

Rise and growth of civilization ①

Civilization is the advanced state of development in a society. The French word "civilise" (civilised) and Latin word "civis" (citizen), "civitas" (city) refers to civilization. The progress made by man in every sphere of action is seen. Civilization is defined as "living in cities" and protected by constitution and law.

Origin

① Farming

Farming had allowed the growth of settled population. With the advancement of technology the small scale village based societies became large scale ones. The key for civilization is the rise of two social institutions, state and city. Both are dependent on each other, no state without city and no city without state. The farmers and their families worked in their fields. Apart from their time for food production, they tended cattle, village crafts work like spinning, weaving and pottery were carried out. Each village was a separate community and had about 300 people. There was no king or in charge and other villages were considered as aliens. Thus for the need of survival people needed food & thus farming helped.

② River valleys

River valleys played a role as cradles

of civilization. River valleys were well watered, fertile soil, ^{used for} high agricultural production, rivers provided plenty of water for growing crops and fertile muds were brought from the mountains. Hence productive farmland was the result of rivers. In the initial stage, these areas near river beds were difficult to settle. Later they started digging pools and constructing dams to keep the flood water from flowing away. Crops yield were more. This led to population growth.

Kings, Officials

To have power over the population there was need of officials. The head was the king and small centres became city states. Eg. The origin of royal power is seen in Egypt. The number of families increased and the society comprised of farmers, craft workers, soldiers, officials & priests.

Economic control

Officials showed control over the economic life of the states. The task of receiving, storing and distributing required officials to record the produce. This led to the emergence of writing.

Writing

In the early civilization the writing system led to the development of writing in the form of signs and symbols and the language in which the human was able to understand.

multi-cultural society

(3)

The factors which led to the rise of civilization included multi cultural society. It means that people of different cultures started living together ~~peep~~ peacefully. Religion was one of the factors that contributed to the formation of such kind of society.

Religion

Before man became civilized there was no religion or beliefs. Man had some strange views which could not be termed as religion. There is no society without a religion. Therefore religion forms a main part of the society. Hence its main aim is to bind the people together. It helped man to decide what is right and wrong. People's behavior is controlled and order is maintained in the society. The size of the religion system is dependent on the size of the society.

Characteristics of a Civilization

Ancient Civilization is used to describe a society having the following characteristics

- ① Permanent Settlements
- ② Urban Development
- ③ Organised farming
- ④ Literacy / Writing system
- ⑤ Government
- ⑥ Division of labour
- ⑦ Multi cultures

⑧ Improved Technology

④

⑨ Complex institution

The civilization at a later period describes an advanced society with high level of development in all aspects and the culture is complex.

So we can classify civilization into simple or ancient human communities and complex or advanced civilization. The simple form of ancient civilization is the cradle for advanced civilization. Today's civilization are well advanced but they are no doubt formed due to ancient powerful empires and mighty cities.

Elements of Civilization

① People

People are the most essential element of civilization. There is no civilization without people. In this case, we can define "civilization as a huge human community or society that has achieved a certain level of culture." Human beings form the centre of the Universe. They have the ability to control the earth and its flora and fauna.

② Culture

Culture is another element of civilization. Culture is passed from one generation to the other and named as social heritage. Examples of culture are symbols, language, values, music, belief and attitude. Civilization are larger unit out of which culture is developed. Culture is also the internal character of a society.

3) Religion

Religion forms the pillar of a progressive society. It has many functions. It regulates the behavior and many rules of conduct are based on religion. It gives meaning to life and provides mental peace. It promotes creativity in art, literature and science.

4) Literacy

Literacy is an important element which has a steady impact on the communities. A literate learns to read and write. Reading is an outcome of education. It is the foundation of social well being and development of man.

5) State / Centralized Government

The state of a community without a government is poor. The state is established to guard the society against greed and injustice of some of its members. It protects the rights of the people. This initiates legislation and execution of law.

Moral Values

Moral values are the basis of civilization. They are essential for the survival of the society. One such moral value is cooperation. Love, mercy and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with fever. Hence moral values are an important element of civilization.

⑦ Technology

It is an element of civilization. It enables man to do things without the need for slaves. In the early civilizations technology was needed for tool making, construction of dikes to control floods from the rivers. It initiates construction and maintenance of canals and development of irrigation system. Advance in technology have made possible production of vast number of goods and services.

