

Discuss the sway of sufism in 13th and 14th century AD. (2017)

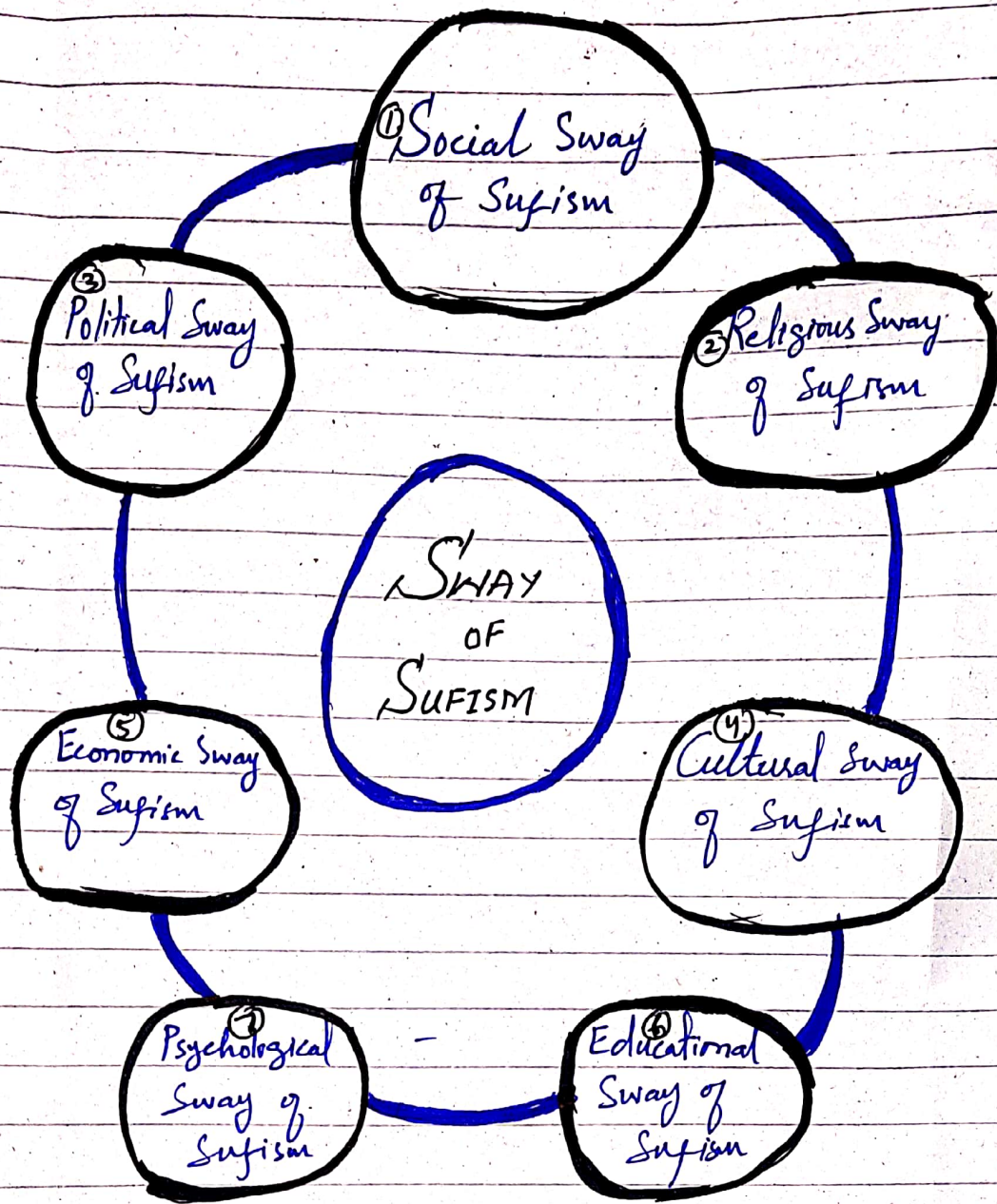
Discuss the sway of Sufism in 13th century AD. (2021)

① INTRODUCTION:

In the 13th and 14th centuries, Sufism rose as a powerful spiritual movement that profoundly impacted the fabric of society across the Muslim world, including the Indian subcontinent. Unlike formal religious orthodoxy, Sufi teachings emphasized personal devotion, love, and inner purification. By promoting values of equality, compassion, and humility, Sufis established a unique, community-centered approach to spirituality that attracted people from diverse backgrounds. This influence was multi-dimensional, affecting social, religious, political, economic, cultural, educational and even psychological aspects of society, creating a legacy that left a lasting imprint on the evolving Muslim identity in the region.

② WHAT IS SWAY OF SUFISM?

The influence of sufism is known as sway of Sufism.



