

1 Explain Plato's theory of justice. How he tries to implement it through the Education system? (2001)

About Plato:

Ideology: Rationalism

Focus: philosopher kings

Influenced By: Plato was influenced by Socrates, Pythagoras, Homer, Protagoras

Influenced: Marx, Hobbes, Mill, Hegel, Descartes, Russell, Cicero, Augustine was influenced by Plato

Key works: The Laws, The Politics, The Meno,

The Republic, and The Apology

2 Introduction:

His book, The Republic, represents his idea's of justice, its definition and full content. He mentioned a dialogue in his Republic, where Socrates was on one side and various characters were on another side. Cephalus, an old wealthy man defines justice as, "telling truth and paying debts". Polymarchus, the son of Cephalus, generally agrees with his father, and defines "justice is give everyone what is his due". Socrates rejected his definition. Another character of the dialogue Thrasymachus states that "justice is the interest of the strongest". Right is right.

Socrates rejected all these explanation because in cases they are wrong. All these explanations define justice as something apart

from the man's soul. Justice is an integral part of the soul; thus its definition requires a dissection of man's soul. Thus Plato arrives at the point of his real task, the construction of the just state and so the discovery of the principles of justice in the individual.

3- Plato's Theory of Justice:

Plato's ideal empire/state was based upon justice. According to him, justice is the fundamental right of every man. Ideas of any man cannot be corrected until it does not contain the fundamental elements of fidelity/truth and justice.

Justice is an important aspect for all human beings. People of any country cannot enjoy a healthy and wealthy life without the mutual cooperation and having the right of justice.

Plato's theory of justice is based on some points.

(i) Division of population as per their dominated force:

According to Plato, human being is motivated by three forces, and among all of three forces one is dominated in every person. Plato divided the population as per their dominated force.

a- Producers class - Hunger is dominant

Producer class is responsible, to produce necessities of common people. Their work

is to do production. They have a nature of more and more. They are called the Stomach of the state.

b- Soldier class - Bravery is dominant

Soldier class is responsible for the defence of the country. They have a force of courage, and fight for the defence of their homeland. They are called the Heart of the state.

c- Ruler class - Wisdom is dominant

They have a force of wisdom. They will not have only the greatest capacity to think philosophically, but they will also realize that their welfare is inseparably bound with the welfare of the whole. They are called the Brain of the state.

Ruler class

(rule on)

Soldier

Producers

(ii) State function as a body:

Plato, while explaining his theory declared that the state functions as a body. As all the part of the body are connected with each other and are united in such a way that when someone feel in any part of his body the pain is felt in the whole body. Same is the case with state. State is a body and people are its organs.

So for the welfare of the state, all the organs needs to work diligently in their respective

areas - Prof. G. M. Sabine writes in his book, namely, "A History of Political Theory"

"Justice is a bond which holds the Society together in harmonious union of individuals, each of whom has found his life work in accordance with his natural fitness and training"

(iii) Geographical Division for the same implementation of justice:

According to Plato, the geographical location of the country should also be kept in mind. If a country is vast then it will be difficult for ruler to implement same justice in whole country. For the implementation of same justice, condition is to divide country in small regions such as authorities should be appointed by philosopher king in small regions.

In this way many problems will come in notice of philosopher king who is sitting at a distance from the people of his State.

(iv) Attempt for justice yourself:

It is the responsibility of each class to watch its fundamental rights, and if justice is not provided to them, then they have a right to unite themselves against institutions, the rulers, and approach to law authorities.

Everybody should know that justice can only be achieved by struggling hard.

4- Important features of platonic theory of Justice

Some important features of platonic theory of justice are given as under-

(i) **Non-interference in other Affairs:**
Theory of justice is dependant upon the spirit of non-interference. According to plato, every man should do the job according to their capabilities. That's why he divided population in three classes, and restricted that no one is allowed to interfere in others work.

(ii) **Principles of integrity/unity:**
Plato's theory of justice is based upon the principles of unanimity and integrity.
According to him, which state is formed with suitable unanimity balance in which justice demands administrative unity and these are three communities of society i.e. labour, soldier and rulers -

(iii) **Specialisation of Duties:**
According to plato, every man should work under his predominant force. He has to be specialized in his work/duties, and has no concern with other affairs.

(iv) **Opposition of the individuality:**
Plato's theory of justice is against the individuality. According to his theory, an individual cannot think about that he is alone but he should think himself as a part of whole.

(v) **Service to Humanity:**
Plato does not consider justice as formal and external thing but he considers it as a

Quality of soul and speciality of mind.
Justice means to serve mankind and
Service to humanity.

(vi) **Universal Justice** - All the duties of individual.
According to Plato's Theory of justice, justice is
connected with the universal justice. His
theory of justice relates to all the duties
of individual not only the legal duties.

**Plato's Education system - to implement
Theory of justice:**

To Plato, the welfare of the state depended
upon the educational training of its citizens.
Plato attacked Athenian system in Athens,
even though education was compulsory there,
but it was privately administered.

Moreover, there was only elementary education
in Athens, which was not adequate to
train the statesman properly.

