

Q: Suicide varies inversely with the degree of integration of the social group of which the individuals form a part. In light of this statement, discuss Emile Durkheim's theory of egoistic, altruistic, anomic and fatalistic suicide. (CSS 2019)

Introduction:-

Emile Durkheim is the father of academic sociology, who made this field a part of academic studies. He studied the society in different perspectives, which include: the social facts, religion, type of society and most importantly he studied suicide and mentioned it in his famous book "The suicide". In this book Emile Durkheim discussed the causes of suicide in the society. An individual commits suicide due to two factors: over or less integration in society and over or less regulation of society. Therefore, his theory of suicide highlights different causes of suicides in our society.

Emile Durkheim's theory of suicide:-

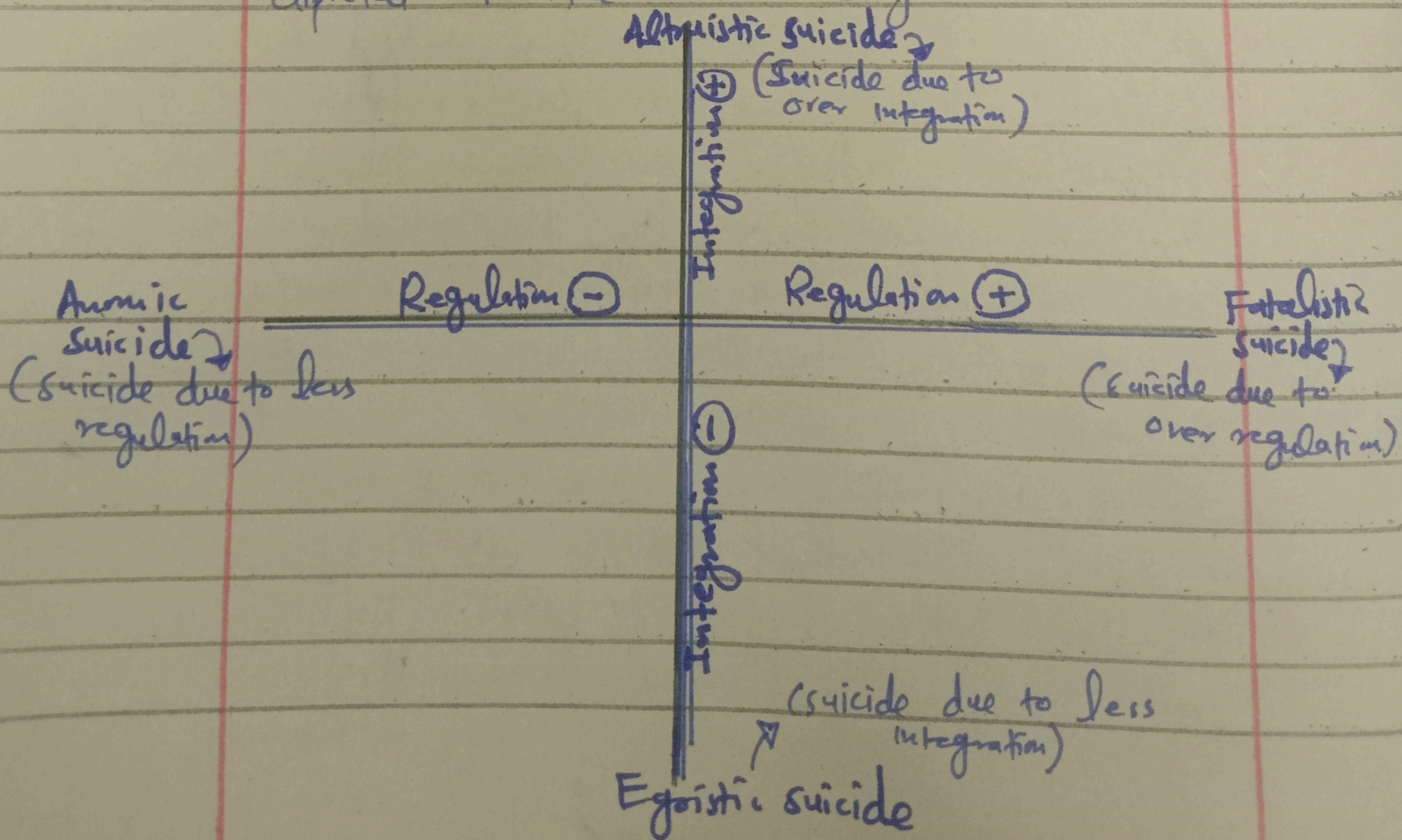
Emile Durkheim studied the society and discussed the factors that trigger the individual to commit suicide. The two main factors he highlighted are the integration and regulation. Over regulation or under regulation; over integration or under integration compel the individual to commit suicide. Integration means how a society accepts any individual as its part; if any individual feels that this integration is less and feels itself

