

Determine the classist lifestyle in the light of teachings of Islam and its effect on the society.

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1. Introduction:

Islam is the religion based on concept of Tawhid. we can say a treaty of Tawhid. By accepting this, Muslims become liable to fulfill certain responsibilities. There are 2 steps to fulfill it:

One is to obey Allah and show servitude

Second is to follow monotheistic faith in every aspect of life.

This monotheistic faith is not confined to individual dealings rather communal and social dealings comes first. So, after obeying Allah, Muslims should be firmly focused on their public dealings. The monotheistic society is a free-class society. It is a society in which different groups of people are not detached from each other as far as rights and privileges go. Islam has portrayed such society through Quranic teachings and Prophetic dealings.

2. Background

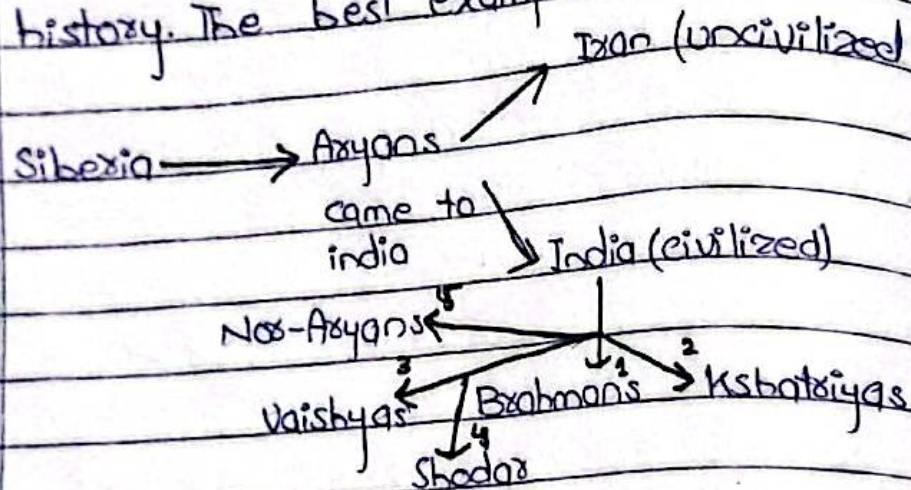
a. What is a class system?

In society, when people are divided in such a hierarchy that upper class enjoys more privilege than lower class such system is called as class system. If we look back into history, we find the scourge of class system perpetually

present in societies not only in undeveloped tribal societies in far flung areas but also in land that are the mothers of civilized world. Incidentally, such lands appear to be the worst offenders having the ugliest class system on the pages of history.

→ Historical Example

Class difference is truly a big cruelty in history and a huge blemish on the face of human history. The best example is India.



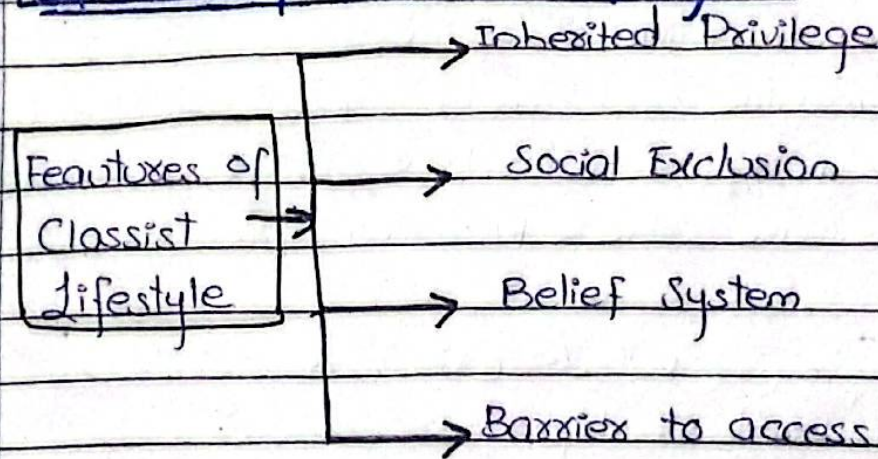
When Aryans came into india and divided into 5 major groups based on caste. One consider the other as their ancestors told them.

→ Modern Analogy

The class system is not the same in every society. Some divide based on religion, caste, ethnicity and some rule based on how land, wealth, money they possess. The system of

modern world is same as that of history, only practical execution has changed. The people, in modern world, are divided based on their wealth, social status, and material they own. They enjoy the fine privilege of controlling the law and order even if commit any crime. On the other hand, poor community is deprived of basic needs of life.

3. Features of Classist Lifestyle:



4. Teachings of Islam as Counter Classist Lifestyle

Islam is negated the class system in society. It believes in equality. The concept of equality should be understood as Allah is One and Muslims are instructed to obey teaching of Islam from one channel only. One system of society has given us to consider all muslim ummah as one nation or call it as one body. For instance, there

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are different Gods in Hinduism or Christianity so they make classes based on the strength of God they worship. But Islam clearly negate it through constant reminders in Quran.

* Equality in Creation

All human beings are created equally, indeed they are separated into different tribes and places so they may know each other. As Islam clearly forbids to chase material things of the world, so wealth and world cannot be the criteria of superiority of a person/group. These are the false concepts.

“يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اسْمَعُوا لِمَا يَقُولُ الَّذِي خَلَقَ مِنَ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَالَّذِينَ مِنْ قُلُوبٍ”
“O mankind! Worship your Lord who created you and those before you.”
(Quran, 2:21)

Quran says that source and foundation of all mankind is one. All humans came to this world with same resources. All men carry the potential to ascend the unlimited and exalted station so there is no need to classify them on your own.

* Taqwa as the Criterion of Superiority

Taqwa means the most pious and noble

person in the sight of Allah. Prophet (PBUH) reinforced the principle of superiority in his Farewell Sermon as:

"No Arab has Superiority over a non-arab,
nor does a Non-Arab has superiority
over an arab;
no white person has superiority over
a black person.
nor does a black person has superiority
over a white person,
except by Taqwa."

This universal message dismantles classist ideologies and fosters a society based on equality, justice, merit, ethical values and law and order practices. By prioritizing Taqwa, Islam ensures that all men are treated with dignity, rather than material wealth.

*Islam's call for Justice

Islam strongly call for Justice and equality at social as well as economic level. It ensures that resources and opportunities are distributed fairly among all member of society. The Quran emphasizes the importance of equity and eradication of economic disparity by condemning wealth hoarding and encouraging the generosity to

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maintain social balance

"Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful, who withhold what Allah has given them from His Bounty and order others to be stingy."

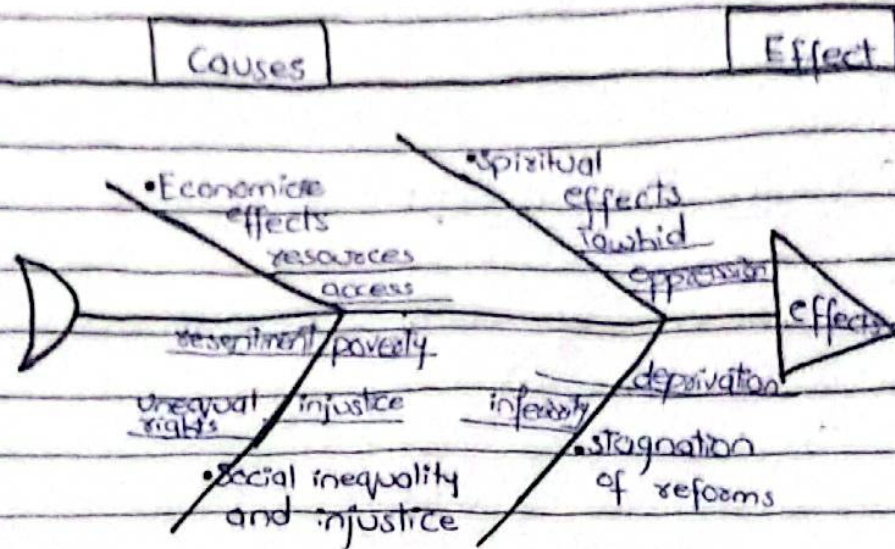
(Surah An-Nisa: 32)

5. Effects of classist lifestyle on society in comparison to Islamic teachings

The effects of classist system of society often lead to destruction of big Empires such as Persian Empire (Sassanian) and Roman Empire (Byzantine). When Islam arrived with its message of equality and brotherhood, the masses found it more just and appealing. People were deprived of basic needs and aggression on their governance. So, internal revolts, economic stagnation, public resentment, rigid social hierarchy accelerated the empire's collapse.

a. Economic effects

In a classist society, one ^{group} person hoards resources while majority of the people suffers poverty. Some educated people have access to employment opportunities while large human potential wasted due to inequality.



Cause and effect diagram flowchart

b. Spiritual effects

Classist lifestyle denies the concept of Tawhid, in actual. It condemns against that all are servant of Allah and equal before Him. In this way, it distorts the moral / social values; leads to arrogance and oppression.

c. Stagnation of Reforms

Classist systems passionately work through belief system of a group. When belief in class difference becomes embedded, change becomes hard because the deprived believe they are naturally inferior.

d. Social inequality and injustice

Unequal rights, privileges, hierarchical culture, unequal access to education, technology and employment opportunities create

social injustice and inequality. It is a systematic barrier in society for a large portion.

* Islamic Perspective:

The Quran summarizes the ultimate consequence of such class-based oppression and moral corruption:

"And when We intend to destroy a city, We commit it affluent ones, but they defiantly disobey, so the word comes into effect upon it, and We destroy it with [complete] destruction."

(Al-Isra 17:76)

This verse encapsulates how privilege without accountability breeds moral decay and social collapse.

6. Implications for contemporary world

Classist lifestyle still exists even the world is becoming more educated and informed day by day. Some implications for contemporary Muslim societies should be implemented.

Structure Reform:

Laws, socio-economic system, should promote meritocracy.

Reformed Mindset:

Class superiority and inferiority must be challenged via education, religious

preaching and community leadership

Need for policies:

Ensure equal access to education, livelihood, justice, regardless of ethnicity and origin.

Religious Institutions:

The religious institutions and leaders should remind society about Islamic standards and showcase examples.

7. Conclusion:

In conclusion, according to Islam, classist lifestyle contradicts Tawheed because all human beings share origin, Creator, and rights. If Muslim societies truly want to thrive they should reject class-based system, even sect-based system, at individual as well as societal level. They should ensure that efforts are made not just in words but in social reforms.