

# Indian Society

TEXTBOOK IN SOCIOLOGY FOR CLASS XII

NBCampus



12111



एन सी ई आर टी  
NCERT

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद्  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING

ISBN 81-7450-652-7

**First Edition**

January 2007 Magha 1928

**Rreprinted**

December 2007 Pausha 1929

February 2009 Magha 1930

January 2010 Magha 1931

December 2010 Pausha 1932

January 2012 Magha 1933

November 2013 Kartika 1935

December 2014 Pausha 1936

December 2015 Pausha 1937

February 2017 Magha 1938

March 2018 Phalgunā 1939

December 2018 Agrahayana 1940

**PD 60T BS**

© **National Council of Educational  
Research and Training, 2007**

₹ ????.00

Printed on 80 GSM paper with NCERT  
watermark

Published at the Publication Division  
by the Secretary, National Council of  
Educational Research and Training, Sri  
Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 016  
and printed at Holy Faith International (P.)  
Ltd., B-9 & 10 Site IV, Sahibabad Industrial  
Area, District Ghaziabad (U.P.)

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

- No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior permission of the publisher.
- This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade, be lent, re-sold, hired out or otherwise disposed of without the publisher's consent, in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published.
- The correct price of this publication is the price printed on this page, Any revised price indicated by a rubber stamp or by a sticker or by any other means is incorrect and should be unacceptable.

**OFFICES OF THE PUBLICATION  
DIVISION, NCERT**

NCERT Campus  
Sri Aurobindo Marg  
New Delhi 110 016 Phone : 011-26562708

108, 100 Feet Road  
Hosdakere Halli Extension  
Banashankari III Stage  
Bangalore 560 085 Phone : 080-26725740

Navjivan Trust Building  
P.O. Navjivan  
Ahmedabad 380 014 Phone : 079-27541446

CWC Campus  
Opp. Dhankal Bus Stop  
Panihati  
Kolkata 700 114 Phone : 033-25530454

CWC Complex  
Maligaon  
Guwahati 781 021 Phone : 0361-2674869

**Publication Team**

Head, Publication Division : *M. Siraj Anwar*

Chief Editor : *Shweta Uppal*

Chief Business Manager : *Gautam Ganguly*

Chief Production Officer : *Arun Chitkara*

Production Assistant : *Sunil Kumar*

**Cover and Layout**

*Shweta Rao*

**Illustrations**

*Nidhi Wadhwa*

**Cartography**

*Cartographic Design*

## FOREWORD

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005, recommends that children's life at school must be linked to their life outside the school. This principle marks a departure from the legacy of bookish learning which continues to shape our system and causes a gap between the school, home and community. The syllabi and textbooks developed on the basis of NCF signify an attempt to implement this basic idea. They also attempt to discourage rote learning and the maintenance of sharp boundaries between different subject areas. We hope these measures will take us significantly further in the direction of a child-centred system of education outlined in the National Policy on Education (1986).

The success of this effort depends on the steps that school principals and teachers will take to encourage children to reflect on their own learning and to pursue imaginative activities and questions. We must recognise that, given space, time and freedom, children generate new knowledge by engaging with the information passed on to them by adults. Treating the prescribed textbook as the sole basis of examination is one of the key reasons why other resources and sites of learning are ignored. Inculcating creativity and initiative is possible if we perceive and treat children as participates in learning, not as receivers of a fixed body of knowledge.

These aims imply considerable change in school routines and mode of functioning. Flexibility in the daily time-tables is as necessary as rigour in implementing the annual calendar so that the required number of teaching days are actually devoted to teaching. The methods used for teaching and evaluation will also determine how effective this textbook proves for making children's life at school a happy experience, rather than a source of stress or problem. Syllabus designers have tried to address the problem of curricular burden by restructuring and reorienting knowledge at different stages with greater consideration for child psychology and the time available for teaching. The textbook attempts to enhance this endeavour by giving higher priority and space to opportunities for contemplation and wondering, discussion in small groups, and activities requiring hands-on experience.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) appreciates the hardwork done by the textbook development committee. We wish to thank the Chairperson of the advisory group in Social Sciences, Professor Hari Vasudevan, and the Chief Advisor for this textbook, Professor Yogendra Singh, for guiding the work of this committee. Several teachers also contributed to the development of this textbook; we are grateful to their principals for making this possible. We are indebted to the

institutions and organisations which have generously permitted us to draw upon their resources, material and personnel. We are especially grateful to the members of the National Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development under the chairpersonship of Professor Mrinal Miri and Professor G.P. Deshpande, for their valuable time and contribution. As an organisation committed to systemic reform and continuous improvement in the quality of its products, NCERT welcomes comments and suggestions which will enable us to undertake further revision and refinement.

New Delhi  
20 November 2006

*Director*  
National Council of Educational  
Research and Training

NBCampus

## HOW TO USE THIS TEXTBOOK

This is the first of the two textbooks for Class XII in Sociology. It is designed to address the spirit of the new guidelines issued by the National Curriculum Framework 2005, as well as the specific objectives of the Sociology curriculum adopted by the NCERT (Box 1).

