

INDIAN SOCIETY: TRIBAL, RURAL AND URBAN

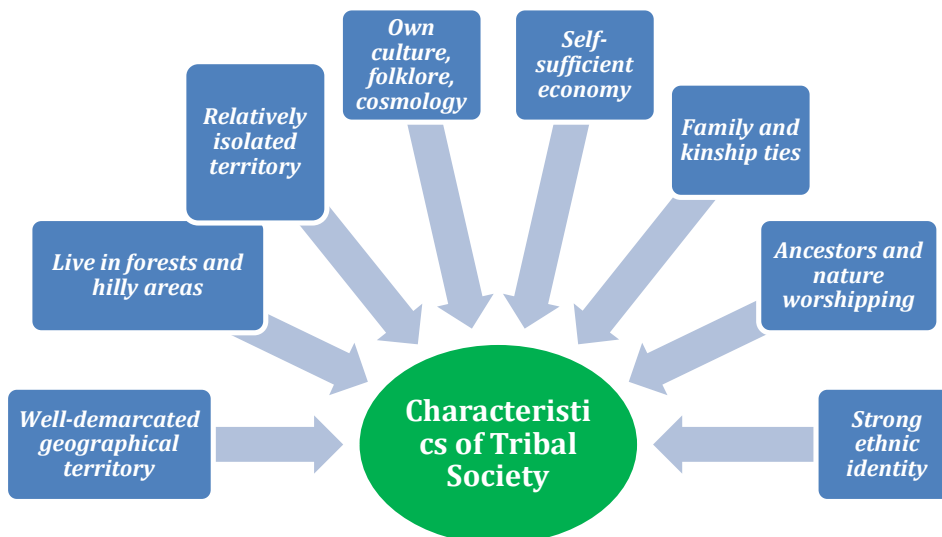
Lesson No.	Title	Activity
26	Indian Society: Tribal, Rural and Urban	List out the changes that happened in rural society and urban society after independence.

Summary

Indian society has been broadly divided into tribal, rural and urban societies on the basis of their geographical surroundings and socio-cultural characteristics. Although, there are some fundamental differences, there has been a continuous interaction between these three kinds of societies.

