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Task: Assignment

“DISEASES OF SOCIETY” AS DESCRIBE BY “SHAH WALLI ULLAH”

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“DISEASES OF SOCIETY” AS DESCRIBE BY “SHAH WALLI ULLAH”

(THE GREAT MUSLIM SOCIAL REFORMER)

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**1. Society an introduction**

A society is a group of individuals involved in persistent social interaction, or a large social group sharing the same spatial or social territory, typically subject to the same political authority and dominant cultural expectations. Societies are characterized by patterns of relationships (social relations) between individuals who share a distinctive culture and institutions; a given society may be described as the sum total of such relationships among its constituent of members. Every society sustain definite types of illness or diseases some are discussed by Shah Wali Ullah.

**2. Society by Shah Wali Ullah’s insight**

History itself stands evident to the fact that whenever Islam was in danger, by any agency or enemy, it was saved by such personalities who through their spiritual power not only saved it but also gave it a new life. One of them was Shah Wali Ullah,The movement of Shah Wali Ullah was the first in the Subcontinent that aimed at socio-economic and politico – religious reformation of the degenerated Muslim society and societal ailments prevailing in the society.

Shah Wali Ullah was born in 1703.he got his early education from his father in the fields of the Quran, the Hadith, logic, Metaphysics and Fiqah and have keen knowledge in anthropological studies.Shah Wali Ullah appeared on the scene as a great social reformer. He launched a movement to bring social, political and economic reforms in the society. Here especially focusing his contriutions toward the society and diseases of the society.

Muslim scholars have contributed enormously to the concept of welfare State. Among them Shah Waliullah is the rising sun .His basic concepts like equality, justice, anti-usury, and rights of working classes, espoused with responsible governance, are the pillars of the edifice of the Islamic polity. To purge the Muslims out of dogmas and channelize their energies in compliance of the true religion, Islam, Shah Waliullah has left deep imprints on modern mind. His solutions to the prevailing ills of the society can be found in his works and thought.

This paper is aimed to present Waliullah's thought on establishing a happy society by curbing the inequality in the socio economic conditions of the Muslims. Historical descriptive approach is adhered to investigate the ills and present solution thereof.

**3. Societal diseases in common and general sense prevailing in the recent time**

1. Religious Intolerance

2. Imbalance between the "Three Tiers of State"

3 Lack of education

4. Ethnic hatred

5. Sectarian hatred

6. Lack of unity

7. Feudalism

8. Rising divorce rate

9. Abuse of women in the society

* **Social Problems or social diseases**

1. Poverty

2. Illiteracy

3. Domestic violence

4. Women victimization

5. Feudalistic mindset

**3.1. Societal diseases by Shah Walli Ullah**

**Social Ailments Theory**

Shah Walliullah holds that the secret of successful social life lies in the cooperation of people, in the use of abilities for serving other’s needs. To material these qualities, a particular place is needed where people should live and fulfil the needs of each other and he calls this place Madina which is not a particular place,but any place for above activities. Such state Called collective life where stability and dispersive forces work together. Dispersive forces create social ills and thus make the society unbalanced. It is very difficult to find out the reasons of ills of a society and to establish a healthy society.Shah Walliullah has given three basic and dispersive ills which become a serious danger for collective life of a society:

**1. BAD CUSTOMS**

Customs play an important part in the collective life of city life for mutual cooperation and transfer and keep balance and harmony in the society but the wrong use of customs by the society because of its bad and cruel actions, these become bad for collective life. Shah Walliullah describes the forms of customs:

**A**. Such customs which are to become a hindrance for good actions to cause, to submit, to power and to depress the abilities of correct leadership.

**B.** Such customs which are to make a collective custom for the achievement of needs through wrong means. Theft, deception, the occupy others property, etc. sexuality, adultery and vice versa and people in authority willfully tolerate because of certain preference then the situation becomes of an ill-society.

**C.** Such customs which are to take away religious acts, to make the people busy in business matters more and more, to make relations with God very weak then such a situation creates disorder and uncertainty and a society suffers many ills.