### **Box 1: Objectives of the Sociology Curriculum, NCERT 2005**

- To enable learners to relate classroom teaching to their outside environment.
- To introduce them to the basic concepts of Sociology that will enable them to observe and interpret social life.
- To be aware of the complexity of social processes.
- To appreciate diversity in society in India and the world at large.
- To build the capacity of students to understand and analyse the changes in contemporary Indian Society.

*Indian Society* builds on the two textbooks for Class XI, and complements the second textbook for Class XII — *Social Change and Development in India*. The specific correspondence of chapters and sections to the NCERT syllabus is indicated in Box 2. This is a suggested correspondence; teachers may also find other sections to be relevant or useful for particular segments of the syllabus.

### **Box 2: Correspondence with the NCERT Sociology Syllabus**

(Chapters and sections of this textbook relating to syllabus topics are indicated in brackets after each syllabus section)

#### **Unit I: Structure of Indian Society**

- 1.1 Introducing Indian Society (Ch. 1; 'Colonialism and the Emergence of New Markets' in 4.1; 'Communities, Nations and Nation-States' in 6.1)
- 1.2 Demographic structure (Ch. 2)
- 1.3 Rural Urban Linkages and Divisions (Ch. 2.6; section on 'Weekly Tribal Market' in 4.1)

#### **Unit II: Social Institutions: Continuity and Change**

- 2.1 Family and Kinship (Ch. 3.3, Ch.5.3)
- 2.2 The Caste System (Ch. 3.1; 'Caste-based markets and trading networks' in 4.1; Ch. 5.2)

2.3 Tribal Society (Ch. 3.2; section on 'Weekly Tribal Market' in 4.1)

2.4 The Market as a Social Institution (Ch. 4)

### **Unit III : Social Inequality and Exclusion**

3.1 Caste Prejudice, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes (Ch. 5.1, 5.2)

3.2 Marginalisation of Tribal Communities (Ch. 5.1, 5.2)

3.3 The Struggle for Women's Equality (Ch. 5.3, Ch.3.3)

3.4 The Protection of Religious Minorities (Ch. 6.1, 6.3)

3.5 Caring for the Differently Abled (Ch. 5.4)

### **Unit IV: The Challenges of Unity in Diversity**

4.1 Problems of Communalism, Regionalism, Casteism (Ch. 6, Ch. 5.1, 5.2)

4.2 Role of the State in a Plural and Unequal Society (Ch. 6, 6.1, Ch. 5.1, 5.2)

4.3 What we share (Ch. 6, 6.1, 6.4)

### **Unit V: Project Work** (Ch. 7)

### **Suggestions for Use**

As already mentioned, this textbook is intended to reflect the spirit of the new National Curriculum Framework, where the emphasis has been on reducing the curricular burden on the child, specially in the form of information to be reproduced. Moreover, an effort has been made to relate the subject matter to the contemporary social environment and to the everyday life of the child. These features necessarily involve changes in the content and format of the textbook, and, of course, in the way that the classroom use of the textbook is to be structured. While each school, each teacher and each class will doubtless evolve their own ways of using this textbook, it is broadly true that the NCF will shift emphasis towards classroom discussion, activities and projects, and away from information-absorption and reproduction.

In addition to these general features of the NCF which will affect all subjects, there are some features specific to the content of this textbook which may require special handling. The obvious candidates are the chapters on caste and other forms of inequality, and those on minorities and related issues (Chs. 3, 5 and 6). Depending on the composition of the class, teachers will have to devise their own methods of dealing with sensitive material without making any section of students feel embarrassed. However, at the same time students from dominant sections of the society should also be challenged to question their common sense and to rethink many taken-for-granted issues and opinions. It is partly in view of these considerations that Ch. 3 is very light on activities, leaving it to the teacher to devise suitable ones for the specific class and the situation in which she/he is teaching.



Apart from this exception, however, the text tries to be activity based. Activities are inserted quite deliberately and are intended to be an integral part of the textbook. Teachers and students are welcome to modify them to suit local situations, but please do not skip them! There are different kind of activities. One kind which is new is called an 'Exercise'. It is based on a specific text or table given in the text, and requires students to answer very specific questions. These should be taken as *mandatory*. Information boxes that are meant to provide contextual material that is not part of the evaluative content (i.e., students will not be examined on this material) are coloured (i.e., any colour other than shades of grey, which are the standard shades for boxes).

In order not to overburden the text, we have not inserted too many references or citations. The references given at the end of each chapter are thus intended to be more of a bibliography rather than simply a list of citations. However, citations are given where specific information or quotations are involved. Teachers are of course welcome to use any additional readings or texts they find useful. There is a consolidated glossary at the end of the textbook, and students should be encouraged to refer to it. Terms explained in detail in the text are generally not included in the glossary. Many, but not all, of the words that are included in the glossary appear in bold when they are first used in the textbook. Remember, every word that appears in bold type will be found in the glossary, but the glossary includes many more words as well.

