

SANSKRITIZATION

By Mr. Arvind Sirohi

Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology

Chaudhary Charan Singh University , Meerut

INTRODUCTION

- This term was made popular by Indian sociologist M. N. Srinivas in the 1950s. **Sanskritization** is a particular form of social change found in India. It denotes the process by which caste or tribes placed lower in the caste hierarchy seek upward mobility by emulating the rituals and practices of the upper or dominant castes. It is a process similar to passing in sociological terms.

...

Definition:

- M. N. Srinivas defined that “Sanskritization is a process by which a lower caste or tribe or any other group changes its customs, rituals, ideology and way of life in the direction of a higher or more often twice-born caste.”

Characteristics:

- Sanskritization is a process of imitation in Indian society, the social status of an individual is fixed on the basis of caste hierarchy.
- It was purely following or can be seen as copying other rituals, norms, beliefs to improve their status in the society.
- It helped in socio-economic and cultural value transmission in several groups of the society.

••

- Sanskritization is a process of cultural change towards twice-born castes. Sanskritization is a process in which the lower castes adopt the cultural patterns of the higher castes, to raise their status in the caste hierarchical order.
- Sanskritization is helpful in the social mobility of lower caste.
- To achieve a greater hierarchical position in the society.

••

- It was not necessary for lower caste people to follow only Brahmins, but they also followed locally developed and famous castes like Kshatriyas and Vaishyas.
- The concept of Sanskritization has also given rise to De-sanskritization.
- Sanskritization process is not only confined to the caste people of Hindu society, but it is also found among the tribal society.

The major factors

The major factors in Sanskritization were:

- Position of the dominant caste
- Pilgrimage
- Migration of values and beliefs from great tradition to little tradition
- Secular factors in determining the position of caste (in addition to pollution and purity)
- Migration to new areas
- Bhakti movement that established the idea of equality before God and thus the idea of equality among different groups and castes

• THINKING YOU