**2. ECONOMIC UNBALANCE**

Shah Walliullah calls economic unbalance as the greatest ill in the collective life. This is such a social condition where a specific class owns wealth more than its need and a large number of people become unable to meet basic needs and people are demoralized. When a person is obliged by economic unbalance, the morality of collective life suffers destruction. Such a society will be called a seriously ill-society and will fall a prey to moral and economic depression.

**3. CRIMES**

Social and economic bad actions are called crimes. According to him, usury, profiteering, hoarding, blaming, magic-ship, riot-ism and unnatural acts are bad actions and a society, suffering from these ills, will be called an ills-affected society.

* **Shah Wali Ullah has divided these bad acts into six parts as given below:**

**a. Physical actions:**

Such actions which are hurting body and creating a fear for collective life just as beating, quarrelling and murder.

**b. Social actions:**

Such actions as hurting the economic condition of men making the getting of needs of life difficult. For example, theft, deception, usury, profiteering and hoarding.

**c. Moral actions:**

such actions which are affecting the individual and group life rights making the individual mentally worried and restless For example, blaming, mischief and magical acts.

**d. Unnatural actions:**

Such acts which are against human nature and are damaging to the unity of a society. For example, adultery, drinking, adoption of men’s ways by women and vice versa.

**e. Secret actions:**

Such acts that are being done to damage the society like magic and gambling etc.

**f. Ethnocentric actions:**

Such acts that damage the unity and cooperation of the. society and collective life is in danger of losing its peace like ethnocentrism, language superiority, caste system, religious sects and cultural prejudices etc.Shah Walliullah has presented a concept of a society keeping in view the ills of the society.

According to Shah Wali Ullah, collective life is in the nature of man.So collective life should be according to natural demands to satisfy these in the best way without suffering from any deviation.

* **He has described four characteristics of human morals :**

a. Piety (Physical and mental).

b. Humility (Worship of God whole-heartedly).

c. Control oneself (From bad acts).

d. Justice and balance (Correct doing of acts and balancing avoidance from greed).

**He says that consummate society is not possible without a consummate caliphate and a government state needs such a sultan (caliph).**

**3.1.2. Causes and effect of societal diseases and their cures by shah walli ullah and other saints**

1. **Social Causes**

Absence of true religious knowledge

Lawlessness

Avoidance of true Islamic teachings

Enchanting pagan and western culture

Victimization of women

1. **Political Causes**

Colonial mind set of ruling

Leadership crisis

Weak judiciary

Foreign influence

Vested interest of political leaders

Lack of accountability

1. **Economic Causes**

Inconsistent economic policies

Corruption

Unfriendly environment for local and foreign investors

* **Impact of these Fatal Crisis and societal diseases**

These ultimately fuels to the diseases of aforementioned society as by shah wali ullah

Tarnished national image

Political and religious violence

Weak state institutions

Frustration among the masses

Depressed women

Suicidal tendencies

Stagnant national development

Peoples’ disinterest in politics

* **True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing. "Socrates"**

**1. Social cure**

Financial security

Social justice

Fulfillment of basic needs

Providing food, cloth, shelter and education

Positive role of scholars and educationists and women

**2. Economic cure**

Business friendly tax culture

Consistency of economic policies

Maximum incentives to local and foreign investors

Equal distribution of income

* + 1. **Shah Walli Ullah’s reforms toward the societal diseases and general remedies as compared to modern time**

**Remedies and reforms**

Improved law and order situation

Poverty alleviation

Stern accountability

**Economic remedies and reforms**

Economic equilibrium

Removal of inequalities

Equitable distribution of resources

He appealed to the classes concerned responsible to realize their responsibilities and duties towards the people.

**4. Conclusion**

As stated above, no country is free from socio-economic problems. These problems are and were present in every country and state but the winners are those who overcome most if not all of them. Nations face multifarious problems but together they work for towards the solution. The same is the need of hour. State administration as well as every single citizen has to play its own specific role to bring about a positive change and shah walli ullah also urged that.

• The efforts of Shah Wali Ullah for the integration of whole Islamic structure would never be forgotten.

• He can be called “The founder of Neo-Islamization” of the Muslim society in the Sub-Continent.

It was because of the effects of Shah Wali Ullah's reforms that the other religious movements, such as movements of Syed Ahmad Shaheed and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan flourished after him.

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