For the implementation of theory of justice
and to achieve a ideal state, based on
justice - Plato divided his educational
plan in two phases i.e. Elementary and
higher-

(i) **Elementary Education:**

The first phase is consists of elementary
education for its citizens upto the age of
eighteen and is followed by two years
military training.

Subjects :- The subjects of this phase are
music and gymnastic.

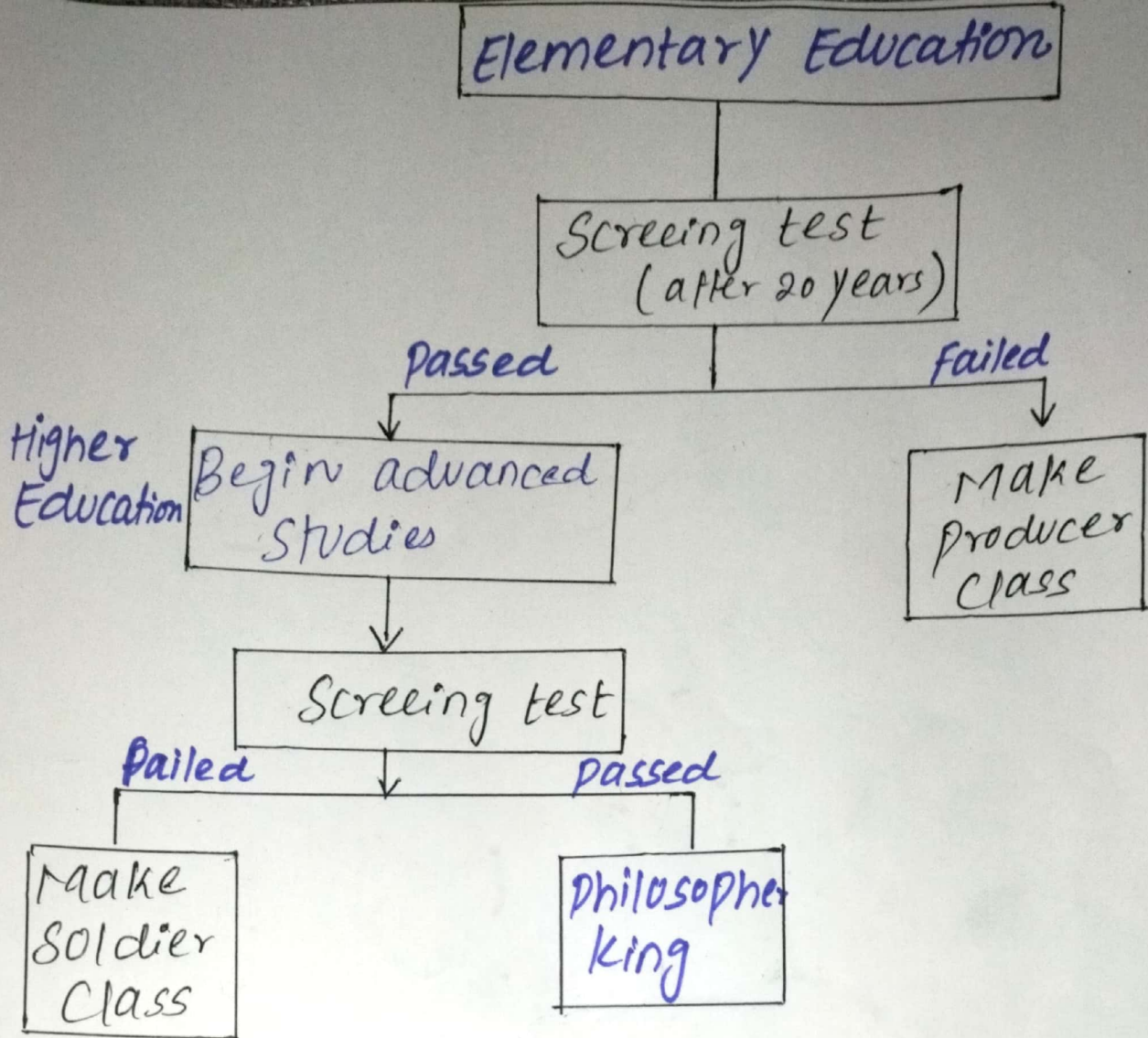
After 20 years a selective screening process of Elementary Education must be taken. Those who survived would start the advanced study and those who failed would enter into Producer class. In this way the work of producer class is to produce goods and services for all.

(ii) Higher Education

The group begins the program at the age of twenty. Subjects of this phase are astronomy and mathematics. At the age of 35 those who have successfully completed their advanced education must be sent to civil and military administrative services in order that state benefit from their advanced training. After this screening test would be conducted those who survived would enter into final five years and those who failed would enter into Soldier Class.

The final five years are spent in a study of dialectic or philosophy. This last is the ultimate and final instruction. Here the first principles are exposed and the search for "truth" is launched.

6. Implementation of Theory of Justice through the Process of Education:



This education system would make ideal state.

7 **Conclusion:**

In a nutshell, Plato's theory of justice is to make an ideal state. For the implementation of his theory, he proposed an education system. Through the implementations of Plato's education system a state can become an ideal state.

This theory has a potential to build a justice but on the other hand it has many loopholes-