

Name: Haider Ali

Batch: 040

Roll no: 24102-Haider Ali-040

Paper: Sociology

Briefly discuss Ibn-e-khaldun's theory of Asabiyyah. How do you relate his theory in the current scenario of the country?  
(20)

Answer

## Introduction

Ibn-e-khaldun a Tunisian born sociologist, philosopher, politician, mathematician, scientist was the first major contributor in the field of sociology. He can also be regarded as a father of sociology. He was born in the medieval times when Europe was sunk in the dark ages to an affluent family. He visited many parts of the world and wrote a book called "Muqadammah" meaning "an introduction", in which he talked about how society exists. Assabiyyah was a major theory in he stated in his book in which he talked about that how much solidarity and some chemistry should exist among the people living in the society to form a society. In the current scenario of Pakistan we truly lack this solidarity due to many reasons, which is becoming a stern reason for our downfall.

## Ibn-e-Khuldun's Theory of Assabiyah

Ibn-e-Khuldun was a major personality of his time. He traveled the world and met many great leaders, politicians, intellectuals etc. He spent his initial childhood in Tunisia and then <sup>moved</sup> migrated to Spain, Morocco, and <sup>had</sup> seen many cultures and societies of the world. In his book "Mugaddimah" which he wrote he theory of "Assabiyah" he gave his thoughts on how society existed and that how much solidarity is crucial for its foundation.

### Meaning of Assabiyah

Assabiyah means "solidarity", "bonding", "brotherhood", "Esprit de corps" etc. It basically means unity among the people.

### Further explanation

Assabiyah is important for the foundation of an society. The more the assabiyah a society has the more powerful and prosperous it would be. Ibn-e-Khuldun stated that Assabiyah is stronger in the initial stages of a society when it is formed as people and the

rulers are in close coordination with each other. But as a society grows the Assabiyah gradually diminishes and ultimate at the last stage the assabiyah is so low that the society collapse (can be in form of a revolution) and a new society is born with the same life cycle.

**Example:** Assabiyah is more stern in tribes than in a state.

### Three stages of Assabiyah

- 1- Initial stage (when a society is form assabiyah is very high)
- 2- Middle stage (when rulers got used to luxuries and gradually the passion among the people for solidarity reduces and they live in a delusion that everything is same like it was in the initial stages)
- 3- Last stage (Ruler gets used to many luxuries and corruption and the political unrest initiates among the people. Division in the society takes place and ultimately a society falls)

Same chemistry and likeness must exist among the people for Assabiyah

Ibn-e-Khaldun stated that for a stern Assabiyah same chemistry and likeness

must exist among the people in the society. If ~~there~~<sup>there</sup> are differences in thoughts and ideologies people will gradually isolate themselves from each other and ultimately a society will collapse ~~and~~ because of loss of asabiyyah. It ~~is~~ will result in a conflict.

Society is simple in initial stages and grows complex in the later stages.

A tribe is less complex than a state. As societies grow, Asabiyyah gradually diminishes. Asabiyyah is high in hunter-gatherer societies and low in industrial societies.

Example: Asabiyyah was high in the initial Mongol empire, but after it conquered too much land ~~or~~ and expanded westwards, conflicts in its internal matters among the tribes started taking place. Political unrest was a result and at last the Asabiyyah declined. Society grew more complex and at last the empire collapsed.

### Characteristics of Asabiyyah

- It is not confined to Arabs only but is universal.
- It is necessary for the formation of a society and its long-lasting.
- It is not ~~is~~ blood related.
- It is not confined to a specific era.

- of human but is applicable at all times even today
  - Directly related with the other socioeconomic developments of a society
  - Directly related with rise and fall of a
- Scientific method to study history

Ibn-e-haldun also said that we should study history as a subject and learn from it and eliminate biasness and one-sided view civilisation

### Assabiyah in the current scenario of the country

Assabiyah is without a doubt crucial for the survival of any country. A stronger the assabiyah is the more nationalism and patriotism will result. This will direct the citizens to work for the country and eliminate their personal grudges

Unfortunately in the current scenario of Pakistan the Assabiyah is critically low which is resulting in the ~~gradual~~ decline of our political, social and economical spheres of ~~life~~ the country. Let us discuss <sup>some</sup> <sup>points</sup> of why the assabiyah declines - <sup>according to Ibn-e-haldun</sup> which is also in the case of Pakistan:

## 1- Misuse of power by the rulers

In Pakistan the misuse of power by the rulers is now becoming a norm, which is ultimately becoming a major reason for decline of Assabiyah.