Conclusion

To conclude civilization covers the present and past societies. It distinguishes man from other species. It provides man with basic needs and wants. It shows how human societies have changed during their past. It is different from other societies based on characters. The study of civilization raises two questions who are we? Why are we here? The answer to these questions is used to understand civilization.

NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

- Neolithic age in the world started by 9000 BC.
- Neolithic is a greek word which means new stone age. Neo means new and lithic refers to stone. The name was first coined by Sir John Lubbock in 1865.
- Early farming spread to Asia Minor, North Africa and North Mesopotamia. In 1000 BC. In the early period farming and domestication of animals were done. Animals like dogs, sheeps, goat were domesticated in the earlier period and later cattle and pigs were included.

PRE-POTTERY NEOLITHIC AGE:-

- In 10000 BC there was lack of permanent houses. In the advance stage there was true farming, grain ground, wild cereals, re-seeding of wheat, herding of animals and domestication. Before grains figs were cultivated
- Settlement:- Permanent with round houses with single rooms. For the first time mud bricks were used. It was surrounded by stone walls and stone tower. The walls protected them flood, animals and nearby groups.

II Phase:-

- In this phase houses were of rectangular mud bricks. There were single or multiple rooms.
- The burial findings showed the preserved skulls and the body was left to decay and bones buried inside under the floor.
- In 6200 BC this culture spread from Syria to Iraq.

POTTERY NEOLITHIC AGE:-

- The earth became warm and due to climatic changes agriculture revolution was initiated.
- Wild wheat and barley grew in the warm climate
- Intellectual advance in the brain caused the people to settle

- The walls of houses were seen with murals of hunting men, cattle and female goddess.
- Plants were also domesticated. It was the process by which farmers selected successive plants or animals.
- Plants that were harvested early was wild wheat
- **Livestock:-** The first livestock were domesticated from animals hunted for meat. For example pigs from wild boar. Milk and meat were added to human diet . Moreover from the animals disease like smallpox, influenza and measles spread. Sheep and cattle were the first farm animals. In Mesopotamia water buffalo and yak were in use and later ox and donkey were used.
- **Clothing:-** As the climate was warm linen clothes were used. They were cool and light weight. In the cold climate leather and wool were in use. Bone pins were used to fasten garments and bone needles for sewing.
- **Religion:-** People changed their focus on fertility or grow crops, worship of Mother Goddess or earth fertility. Small clay statues were seen. There was belief of nature, animals , forests, mountains, river and stones. There followed time to plant or to harvest. Their observation on the moon helped to form the lunar calendar. There were numerous rites related to climate and crops.
In this age the first temple and the first priest appeared.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT:-

- This culture evolved in South Asia, Middle East. Early development was seen in Levant, Turkey and Mesopotamia. In South Asia at Mehgarh in Baluchistan and in the Ganges valley this culture was evident. In South east Europe by 7000 BC and in Central Europe by 5500 BC and in Europe by 4500 BC the development of this culture was seen.

FARMING:-

- Crop farming and cultivation was common and the people settled spend more time and labour in crop fields. The difference in human interaction and methods associated with agricultural practices in Neolithic is called Neolithic revolution coined by Australian archaeologist Gordon Childe. The benefits of increasing development of farming technology was the ability to produce crop yield surplus to the needs of the community. This high yield was used during food shortage.

Evaluation:-

There was tremendous change in the culture in all aspects. The settlements formed the beginning of civilization. Houses, Domestication of animals, pottery making, agriculture received a high impetus. Hunters had animal protein and nutritional benefits were added. The animal by products were used as fertilizers, fuel and as building material. Animals provided protein, diary based products used for barter and trade. Processing of crops and food production was initiated. In diferent parts of the world the people belonging to this community settled in different areas.

(1)

Egypt Civilization

Egypt is situated eastern part of Sahara desert and North Africa. It is surrounded on the North by the Mediterranean Sea. This civilization started in 3100 BC. The longest river in the world River Nile which is 6000 miles long flows from North to South of Egypt. The growth of papyrus in the bordering areas of Egypt give them protection from enemies.

In 440 BC Herodotus called Egypt as the "Gift of the Nile". The river Nile give the basic support through irrigation works, mineral resources and fertility. The soil is rich black soil and water was sufficient.

Ancient Egypt

In the ancient Egypt there are 3

Kingdoms.

