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Development Compilation
Vol. 17. Number 01. May 2022**A CRITICAL OBSERVATION OF ARISTOTLE'S THEORY OF
SLAVERY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ON ARISTOTLE
AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY****Dr. Md. Tanzilul Islam^{*}****Md. Jubaer Ibn Taher^{**}****Dr. Md. Fakrul Islam^{***}**

Abstract: Slavery is a great sin in the history of human civilization. It is a condition of having to work very hard without proper remuneration or appreciation. In the ancient age, it was regarded as an inevitable condition of social development. Many political philosophers, especially Aristotle, introduced theory of slavery in the political philosophy. In this study, the author tries to explain the inner meaning of slavery theory based on Aristotle. The paper also attempts to examine is it applicable today. Finally, it provides a comparative analysis between Aristotle's philosophy and modern philosophy based on slavery theory.

Keywords: Aristotle, Slavery, Modern Philosophy

Introduction

Slavery becomes a debating issue in the journey of world civilization. Beginning of the political history, Aristotle, firstly, felt to importance of slavery in the society for the betterment of ruler or social lord. Indeed, political history has been classified into three ages in light of nature of thought and mode of political development i.e., ancient period, medieval age and modern era. The generator of political science, Aristotle, gave birth to several theories like as slavery theory, revolution theory, types of government theory etc. Theory of revolution is one of the famous inventions in his book 'The Politics'. This theory has made attention in the mind of political and social thinkers. Meanwhile, this debate is not ended among the scholars yet. The present study attempts to know the

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necessarily of slavery system in the society in the view of Aristotle theory. In addition, the paper tries to examine its acceptability in terms of moral values. (H. Sabine, 1961)

Objectives of the Study

The extreme concentration of the present study is to examine slavery theory. In fact, the study has to keep attention to analyze the speech of Aristotle regarding this issue. The paper attempts to search out the limitation of slavery theory. It also gives priority to evaluate the slavery theory is it applicable today in our society.

Methodology

This Study has been conducted by descriptive manners. Qualitative analyses have been represented in this study. All data have been collected from the Secondary Sources. The relevant qualitative information collected from various books, online database, Journals, reports and other documents. In order to know about Aristotle's Slavery theory, views of many writers and its applicability today.

Conceptual Framework

Slavery is a social system in which people of the same blood and flesh lose their human dignity and degenerate into non human beings. Not just alone, wife and children with everyone. Slave people are submissive, obedient to their master. No entity, no freedom, under a Lord named master. And so, a slave means a person who is submissive or obedient to another, who is considered the property of another. (KERVIN, 1999)

On the other hand, philosophy means the study of knowledge, or thinking about thinking. Philosophy refers to the discipline concerned with question of how one should live (ethics); what sorts of things exist and what are their essential natures (metaphysics); what counts genuine knowledge and what are the correct principles of reasoning (Logic). (Philosophy: wikipedia, 2017)

About Philosophy of Slavery many writers given their own opinion. Such as Aristotle said, "there are two kinds of people in this world one in terms of wisdom and ability, one class of people possesses wisdom another class of people possesses only physical strength and so those who have wisdom are able to give orders. on the other hand, Those who Lack wisdom are unable to give orders, these People will obey the orders of wise and conscientious people. According to him, those who are able to give orders are the Lord on the other hand, those who have only physical strength and are ignorant are slaves. In his words, slaves a living

possession of his master and an instrument of action. Kevin Bells said, Slavery is the worst form of theft. This theft steals a person's life, robs him of the joy of life, robs him of his energy, Steals his future and future off spring. This theft is a thousand times more heinous than stealing human property or anything. Ralph Waldo said, Slavery is an institution that turns people into apes. (Theresa, 2008)

Aristotle's Philosophy of Slavery

Aristotle's in his Philosophy gives very important place to the idea of Slavery. He gave a strong argument in favour of slavery. It is discussed below:

Natureally

Naturally some things are good and some things are bad. Natureally some people with born merit and wisdom. Again, some people are born with only physical strength. Aristotle said that those who possess wisdom are conscientious and representatives of the soul. On the other hand, those who have Physically strength are the representatives of body and natureally the body is subject to the soul. so, it is natural that the soul will manage the body. That is nature itself has created some as masters and some as slaves. (Suda, J,P 1970)

Lord's point of view

Those who have that wisdom deserve to be ruled. So, if slaves are given the responsibility to complete the work of physical Labour, they will be able to do it smoothly. Not only this, with the help of meritorious Lords You can pay more attention to giving orders, especially in running the state. so, Aristotle said, "A Slave is Living possession of his master" (Dunning, W, 1970)

Slaves point of view: Aristotle said that if the ignorant slaves were under a master, they would be able to perform and task beautifully, easily and perfectly. Because as a result, the physical strength of the slave and the Judgement of the Lord will be combined. (Gettle R, 1953)}

In terms of morality

Aristotle said that in terms of morality also the strong and ignorant people will be ruled as physical and those who are possessed of wisdom and conscience will rule.

