

!!Welcome students!!

Myself Dr. Priyanka Velip, Assistant Professor in Sociology, Government College of Arts,

Science and Commerce, Quepem. In this module, I am going to talk about the facets of slavery.

The outline of my module is the introduction, meaning and definition, characteristics of slave or slavery, types of slavery, summary and references.

Learning outcomes: Students will be able to understand the existence of the problem of slavery and also to understand different forms or types of slavery and also to sensitize the students to the existence of inequality among different groups in a society.

Introduction, to begin with, inequalities exist in all types of human society. Even in the simplest cultures where variation in wealth and property are virtually non-existent. There are inequalities between individuals between men and women, the young and the old. The study of inequalities in society is one of the most important areas of sociology because our material resources determine a great deal about our lives. Sociologists use the concept of social stratification to describe inequalities that exist between individuals and groups within human society. One such social stratification was the existence of slavery.

To begin with, slavery, let us understand the meaning and definition of slavery.

Slavery is an extreme form of inequality, in which certain people are owned as property by others. The legal conditions of slave ownership have varied considerably between different societies. Sometimes slaves were deprived of almost all rights in law- as was the case in the Southern United States-while in other instances their position was more akin to that of a servant. In the United States, South America and the West Indies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, slaves were used almost exclusively as plantation workers and as domestic workers.

Now let us understand some of the characteristics of slave or slavery.

The first one is slaves were regarded as items of property. Slaves were always considered as the property of masters.

Slaves were considered as movable or immovable property. Even the movement was restricted because even movement was owned by their masters.

The third one is slaves work for their masters without remuneration. Slaves work day and night, but in return, slaves are not getting salaries or payments.

The next one is that slaves were under the control of their masters or owners.

Next is slaves could be bought or sold in the market.

Slaves usually had fewer rights than others. Slaves had fewer rights than compared to their masters.

Slaves were excluded from political positions. Slaves were not allowed to take part in political decision making and also in the military, but were mostly found in most other types of occupation.

Next, we have types of slavery. The British Empire banned slavery in 1833 and the United States did the same in 1865.

According to Anti Slavery International (ASI), there are four types of slavery.

1. *Chattel* slavery:
2. Child slavery:
3. Debt bondage:
4. Servile forms of marriage:

Now we're going into detail. The first one is chattel slavery. In chattel slavery, one person owns another. The number of chattel slaves is difficult to estimate 'cause this practice is against the law almost everywhere. Nevertheless, the buying and selling of slaves still take place in many countries, especially in Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Next, we have child slavery. Child slavery is a more common form of bondage in which desperately poor families let their children take to the streets, where they are readily victimized by others. Perhaps 100 million children from poor countries fall into this category.

Next, we have Debt bondage. In debt bondage, employers hold workers by paying them too little to meet their debts. In this case, workers receive wages, but not enough to cover the food and housing provided by an employer; for all practical purposes, they are enslaved. Many workers in sweatshops in poor countries fall into this category.

Next, we have servile forms of marriage. Servile forms of marriage may also amount to slavery. In India, Thailand, and African countries, families marry off women against their will. Many end up as slaves working for their husband's families; some were forced into prostitution.

Finally, one additional form of slavery and is human trafficking, which is a more modern form of slavery. The moving of men, the moving of men, women, and children from one place to another and then placing them in conditions of forced labour. Women and men brought to a new country on the promise of a job and then forced to become prostitutes or agricultural labourers. Such activity is a big business. In 1948, the United Nations issued its Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states, No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Slavery has frequently provoked resistance and struggle from those subjected to it. There were slave rebellions, in which slaves managed collectively to free themselves from their masters. Slave-labour systems break down partly because of the struggles and because of economic or other incentives motivate people more effectively than direct compulsion. Today slavery remains a significant human rights violation in the world.

To conclude, slavery was an extreme form of inequality among the different groups in our society of all patterns of social stratification. It is the system that has drawn the most rigid legal boundaries between members of one group and those of another. Unfortunately, this social evil still exists in society.

These are my references.

Thank you.