- ① Old Kingdom (2686 - 2200 BC)
- ② Middle Kingdom (2200 - 1800 BC)
- ③ New Kingdom (1600 - 1100 BC)

In 3400 BC villages became part of two main Kingdoms in Egypt - Lower and Upper Egypt. The Old Kingdom was called as Pharaoh period. In this period pyramids were built and hence called as pyramid period. eg. Giza pyramid. In the middle Kingdom Egypt was under the Hyksos and in the new Kingdom Egypt was

(2)

was extended. III Thutmose was the king in this period. His wife was Hatshepsut, the first woman ruler of the world. The headmen of the lower and Upper Egypt fought among themselves and Menes became the first king of Egypt.

Ph Society

Social Divisions

- 1) Kings / priest / officers / nobles
- 2) Soldiers / scribes / merchants
- 3) Artisan / farmers / slaves

Nobles held govt. posts. They were wealthy and gave gifts to god. Slaves were brought as prisoners of war. Scribes wrote Book of the Dead and biographies in Egyptian tombs.

King

Pharaoh was the title given to the king of Egypt. He was regarded as a representative of god. He had civil and religious power. He was the owner of the land, enacted laws, collected tax, chose site of temples. The Pharaoh wore crown made of white and red colour. Tax was collected in the form of grain. It was stored in ware houses of kings for the use during famine.

Family

Nuclear family. There were many Gods and each member worshipped a God. The parents were given respect. The marriage age was 16 to 20 years. Property was possessed by the family members. In the family children were trained at the early age, girls assisted household and boys, his father's occupation.

Women

Women enjoyed freedom. They had property rights. Women had the right to rule and to educate herself. The women of the royal family usually were educated and were interested in various activities. Only the women of peasant class worked along with her husband.

Houses

Houses were made of mud bricks, (square shapes moulded mud) There was a central large room and small rooms attached. The walls were plastered with lime and water paints. The ceiling were painted either blue or yellow and floors were colourful with mud tiles. Big houses had gardens, swimming pools, furniture, small tables and drinking vessels.

Dress & Fashion

Both men and women interested in dress.

linen cloth with white coloured dress and color at the edges. During winter heavy cloak was worn from neck to ankle. Women wore wigs and they had 18 hair styles. Perfumes and cosmetics used. The nails were painted with henna. Sandals were worn on special occasion. Jewelry and ribbons were in use. Men carried staff. They used high colored ornaments. They include lustrous stones and precious metals. Gold was in use. Earrings, bracelets, rings, necklace and neck collars were used.

Food

The main food was wheat and barley. Breads, onion, vegetables, Dining - chair, stool, floor Basin + to keep aromatic cones of scented fat to prevent insects. Lily flower were handed to the guest. Dancers and musicians (Charp, lute, drums clappers) to entertain. Roasted oxen, ducks, pigeon, fish used. Food: meat salted. Sesame oil used. Sweets made of dates and honey. Spices and herbs used. Dates, raisins dry fruits used. There were banquet meals. Low class people ate fish. papyrus powder - rich in nutrition. cucumber, celery, lettuce, melon, pears, ~~peas~~ beans, olive oil, figs, grapes, eggs, cheese.

Religion

Pharaoh important. He was regarded as representative of god. They believed survival of souls after death. There were many gods. Sun god - Ra, Creator - Anun, Shu - Air - Sky, Mother god - Isis. single god - Aton
 Many ceremonies were there - animal worship - Bull worship - mummified cats, birds were buried
 Deities were associated with animals - bull, cow, cobra, vulture, lioness, beetle. Animals expressed the nature of deity.

Architecture

Pyramid + Built of stone or brick, - white limestone surface. Capstone made of granite or basalt plated with gold, silver and electrum.
 1st pyramid by Zoser and his architect Imhotep
 largest pyramid is Giza and was one of the seven wonders of the world. Pyramid of Khufu - white limestone
 Small pyramids were built by Nubians.
 Saggara was stepped pyramid with 6 stepped layers of stone. Great sphinx was the guardian statue, carved in limestone with head of man & body of lion.
 Temple of Karnak was famous - had 134 columns and pillars. Luxor was city in the east of Nile and temple was built there. Ramasseum was a temple with monumental statues.
 There were many fortresses eg. Pelusium, Fortress Taffa fortresses