desperately single or loneliness then that individual commit suicide. On the other hand if the integration is too high then it also lead the individual towards suicide. Similarly, another factor that ~~cause~~ compel an individual to commit suicide is "regulation"; if the member of society is regulated in better way by the society then the individual ~~remain~~ enjoy the pleasure. If there is ~~high~~ high/less regulation on the individual then it also causes the individual to commit suicide.

According to Emile Durkheim, there are four types of suicides which are:

- (1) Egoistic suicide
- (2) Altruistic suicide
- (3) Anomic suicide
- (4) Fatalistic suicide.

These four types of suicides are depicted in the below diagram.



These four types of suicides are discussed below:

① Egoistic Suicide:-

Such type of suicide committed by an individual due to less integration in the society. For example an unmarried, desperately single, socially unaccepted individual commit a suicide; such kind of suicide is known as egoistic suicide.

② Altruistic Suicide:-

Anything more than its need is harm for any individual or society. Similarly when ~~there is overregulation~~ the integration is too much then an individual commit suicide voluntarily. For example individuals attached with extremist/militarist/national state actors voluntarily commit suicide i.e. loss its life; another example is the sacrifice the soldier give for its nation is due to overintegration in society.

③ Anomic Suicide:-

When a society regulation is less and the individual of that society is confused what to do, then it may lead towards suicide; Such type of suicide is known as anomic suicide.

④ Fatalistic suicide:-

When the regulation is too much in any society then it may also compel the individual to commit suicide. For example, a bureaucrat officer commits suicide due to overregulation.

Emile Durkheim studied the suicide ratio in different society. Some are discussed below:

- • Suicide ratio of the Christian was less as compared to other person that are not linked with any religion.
- • Soldiers suicide ratio were high as compared to the individuals that are not part of Army.
- • The ratio of suicide was high in unmarried individual as compared to the married individual.

• Durkheim Concept of suicide in the Contemporary society:-

The Concept of Durkheim can also be observed in the Contemporary society. In the modern world, there is also a higher suicide ratio due to over or under integration; over or under regulation of the society.

Case study:-

As per the different report and authentic source, of news the suicide ratio in Pakistan police service is high. The recent suicide committed by the police officer in Islamabad may be due to over regulation, which is the fatalistic suicide.

Another case study is the recent suicide attack bomb blast in near Islamabad high court is also due to over-integration, which is altruistic suicide. Not only this, but also all other terrorist attack are all altruistic suicide.

Critical analysis:-

Sometimes the overintegration suicide is inevitable for the survival of any nation; to ~~say~~ safeguard its territorial integrity and to make sure its sovereignty.

The suicide committed by the soldiers of any state is inevitable for the safeguard of its masses and territory. The sacrifices are; however, suicide, but it is integral part of any nation member and they always remain ready to commit altruistic suicide unlike the altruistic suicide committed by non state actors member.

Conclusion:-

The Concept of suicide, given by Emile Durkheim highlighted the causes of the suicide committed by the member of its society. All four types of suicides: Egoistic, altruistic, anomic and fatalistic suicide are basically due to two reasons which are: over or under regulation; over or under integration in society. The less the integration, the higher the suicide ratio and vice versa as Emile Durkheim said that suicide ratio is higher in the individuals that are attached less with religion (Christian) as compared to those that are Christian. Therefore, for a stable society the equilibrium between integration and regulation is important. As Allah almighty also said that:

And strongly hold the rope of Allah and do not dispense hate.