

Indian Worldview

Figure 1

Diseases in an Indian Village

- hot diseases (fevers)
- cold diseases (chills)
- boils and cuts
- bad tempers
- bad luck
- robbed repeatedly
- spirit possession
- mental diseases
- quarrelsome famil.
- frequent accidents
- going broke
- aches and pains

Figure 2

Indian Healers

I. (SAINT):

- deals with diseases caused by sin
- cures by prayer to the gods
- asks no questions, gods know
- charges no fees, a spiritual service

II. (SHAMAN):

- deals with evil spirits and possession
- cure by battling spirits and exorcism
- asks no questions, he/she knows
- charges no fees, a spiritual service

III. (MAGICIAN):

- deals with black magic, witchcraft
- curse by magic chants, amulets
- asks no questions, divines the cause
- charges no fee, a spiritual service

IV. (MEDICAL DOCTOR)

- deals with medical diseases
- Ayurveda and Unnani medicines
- asks no question, he/she diagnoses
- charges high fee, powerful cures
- gives a guarantee, no cure, no cost

V. (HOME REMEDY, QUACK)

- deals with minor medical problems
- asks many questions, doesn't know
- charges low fees, weak cures
- no guarantee, pay for service

KEY HINDU CONCEPTS

- **Brahman** - ultimate reality
- **Atman** - human spirit
- **Dvaita & Advaita** - monism, dualism, contingent dualism
- **Maya** - world is ephereral
- **Karma** - law of consequences
- **Samsara** - cycle of births and rebirths
- **Dharma** - duty: personal, caste
- **Moksha** - release from cycle of rebirths

HINDU MORAL ORDER

- **VIRTUES**

- *satya* - truth
- *ahimsa* - nonviolence
- *dana* - charity
- *dayadhuam* - compassion
- *damyata* - self control
- *nishkama karma* - detachment
- *shudhi* - purity

- **FOUR GOALS OF LIFE**

- *dharma* - righteousness
- *artha* - material well being
- *kama* - enjoyment, pleasure
- *moksha* - liberation from the
cycle of rebirths

- **INNATE CHARACTERISTICS**

- *sattva* - goodness

- *rajas* - passion

- *tamas* - inertia

- **DRIVES OR PASSIONS**

- *kama* - drives, instincts

- *artha* - craving for power and wealth

- *dharma* - desire to do one's duties

- *moksha* - desire for salvation

- **DEBTS WE OWE**

- to God
- to teachers and *rishis*
- to parents and ancestors

- **ACTIONS**

- due to drives
- due to debts
- required by *dharma*
- ruled by *karma*

- **PATHS TO MOKSHA**

- ***Jnana marga***: path of meditation

- ***Bhakti marga***: path of devotion

- ***Karma marga***: path of duty

- **ASHRAMAS** [stages of life]

- ***Acharya***: student

- ***Gruhasta***: householder

- ***Vanaprasta***: meditator

- ***Sanyasin***: mendicant

- **VARNAS** [societal categories]
 - ***Brahmin***: priests
 - ***Kshatriya***: rulers, warriors
 - ***Vaishyas***: - merchants
 - ***Sudras***: - laborers, farmers

[below these and outside of *varna* are the ***dalits*** or **untouchables**. They have no religious identity in Hinduism]

THE CASTE SYSTEM

- **exclusive membership**
- **exhaustive membership**
- **groups are closed**
- **membership is ascribed by birth**
- **groups are ranked on the basis of purity/pollution**
- **relations between groups are regulated by the system**
- **relations are complimentary not competitive [met. body]**

CHARACTERISTICS OF CASTES

- **membership is by birth**
- **endogamy**
- **distinct symbols of identity:**
 - **name**
 - **religious belief, rituals, scriptures, priests**
 - **dress, food, customs**
- **internal governance**
- **social position: occupation, location of residence**

INTER-CASTE RELATIONSHIPS

- **hierarchical:**
 - language
 - touch
 - inter-dining
 - location of residence
- **complementary:**
 - economic: patron/client
 - religion: participation
 - political: party loyalties

