

## Examrace

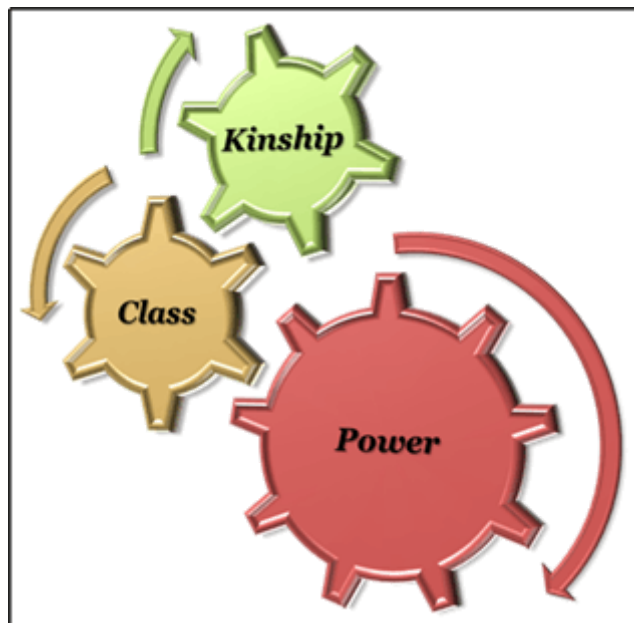
### Andre Beteille: Other Books, Features of Caste System and Criticism

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- Born on 30 September 1934.
- Student of Srinivas
- Studied caste in South India
- Interactional approach
- Book: Caste, Class and Power: Changing Patterns of Stratification in a Tanjore Village, 1965
- Studied caste beyond the perspective of superiority, Sanskritic or Brahminic
- Considered caste as an objective reality
- Focused on empirical perspective to study caste that contrasts from cultural ideal type.
- He studied the field data of Sripuram village of Tanjore in Tamil Nadu.
- Ethnographic study.

#### Other Books

- Inequalities among Men, 1977
- Social and Cultural Reproduction of Caste
- Kinship and Occupation in India, 1991
- The Backward Classes in Contemporary India, 1992
- Agrarian Social Relations
- Harmonic and Disharmonic Social System
- Perspective not unidimensional like Ghurye or Dumont who focused on Indology or ritual aspect
- Inspired by Weber: Trinitarian approach
- Kinship, class, and power to be studied along caste
- Why?
- To include structural aspect of caste – economy and politics



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### **Suggested Study on relationship between:**

- land-owning and landless class
- Upper and lower class
- Jajman and Kameen

On the basis of structural perspective and stratification as universal phenomenon.

### **Class**

- Open group
- De facto
- No legal or religious sanction
- Antagonistic

## Caste

- Closed group
- Ideas
- Complex
- Categorized
- Informal power

In his study of Tanjore, he found

### **3 major caste groups:**

- Brahmins
- Non-Brahmins
- Adi-Dravidians (depressed classes)

There is a huge gap between Brahmins and Dravidians

- Gap of cultural relational and symbolic
- Disharmonic relationship between the two
- Two extremes of the hierarchy
- Analyzed the rise of non-Brahmins by getting control of village land, local politics etc. and getting a secular sphere of the caste hierarchy
- Studied the emergence and consolidation of dominant caste apart from Brahmins.
- Brahmins themselves are segmented and do not follow a designated pattern of way of living.
- Iyengar Brahmins considered themselves as the purest.
- Role of education and white-collar jobs.
- Believed that caste and poverty are the tools of social inequality

### **He was influenced by Marx during his study of caste:**

- Different dimensions of exploiting people and different sources of inequality like unequal distribution of land that gives rise to class structure
- unequal access to power
- unequal access to status on the basis of identity.

## **Features of Caste System**

- No facts but ideas

- Ideas can be derived from ancient literature rules of the game based
- Complementary function by different castes
- Non-antagonistic relationship

### **Criticism**

- Narrow empiricism
- Only studied one village of South India

### **Conclusion**

- Social dynamics
- Caste not the sole basis of occupation
- Structural shifts of power
- Integration of villages with wider society – systemic view
- Emergence of plural values like materialism over morality
- Reflexive and broad understanding of caste
- Role of kinship in determining occupation
- His perspective Understands society as a whole
- India has provided hierarchy and European society has produced the structure.

### **MCQ**

Q. 1. (Assertion) : According to Beteille, Ritual status is the sole determinant of structural relation system.

(Reason) : Class and economy do not have a significant role in hierarchy.

- (a) Both, A and R, are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- (b) Both, A and R, are false and R is not the correct explanation of A
- (c) If A is true but R is false
- (d) If A is false but R is true

Ans: b

Q. 2. The Weberian model of social stratification has been used in the study of caste by

- (A) S. C. Dube
- (B) M. N. Srinivas
- (C) T. N. Madan

(D) Andre Beteille

Answer: (D)

#AndreBeteille

#PerspectiveofCasteinIndia

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