

# Seminar Presentation

## Faculty Induction Program

### Submitted To:

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TOPIC-

*Foundations of  
Indian culture*

- Varna Dharma
- Ashrama Dharma

# *Introduction*

The Varna system is extensively discussed in the Dharma - shastras. The Varna system in Dharma-shastras divides society into four Varnas Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishya and Shudras.

Under the Ashram system, the human lifespan was divided into four periods. The goal of each period was the fulfillment and development of the individual.

# Objectives

Objectives of this presentation is to know about Varna Dharma and discuss about the four fold division of human life in the Ashrama Dharma.

# Methodology

This study was conducted with the qualitative approach to research. Qualitative research is a realistic and integrated research process, which comprises qualitative data collection methods such as document analysis, observation and interviews.





**Varna  
Dharma**

# Varna Dharma



According to Varna Dharma, human society, is divided into four social classes and the basis of such divisions is the quality and action of a person but the literal meaning of the word,

*'Varna'* points out to different basis of social division. Varna means color of the complexion of a man, and mostly complexion follows the race to which a section belong.

# According to India culture



Brahmin  
(Scholars)

Kshatriya  
(Soldiers)

There are  
four social  
classes

Vaishya  
(Merchants)

Shudra  
(Servants)



# Brahmins (Scholars)



- ❖ Brahmins constitute that class of people who are scholars and highly educated.
- ❖ They are engaged in the task of acquiring knowledge and spreading this knowledge to others.
- ❖ This class of scholars is treated as the highest in the society and Brahmins are the most respected people.
- ❖ They are considered to be the true guides in moral and religious matters.

# Qualities of Brahmins



▶ They should have full control over their minds.

▶ They should be clean in body, words and mind.

▶ They must be able to forgive others for their fault

# Kshatriya(Soldiers)



- ❖ This class of society consists of brave people who are able to protect others and therefore to rule them.
- ❖ This class is of Soldiers and warriors. Kings belongs to this class.
- ❖ This class is highly educated, but they are not required to give education to others like Brahmins.
- ❖ Warriors are trained for war, because they are required to defend the society and maintain law and order.



# Qualities of Kshatriya



▶ Courage and Bravery.

▶ They should have a special glow on their face to impress others.

▶ They should possess the spirit to defend and protect the weak.

# Vaishya (Merchants)



- ❖ This class consists of merchants, traders and agriculturists who are engaged in the task of producing goods for consumption of society and their distribution and trade.
- ❖ They are considered to be most moneyed class and for wealth all the other classes of society look to it as a support.
- ❖ They are the financiers of the society.
- ❖ The class of the traders also is educated and intelligent



# Qualities of Vaishya



▶ They are to do agriculture.

▶ They run trade and business.

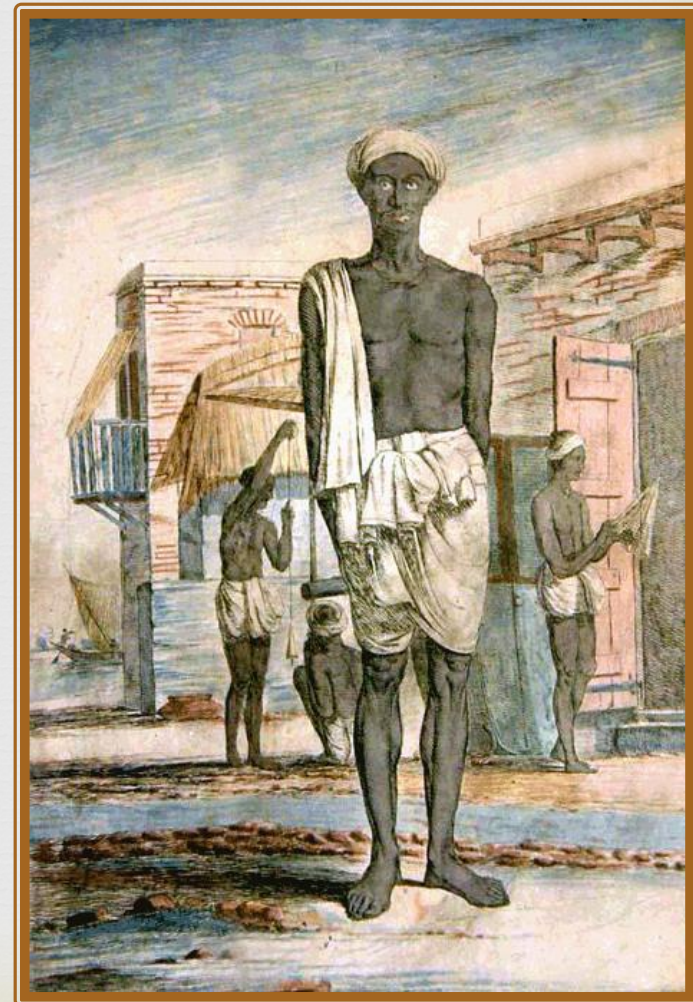
▶ They are required to study dharamshastra and other good literature.



