

Q Discuss in detail plato's concept of justice.

Introduction:

Plato explains his concept of justice in his book "The Republic". He represented the idea of justice in the form of dialogues. He took part in dialogue with various other philosophers who were having different ideas of justice. Plato rejected all existing ideas of justice and retaliated with his unique idea. Plato's idea of justice was unique and based on the concept of division ^{of} and class and specialization of functions. Plato's idea of justice had greatest contribution in the field of social philosophy but also had some loopholes.

Existing theories of justice and concepts of other philosophers:

Plato explained his idea of justice in his book called

"The Republic". He explained the whole idea by indulging himself in an imaginative dialogue with other philosophers. Each one of them had his own idea of justice.

According to Cephalus "the concept of justice is speaking truths and paying debts." This idea is commended by Cephalus's son Polymarchus. According to Polemarchus,

"justice is giving everyone his due"

This idea of Polemarchus had been demurred by Socrates. He said, "Does it mean doing good to one's friends and harm to one's friends?" Polemarchus accepted that interpretation of his idea. Socrates retaliated that this idea of justice leads to chaos and makes enemies even more worse.

Another philosopher Thrasymachus gave his idea of justice. He stated

that "justice is the interest of the strong."

Might is right. In any society those who have more power, they use it for their own benefits. So,

the **Socrates** again raised objections against his idea and stated that

"Individual does not serve himself best by imagining his interests apart from whole but by imagining himself a part of whole and considering that what affect whole also affect him."

Socrates rejected all the theories of justice and gave his concept of justice that justice is an integral part of soul and its definition requires a dissection of man's soul. At this point of discussion plato interrupted with his concept of justice and rejected all previously existing theories.

Plato's concept of justice:

plato explained his concept of justice by dividing

people into three main categories based on one of the dominated attributes of characteristics 'Desire', 'Courage' and 'Reason'. According to Plato everybody had one of these attributes more than than the other two.

Division of people:

He divided people into three distinct classes

- Rulers
- Guardian soldiers
- Artisans

He classified the men who had greater amount of desire or appetite as 'Artisans'. They must be specialized in this attribute and "their duty is to provide community with necessities of life." on the basis of courage and spirit he choosed guardian soldier for state. According to him state must have larger population and

an extended territory. And to defend territory of state, state must establish a military guardian class. So, the courageous people of state would perform this duty. out of guardian soldiers, he selected people who were endowed with reason and motivated by their willingness to serve as rulers and called them "Rulers" of his state. Rulers should best serve the interests of community. Plato did all this classification to represent his idea of justice and According to Plato

"justice is the product of division of class and specialization of functions"

Moreover, he further explained that

"justice is giving to everyman his due which is best assigned by his dominated attribute and task which he could perform"

at his best." However, this concept hold no legal connotation and had many loopholes.

criticism:

Following are the points which depict criticism on plato's concept of justice.

- Unjust division of society
- Impracticable idea
- Hold no ground of justice
- Destroy freedom and mutual harmony among masses by constant divisions
- The attributes, characteristics of courage, reason and desire are not much obvious and distinguishable.
- Moreover, non-interference in the authority of rulers is impossible.

Conclusion:

This philosophy or concept of justice is well-known by the name of plato's theory of justice. In his theory he assigned duties on the basis

of specialization and dominated attribute. He selected people to work for the welfare of state, whatever duties they have been assigned. But his theory of justice was criticised for making divisions in society and for absolute power given to rulers. However, Plato's theory of justice is his remarkable work.