A special word on projects and practical work. This feature is a new one, and involves a significant change in the evaluation procedure. Since at least twenty per cent of the total marks for sociology are to be devoted to this section, close attention should be paid to this. Chapter 7 provides some suggestions, along with a brief recap of the methods discussed in the Class XI textbook (Ch. 5 of *Introducing Sociology*). In view of the scheduling of project work, Chapter 7 is perhaps best discussed relatively early in the course (rather than at the end of all the other chapters), preferably after Chapter 2 and 3 have been discussed. The class can revisit Chapter 7 at the end of the textbook, but selection of projects and work on them should start much earlier. The project suggestions are merely indicative; please feel free to devise your own, keeping in mind the constraints and methodological considerations mentioned in Chapter 7.

This is NCERT's first attempt to take on board the concerns of the new NCF for Class XII. We are already aware of some ways in which this textbook could be further improved, and we are also confident that during the coming year, teachers and students will come up with many more suggestions and comments that will help us revise it. Please do write to us at the following postal address: The Head, Department of Education in the Social Sciences and Humanities, NCERT, Shri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi-110016. Or you can send email to: [ncertsociologytexts@gmail.com](mailto:ncertsociologytexts@gmail.com). We look forward to your responses, and specially your critical comments, including suggestions for improvements in the layout and format. We promise to acknowledge all useful suggestions in the next edition of this textbook.

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA**

## **PREAMBLE**

**WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA**, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a <sup>1</sup>**[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens :

**JUSTICE**, social, economic and political;

**LIBERTY** of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

**EQUALITY** of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

**FRATERNITY** assuring the dignity of the individual and the <sup>2</sup>[unity and integrity of the Nation];

**IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY** this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)
2. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The many debts incurred in meeting the challenge of producing this textbook under a very tight schedule are gratefully acknowledged here. First of all, thanks to all the colleagues who took time off from their other commitments to devote their energies to this task. For contributing substantially to the content of this textbook, thanks to the editorial team members: Amita Baviskar, Kushal Deb, Anjan Ghosh and Carol Upadhya. We are also grateful to Prof. Nandini Sundar, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi; Ms. Nitya Ramakrishnan, Advocate, New Delhi; Ms. Lata Govindan, Lucknow; Ms. Seema Banerjee, Laxman Public School, New Delhi; and Mr. Dev Pathak, Bluebell International School, New Delhi for their feedback and inputs.

Special thanks are due to Ms. Shweta Rao, who took on the challenge of designing this book and procuring some photographs from different sources in record time. Her contributions are visible on every page.

Prof. Yogendra Singh, our Chief Advisor, was, as always, a pillar of support who gave us the necessary confidence to proceed. He and Professor Krishna Kumar, Director of the NCERT, provided the *abhay hastha* that enabled and guided our collective efforts. Professor Savita Sinha, Head, Department of Education in the Social Sciences and Humanities lent unstinting support. Dr. Shveta Uppal, *Chief Editor* at NCERT, not only facilitated our work but encouraged us to aim higher than we would have dared to otherwise.

Special thanks are due to Ms. Vandana R. Singh, *Consultant Editor*, NCERT for going through the manuscript and suggesting relevant changes. The Council gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Ms. Nazia Khan, *DTP Operator*; Mr. R. P. Singh and Mr. Kshirod Chandra Patra, *Proof Readers*; and Mr. Dinesh Kumar, *Incharge*, Computer Station in shaping this textbook. We are also grateful to the Publication Department, NCERT for all their support.

Finally, we are grateful to all the institutions and individuals who have kindly allowed us to use material from their publications, each of which is acknowledged in the text. Thanks are due to Dr. C.P. Chandrashekhar, Dr. Ramachandra Guha, and Mr. Basharath Peer for use of material from their articles in *Frontline*, the *Times of India*, and *Tehelka* respectively. The NCERT is specially grateful to Mr. R. K. Laxman for allowing us to use his cartoons in this textbook, and to Dr. Malavika Karlekar for the use of photographs from her book, *Visualizing Indian Women 1875-1947*, published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi. Some photographs were taken from material published by the Rajasthan Tourism Department, Government of India, New Delhi; *India Today*, *Outlook* and *Frontline*. The Council thanks the authors, copyright holders and publishers of these materials. The Council also acknowledges the Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi for allowing the use of photographs available in their photo library. A collage was prepared by a Class VI student of St. Mary's, New Delhi, Ms. Mahima Chopra, and the NCERT is grateful to her. Some photographs were provided by the Samrakshan Trust, New Delhi; Ms. Aarti Nagraj, New Delhi; Mr. Y. K. Gupta and Mr. R. C. Das of the Central Institute of Educational Technology, NCERT, New Delhi. The Council gratefully acknowledges all these contributions.

# CONTENTS

Foreword	<i>iii</i>
How to use this textbook	<i>v</i>
Chapter 1 Introducing Indian Society	1 - 8
Chapter 2 The Demographic Structure of the Indian Society	9-40
Chapter 3 Social Institutions: Continuity and Change	41-60
Chapter 4 The Market as a Social Institution	61-80
Chapter 5 Patterns of Social Inequality and Exclusion	81-112
Chapter 6 The Challenges of Cultural Diversity	113-140
Chapter 7 Suggestions for Project Work	141-152
Glossary	153-160