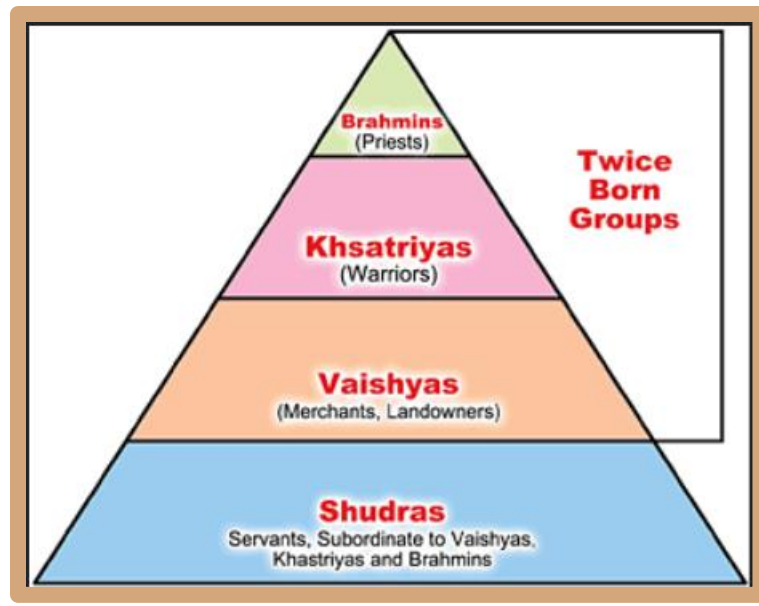
# Shudra (Servants)



- ❖ This is the servile class which consists of those people who are fit to serve others because they have been found to possess no specific quality or aptitude for a special profession.
- ❖ They are required to understand the orders from others and also possess the capacity to carry out their orders.
- ❖ They do not possess high intelligence and as such they are not fit to get high education.
- ❖ Since they are not highly educated nor are they moneyed, their status comes at the bottom of the social ladder



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**The**

ASHRAMA DHARMA

# The Ashrama Dharma

The Ashrama Dharma is based on a division of human life into four stages according to age so that at each stage a person is required to do specific duties. The Ashrama Dharma implies individual duties.

A scheme of four fold division of human life into stages which determine the duties of the individual according to the stage at which he is. The division is meant for the personal development of a man

# Four-fold Division of human life

- ➔ Brahmcharya Ashram - 0 to 25 years of age
- ➔ Grihastha Ashram - 26 to 50 years of age
- ➔ Vanprastha Ashram - 51 to 75 years of age
- ➔ Sanyas Ashram - 76 to 100 years of age

# Brahmcharya

This stage is the first stage of human life, and lasts from birth to 25 years of age. This period is meant for growth and education. Thus this stage is for education.

The person at this stage is to remain celibate, he is called a Brahmchari- one who lives according to the brahm, or the one who practices self control





# Grihastha

When a person completes his education during his first ashram, he enters into Grihastha Ashram after 25 years.

This Ashram depends upon the two categories

- Career
- Marriage

Education prepares the man for them. Unless he adopts a career for his livelihood, he should not marry, because he needs money to support his family



# Kinds of Marriages

## Higher class marriage

- ❖ Manushya Marriage
- ❖ Arsha Marriage
- ❖ Daiva Marriage
- ❖ Brahma Marriage

## Lower class marriage

- ❖ Paisacha Marriage
- ❖ Rakshasa Marriage
- ❖ Asura Marriage
- ❖ Gandharava Marriage

# Duties of Householder

- ❑ Duties towards Family: Both bride and groom are responsible for running a family.
- ❑ Brahman Yajna: This reminds that they should always strive to achieve moksha.
- ❑ Devayajna: This is an offering to god to seek their blessings for the success of the family.
- ❑ Pitriyajna: It is the duty of the Family towards their own ancestors.
- ❑ Manushya Yajna: This is the duty towards all the human beings.
- ❑ Bhut Yajna: This is an instruction for the householder to discharge his duties towards all the beings.



# Vanprastha

Vanprastha Ashrama teaches a person how to give up attachment with things and leads him towards Nivriti, because the final goal of his life is to attain liberation for which it is necessary to give up attachment and Grihastha.

Vanprastha life is devoted to social service which means wider area of duty than the family. Such social service is to be selfless





# Sanyas

This is the fourth and the last ashram of human life. The ultimate aim of human life is to have the vision of God or attain Moksha. Therefore, the whole life is a long process to realize this goal.

A sanyasi becomes free from all the social bonds. He has to wear only saffron color clothes only. Saffron color is the symbol of renunciation



# Conclusion

We have distinguished between the duties and specific duties of man. While universal duties belongs to everybody without any consideration of age and profession of a person, they are applicable on all which is Varna Dharma. The Ashrama Dharma is based on a division of human life into four stages according to age so that at each stage a person is required to do specific task.



Thank  
You!