For the benefit of the state

Aristotle believed that slavery was essential for the welfare of the state. He said that just as machinery is needed for every art form. So is physical labor or slaves for the welfare of the state. (Bhandari D, 2002)

Discipline

Aristotle believed that slavery was essential to discipline. Because if everyone does the same thing, the chain will be broken. So, in the need of discipline, some one will say, some one will listen and obey.

In the implementation of plans or actions

Wise people make decisions or plans and the need for slaves to implement these plans is immense. Because the implementation of the plan is possible only if they physical strength of the slaves is combined with the plan of the wise.

In the interest of security

wise men take various steps for the good of the state. So why the wise need slaves with physical strength to Protect their safety.

Types of slavery

Aristotle divided slaves into two classes.

Namely: a. Natural slave

b. Legal slave

(a) Natural Slave: people who are natureally or innately short-sighted and do not have the proper qualifications to govern or give orders are considered as natural slaves. They will always be under the Lord. Aristotle opined that it is not right to Imagine that the children of these natural slaves would become slaves all the time. (Bowie, n.d.)

(b) Legal slave: Aristotle mentions natural slaves as well as legal slaves. There is also a legal basis for slavery in the Greek Society of that time. Legal slavery is usually born out of war. Aristotle Classified prisoners of war and losers as legal slaves this class of slaves is called traditional slaves in Greek society. However, there is a tendency to use force and coercion in such slavery so many do not consider such slavery to be reasonable. But Aristotle thinks this Idea is reasonable. The rationale behind his rational analysis of such slavery is that since war is the result of unethical or unjust claims. Slavery is Justified by moral standards. (Barker, 1946).

Nature of Aristotle's Philosophy of Slavery

Aristotle says that a slave is not only the slave of his master. He surrenders all his body mind and deeds to the master. But the duties and responsibilities of the master are very less towards him. There is so such thing as a slave's reasoning and he is as irrational and foolish as an animal. The slave will have no such thing as his own being or freedom and he will dedicate himself completely to the service of the Lord. (Dunning, W, 1970)

A Comparative Analysis

Aristotle's Philosophy of Slavery is completely different from present slavery system. It is undeniable that traditional system of slavery is no longer in place. That horrible image of traditional Slavery is nowhere to be seen. Chained slaves, like herds of cattle, no longer cross the city or town. No one introduces himself in the society as a slave owner. National and international law does not support slavery. But even then, to a limit extent, disguised slavery in different forms is chaining free people in many villages. (Tibles, 1994) This new form of slavery is crushing a significant number of people into exploitation. There are many distinctive features between Aristotle's slavery and modern slavery. These are: Firstly, Aristotle said Slavery recognized by society and the state as an institutional practice. On the other hand, neo slavery is disguised, unofficial, and recognised. Secondly, Aristotle said the master and slave relationship was legally established. The present slavery is no legal basis for the relationship between controller and under controlled. Thirdly, Aristotle's Slavery was legal. On the other hand, new slavery system is effective with gaps in the law. Fourthly, the price of buying a slave has to be paid. On the other words the price has to be paid in case of purchase. However, in the case of trafficking or other wise people who fall into the trap pay the agent the opposite. In most cases, the amount is too much. Fifthly, the master and slave relationship were lifelong or longterm. On the other hand, the relationship between the control and under controlled is short or medium term. This period can range from ten weeks to ten years. Sixthly, Anthropological, ethnic or racial differences were considered important. On the other hand, Anthropological, ethnic or racial differences are not important. (Orlando, 1982) Seventhly, the amount of profit was less than that of neo slavery. On the other hand, neo slavery amount and rate to profit is much higher. (Foster, M, 1963)

Conclusion

Aristotle's slavery theory is incompatible with modern Society. No Philosopher has ever supported this doctrine in any human reason nor will anyone support it. Now or in the future yet it is unfortunate that a Philosopher like Aristotle would want to perpetuate slavery anyway. People are all equal. This everlasting policy on human beings has led society to abolish slavery, and the world was freed from the curse of slavery by the nineteenth century. It is true that, however, that Aristotle's slavery was a social image of the time. (Barman, 2014)

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