1 Social Sway of Sufism

- ① Promotion of equality and inclusivity
- ② Encouragement of Brotherhood and Social Cohesion
- ← ③ Establishment of Khanqahs as Community Centers

① Promotion of Equality and Inclusivity

Sufis promoted social equality by welcoming individuals from all social classes, including the marginalized and downtrodden. They offered acceptance and respect to people of different backgrounds, undermining rigid social hierarchies.

② Establishment of Khanqahs and Community Centers:

Allama Maududi writes in his book, "Khanqahs became centre for community welfare, offering food, shelter, and support to the needy."

③ Encouragement of Brotherhood and Social Cohesion:

According to Allama Maududi, "Sufi teachings emphasized universal brotherhood, inspiring followers to live harmoniously. This message of unity strengthened social bonds, as people found solace and companionship in Sufi gatherings."

2. Religious Sway of Sufism

① Spread of Islam through teachings

→ ① Focus on inner purification & personal devotion

→ ② Emphasis on Moral character and ethical conduct.

① Focus on inner purification and personal devotion

"Sufis encouraged followers to seek a personal connection with God through inner purification and sincerity in devotion, which distinguished them from orthodox religious practices." Imam Ghazali wrote in his book *Ihya-Ulum al-Din*.

② Spread of Islam through teachings:

According to Imam Ghazali:
"Sufis approach to spreading Islam focused on love, tolerance, and understanding, attracting non-Muslims and marginalized groups."

③ Emphasis on moral character & Ethical conduct

According to Imam Al-Ghazali:
"Sufis highlighted the importance of virtues like humility, honesty and patience. They thought that a sound character was essential for true spirituality, encouraging followers to lead moral lives."

3. Political Sway of Sufism

- ① Role as Mediators b/w Rulers & Common people
- ← ② Advocacy for Justice & Social Welfare
- ③ Preservation of distance from political ambitions

① Role as mediator between rulers and common people

In the book "Principles of State and Government in Islam by Muhammad Asad", it is discussed that Sufi saints acted as intermediaries offering advice to rulers and voicing the concerns of the people. This mediation helped bridge the gap between the ruling class and the populace.

② Advocacy for Justice and Social Welfare :

Sufis held rulers accountable to Islamic principles of justice and fairness. Some Sufi leaders openly criticized rulers who oppressed people, using their influence to promote just governance.

③ Preservation of distance from political ambition :

While influential, Sufis largely refrained from direct political power. Their commitment to spirituality over worldly ambitions allowed them to maintain independence and moral authority.

4. Economic Sway of Sufism

⑥ Encouragement of Philanthropy among followers

⑦ Establishment of Charitable institutions
...
⑧ Role of Trade & Economic Exchange.

(a) Establishment of charitable institutions :

Syed Ameen Ali in his book "The Spirit of Islam" writes, Sufi Khanqahs often served as charitable centres, providing food, clothing, and financial assistance. Their commitment to charity improved the living standards of the poor and fostered economic justice.

(b) Encouragement of Philanthropy among followers

Sufi saints taught that wealth should be used for betterment of society. This inspired wealthy followers to contribute to charitable causes, embedding philanthropy in Sufi practices.

(c) Role in Trade and Economic Exchange :

Many Sufi centres attracted traders and travelers, becoming hubs of economic exchange. By offering hospitality to merchants, Sufis contributed to regional trade and economic development.

(b) A

5. Cultural Sway of Sufism

(b) Introduction of devotional music and dance.

(c) Development of Sufi poetry and literature

(d) Integration of local cultural practices

① Development of Sufi poetry and literature :

Allama Iqbal in his book "Reconstruction of Religious Thoughts in Islam" writes Sufi poets like Rumi, Attar, and Bulleh Shah composed poetry that conveyed spiritual teachings and moral lessons. This enriched the literary traditions of the Islamic world and made Sufi ideas accessible to a broader audience.

② Introduction of devotional music and dance :

Practices like qawwali (devotional singing) and sama (spiritual dance) became expressions of Sufi devotion. These cultural forms spread Sufi teachings in an engaging and emotionally resonant way.

③ Integration of local cultural practices :

Sufis adopted and integrated local customs into Islamic practices, making Islam culturally relevant to diverse societies, particularly in South Asia. This adaptation strengthened cultural ties and made Sufism relatable to local communities.

6. Educational Sway of Sufism

- ⑤ Provision of free education for the underprivileged
- ① Establishment of Khanqahs as centre of learning
- ② Emphasis on Holistic Education (Intellectual and Moral)

① Establishment of Sufi Khanqahs as centre of learning

"Many Khanqahs functioned as educational centres where people could study both religious and secular subjects. Sufis promoted an education that emphasized intellectual and spiritual growth," According to Dr. Hamidullah.

