

JIWAJI UNIVERSITY, GWALIOR

BALLB II SEM

HISTORY PPT LECTURE

09

UNIT-II

TOPIC- DELHI SULTANATE

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THE DELHI SULTANATE

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY DURING DELHI SULTANATE:

Probable questions:-

1. Describe the economic condition during the times of delhi sultanate.
2. Trace the social conditions of india during the period of delhi sultanate.

Society during Delhi sultanate

During the delhi sultanate, the society was in transition phase. Based on the religion, people were broadly categorised into hindus and muslims. Muslims were again divided into two categories; nobility and the chiefs. The nobles were divided into three classes; the khans, the maliks and the amirs. The chief included the emergent zamindars and other administrative cadre.

The most important characteristic of the society was division on the basis of nationality.

1. Division of society on the basis of nationality:
 - (i) Foreign muslims- foreign muslims, in general, constituted the ruling class. They belonged to different nationalities such as the Persian, the afghans, the Egyptian, the Arabs, the Turks and the Abyssinians.
 - (ii) Indian muslims- they belonged to two categories. Either they converted to islam themselves or were descendents of converted muslims.

- (iii) Shias and sunnis- the muslims-foreign as well as indian also divided on the basis of religious sect. The shias entered india after the arab conquest of sindh. The sunnis were backed by ulema and sultan.
- (iv) Hindus- the hindus constituted the majority of the society, but they were treated second rate citizens of the state. They mostly monopolised trade and agriculture

2. The privileged and unprivileged class:

There was practically no middle class in the society. There were the privileged and unprivileged classes. The privileged class made up of the members of the royal family, the courtesans, the nobles, the ulemas etc.

The rest of the people belonged to the unprivileged class.

3. The slave class: there were slave markets in a few towns and they were sold like any other commodity.

4. Position of women: in general, the status of women deteriorated in the society and they suffered from many social evils.

- Normally monogamy was in practice but among the rich class polygamy was prevalent.
- Sati practice in hindu was prevalent.
- Widow remarriage was very rare.
- Purdah (veil) system among muslim women was strictly observed, also prevalent in hindu society.
- Very little attention was paid to the education of women.

Only one favourable thing was that widows were allowed to inherit their husbands property.

5. Diet: in general, while the hindus were vegetarian, the muslims were non-vegetarian. Quran prohibits the use of liquor, yet it was consumed mostly by the wealthy class.

CONCLUSION

The hindus were holding the entire local system of administration. Both hindu and muslim communities were overlapping with each other. Still there were differences in social and cultural ideas and beliefs. This created an atmosphere of tension and led to decreased mutual understanding and cultural adjustments.

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THANK YOU

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