ABSTRACT

Society is generally explained in terms of structure. What is more important is the positions which individual occupy in the society and the functions which they perform. class indicates the position of a man in society.

The growth and development of class structure came into existence because of technological changes. Large scale development occurred in various fields of life on account of industrial revolution. Oil played very important and key role these developments there was a rapid growth of transport and communication, growth in ship-building, industrial etc. And explorations of new oil fields. New plants were setup to manufacture machine tools. As a result banking and industrial investments increased.

The industrial revolution increased human mobility. The merchandise and money came into circulation. New skills also emerged on the scene. People started enjoying many privileges and chose professions suitable to their aptitude.
The class division of a society is one of the major aspects of social structure. It plays an important role in shaping the future of a society.

The British Institute of public opinion has divided the population including both, male and female sexes into three grades.

I. The Upper grade
II. The Middle grade
III. The Lower grade

**Upper Class:** The concept and composition of upper class have undergone radical metamorphosis over say a century. It evoked connotation that referred to gentlemanly attributes. The highest echelon of the society.

**Middle Class:** As the term itself implies, the existence of a middle class in a society means existence of at least two more class the upper class and the lower class.

Owing precisely to its significant role that of providing skilled manpower in the emerging new system, the middle class proliferated at a considerable pace and produced its effect on the system.
Lower Class: They were the working classes in general, characterized by low income and low standard of living.

Importance of Class in Society:

Society is an order and an organization of activity and classes as part of social stratification categorise people as per their occupation and way of life. Society have classes within them must be assignable to a class. The classes which exist in any given society can be realistically arranged into a simple hierarchy of superior and inferior, each class standing above or below the next.

Society exists class which depend on occupation and achievement unless in deed, in such a society, the notion of class ceased to be entertained at all.

Sources of Economy of Kuwait:

Kuwait was one of the major trade centre in the Arabian Gulf. The population of Kuwait depended heavily on the sea as a major source of livelihood and trade, pearl diving and boat-building. In fact Kuwaiti people were forced to depend on the sea because of its geographical
location and lack of recourses. Discovery of oil in Kuwait has brought about radical changes in the economy. Many industries have developed as a result. Referraries petrochemicals maritime transport have come in Kuwait, they present diversification of the industry more job and technical advancement.

**Social Stratification among various tribes:**

Before oil era, there were various tribes who had their own classification. The ones who bred camels were considered to be the noblest and ones who bred sheep and goat were not respected in the society. In fact the Bedouin Arab looked down upon them. Such attitudes have been some what modified but in general the Kuwaiti still took down up on manual labour. This attitudes can be attributed to Bedouin dislike settled life.

**Major class in Kuwait before oil era:**

In the beginning, the society in Kuwait was simple and traditional. The discovery of oil has brought about significant changes but basic structure of society remained the same. It may be divided into two major classes:

I. Upper
II. Lower
There was also a middle class in the society which was not very prominent.

**Upper Class:** It consists of the ruling families and merchants. Generally there are two sections of the society. The one which rules the other what is ruled. The ruling class were respected on account of their financial position. There was a conscious efforts on the part of the ruling family to establish a strong economic base.

**Middle Class:** In addition to the upper and lower classes of the society there was a small group comprising traders, merchants, theologians and tribal sheikhs who formed the middle class. The middle class was distinguishable by its small number, limited role, and dependent economic base. Since they were social negligible class, people believe that no real middle class existed in the Gulf in the earlier decades of this country.

**Lower Class:** The lower class consisted of pearls divers, carpenters, boat-builders, fishermen, of and farmers before the discovery of oil. The majority of the people in this group were poor, illiterate and wholly dependent on the merchants for their work and employment. They worked very
hard, soiled their hands in dust and got nothing in return. They were generally over worked and under paid.

Disintegration of Old Classes:—

In nineteenth century in Kuwait the general process of breaking of the traditional class structure started under the influence of exogenous and native factors. Following are irreversible impact on the traditional class.

I. The discovery of oil and subsequent.
II. Education development.
III. Economic condition.
IV. Political and social change.
V. Demographic and cultural developments.

Emergence of New Classes:—

After discovery of oil, the class is systematically and generally replacing the old categories of communities and groups consisting of tribe and family.

The emergence of groups and classes were classified as below:

I. Upper
II. Middle
III. Lower
Upper Class:- In Kuwait, the people of new upper class were comprise of royal families, for their business and new elites. Traditionally the ruling family in the royal family with the grave scale change in post oil era, the function and the role of the family referred to above, got a new way and their dependence enhanced on other sight of the other class. on the other people, those were non-royal, were counted in these fields for their education in addition to their family backgrounds. Increasing shared executive power with the merchant class in the royal family by the elected party of National Assembly and the eminent persons.

Middle Class:- The Kuwait society witnessed the advancement of the middle class with the discovery of oil. The present middle Class of Kuwait consists of x engineers, doctors, teachers, small shop-keepers and civil employees.

Lower Class:- In Kuwait the lower class generally composed of industrial workers in post oil era, like settled and nomadic bedouins. Settled bedouins enjoyed their lives in desert areas while the workers of the industry dwelt in cities. The financial condition of the lower class
completely changed and the member of the lower class adapted the high qualities of living and accumulated money beyond their needs.

References:


