

SOCIETY, CLASS AND CULTURE

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Abstract:

Society is an organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic or other purposes. It has its own rules and regulations which are nearly compulsory for living in the same intellectual domain. However, this society has been classified for certain purposes to complete the needs of the society. It is necessary to have some distinction. It is called as a class and later on every society has a certain culture. It means this society bounded by some living ethics, rules, traditions and regulations for smooth functioning of society.

Keywords: *Society-Class- Culture- beliefs- social status- classification*

Man is a social animal. If we try to understand history of human beings, it is necessary to study ancient history of a man. Man doesn't know what society is? He lives like an animal wandering here and there. He totally detached from social life. Even primary needs like food, shelter cloth was not easily accessible to them. He eats fruits, roots, seeds and animal flesh. He prepared huts made from bamboo sticks and grass for shelter. If the primary needs are too away then think of other basic necessities of life. They were too away from all these. Though Man lives in a group, he knows that it is impossible for them to live alone. Man feels need to live in a company. He feared from deadly animals in the jungle. Unity is strength. As they faced number of problems living life, they understand the importance of society. Mankind made a rampant progress in every field. Later on, the situation improved largely in habits and culture. The roots of the term society can be found in Latin. Social which means companionship and friendship.

According to Aristotle, philosopher and thinker, man is social animal, is true as, it is impossible for anyone to live without society. Only gods and ghosts live in loneliness. It is a nature of man to be associated with others. It is impossible to live without the company of others. According to psychologist, if man has no friends when he had in difficult situation at this time, he has no way to

conclude his life. If he has friends, he can share his problems and difficulties with others and his life can be saved. According to McIver "society is a web of relationship." Outside family, there are other relations, just as we have some social responsibilities also. Comradeship, intimacy and association of any kind or degree would be impossible without some understanding of each other. According to Pertierra, society can be seen as the collection of individual members perusing their interest in the context of formal rules administrated by individual and implemented by the state, Man feels need of language for communication. He cannot express his emotions of anger, fear, love, hatred of anger, sympathy, pity, and terror without words. They felt so many problems in their daily life. They started to live in groups. It became impossible to live without each other. This society consist of many traditions, culture, superstitions, beliefs about mythology and religion. There was no classification of society into different classes in this early period. But a certain culture was existed then also. Primitive people acknowledged some rules and regulations for the advancement of the society. A group of people cans not live without culture. Each society has its beliefs, tradition and culture also. It is true that people were not literate and follow such unhealthy practices which were totally harmful for social welfare. It was good or bad, though, became an integral part of their life. Class distinction was also existed then also, but it was not too severe as it was seen in later age.

Society, class and culture are interrelated terms having relation with each other. It is clear that there are differences of class, caste, religion, race, culture, sex and tradition. Man is an intellectual animal. He has a unique quality of thinking. As per social strata, a classification of society has been done, as per economic, political, historical, geographical, traditional and social ethics and values. Though, it is true that real classification is depends on economic condition of any society, but social status of a group of people shows their living standard. Class of any society, sometimes, by geographical conditions also. Climate and environments compel them to live in same locality.

Sometimes, tradition, superstitions and culture can create a special group of people living with same intension. As per social ethics and values, people started to live with each other. Religious beliefs are so strong that it creates a certain group of people living together. There should be some support that certain people living together with same motives and intension, but sometimes such union may be dangerous for society as it is passionate with single dominating idea in their mind. They were infatuated toward such an idea that they are not able to escapes from that. They found themselves entangled in such situations as it is imbibed on them from their childhood days.

As we think about Indian society, it is found that society was classified into four groups that is Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras. Brahman is upper class who has the most importance. They are scholars, priests and teachers. Next, Kshatriya who has a responsibility to protect a people. They are rulers, warriors and administrators. Vaishyas are farmers and merchants and lastly, Shudras who were laborers and service providers. This class classification was firmly rooted in the minds of people having its foundation so deep in relation to Indian context. This classification of society remains for long duration. It is predominantly in pre- independence era and post-independence era also. It is not beneficial for the welfare of the society as one section of society is dominant by others and suffered a lot. The main reason behind all this is illiteracy which is basic reason behind all this. But later on, social reformers eradicated all these from society but it is impossible to found such a society without discriminations.

Culture means a set of hobbits, set of customs, ideas and beliefs which is cultivated constantly on the minds of individual. It may be knowledge,

beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities and superstitions. From childhood days, all the above things are imbibed on the mind of child. As the child observes, he can understand all these too easily. There is no necessity to teach him anything just as there is no necessity to learn all the things related with his regular routine. Mind of a kid is like an unwritten slate on which words or some lessons of understanding written with our behavioral pattern. According to Malinowski, culture is an “instrumental reality and apparatus for the satisfaction of the biological and deprived need.” Culture means the accumulated treasury of human creations, books, paintings, buildings and like; the knowledge the ways of adjusting the surrounding, both human and physical. It consists of language, customs, systems of etiquette, ethics, religion and morals that have built from the ages. The classical definition of culture Tylor was a turning point in the theoretical interpretation of culture, which attracts the attention of many scholars from all over the world. He discussed unilinear development of human culture ranging from savagery, barbarism to civilization. It creates an evolution in this field. It is necessary to study a culture of any society to get acquainted with particular sect of people.

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