② Provision of free education for the under-privileged:

Dr. Hamidullah in his book "Concept of Religion and state" writes, "Sufi saints often provided free education to those who could not afford formal schooling, offering instruction in basic literacy, ethics and religious knowledge, which uplifted the educational standard of society."

③ Emphasis on holistic education:

Sufi teachings focused on the development of both the mind and the soul, encouraging a holistic approach to education that combined academic knowledge with ethical and spiritual growth.

7. Psychological Sway of Sufism

① Promotion of love, compassion, and forgiveness.

→ ② Addressing emotional needs through spiritual counseling

→ ③ Encouragement of self-reflection and inner peace.

① Addressing emotional needs through spiritual counseling

Allama Maududi in his book "In Islamic way of life" writes, Sufis provided comfort and guidance to people during times of distress. Their teachings on inner peace and self-reflection offered individuals tools to manage their emotions and find solace.

② Promotion of love, compassion, and forgiveness:

Sufi teachings on divine love encouraged followers to embody love and compassion in their lives. This helped reduce social tensions and promoted an environment of mutual respect and forgiveness.

③ Encouragement of Self-Reflection and inner peace

Sufi practices, such as zikr, encouraged followers to engage in self-reflection, leading to inner peace and emotional resilience in the face of life's challenges.

3. CONCLUSION:

In the end, Sufism emerged as a transformative movement in 13th and 14th centuries that shaped social, ~~po~~ religious, political, economic

cultural, educational, and psychological aspects
of society.

Describe the most notable features of Muslims in India in the light of their monotheistic religion and egalitarian social structure. (CSS-2006)

① INTRODUCTION

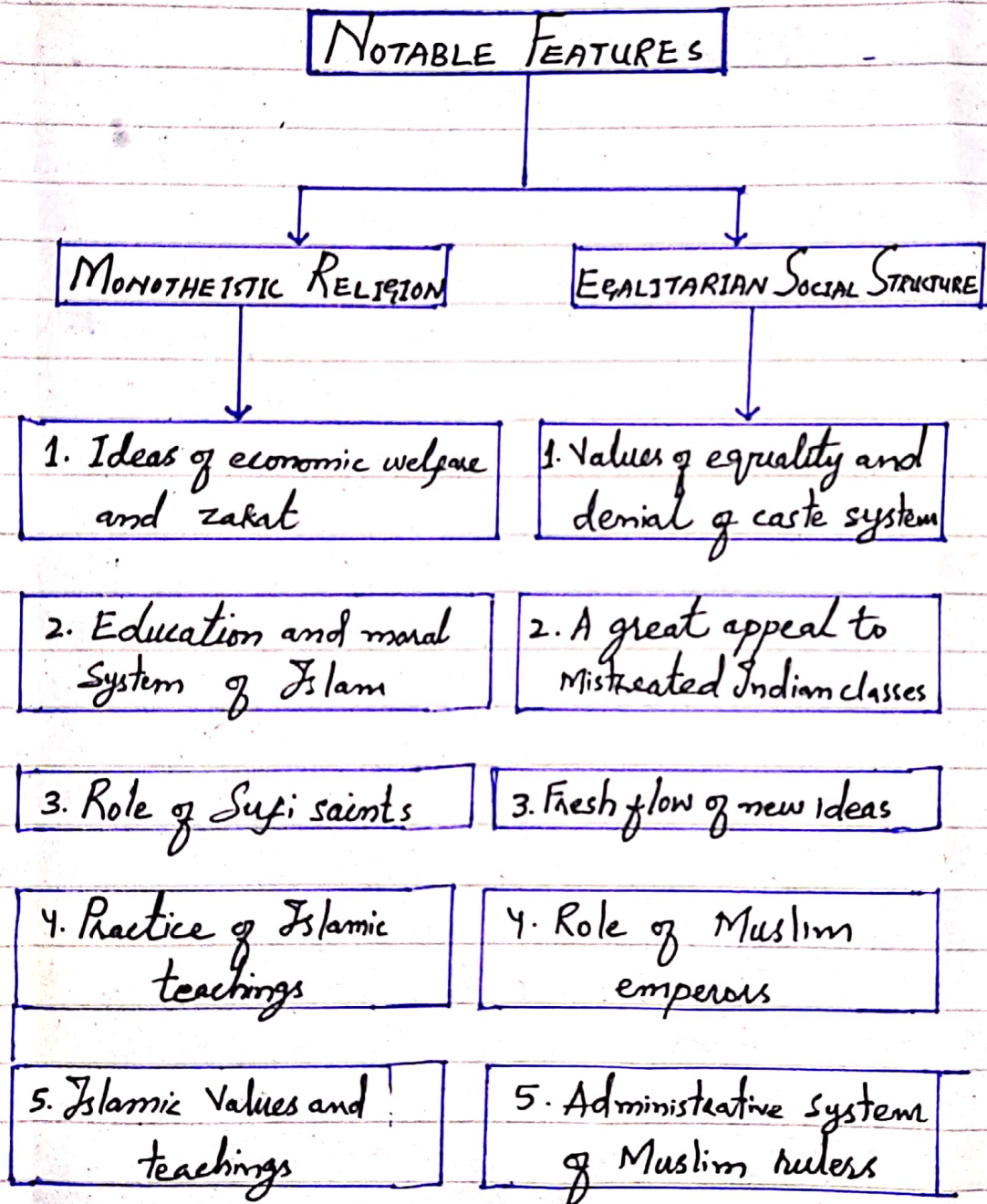
The Muslims of India have many notable features; among them, the most significant are their monotheistic religion and egalitarian social structure. These features encompass various aspects, including ideas of economic welfare and zakat, education and moral system of Islam, the role of Sufi saints, the practice of Islamic teachings, and the core Islamic values and teachings. Additionally, the egalitarian social structure includes values of equality and denial of caste system, a great appeal to mistreated Indian classes, a fresh flow of new ideas, the role of Muslim emperors, and the administrative system of Muslim rules. Together, these elements shape the identity and contributions of Muslims in India. Enriching the country's diverse cultural heritage.

