



FACULTY OF JURIDICAL SCIENCES

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III

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Lecture- 11



Characteristics of Social Class

1. The class system is a function of several variants like occupation, wealth, age, sex etc. The status of a person was achieved as well as ascribed too.
2. There was a hierarchy tree observed in the social class system. There was classification viz. upper class, middle class, and lower class. The amount of prestige and wealth an upper-class person enjoys is much greater than the other two classes.
3. There was a constant feeling of highness and lowness as the upper class enjoyed superiority and other classes were generally in their service.
4. When there is superiority thing in our society, a sense of conflict in lower class will also arise as due to powers generally upper class are seen as exploiting other classes rights. For example, the amount which is sanctioned for lower class people, upperclass people also digests their money thinking it's their right.
5. As caste system has sub-divisions, the class system also has various groups in them. Social Classes were the open system, unlike religious or caste system. There was freedom of mobility, people were not oppressed. Like in caste system untouchability practice existed but classes categorization has never seen this kind of social evil.
6. There were some factors which got same in caste system as well as the class system. Endogamy practice is one of them. To maintain the prestige, wealth and fame a rich businessman daughter is not allowed to marry a boy of the middle class.
7. Class system does not come under ascribed status, unlike caste system. For example, a Kshatriya king son will be a Rajputana till his death but talking about the class system, a person wealth and occupation are the key factors so it comes under, achieved status. For example a rich business man wealth can be lost or he can become bankrupt at any moment and his class will be lower class. Thus a class of a person can change at any moment.
8. The effect of Sanskritization was different on the class system and caste system. Sanskritization was not able to bring much change in caste system but in the class system, its effect is quite evident.