

Q No 7

Introduction

Economic system is the cultural norms of production, distribution and consumption of resources among various cultures. These norms vary among different societies. For instance, the tools used for hunting and gathering of resources are the productive resources of foragers with which they participate in economy. Moreover, Land and Livestocks are the productive resources of Pastoralists. The prosperity or status of the tribes depends upon the number of animals they own. Furthermore, along with land, tools and knowledge, Horticulturalist require storage space. Land is communally owned by extended groups. And in more technologically and politically advanced societies agriculture dominates the production.

Economic System

Definition

The cultural norms to produce, distribute and consumption of natural resources in different culture is called economic system

Economic system varies from culture to culture. Every culture have their own methods to collect good and and distribute them among their people. The consumption

also varies.

1) Foragers

The things that are essential to participate in the economy are called Productive resources.

Foragers use tools to hunt animals and also for gathering plants, and the knowledge use to make and use these resource are productive resources of foragers.

The tools are easy to make and are made by hand. Among foragers men are mostly involved in gambling, but a man's bow, bird arrow and leather bag is not used in gambling.

As these tools are essential for their survival

Example:-

Ju/hoansi of the Kalahari are the example of foragers

2) Pastoralists

For Pastoralists the productive resources are Livestock and Land. However, these lands are collectively owned. It is the access to the land that is most important than the ownership of the land. In the grassland, every one has equal access to the resources. Among Pastoralists prosperity and status is measure on the basis

of a number of animals one own. Animals are never killed in such groups except for the purpose of religious rites. These people survive off the animal products i.e Milk and Blood. Animals are also traded for other essential products such as grains.

Example:-

Yak-herding Drokba of northwestern Tibet are typical example of Pastoralists.

They also move from pasture to pasture as the rain, drought and other climate factors dictate them

3) Horticulturalists

Horticulturalists in addition to land, tools, technology also require storage places.

In such societies land is communally owned by an extended kin group, although the rites to use the land may be given to a household and individual.

Example:-

Among the Ibo, Swidden farmers in Nigeria, no individual owns the land and had permanent right to it. Instead the land is vested among an extended kin group.

4) Agriculturalists

In more politically and technologically advanced cultures, agriculture comes to dominate the production. In these societies, productive resources may take many forms; including complex tools and technological knowledge to make these tools. Ownership of these critical resources belong to a small group whose members there by gain power over others and control their labor.

In such societies, productive resources are continually reinvested to generate profits for the owner beyond their subsistence needs. Such resources are called Capital.

Example

Sinhala in Sri Lanka are example of Agriculturalists

Conclusion

In conclusion, productive resources varies among various cultural groups. Foragers use tools for hunting animals and gathering plant and use knowledge and simple technology to make them. Ju/hoansi are the example of foragers. In addition, pastoralists rely on livestock and land. Excess is access to the grassland than ownership which is more important. Moreover, Horticulturalist require storage place along with land.

tools and knowledge. They do not own land, land is communally owned. For example among the Ibo of Swidden farmers in Nigeria, no individual owns the land. More advanced societies agriculture dominates as a mean of production such as among the Sinhala in Sri Lanka.

Q No 3

Introduction

In anthropology, religion is defined as a set of beliefs practices related to supernatural forces or being.

There are various theories to explain the evolution of religion. One of them is E.B Tylor's theory of animism which argued that living and non-living things had spiritual essence. eg belief in spirits of trees, rivers, and animals. In addition to it Emile Durkheim proposed theory of Totemism. According to Durkheim totemism is the earliest form of religion. It is a belief system ^{in which} that a community considers a particular animal, plant or object sacred and symbolic of their unity and identity. Religion evolved through magic and superstition, Shamanism, polytheism and eventually monotheism.

1) Animism:-

Primitive human believed that all living and non-living things had a spiritual essence. This was based on the experience like dreams and death where they imagined the existence of a soul or spirit.

Example:

Belief in spirit of trees, rivers and animals.

2) Polytheism:

As societies advanced people begin to group spirits into specific gods and deities, each responsible for a particular aspect of life such as fertility, rain or war.

Example

Worship of multiple gods in ancient Egyptian, Greek and Hindu religion.

3) Monotheism

In more developed societies, the belief of multiple gods is replaced by the idea of single, supreme deity who control all the aspects of society and universe.

Example :-

Religions like Christianity, Islam and

Judaism.

Criticism

- 1) Tylor's explanation of animism oversimplified the complex motivation and experiences behind the early religious beliefs.
- 2) He considered animism "primitive" and thought modern religions were more advanced, showing a bias towards European cultural ideas.
- 3) Tylor believed early humans used logic to develop animism, ignoring the importance of emotions, rituals and the role of communities in religion.

2) Emile Durkheim's Theory of Totemism

Emile Durkheim a founding figure of sociology explored the concept of Totemism in his book *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*.

Durkheim studied the religious practices of Australian Aboriginal tribes to develop a theory of religion and society.

What is Totemism?

Totemism is a belief system in which a community (clan) considers a particular animal, plant, or object as sacred and symbolic of their unity and identity. The totem acts as a symbol of clan and represents its spirit or essence.

Sacred vs Profane

According to Durkheim, religion is based on the distinction between sacred (things set apart) and the profane (ordinary and every day things)

Religion as a social phenomena

Durkheim emphasized that religion, including totemism, is not just about individual belief but a social phenomena.

The primary function of religion is to unite people and maintain cohesion in society.

Durkheim's view on the Origin of Religion

Durkheim believed that totemism is the earliest form of religion because it reflects the basic needs of primitive societies to explain the world and create social unity.

Criticism

Durkheim's focus on Australian Aboriginal Tribes may not represent all forms of totemism or early religion.

Durkheim overemphasized the social aspects ignoring the spiritual and emotional dimension of religion.

Durkheim's argument that religion is essentially a reflection of society is oversimplistic, ignoring the diversity of religious experiences.

3) Magic and Superstitions

An attempt to mechanistically control supernatural forces. It is a belief that certain words, actions and state of minds compel the supernatural to behave in a particular way.

4) Shamans

Shamans are part-time practitioners. In many respects, shamans are average members of community; they must hunt, gather, garden, or get up and go to work like anyone else. Their shamanic activities are reserved for specific ceremonies, time of illness or crisis.

5) Polythesism

Overtime people began worshipping many gods, often associated with natural elements like the sun, rain or fertility. Each god has specific powers and roles.

6) Monothesism

In more developed societies, the belief of multiple gods is replaced by the idea of single supreme deity who control all the aspects of society.

example Christianity, Islam and Judaism

Conclusion:-

Religion is a belief of beliefs, values and moral characteristic of a society. Different anthropological perspectives explain the evolution of religion including the E.B Tylor's theory of animism, Emile Durkheim's theory of totemism and anthropological perspective of magic and superstition and Shamanism. As the societies evolved people started believing in multiple gods which gave rise to polytheism and in the more advanced societies monotheism arises.