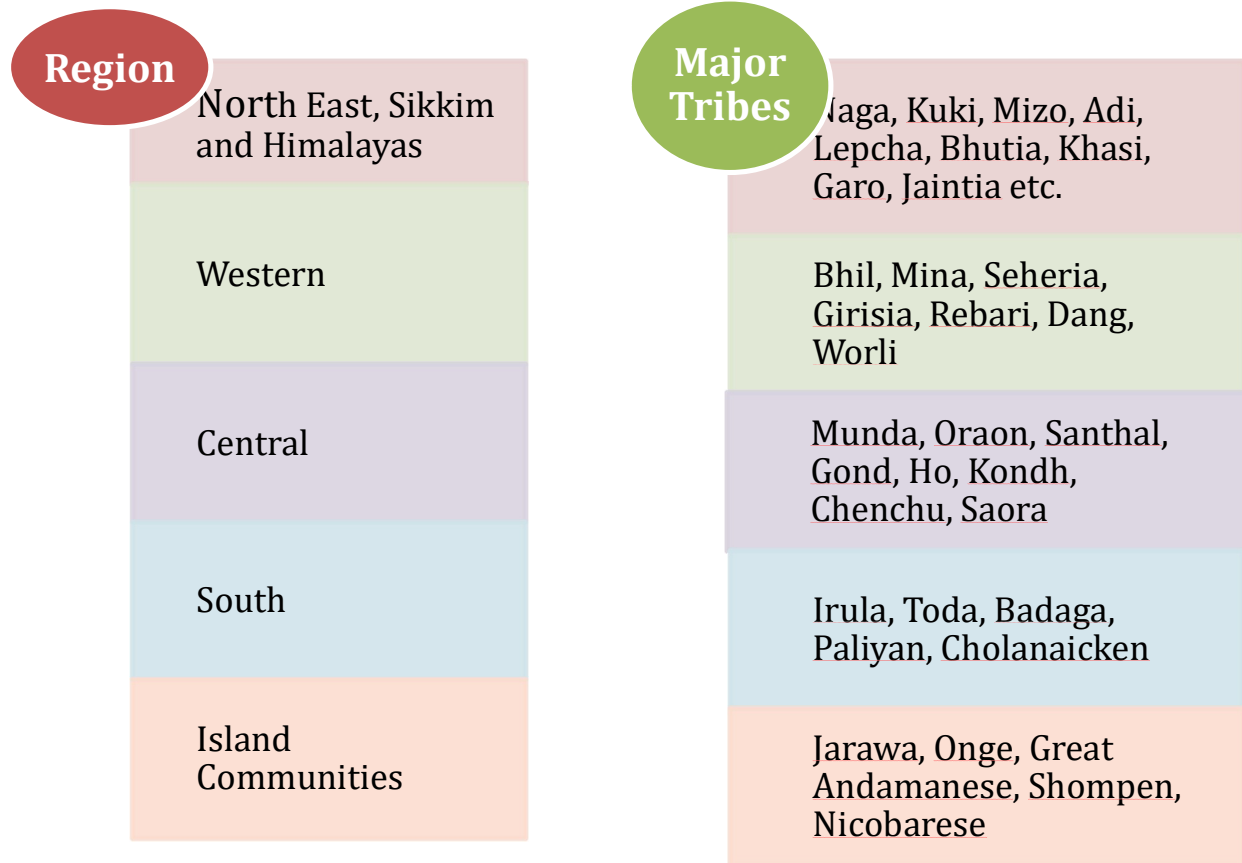
Tribal Society

- A tribe can be defined as a community living in hilly forest or well demarcated areas having its own culture, religion, language, and strong ethnic identity. Anthropologists have explained tribe as a social group with territorial affiliation, endogamous in nature, with no specialization of functions, ruled by tribal chiefs, hereditary or otherwise, united in language or dialect, recognizing social distance with other tribes or castes, following tribal traditions, beliefs and customs, conscious of their ethnic and territorial homogeneity.



Distribution of Tribal Communities in India

There are about 461 tribes found in India distributed throughout the country. Their population is about 8.1 crores according to the census 2001 of India (constituting to 8.1% of total population). As per 2011 census, the tribal population is 10.45 crore. (Census 2011).



Linguistic Classification Among Tribes in India

Most of the tribal communities speak non-Aryan language which are divided into four linguistic families: Austro-Asiatic, Tibeto-Chinese, Dravidian and Indo-European.

Linguistic Family	Major Tribes
Austro-Asiatic	Khasi, Nicobari, Santhali, Ho, Mundari
Tibeto-Chinese	Bhutia, Lepcha, Abor, Garo, Lushai, Miri
Dravidian	Korwa, Badaga, Toda, Kota, Gondi, Oraon
Indo-European	Hajong, Bhili

Some of the Tribal Problems

Lack of health and nutrition due to poverty, lack of proper medical and sanitary facilities, practices of Indigenous medicine not given importance

Reasons- the introduction of monetary economy and outsiders exploited them and grabbed away their land.

Indebtedness mainly due to lack of adequate sources of income and the consumption patterns of the tribals

Land alienation

Health and nutrition problem

Indebtedness

Some of the Tribal Problems

Illiteracy

Bonded labour

Poverty

Reasons- Poverty, distance from school and lack of awareness

Reasons: Lack of education, Indebtedness, poor health

Reasons: Rampant poverty and lack of stable income

Rural Society

The village community has the following characteristics.

