

Concept of Varnashrama

Varnashrama is the vedic system of the goals of life, social division and stages of life and one is encouraged to strive for a balance and harmony of all the four goals and not to neglect one in favour of the other. This is the basis for the Ideal Varnashrama Dharma System of life in which the society is divided into four social group (Varna) according to one's natural talent and properties.

They are regarded as four in number and they are as follows

- (1) **Brahma** It includes the intellectual and the priestly class who perform religious rituals. Its function is to learn the eternal knowledge of the race. They always perform academic activities. It has Satvik nature.
- (2) **Kshatriyas** It is regarded as the marital class. It is also used to form the military defence. It also performs the administrative function of the society. They have Satvik rajastic nature. They also fight for the country.
- (3) **Vaishyas** It is regarded as the productive class of the society. Their functions includes trading and business. They belong to the business class. They always generates wealth. They are used to help in social well-being. For them, Artha is important. They have rajastic tamasic nature.
- (4) **Shudra** They serve other classes. They are regarded as the artisan class. They also covers the occupations of agriculture and mining. For them, Dharma is important. Ashramas are regarded as fundamental to the Hindu society. It also divides man's life into four stages. It has been said that **Brahma** passes through all four stages, **Kshatriya** passes through three stages, **Vaishya** passes through first two and **Shudra** passes through one stage only.

Four Stages (Ashrama) of Life

- (1) **Brahmacharya** It is referred as an academic learning. It leads to a student life. It inculcates stage of learning and celibacy. In this stage followers learns Dharma.
- (2) **Grihastha** It leads to a center stage life. It also leads to a household life. The people's which are involves in this life are regarded as a householder. It also contributes to society. They also sustains the society. It is regarded as a stage of fulfillment. It includes Artha and Kama. Artha and Kama served here are based on Dharma. This stage ensures the fourth stage i.e., Moksha or Sannyasa. They should perform five sacrifices.
- (3) **Vanaprastha** This stage concentrates on Dharma and Moksha. This stage is regarded as a retired stage. This stage leads a retired life during their lifetime. In this stage, people's win over their senses and their sensuous pleasures. People in this stage are regarded as dispassionate and detached.

Concept of Indian Ethics

- (4) ***Sannyasi*** It leads to a renounced life. In this stage, one renounces the world. People's in this stage detatches from their family relations. In this stage, people have no material possessions. Moksha is very important for this stage. In this stage, people's have no debts.