

Q. Discuss the plato Theory of justice

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Introduction

Plato's ideal state is based on justice. According to him, justice is fundamental right of every man. Ideas of any man cannot be correct until it does not contain fundamental elements of truth and justice. People of any country cannot enjoy a healthy and wealthy life without mutual cooperation and having the right of justice.

Division of population

plato divided the population in three classes in which high class is philosophers, second class is the people having the military capability and the third class is labour or professional class. According to him no class can interfere the others affairs. For example, labourers have no right in military affairs and then soldiers have also no right to become a king.

state as a body

plato when explained his theory declared that the state function as a body. As all functions of body are connected. If one part of the body feels pain, the whole body feel it. Accordingly, we can say that state is a body and people are its organs. If any organ is in trouble then the whole state

will be disturbed and cannot function properly. To remove the trouble of any organ, all the resources of the state should be utilised.

Prof. G.H. Sabine in his book "A History of political Theory" Justice is a bond which holds society together in harmonious union of individual.

Attempt for justice yourself

It is the fundamental responsibility of each class to fight for justice. If justice is not provided to them, they may unite themselves against institutions, individuals and the rulers, and approach to law authorities. If somebody feels any discrepancy in his profession then it is clear that he will be treated otherwise, as a punishment of disposition is according to the requirement of justice. Therefore, to spend a better life and achieve a fundamental rights, it is necessary

that every person should perform his duties with absolute honesty.

Geographical Division

Besides this, geographical location of the country should be kept in mind. If the country is vast then it is impossible to provide the same kind of justice through out the country. To meet with the requirements of justice geographical division of vast country should be in such condition, that for executive affairs the country may be divided into very small regions and in these regions such authorities should be appointed by philosophers which within the specific limits do absolute cooperation to solve the problems of people. In this way many problems will come into the notice of King. According to this theory, probably different countries may be divided into small units in this way many numerous matters may have been solved

on regional level.

Important Features of platonic Theory justice

Some important features of platonic Theory of Justice are given as under

i- Non-interference in other Affairs

Theory of Justice is dependent upon the spirit of non-interference. The interference in others' affairs is not only against the requirement of justice but also cause of chaos and irreparable loss. According to his views, every person should do his own job with a great responsibility and honesty and should not interfere in the matters/affairs of other people.

ii- Specialization of Duties

Plato's view was, that the administration of an ideal state should be specified and every man has no concern

to interfere with other affairs.

iii- Principles of Unanimity/Integrity

According to Plato, which state is formed with suitable unanimity balance in which justice demands administrative unity and these are three communities of society, i.e. labourers, philosophers and soldiers.

iv- opposition of the individuality

Plato's theory is against the individuality. According to this theory, the individual should not think about that he is alone but he should think about himself as part of the whole.

v- service to Humanity

plato does not consider justice as formal and external thing but he considers it a quality of ^{soul}mind and speciality of mind. Justice means service to

mankind and service to humanity.

vi- Universal Justice

Plato's theory is connected with universal justice. His theory of justice relates to all the duties of an individual and not only for legal duties of an individual.

Criticism on Plato's Theory of Justice

Plato's theory of justice which he put forward, has been criticised on the following grounds.

i- Application of Plato's Theory

This theory of justice cannot be applied on modern state. In Plato's era there were civilian state. The population of such states were very less than that of today's states as the population of today's states reached to millions. This is quite impossible to divide the population into three formal classes.

ii- The Formula of Performing Duties has no Importance

The formula of performing justice duties is not important that it can be merged into the word justice. On the one hand, this formula confines an individual in his own sphere of duties/action while on the other hand it does not offer any suggestion to prevent this likelihood probably which can come into existence, inspite of confining opposite nature in the sphere of their own duties.

iii - Morality and Law

Plato has mixed up morality and law together whereas, they both are different things in nature. Laws are those apparent orders which in any organised society specify the practical form and determine the ways of human acts, whereas moral rules relate

to these imaginations and thoughts which in context of principles, regulations and orders work as motivators. plato has created confusion between moral responsibilities and legal duties.

iv- plato's Theory specifies the Right of Government

plato in view of his theory of justice specifies the right of government only to philosophers, king though it is important to establish monopoly of political power in the hands of one class of people, as this class of people will be demoralised and in this way the state has to suffer a great loss.

v- plato's Idea of communism

plato due to his theory of justice put forward the theory of communism with relation

to wives and property, which is totally against the human's psychology and altogether ignores the fulfilment of the natural desires of human soul.

vi- Separation of Three Elements of Human Being

Plato separates the three elements of individual i.e. the hunger, intelligence, human nature's spirit. Plato specifies that each individual should concentrate himself to the growth of only one element. Similarly if he is a soldier then he should prepare himself to strengthen this spirit. And if he is a farmer then he should fulfill his spirit with a great zeal. In this way Plato empowers the individual to completely grow and develop only one element. It intercepts for the building and development of other two elements.

vii- collectivity of plato's Theory of Justice

The Platonic theory of Justice absolutely leads to Collectivity.

viii- class Priority

Justice usually meant that there should be discrimination between individuals whether by lineage or by class. But Plato considered class priority lawful and by giving the right of government to one class makes them prominent to other class.

ix- Guarantee of proper Growth

Platonic theory of justice based on a man or a job and therefore not individually and collectively provides the guarantee of proper growth.

x- Active and Flexible

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Theory is not active and flexible. It conferred a person in his life time a specific job and for whole life holds himself liable for the same job.

Conclusion

If we collectively understand the original meanings of Plato's Theory of justice then many useful things come to an end. Plato has given the justice, name of such things by reason of which life is infused in the individual for the completion of moral duties. According to Barker, "Justice is, for Plato, at once a part of human virtue and the bond which joins men together in the states. It makes men good and makes him social".