

Q.2a) The caste system forms a vital part of the Indian society. It has been understood by various approaches in sociology, one of them being Louis Dumont which was termed as cultural particularistic by Yogendra Singh.

Dumont emphasised on understanding the caste system as an ideology which is pervasive throughout the entire society across periods of history.

He said that the traditional Indian society was quite different from the west & could not be understood concepts of stratification which lay stress on inequality & exploitation. He said the traditional Indian society was based on holism & the caste system had to be understood in its terms.

The Principle of hierarchy was all encompassing & could be explained in terms of binary dualism i.e. opposition of purity & pollution.

He used bourgeois concepts of hierarchy, separation & occupation & explained them using his concept of opposition of purity & pollution.