

Q8. Discuss in detail, Plato's concept of Justice?

Plato's Concept of Justice:-

According to PLATO, a just society is the one where every individual does what he is best suited for. This qualifies as justice to Plato.

"The having and doing what is one's own."

Every individual in the society is prescribed a certain role and duty according to his own aptitude, without any

discrimination. Plato believes that

"A just man is the one in just the right position and place doing and give equivalent to what he receives."

Plato's concept of justice are

not being followed by the realist human societies. Thus he created one of his own and called it the ideal state.

Ideal Society:

The ideal society of Plato is the one where the concepts of Justice prevail and where every individual performs his own role. To promote justice in such ideal state, Plato created his own division of the societies within classes and gave a complete system of running the society.

Motivating factors:

Plato believed that every individual had 3 primary motivating factors that push a man to adopt something.

He divided them as follows

- ① Human desire i.e. impulse and hunger
- ② Human Emotions i.e. bravery / courage
- ③ Human Knowledge i.e. intellect / reason.

Every individual has one of the three motivating factors and thus society can be divided based on these three human attributes

Educational System:

Plato promoted education to divide human beings into three distinct groups. He aimed for primary and higher education for all and (olig) create an educational system that would assign roles to all within the society based on their skills and aptitude.

Children would be given basic education within homes till age 7

- * At age 7, children will be taken away from homes and taught 2 subjects literature and gymnastic activities. This will continue till grade 7-20

First Test:

Children will be tested at age 20, those unable to pass will be assigned the roles of producers within the society. They will be the economic class of the society.

- * **From 20-30 years:**

From age 20-30 years, they will further be taught different subjects like maths, astrology, philosophy etc. To improve their analytical skills and critical thinking.

2nd Test:

The students will be examined
once more at the age of 30.

Those fail to pass would be
sent into auxiliaries while others
will have to study for 9
more years. They will be taught
philosophy and metaphysics.

At the age of 35 years:-

The individuals reaching
this stage will be sent out
in the world to explore and
learn from life itself and nature.

They will continue to explore,
learn till the age of 50.

At the age of 50 years.

The individuals at the
age of 50 will be considered
the true rulers and philosophers
of the society. Whatever they say
will be considered law and



the constitution.

Absolute Authority:

The individuals becoming the rulers would all exercise absolute authority and their word would be the final say. These are the highly intellectual and great thinkers of the society based on the division system established

No discrimination:

This system of division within classes by Plato is based on the concept of no discrimination against any group or segment within the society. Every child has the right and means to reach the status of ruler and to achieve the authority based on their own skill, hard work and intellect.

Meritocracy:

In this system, Plato promotes meritocracy and no individual can reach the next or upper level, without merit. Education and merit is the basic building block of this society.

Plato's Communism:

Plato believed that it was important to take away children at (the age of) early age, so that they can be removed from the influence of their parents. Hence promoting the concept of "children of the state". He discredited the concept of family for the soldiers and rulers. They were also not allowed to own private property of their own.

Plato removed all the ways and materialistic or humanly desires that could lead to injustice within the society.

All of these are the facets of Plato's concept of Justice, as ~~the~~ it promotes a man's aptitude and skill set be the sole reason of his standing within a society (and not) rather than any exterior factors. Though the concept of Justice seemed really idealistic and gave a successful image of the society, yet it had some demerits and were critiqued on them.

Critique on Plato's Justice:

Plato promoted and based his concept on the intricate system of selection. Yet the

System had some loopholes which are explained as follows.

- 1) The education system was too lengthy for anyone to stay motivated to pursue. Moreover, the subjects taught at the initial stages were highly irrelevant.
- 2) The rulers were given absolute authority that leads and gives way to absolute corruption.
- 3) There were no system of checks and balance in this system. Rulers were given too much power over soldiers and producers.
- 4) The fighting class and the producers not allowed families (were)^{*} meant going against a basic human desire to have a family.

Thus, Plato's system of division within classes did not ensure equal justice for all based on above critique.