"Islam is not only religion but a complete way of life that emphasizes the oneness of God, social justice, equality, and compassion for all humanity"

- Aameem Rihani

2. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES OF

INDIAN MUSLIMS



3. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES IN THE LIGHT OF MONOTHEISTIC RELIGION

① Ideas of economic welfare and zakat.

Islamic teachings emphasize zakat, the mandatory giving to support the poor, which has deeply influenced the socio-economic responsibilities of Muslims in India. This system promotes social welfare and economic justice, benefiting society at large. (Khusheed Ahmad, Islam: Its Meaning and Message).

② Education and Moral System of Islam

Islam encourages the pursuit of knowledge as moral duty, which has historically fostered intellectual growth among Muslims in India. This emphasis on education established a strong ethical foundation within the community, strengthening character and promoting social harmony. (Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain Qureshi, The Muslim Community of the Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent).

3. Role of Sufi saints

Sufi saints, including prominent figures like Moinuddin Chishti, played a vital role in spreading Islam in India. Their teachings of love, tolerance, and spiritual unity attracted followers from diverse backgrounds, creating a peaceful and inclusive environment. (K. Ali, A study of Islamic history).

4. Practice of Islamic teachings

Indian Muslims' dedication to daily prayers, fasting and charity demonstrates the practical application of Islamic values. These practices instill compassion, honesty and community support, which have shaped the moral identity of Muslims in India. (Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, Islam and Peace).

5. Islamic values and teachings:

Core Islamic values like justice, mercy, and respect for others have profoundly influenced the Muslim community in India. These principles guide their interactions and contributions to the society, fostering peace and mutual respect. (Allama Maududi, Towards understanding Islam).

4. MOST NOTABLE FEATURES IN THE LIGHT OF EGALITARIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE

① Values of equality and denial of caste system

The core tenet of Islam is equality before God challenged rigid caste system in India, offering a more inclusive social framework. This principle made Islam appealing to those marginalized by the caste system, encouraging social equity. (Istiaq Hussain Qureshi, Ulema in Politics).

② A great appeal to mistreated Indian classes

The egalitarian ethos of Islam provided dignity and opportunity to the lower classes in India. By embracing Islam, these communities found a supportive social structure that valued their rights and contributions. (I.H. Qureshi, The administration of the Sultanate of Delhi).

③ Fresh flow of new Ideas

Islamic principles introduced progressive ideas about social justice and equality in India, challenging established hierarchies and promoting reforms within society. These values

reshaped social structures, aligning them more with principles of fairness.

(K. Ali, A study of Islamic History)

④ Role of Muslim Emperors

Mughal emperors, particularly Akbar, were notable for their efforts to foster tolerance and inclusivity, reinforcing Islam's egalitarian ideas through governance that valued diversity and merit.

(Stanley Lane-Poole).

⑤ Administrative System of Muslim rulers

The administrative system of Muslim rulers in India emphasized meritocracy enabling capable individuals from diverse backgrounds to contribute to governance. This approach strengthened social cohesion and highlighted the values of justice and fairness.

(Dr. Mubark Ali, History of the Muslims of South Asia).

5. CONCLUSION

In the end, the notable features of Muslims in India, shaped by their monotheistic beliefs and egalitarian social structure, significantly influenced their identity and contribution to society. The principles of Tauheed, charity, education, and respect for others foster a strong sense of community. At the same time, the emphasis on equality and social justice promotes inclusivity and enriches the cultural heritage of India, encouraging harmony among its diverse populations.