

5. Differentiate between communalism and secularism. Discuss their significance in contemporary India. 10

Section III

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

6. Changing India 06

7. Class formation in Indian society 06

8. Patriarchy and Matriarchy 06

9. Gender-based movements 06

10. Ethnic Movements 06

1. Discuss the concept of unity in diversity in India. Examine the major forms of diversity and the forces that promote national integration. (20)

Answer

India is often described as a land of “unity in diversity” because people belonging to different languages, religions, castes, communities and regions share a wider social and political life. Unity does not mean that these differences disappear or that everybody follows the same customs. It refers to the capacity of different groups to live together, interact, recognise mutual interests and develop a sense of belonging to India. Sociologically, this unity is produced through history, common institutions, everyday exchanges and a continuing process of negotiation. It is therefore neither automatic nor free from tension.

Meaning and major dimensions of diversity. Geographical diversity is particularly visible. The Himalayan mountains, Indo-Gangetic plains, plateau regions, coastal belts, islands and deserts have different climates, occupations, food habits and settlement patterns. For example, agriculture in the northern plains differs from fishing along the coast or pastoral activities in dry regions. Such ecological variations have given rise to varied local ways of life while encouraging exchange of goods and skills.

Linguistic diversity is another important feature. India has numerous languages and dialects associated with different language families, including Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austroasiatic and Tibeto-Burman. Language shapes literature, schooling, public communication and regional identity. The Constitution recognises multiple languages in its Eighth Schedule, while states may use their own official languages. Multilingual families, migration and translation create links across these differences, although language-based political demands can also generate conflict.

Religious diversity includes Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism and many indigenous faith traditions. Religious communities differ in worship, dietary rules, festivals and social institutions. Even within a single religion, there are distinctive sects and regional practices. Shared neighbourhoods, pilgrimage routes, music, crafts and local celebrations have nevertheless contributed to a common cultural space. Inter-community relationships are complex: cooperation and accommodation coexist with prejudice and occasional communal violence.

Caste and community distinctions add another layer. Caste has historically influenced marriage, occupation, social ranking and access to resources,