

Saltanat Period: A Bird's Eye View

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From the beginning, invaders tried to attack India. Battles and destructions were common. Among the invaders, Greek, Hun, Persian, Bactrian were the major. Muslim invaders dominated the scenario.

The religion, culture, food-habit etc of Muslims were different. Muslim people did not want to accompany with Hindu Indian society. They wanted to destroy Hindu deity worshippers. They tried to disturb Hindu society. Casteism was also prevalent among Muslim people. They were divided into Siya and Sunni section. Casteism division in Hinduism and Islam in India was different.

Among muslims, in the caste system, the first section included sekh, saiyaad, mugal, pathan, khan mallick etc. In the second section, Ulema Sufi, Saiyaad etc. who got respect and special facilities in the kingdom. Ulemas were knowledgeable and pioneer in politics. Later on Allauddin Khilji thought Ulemas as harmful and kept those separated from administration. There was lack of middle section in the society. Muslims were laborious and religious.

Later on, fall of character, taking wine were common. The condition of women was very

bad. Women were victim. Haram system, Talaq, Purdah, Polygamy etc. were very common. Women in Haram were brutally tortured. There was no social Liberty, no freedom of speech and no openness in participation in public functions. Education of women was unthinkable. They had no right to study Quran and participate in mass prayers. They were not allowed to go to mosques. There were many restrictions on muslim women.

Regarding Hindu Society

Hindu Population was about 95% in saltanat period. But their condition was very poor. Historian Barni addressed Hindus as chauthary kut Mukaddam. The condition of Hindus in about 350 years was very bad. They had no self respect, no wealth, due to torture during Allauddin Khiljis's rule. Hindu tax payers were brutally treated then.

Brahmins were specially targeted by muslim rulers. Some Brahmin families were killed. During Tuglaq period, a Hindu revenue officer was killed by conspiracy. Historian Quresi wrote that in comparison to ancient India, the condition of Hindu was worse.

Food Habits during Saltanate Period

khichdi was a prominent food. South Indians ate rice and wheat and vegetables. Muslim ate meat. They ate the meat of sheep, goat and birds. They used different spices to make their food more tasty. Using tobacco was not found among muslims. Allauddin banned on taking wine.

Cloths & Ornaments

Sultan used specially designed hat. Muslims used kaba an ornament. They used different ornaments. Both men and women loved to decorate themselves. They used different things and ornaments to decorate different parts of their body.

Entertainment

Chaugan was a major sport which in now known as polo, Chess was another game popular among people.

Women Society

The condition of women was bad. women's main works were serving their husbands and doing household works. They had no freedom. They were under protection of parents, husband and son in different ages of life. Women were dependent on men.

Marriage

Polygamy was very common in upper class. According to Quran, A husband had right to marry four wives.

Monogamy was common in Hindu society. There was no widow marriage. Satee tradition was prevalent in Hindu society.

Satee Tradition

Satee tradition was common in upper class. It was a forcible murder. It was a matter of respect and appreciation. Those women who did not accept satee tradition, led a painful life. It is found that a permission was needed from sultan for satee ritual.

Jauhar Tradition

It was a tradition common in Rajput people. When any male Rajput died or loose the battle, his wife killed herself for self –respect. It was a suicide but a tradition.

Purdah

It was a common tradition in muslim society. Razia Begam did not follow this tradition. Firoz Sah Tuglaq restricted the entry of muslim women to dargah.

Women of upper class used palanquins. Hindu women had fear of being kidnapped. They used veil on their face. Child marriage was common. Because young, girls were kidnapped by powerful people.

Regarding Education

Education was confined to upper class people. Dance and song training was available to them. Devalrani and Rupwati were talented

women of this period. Razia Begam was a skillful administrator. Iban-Batuta writes that he found rare schools for girls.

To conclude, we can say that saltanat period was full of bad practices, pollution in society, differences, torture, backwardness and lack of social unity.

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