

Date: _____

Anthropology

Q No: 01

Discuss in detail the
process of Social Control
in Primitive Societies

(1)

Introduction: Brief Overview
on the process of Social Control
in Primitive Societies;

In Primitive societies the concept of social control differs from each other. However, the main agenda of each society was to regulate power and authority in a legitimize way. Additionally, the focus of these societies were on the distribution of resources, on the power and performance of the team member. Over and above, the concept of social control was not about power only, but it was

Date: _____

embedded by societal beliefs and structures. The concept of political organization explained by **Morton Fried** in following words:

"The study of political organization in anthropology reveals that power does not exist in a vacuum; it is embedded by social structures and beliefs."

(Evolution of political systems)

The words of Morton highlights that current and primitive social control are the result of social beliefs and structures.

(2)

**Understanding the Concept
of political organization,
— Social control.**

Date: _____

Elman Selvick

"The evolution of political systems is the patterned ways in which society distributed power and authority."

OR

Political systems are the ways in which resources are distributed, conflicts are resolved and a special check by a body to regulate stability in society.

(3)

Explaining the process of social control in primitive societies

There are the following explanation:

Date: _____

Types
of Social
control
system
in primitive
societies

Band

Tyibe

Chiefdoms

(9)

Understanding about
the concept of Band

Definition

Band is mainly consist
of (12-25) individuals who work
in a decentralize manner to
fulfill their needs as a group.

(9.1)

Social control in Band:
How power, decision, and
resources are exercised:

etc: _____
→ Power: _____

Date: _____

→ Power: In Band power is exercised by making central decision.

→ Resource Control: In Band the resources are gathered. Later they eat it together.

→ Dispute Resolution:

There is no proper mechanism, however, the dispute resolve by informal ways.

(a-2) Concept of Bigshow man in Band

In Band, although there is no fixed leadership, however, there is a concept of a bigshowman.

(a-3) Characteristic of Bigshowman:

- Expert in Hunting
- Good arbitration skills
- Experienced
- powerful.

Date: -

(a-4) Example of Band:

"San of Kalahari Desert"

Anthropologist Richard Lee observed in Kalahari desert band that there was no fixed centralization of power.

(b)

Understanding about the Concept of Tribe:

Definition,

In tribe there is more in number of people as compared to band. In tribe there is decentralization of power. The head of tribe are selected on basis of wisdom, experience and personality.

date: _____

(b.1)

Observation of Ibn Khaldun about the mechanism of Tribe

Ibn Khaldun in his ~~book~~ Theory
Al Muqadama explained the
strength of Tribe in following
words:

"Tribe is strongest
because of Al-A'sabia"

Case in Point:

Al-Mesud Tribe
of North Waziristan

(b.2)

Social control mechanism
in Tribal Societies:

Date: _____

→ Power: power is based on decentralization mechanism.

→ Dispute Resolution Mechanism:

Jirga system operates which resolve the disputes of the people.

→ Decision Making process:

Decision is given on the consensus of majority.

(b-3)

What makes the Tribal System the most strongest Political Unit?

- Blood Relations (Kin and non Kin)
- Non-Blood Relations: (Territorial association)
- Volunteer Associations: (Ever ready group to fight for tribe).

(b.4)

Example of Tribe society

Nuer in South Sudan

Anthropologists

E.E. Pritchard observed in Nuer tribe that the political leaders come from lineage and cattle ownership.

(c)

Understanding about the Concept of Chiefdom:

Definitions

chiefdom is the centralized decision political system which controls the economy, religious belief of a society.

Case Study:

Polynesia chiefdom

Date: -

(C.1) Social Control Mechanism in Chiefdom:

Power: power is decentralized.

Dispute Resolution Mechanisms: Disputes are resolved by the head of chiefdom.

Resource Control: Resources are collected and given by the head of chiefdom.

(C.2)

Uniqueness of Chiefdom System:

The concept of son chief and small chief make it unique.

Date: _____

Son of Chief: son of chief becomes the head after the death of chief

Small chief: works as a bridge between chief and people.

(C3)

Example of Chiefdom

"Trobriand Islander"

Anthropologist:

B. Malinowski observed that the Trobriand leaders control the economic resources and resolve dispute mechanism.

(4)

Conclusions

The primitive societies social control were not about power and authority.

Date: _____

it was about governance, distribution and collection of resources. This concept explained by Pierre Clastres in following words:

"The evolution of political system is not merely about power but about mechanisms societies develop to legitimize authority and maintain stability".

(Society against the State)