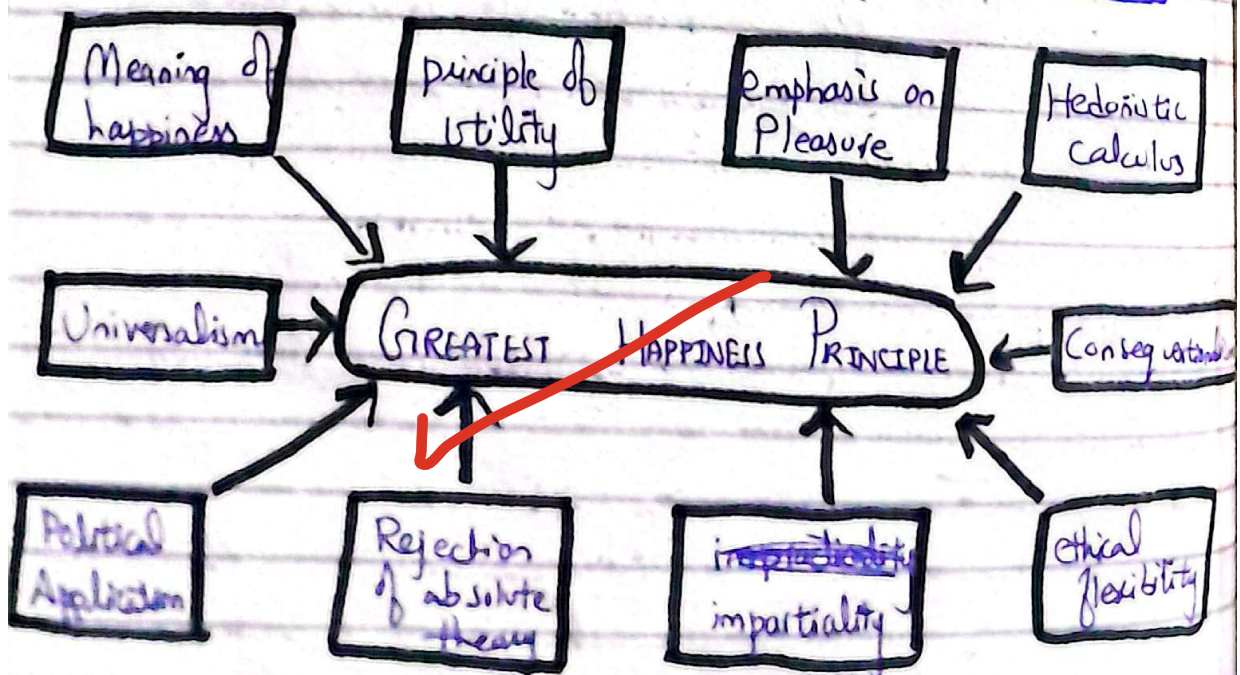


Question :

Explain Bentham's Greatest happiness of the greatest number.

Jeremy Bentham was an English philosopher, introduced the concept of greater happiness of greatest number which serve as the foundation of utilitarianism. The principle argued that the action is morally right if it lead to the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people. The ultimate goal of human existence is to seek pleasure and avoid pain. This principle extends beyond individual conduct, influencing legal & social reforms aiming to maximize collective well being. Despite having modern relevance there are some loopholes in this principle, which later on modified by other thinkers.

Key features of Greatest Happiness Principle



(a) Meaning of happiness :

Jeremy Bentham believed that the happiness mean the comfort, pleasure and absence of pain, which ~~unhappiness~~ means suffering and pain.

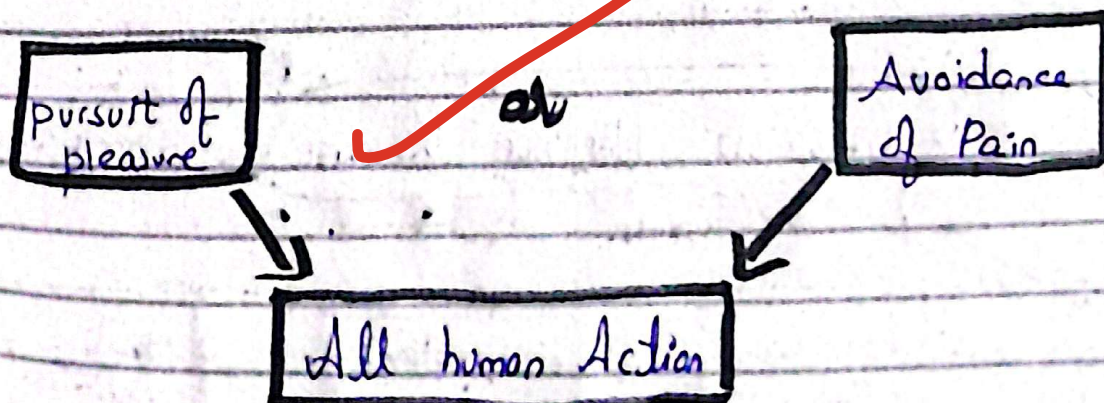
(b) Principle of Utility :