- Agriculture is the predominant occupation among them.
- The village community is small in size.
- They have primary group behaviour, i.e. face-to-face relationship is found among the members of the village.
- Their social structure is based on kinship and family relationships.
- Mostly they live in joint family.
- They are more conservative and tradition oriented towards the performance of rituals as well as belief in deities.
- Group feeling and mutual cooperation is more evident among them.
- Their culture is also known as folk culture
- Traditionally, their economy is based on agriculture having primitive technology and mono-cropping pattern.
- Village India is largely based on caste system
- Modern way of living and thinking is lacking in rural society.
- Any deviant behaviour is dealt with strictness in the rural areas.
- They have a relatively self-sufficient economy particularly in terms of production and consumption.
- They have a static economy, since they lack modern technology, modes of investment and a market economy.
- They cling to conservative and traditional style of living

Changes in the Rural Society

Community Development Programme, 1952

- All round development of village communities
- Community participation was the main aim

Green revolution during 1960s and 1970s

- Agriculture productivity sharply increased due to new Technology
- Medium and large farmers mostly benefitted as inputs were expensive

Globalisation and Rural Society

- Incorporation of agriculture into global market has also effect on rural society . In some regions of Punjab and Haryana, farmers enter into contracts with MNCs such as PEPSI CO. to grow certain crops such as Potatoes and Tomatoes

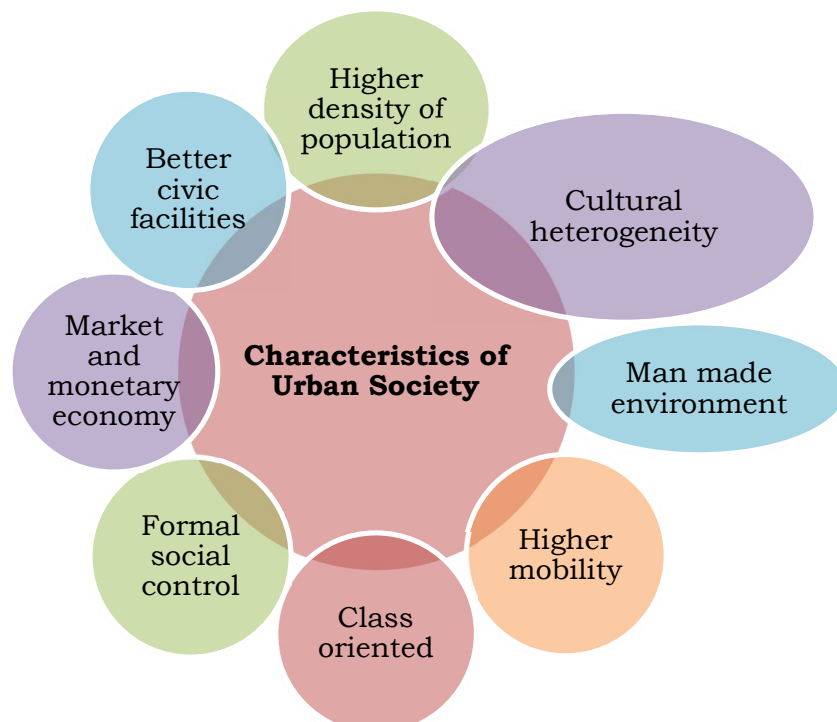
Panchayati Raj System, 1959

- Change in the socio-economic positions
- Programmes like MGNREGA, Housing scheme various employment avenues and help to rise above BPL.

Urban Society

- Urban society includes the towns, cities and metros with a specific way of life.
- An urban society can be defined as an area having higher density of population, people engaging mostly in occupations other than agriculture and domestication of animals, having a distinct ecology and culture different from that of the large society's culture.

Characteristics of Urban Society



Urban Social Problems

- Urban society has several social problems such as congestion of population, slums, crime, and acute shortage of resources and facilities (such as water, electricity). Certain problems emerge from anonymity in cities, where personal relation and primary group have broken down. It causes tremendous mental pressure and tension.
- Because of large migration to cities unemployment is found in large number in the urban areas.
- The migrants in the cities do not have a respectable place to stay. They generally settle down as clusters on the outskirts of the cities.
- There is a high incidence of crime in the cities. It is mainly found because of unemployment, and frustration among the youth and also due to the large density of population.

Evaluate Yourself

1. Highlight the major features of Tribal Society.
2. Describe reasons of lack of proper health and sanitation caused problem for tribal community in India? 3. What are the major causes of unemployment in urban areas?
3. What is the main reason of land alienation among tribes?
4. Briefly discuss the main characteristics of rural societies.
5. Briefly describe the changes that have taken place in rural society after independence.