

1. What do you understand by the term model minority? What is the role of a country's social system and institutional structure in integrating and assimilating migrants into local culture? Why do you think Europe has failed to integrate the migrants from the Middle East?

**Answer:**

- A model minority is a minority group, whether based on ethnicity, race or religion, whose members are perceived to achieve a higher degree of socioeconomic success than the population average. This success is typically measured in income, education, low crime rates and high family stability. The term is controversial, for it is sometimes used to suggest there is no need for government action to reduce discrimination.
- Indians, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese are among prominent groups considered as Model Minority world over. Indian Americans also earn the highest average income out of all national origin/ethnic groups. This has resulted in several stereotypes such as that of the "Indian Doctor or Engineer".
- Integration is the process by which immigrants become accepted into society, both as individuals and as groups.
- The major factors that affect the process of integration are general public institutions of receiving societies or cities, such as the education system or institutional arrangements in the labor market. Laws, regulations, and executive organizations, along with unwritten rules and practices, are part of such institutions.
- These, however, may hinder access or equal outcome for newcomers, or even completely exclude them. The functioning of these general public institutions (and the possible adjustment of them in view of growing diversity) is thus of paramount importance.
- Integration processes, for both individuals and groups, are long-term by nature. At the group level this means that the litmus test for integration, and for the success or failure of policies in this field, is the position of the second generation.
- Full integration into any society and economy generally takes more than one generation, with children of immigrants reliably outperforming their parents in educational attainment, occupational status, wealth, and home ownership. Residential segregation also decreases between first and second generations, and rates of intermarriage between ethnic and racial groups increase. Language proficiency improves dramatically as well.
- Thus, integration studies and impact must be analyzed from the second generation onwards and not the first. In case of middle-east migrants to Europe, there is general perception in society that these people have failed to integrate as still they are becoming more orthodox instead of liberal in their second or third generation.
- Similarly, many of them have played a key role in various terrorists' attacks in Europe in last two years and some of them have even fled back to middle-east to join various terrorist organizations.
- On the other hand there have been some occasions in Denmark, Netherlands and UK, wherein large demonstrations have been held to impose sharia in Muslim dominated regions.
- Thus, when compared to other group of migrants, middle-eastern migrants show the more tendencies to impose their customs over local customs instead of

adopting them. Major reasons behind this poor education standards, income standards, and religious orthodoxy compared to other group of immigrants.

- However, it is incorrect to blame the entire society as a whole, because the number of people engaged in such activities may be visibly higher, but proportionally very low.

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

### **Answer the following Questions**

1. Highlight the key factors that need to be considered in deciding the location of nuclear power plants. Also, explain the difficulties India faces in utilizing the large reserves of thorium as part of its civil nuclear programme. (150 words)
2. Both the Pallavas and the Cholas played a significant role in the development of structural temples in South India. Explain with examples. (150 words)