

BA-3, Paper-6, Unit-1 (C3)

Plato - Communism of Women and Children

Along with the abolition of private property Plato has recommended communism of women and children for the guardians. He has, therefore, abolished marriage and family in the guardian class. Property and family are the two sources of attachment in man resulting in selfishness. Plato thought that if the guardians are freed from both the bondages they may easily become unselfish and follow their duties. Communism of women has been prescribed in two ways. Firstly, the women were set free from the bondage of the family. They were provided similar education along with men, thus securing equal opportunities for their development. Freedom from the family could give them sufficient leisure to help the guardians in their job of ruling the state. Secondly, the guardians were not permanently married to particular women. Thus, Plato abolished the institution of permanent marriage. The right to progeny was given to wise and able persons.

Plato suggested marriage festivals in which ideal men were freely allowed to mate with ideal women. Children resulting from such festival were to be brought up by the state and the parents had nothing to do with them. The communism of women and children

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was based upon the following principles aimed at realizing the following aims -

- 1- Establishment of equality of male and female in the ideal state
- 2- Birth of physically and mentally superior progeny in society.
- 3- Provision of opportunities for maximum development to females as well as males.
- 4- Nationalization of the family.