Example:- The rulers in the elected assembly never ever pass a legislation that is ~~is~~ not beneficial for their interests. In Pakistan rich don't give and the ruling class restrains from giving taxes while the tax from poor is extracted in the form of indirect taxes. This <sup>creates</sup> ~~is~~ distance between the ruling class and the weak and hence weakens solidarity.

## 2- Accumulation of wealth in the hands of the ruling class

Accumulation in the hands of the one group such as the ~~the~~ rich and the ruling class creates disparities between the rich and the poor and weakens Assabiyah.

Example:- Pakistan is a capitalistic society and there is a great disparity among the rich and the poor. The ruling class of Pakistan are all from affluent backgrounds who have mostly accumulated wealth by unlawful means and hence are

getting wealthy and wealthy. The lifestyle difference between the rich and the poor is growing unprecedently which is resulting in weaker assabiyah in the society.

### 3. Social ~~un~~injustice

According to the transparency index the survey the Pakistan justice system has been voted the second most corrupt system after the police. Justice system is the backbone of any country and with weaker justice system the assabiyah will decline.

4. Example:- In Pakistan laws for rich is different from the poor. Poor are punished for small crimes and rich are allowed to rule the <sup>country</sup> even after their more damaging white collar crimes.

### 4. Intensive sectarianism

In Pakistan political and religious sectarianism is a major cause for ~~our~~ our dwindling assabiyah.

Example:- Shia sunni sect <sup>clashes</sup> and the recent political sectarianism between the PDM and the PTI parties. This raises hatred ~~for~~ among groups for each other.

and destroys assabiyah which is taking place in Pakistan.

### 5- Prevailing corruption

Corruption is the mother of all crimes. According to the transparency index 2022 Pakistan ranks 140 out of 180 countries in the corruption index. The corruption is widespread in our country which is a major cause of individualism and selfishness and declining assabiyah

Example:- In Pakistan the most corrupt are ruling the country and disparity <sup>between</sup> among the poor and the rich than enhances causing Assabiyah to dwindle

### 6- Division and conflict between provinces

In Pakistan every province feels itself superior over the other and demands more attention of the center. Hence conflicts and ineffective legislation is passed for the betterment of the country

Example:- Punjabis and Pakhtons clashes, Sindhis and Baloch clashes, Pakhton hazara clashes etc. This weakens assabiyah of the country.



## Conclusion

Ibn-e-Khaldoon was undoubtedly a major proponent in the field of sociology. His theory of Assabiyah was an evolutionary and a correct way to analyze a society which stated a scientific way of how a society rises and falls. It is applicable at all times and in the current scenario of Pakistan it is unprecedentedly low due to ~~part~~ the reasons we mentioned before. We have to take stern measures to incorporate Assabiyah among us in order to make our country strong.

Q no 3:-

Karl Marx discussed Labor theory of value in detail. What do you understand by that theory? write your answer in detail.

Answer:-

## Introduction

Karl Marx was a major proponent in the field of sociology. He is also known as the father of communism and played a crucial role in human philosophical and political thought. He was against capitalism and the exploitation of the <sup>poor</sup> weak by the rich. Karl Marx's major theories such as theory of surplus and the theory of labor held sympathy with the proletarian class and stated that the labor should keep the surplus amount of the product rather than the bourgeoisie class which just owns the means of production ~~but~~ <sup>and</sup> does nothing to increase its value. His line of thought brought revolutions in the world and gave power to the weak against capitalist dominance.

## Karl Marx Theory of Labor

Karl Marx was a German. After the industrial revolution and increase in capitalism

Showcaded a deep exploitation of the labor class. These were two classes he stated:

- **Bourgeoisie Class** (Who owned the means of production)
- **Proletariat class** (Who worked for the bourgeoisie class to enhance their wealth)

In the theory of labor Karl Marx states that the value of a commodity is increased because of efforts put on by the labor on the product whose means of production are provided by the owner. Karl Marx says that the profit earned by the increase in the value of the product should be kept by the labor rather than the owner, who has done nothing ~~etc~~ to increase the value rather than just providing the means of production.

The owner could have done nothing to ~~even~~ enhance the value of its products if it wasn't for the labor who because of his skills, efforts and time has enhanced the value of the product. Hence the profit earned ~~is~~ because of enrichment in value should be rightfully the prize given to the labor because he is the one who has given it value and is a sole deserv

rather ~~the~~ than the owner.

