



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

COURSE: B.A.LL.B. 1st Semester

SUBJECT: HISTORY - I

SUBJECT CODE: BAL 102

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Lecture-26



Kinship, Caste and Class

Social Differentiation

Rules of Marriage

Varna

Varna system is the social stratification based on the Varna, caste. Four basic categories are defined under this system - **Brahmins** (priests, teachers, intellectuals), **Kshatriyas** (warriors, kings, administrators), **Vaishyas** (agriculturalists, traders, farmers) and **Shudras** (workers, labourers, artisans).

What is Varna?

Varna is a Sanskrit term, derived from 'vr'-to cover, to envelop, count, classify, consider, describe or choose.

The term is used to describe the social class divisions made in the Vedic period in the Brahminical books like the Manusmriti.

Origin of Varna system

The first mention of the Varna system was found in Purusha Suktam verse of the ancient Sanskrit Rig Veda.

Purusha is believed to be the first being constituted by a combination of the four Varnas.

Classification

- Brahmins represent its mouth
- Kshatriyas its arms
- Vaishyas its thighs
- Shudras its feet.

The society is constituted to follow the varna rules in order to sustain prosperity and order.

Purpose of the Varna system

The division of the varna is to distribute the responsibilities among various people and to maintain the purity of caste and establish eternal order.

This system is believed to avoid conflicts within business and encroachment on respective duties.

MCQ

1. Which of the following Vedic literature where the Varna system was discussed?

- A. Rigveda
- B. Samaveda
- C. Yajurveda
- D. Atharvaveda

2. Which of the following Vedic literature contains Gayatri Mantra?

- A. Rigveda
- B. Samaveda
- C. Yajurveda
- D. Atharvaveda

3. Which of the following is correctly matched:

- A. Rigveda- Hotra or Hotri
- B. Samaveda - Udgatri
- C. Yajurveda - Adhvaryu
- D. All the above

4. Which of the following Vedic literature is the collection of sacrificial formulae?

- A. Rigveda
- B. Samaveda
- C. Yajurveda
- D. Atharvaveda

5. Which of the following statement (s) is/are related to the Aranyakas?

- A. Written in forests for the hermits and students of the Vedas.
- B. Initiated a changeover from materialistic religion to spiritual religion. Hence, they formed a tradition that culminates in the Upanishads.
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

