

# *INDIAN CAST SYSTEM :*

## *ORIGIN AND CHARACTERISTICS*

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# Indian Caste System

**Brahmins**

Priests

**Kshatriyas**

Kings, Rulers, Warriors

**Vaiyas**

Merchants, Craftsmen,  
Landowners, Skilled Workers

**Sudra**

Farm Workers, Unskilled  
Workers, Servants

**Dalits (Untouchables)**

Street Sweeper, Human/Animal Waste Removers,  
Dead Body Handlers, Outcastes





## ***INTRODUCTION***

- **The word 'caste' derived from the Spanish word which means lineage or breed.**
- **The Sanskrit word for caste is 'varna' means colour.**
- **The cast system in India is complex in nature.**

## ***DEFINITION***

- **A social group to which a person belongs is referred to as caste.**
- **Caste is a collection of families bearing a common name and common ancestor.**
- **A cast system is a social structure in which people are historically classified into social group.**

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# **ORIGIN OF INDIAN CAST SYSTEM**

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# **CHARACTERISTICS OF CASTE SYSTEM**

## ***1. Hereditary***

- **The caste status of an individual is determined by birth.**
- **An individual acquires the status of caste in which he is born.**
- **Caste system is hereditary in nature.**



## ***2. Endogamous***

- **A person born in low caste can never marry to someone who is in upper caste.**
- **Everyone is supposed to get married in their own caste or sub- caste.**
- **If an individual marries with someone from other caste then he will considered as without caste or below shudras.**

### ***3. Hierarchical***

- **There is hierarchy in caste system from superior to inferior.**
- **Brahmin is at the top of the Hindu caste hierarchy, followed by Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Shudra.**

## ***4. Fixed Occupation***

- **The concept of fixed Occupation in caste system is developed from Varna system.**
- **Members of any caste are bound to adopt the profession of their own caste.**

## ***5. Restricted food habit***

- **Different caste have different food habits.**
- **Each caste has its own law for food habits.**
- **For ex. Brahmins intake 'Satwik' food, Kshatriya and Vaishya intake 'Royal' food whereas Shudra intakes 'Tamsi' food.**

## ***6. Untouchability***

- **Shudra is considered to be untouchable in Indian caste system.**
- **When shadow of a low caste people falls on Brahmins then they are said to be polluted.**

## ***7. Divide society in segment***

- **The caste system divide society into different segments.**
- **There are many different caste found in India and they have their own set of norms and beliefs.**

## ***8. Economic disparity***

- **The higher caste people were generally have high economic status.**
- **Lower caste people are very hard worker but they have low socio economic status according to caste system.**

## *Summery*

- **The origin of Indian cast system based on different theories.**