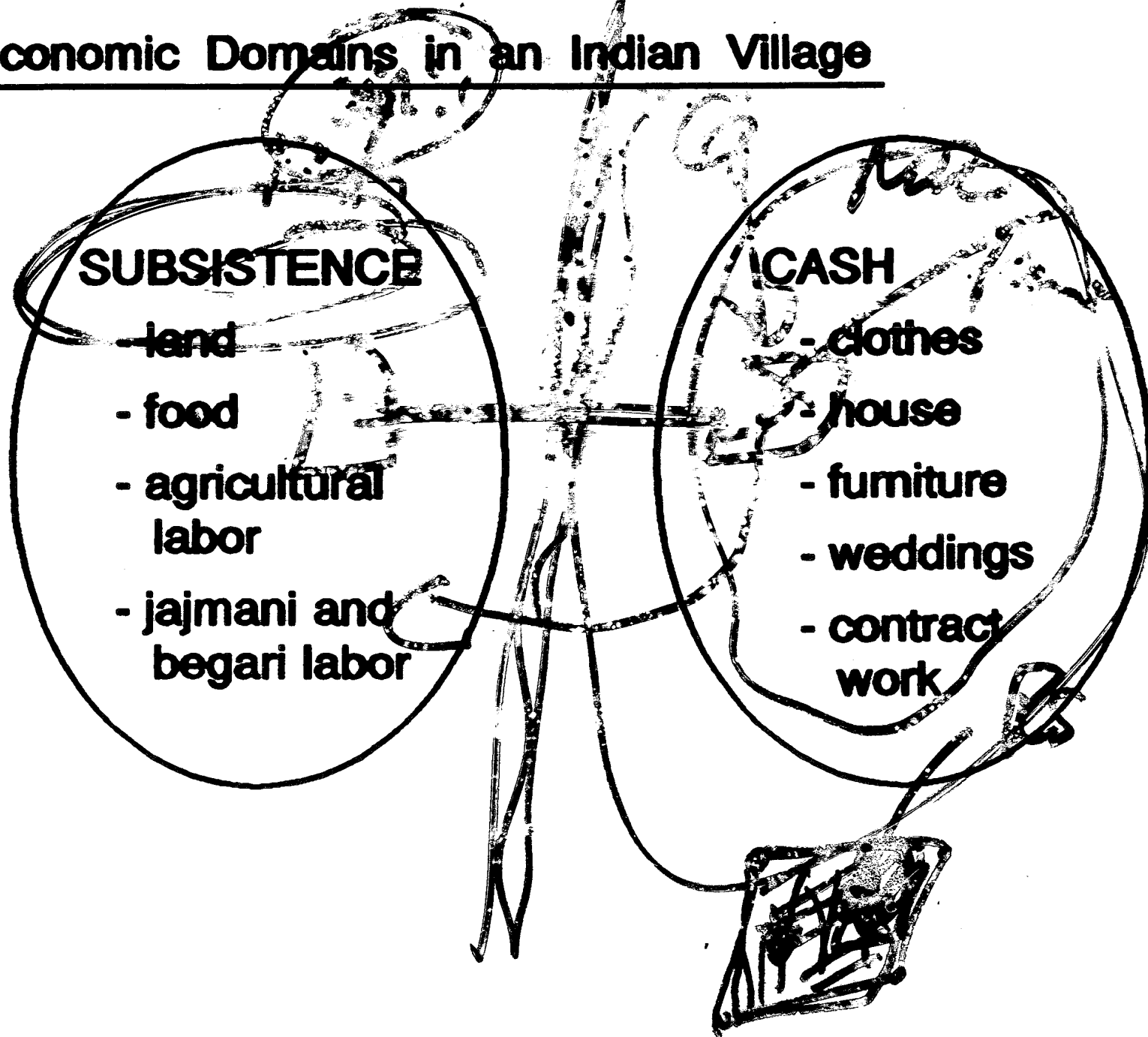
- **Moksha** - *jnana marga*
- *bhakti marga*
- *karma marga*
- **Varnas** - *brahmin*
- *kshatriya*
- *vaishya*
- *shudra*

KEY CONCEPTS IN THE HINDU WORLDVIEW

- *Brahman*
- *Brahma*
- *maya*
- *eka jivam*
- *karma*
- *atma*
- *dharmā*
- *samsara*
- *moksha*
- *ashramas:*
 - *jnana marga*
 - *bhakti marga*
 - *karma marga*

- ***ashramas:***
 - ***acharya***
 - ***gruhasta***
 - ***vanaprastha***
 - ***sanyasin***
- **particles**
- **purity and pollution**
- **hierarchy**
- **time**
- **space**

Economic Domains in an Indian Village



AMERICAN WORLDVIEW

INDIAN WORLDVIEW

EMPIRICISM

- ***absolutes***
- ***naturalism***
- ***linear time***
- ***order and immutability***
- ***knowledge***

MAYA

- ***relativism***
- ***spiritualism***
- ***cyclical time***
- ***mutability and unpredictability***
- ***wisdom***

**PARTICULARISTIC,
CATEGORIZED WORLD**

- *bounded sets*
- *equality in categories*
- *individualism*
- *contract relations*

**NATURAL AND MORAL
MANAGEMENT**

- *science, technology*
- *uniform morality and justice*
- *missionary*

UNITY OF ALL THINGS

- *fuzzy sets*
- *hierarchy*
- *interdependence*
- *patron-client relations*

KARMA - COSMIC LAW

- *samsara or pilgrimage*
- *relative and situational morality*
- *inclusivism, tolerance*

SELF RELIANCE

- *expanding good*
- *achievement oriented*
- *associational groups*
- *success and progress*

FUNCTIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE

- *limited good*
- *ascription oriented*
- *jatis, ascribed groups*
- *moksha*