### Example:-

Lets take an example, for instance a product whose current worth is \$10 for example a destroyed car is owned by a person of bourgeoisie class. He then hires a labor and puts him to work ~~and~~ to refurbish the car. He because of his skills fixes the car's engine, body, paint, and all other things. At the end the bourgeoisie or the owner of the car once it is refurbished sells it for \$2000 and keeps the \$1800. He only pays the labour \$190 after all his efforts put by him. According to Karl Marx this is wrong and he exploitation of the labor. It was only because of the skills, efforts and time put up by the labor that the \$10 car's value rose to \$2000 and all the profit should be kept by him and not the owner as he has done nothing to enhance its value. This only makes the rich richer and the poor poorer and this is a major drawback of the capitalistic social system where one owns the means and resources of production and the other works to enhance their wealth and in return just gets a

ing fraction of the profit.

## ~~Conflict~~ Theory of surplus

This is another theory of Karl Marx which is very similar to the theory of labour. In the theory of surplus Karl Marx says that the ~~proletarian~~ labour puts his his efforts to enhance the value of the product owned by the bourgeoisie and allows him to earn surplus of profit on the product. The proletariat only earns a fraction of the profit which gives impetus to their exploitation.

## Conflict theory

Karl Marx was also a major proponent of the conflict theory which is against the functionalist perspective. He states that the powerful who owns the means of production makes law and system according to their interests and protection of their dominance. They exploit the weak to achieve their goals. Bourgeoisie are also in ~~constant~~ constant competition with each other but if their dominance is threatened they all get united to preserve it.

## Characteristics of Labor Theory of Value

- It speaks up against uninequality caused by capitalism.
- Labor should get the most share of profit of the product they enhanced the value of.
- Speaks up against the dominance and unilateral ownership of the bourgeoisie of the means of production and resources.
- Gains sympathy for the proletariat class.
- Calls for equality in the society and the deserving should get what he deserves (labor), <sup>according to</sup> for the amount of work he has put in.

## In current scenario

Today the world is mostly capitalism dominated. The exploitation of labor can be seen mostly in the developing country and also in the developed countries. The factors of production are controlled by the few and they hire labor to enhance the value of those resources and give them a little share of the total profit earned. On the global level the developed countries who are powerful economically and resourceful exploit the poor and developing countries of their resources.

Hence,  
as a rich the disparity between the  
rich and the poor is increasing  
day by day.

**Capitalism a major cause of  
exploitation of the labor**

According to Karl Marx capitalism is the  
sole reason for the exploitation of  
the proletariat class. Capitalism gives impetus  
to few to own the ~~fact~~ means and  
factors of resources production as a result  
they dominate the system and make  
system according to their will. The  
proletariat class is ~~too~~ fragile and weak  
socially and economically hence due to  
this they keep on working with a  
hope of a better future one day.

### **Conclusion**

Karl Marx theory of labor value is  
a major theory which forms the basis  
of communism. This theory openly  
speaks up against the oppression of  
the bourgeoisie class against the  
weak hard working proletariat class.  
However Karl Marx this theory seems  
quite right but it seems quite  
~~unrealistic~~ unrealistic and we can see the  
collapse of many communist countries  
who got inspired by it such as the

USSR - Today the world is mostly capitalistic dominated and its quite difficult to change the very order.

Q no 5:-

An individual is a product of the a culture. What is the role of media in 21st century?

Answer

## Introduction

Culture has without a doubt played a dominant role in the evolution of a human society. Today there are hundreds of different cultures around the globe each with their own norms, values, beliefs, symbols, language, architecture, dress etc. A culture shapes the personality, behaviors, attitudes and the overall identity of an individual and is crucial for the <sup>preservation</sup> ~~perseverance~~ of a human society. Today the world is changing at an unprecedented rate and advancement in technology and modes of communication has completely transformed the society. Of all of them media is a crucial element and a social institution for shaping the perception of a human society, and has a <sup>pivot</sup> role of its own in the 21st century.



## What is a culture?

A culture can be defined as a set of norms, values, beliefs, art, dress, architecture, language, work ethics that a society possesses and it is their way of life.

(According Marcus Webster)

Culture is basically a way of living of a certain group of people. It plays a crucial part in molding the personality of an individual and an individual is a product of a culture.