The principle of utility is the core concept of Bentham's moral framework. It asserts that actions are right if they promote the greatest happiness and wrong if they produce more pain and suffering. For him :

The utility of an action is determined by overall happiness"

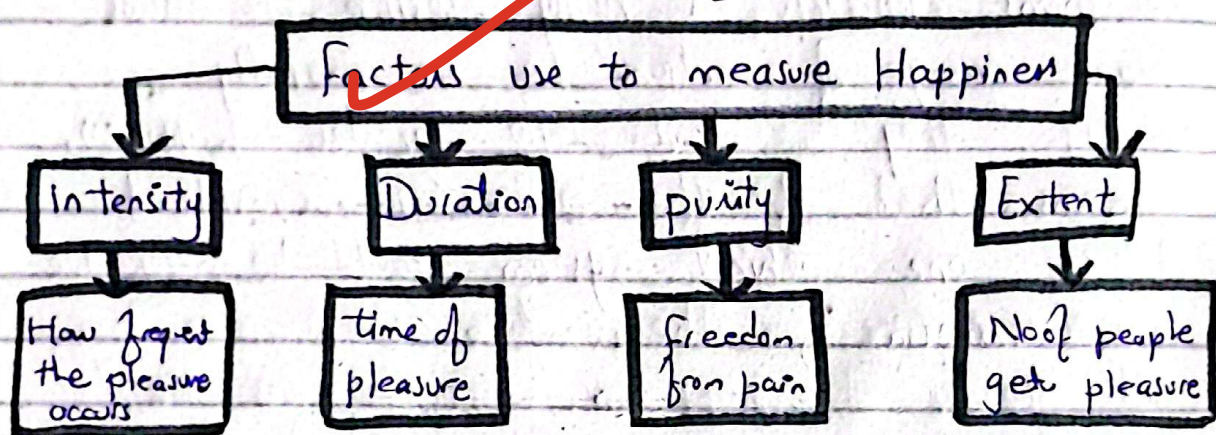
(c) Emphasis on Pleasure & Pain :

Bentham emphasised that all human actions are driven by two main forces pleasure & pain. Therefore his ethical system is more psychological, addressing the core ~~human~~ drivers of human behaviour.



(d). Hedonistic Calculus:

Bentham use ~~qual~~ quantified approach while calculating the greatest happiness. for this purpose he introduced the hedonistic calculus, a tool for calculating happiness. The value of an action can be measured by considering the several factor.



(e). Consequentialism:

The morality of the Rule or action is defined by ~~the~~ its consequence, unlike the tradition system of judgement of actions on the basis of moral rules. If the consequence of the actions are good, the action its is justified and considered good.

(f). Impartiality:

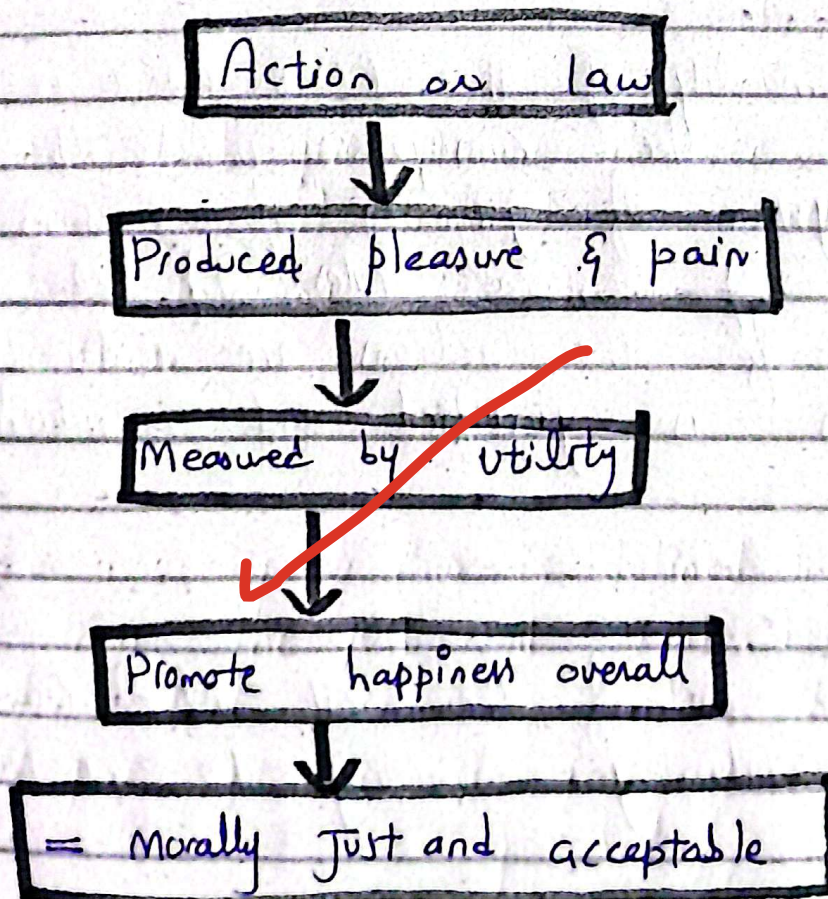
~~This~~ is one of the most radical concept of Bentham philosophy. According to this principle

each individual's happiness is equally valuable.

