

"Best for an individual is not necessarily best for the society".

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## I- Introduction

Thesis Statement: Indeed, what benefits an individual may not always favor the greater good of society. However, it may vary with evolving interests of both society and individual.

## II. How can "best for an individual ~~is~~ not necessarily best for society" be conceptualized?

- 1- It emphasizes more on individualism whereas collectivism takes a backseat.
- 2- It favors the individual's interest at the expense of the society.
- 3- It neglects the welfare of society in the pursuit of person gains.

## III. What is best for an individual not best for the society?

- 1- Political dimension: Different political events and practices i.e. authoritarianism, war in the backdrop of collateral damage, dynastic politics ~~bring~~ bring heavy cost to society.
- 2- Economic Dimension: Capitalism, industrialization, class-based economic systems, can favor economic elite and tycoons.
- 3- Tragedy of Commons: It ignores the well-being of society in the pursuit of vested interests of individual.
- 4- Environmental Dimension: Burning of fossil

- fuels due to industrialization are causing global warming.
- 5- Social Dimension: Prevailing nuclear families at the disposal of dissipating joint families.
  - 6- Legal Dimension: Freedom of speech and association are being curtailed by the fascist regime.
  - 7- Ethical Dimension: Bureaucrats pursue their own vested interest as they own such inbuilt-tendency according to

## VI- What is best for society not best for an individual?

- 1- Patriarchal society: Male dominating society always promotes entrenched culture by subjugating soft target i.e. Women and Transgender.
- 2- Caste-based culture: Practice of dowry is commonly observed for the so-called social fabric.
- 3- Practice of closed culture: Ban on women education in the name of religious codes.
- 4- Cultural inertia: It blocks the progression of subjugated class in the name of old traditions.

## VII- What is best for individual best for society?

Women Empowerment: It flourishes the entire nation and becomes the agent of change.

1- Change in society directly breeds change

2- Philanthropy: It uplifts the entire society in term of socio-economic mobility.

(Case in point: Abdus Statter Edhi)

3- Democratic participation of people: It accelerates to bring better "Grievance redressal system".

## VII - Are society and individual mutually exclusive?

1- Change in society only comes with the change in individual's behavior.

2- Active citizen can be an agent of social change.

(Case in point: Martin Luther King)

3- Law-abiding citizens brings social control.

4- Social values determine human values?

5- Good governance can only be achieved with the active participation of civil society.

## IX - Way Forward: How to balance out the two ends?

1- Balancing between individualism and collectivism will avoid despotism.

2- Abolition of repressive practices i.e. Dowry, Satti.

3- Socialization of individuals.

## X Conclusion

According to a report published by Oxfam, the country's top 1% holds more wealth than the bottom 70% of the population. Similarly, the wealthiest 1% of the world's population owns more than ~~of~~ the half of the world's wealth. These mind boggling facts reflect the pathetic accumulation of wealth by a small group of people at the expense of society.

It signifies the fact that what benefits the individual or small group do not favor the greater good of the public. Though, it can be said that entire society suffers at the hands of few individuals but other dimensions can't be ~~also~~ explored in this regard.

Likewise, in many instances, individual suffers at the disposal of societal norms and culture. For example, patriarchal society always encourage the male domination by subjugating the soft targets like women. In addition to this, practice of closed culture and cultural inertia may ~~be~~ hurt the individual but it is considered as the prerequisite of stable society.

Apart from this, in some circumstances, what favors the society may benefit the individual. For examples, women empowerment, philanthropy and participatory democracy can be beneficial for both individual and society. In order to understand its relationship, it is perceptible to say that both are two sides of same coin. There is a pertinent need to balance out both ends otherwise it may

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lead to despotism. Domination of one side over another could be catastrophic owing to the possibility of conflicts and confrontation. Indeed what benefits an individual may not always favor the greater good of society. However, it may vary with evolving interests of both society and individual.