

OBSERVING INEQUALITY IN SOCIETY

YAHYA SHAHID

ERP No: 23098

RESEARCH INTERN

SOCIAL INEQUALITY LAB

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, KARACHI

1st Case:

MORAL VALUES LEADING TO INEQUALITY AND LACKING HUMAN RIGHTS

When I was in grade 7, I used to go to school by public transport in Rawalpindi. There used to be a ten-seater Suzuki consisting of a driver and a conductor. Although five seats were designated for females and five for males, the conductor had always been interested in maximizing the revenue by loading the Suzuki with more than ten passengers.

The Suzuki carries people of different ages, including adults, teenagers and school-going children at the same time where the conductor tries to be the smartest person. He sneaks among the passengers and looks for younger boys. Whenever in between the journeys, a woman is looking for a Suzuki on the way, even though the Suzuki is already full to its capacity, he answers her call and let her get inside the Suzuki. To accommodate her in the already full Suzuki, he orders (not asks) one of the children, who has already paid for the seat and is sitting there, "Come outside! A lady has to sit". The school-going child or the college-going teenager comes outside and hangs on the Suzuki for the rest of the journey.

Why does that child come out?

There can be multiple reasons, but there are a few notable ones. Firstly, it's part of the religious and moral values that a child learns throughout his life and the values become so engrained in him that going against them, makes him feel guilty. It is not bad to follow religious and moral values. The point to focus here is that for that young individual, it is a shame on him that a woman is waiting.

Secondly, no one talks about rationality or equality in terms of rights or what is ideal. That child had already paid for his ticket; therefore, no one was supposed to ask him to come outside, but unfortunately, that was not the case. The society compelled the individual to do so. Had some old man come out instead of the child, the child would have faced sheer humility and shame that would have ultimately made him come out with or without his will.

How and when do I coped up with this issue?

During my Eid holidays, I got a chance to travel by the same Suzuki and the same thing happened to me. Being now an educated individual with knowledge of my basic rights and a better understanding of what is better and based on justice, I had an argument with the conductor that I had paid him for the seat, and I was not supposed to come outside. I had all the religious morals and values of respecting a woman; however, in that particular situation, I had to break the false theories.

Result

"With education, I was able to break that social dilemma of inequality that lacks basic human rights."

2nd Case:

A GRADUATE AS A BYKEA RIDER

During the holidays, I was travelling via Bykea and the rider was a graduate in Physics. I had to take a return ride as well. We agreed to pay the same fare as it was for one side. So, at the end I paid him the fare. He asked me to pay some more as that was not enough. I paid him some more money.

The point to focus is that Bykea riders are usually not that literate and degree doesn't really count in driving. In my opinion, an educated person offering a ride has more value than an illiterate person. The reason to it is that he had invested his time on studies. Secondly, his level is better than others. Therefore, Bykea paying them same salary as others is also an instance of inequality.

Result

“People must be paid on the basis of their education – the highly educated must be paid higher than the others.”