This means that no person's pleasure is more significant than another's regardless of their social and economic status.

g). Ethical flexibility :

Bentham's approach is highly flexible, it allows a broad range of actions to be morally justified if they lead to greater happiness. This means that if the action is considered immoral in one ethical system could be acceptable in utilitarianism if the action lead to overall good.



(1v). Rejection of absolute theories :

Bentham discourage the abstract and absolute theorism. For him any theory that does not address the real world consequences is not worth pursuing.

(2) Political Application :

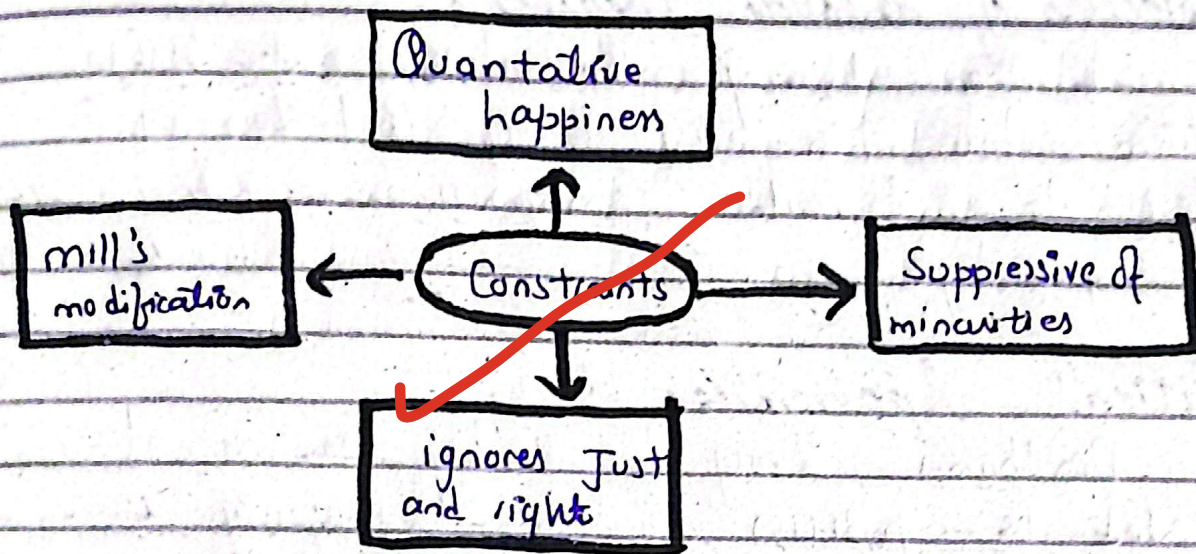
Bentham's theory of utility ~~is~~ is extended to politics and law. Democracy is the application of his theory as democracy also brings the greater happiness for the greatest number of people in the state.

(3) Universalism :

Bentham's principle is universal, suggest that moral rules apply to all individuals regardless of race, color, class or status. The happiness of each person is important and equally weighted. ~~that~~ ~~are~~ ~~eth~~

Constraints in Bentham's Utilitarianism

There are several constraints in the theory of utility proposed by Jeremy Bentham. Its utility principle ~~say~~ support the minorities happiness, ignores rights and just, quantifies the happiness rather than qualitative happiness.



a). Quantitative happiness ::

Bentham's ~~law~~ focus on the quantitative happiness rather than the quality of happiness. Happiness must be measured by ~~quality~~ rather than the no of people.

b). Suppression of minorities ::

The law that give pleasure to the majority could act as a source of pain ~~for~~ minorities. Bentham lack in ~~providing~~ the pleasure to the minorities.

c). Ignores Just and Rights ::

The morality of law is defined by its utility rather than the just and rights. Keeping in mind the ~~fact that~~ this principle, the wrong law if give pleasure is justified and this itself is a ~~wrong~~ act/justification of action.

d) Mill's Modification :

John Stuart mill refined bentham's theory by stressing ~~quality~~ of happiness, distinguishing higher and lower pleasures.

MODERN RELEVENCY

Bentham's Utility is applicable even in modern world in different ~~sectors~~ like policy making, healthcare and ~~shaping~~ the economy of the country.

Policy Making :

Considering the example of Pakistan, the Benazir Income Support program is designed to reduce poverty. The government distributes cash transfer to ~~increase~~ the overall happiness.

Healthcare :

During covid 19, the SOPs and policy was designed by ~~the~~ keeping in mind that the policy brings the greater pleasure to the greatest number of people.

Economic Relevance:-

The tax reforms policy is designed by the consent of people and these policies are aimed to bring relief and pleasure to the greatest number of people.

Final Remarks

Bentham's greatest number of happiness is a core of utilitarianism, promoting the idea that actions should be judged by their consequences rather than right and wrong moral principle. Although there are several loopholes in utilitarianism, yet it is relevant even today's world.