## Elements of culture

- Norms (Folkways, mores, laws, taboos)
- Values
- Symbols
- Language
- Work ethics
- Rituals
- Architecture
- Religion
- Arts

## Culture impacts on an individual

An individual is undoubtedly a product of a culture. When a person is born he knows nothing about the world and he

initial education is given and perception of the world is given by the culture to the individual. Following are taught by the culture to an individual:

1- Culture shapes an individual how to react to situations

Culture plays a pivotal role in making an individual know how to react to certain situations. For example when a person comes at you with a stretched open arm, you would know that he is coming to meet or greet you in certain cultures. While in some culture it might mean something else.

2- Defines your attitude, beliefs and values

Through a culture you would know your beliefs, attitude and values. This gives a person a purpose in life. You know what type of attitude you should keep whether it is humbleness or strictness attitude. For example in USA culture the values and beliefs are to earn money. Money is valued and ~~we~~ being wealthy is valued. Value ~~basically~~ basically defines what are your priority priorities and gives you a goal in life.

### 3- Defines right and wrong

Only through a culture we could know what is right and wrong, morally, politically, socially and economically. For example in Islamic culture eating pork is considered haram whereas in the culture of west it is a norm. It is also considered bad to bow down in greeting to a person in Islamic culture whereas in Japanese culture it is known to be a sign of respect.

### 4- Culture a source of knowledge

Culture is not made formed in a short period of time but is a collection of knowledge over a vast period of time. Culture teaches an individual about the perception of the world and how to react, behave, and confront with the world. Religion a vital part of culture also plays a role in ~~the~~ spiritual and moral development of an individual.

### 5- Defines myths and legends

Only through culture we can understand the story of myths and legends. Culture provides the basis to ~~see~~ these myths and legends - for example in many cultures

such as the west people believe in ghosts and this has to do with the generation long cultural assumptions about the world.

## 6- Shapes an individual behavior

Culture molds an individual behavior. An individual acts and behaves according to the teachings of its culture. For eg in our culture it is taught to respect elders, help the weak and this shapes our behaviour to do so.

## 7- Molds our overall personality

Culture teaches us how to greet, dress, dine, diet, hygiene practices, etc. In short it makes us who we are and our lifestyle.

## Role of media in the 21st CENTURY

Media is one of the greatest inventions of humans. Since the ~~beginning~~ Today it is one of the most social institutions and shapes the society in which we live in. Now let us discuss what is the role of media as a social institution in the 21st century but first.

## What is media?

Media can be defined as a means of communication such as print, T.V, radio, internet, etc

(According to John Capet)

## Its Role in the 21st century

### 1- In shaping public opinion

Media plays a vital role in forming a public opinion. A public opinion can be defined as the general opinion or perception of a people towards a certain problem. The role of media in this regard is crucial as it should shape the public opinion that is best for the benefit of the society. For example media should form a positive public opinion towards use of contraceptives while intercourse in order to curb population growth.

### 2- Social communication

Media plays a crucial role in social interaction among the individuals in the society. It is through media people know what's going on in other parts of the world and it provides

a mean for people to communicate with each other. People also understands each other problems through media

### 3- Cultural diffusion and media

Today because of widespread media and globalizations the world is connected like never before. Different elements of various cultures are now diffused in each other. Eastern societies such as Pakistan, India etc have diffused so many elements from the western culture such as Hollywood movies. Many people got inspired and ~~try~~ <sup>try</sup> to depict those <sup>western</sup> actors and movies concept into their cultures. In the USA, South Korean movies and Kpop is very vogue among the youth through media

### 4- Keeping the society intact

Media is a powerful social institution which fulfil the needs of the society according to the set beliefs and values. It can also play a negative role in form of propoganda which can develop a wrong perception into a right one in the minds of the people. Hence, media has a role to play in keeping the society follow

The rules and norms of the <sup>majority</sup> ~~vastly~~ agreed.

## 5- Spread honest and truthful <sup>information</sup> ~~news~~

In the contemporary era media's most crucial role and responsibility is to ~~so~~ disseminate information based on reality and truthfulness. Any wrong information can cause a disruption in the society's overall structure. The role of social media is ~~the~~ pivotal in this regard such as Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp e.t.c.

## Conclusion

Culture is a major proponent for shaping an individual personality. Every culture in the world has its own uniqueness and molds an individual in its own essence. This is the beauty of the world in diversity. Today the world is changing like never before and new elements like the media is playing a crucial role in shaping the culture and societies of the world.