

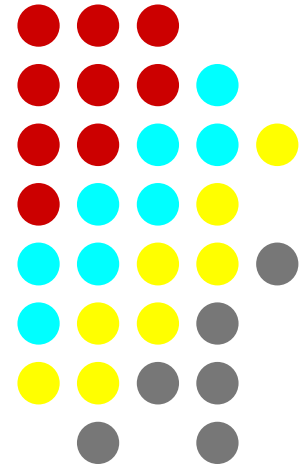


Bhakti Model

SWRK5003



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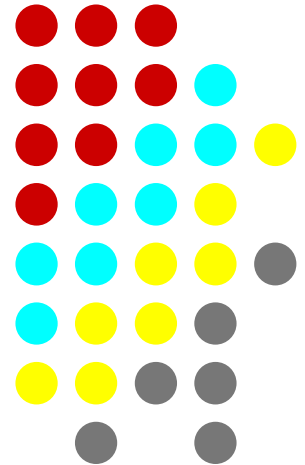
SWRK5003

Social Work Intervention Unit- IV

Indian Approaches to Social Care and Well-being

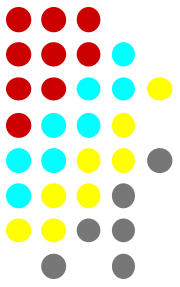


Topic- Bhakti Model



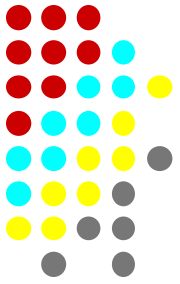


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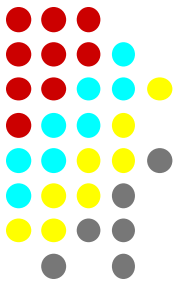
- Bhakti- Introduction
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Introduction



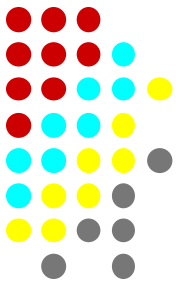
- The term 'Bhakti' refers to love and devotion to God.
- It also implies meditation which is characterized by the soul's feeling of love for God and dependence on him.
- The reform group known as Bhakti movement or Bhakti cult stressed on the mystical union of individuals with God and the philosophy is called Bhakti Model.

Ideology of Bhakti Movement



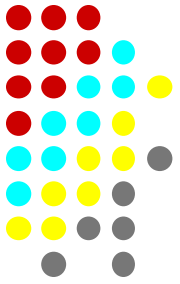
- The mystic saints of medieval India were the exponents of the Bhakti movement India. They were not affiliated to any particular sect.
- They had no blind faith in any sacred scriptures and no loyalty to any particular creed.
- They greatly influenced the entire social fabric of India without following any rituals or ceremonies and only through individual exertion.
- The exponents of Bhakti movement condemned idolatry and believed in monotheism.
- They thought that Bhakti or single minded, uninterrupted and extreme devotion of God was the only means of salvation.

Ideology



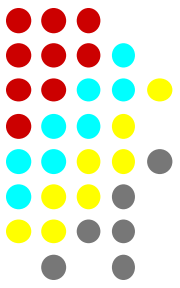
- The movement became popular because of its philosophy against caste system that discriminated people on the basis of caste.
- Swami Sankaracharya is said to have been the first and the principal exponent of the Bhakti movement.
- Their belief was that God was the source of all joys and external bliss. God lives in the heart of men.
- Bhakti becomes an ideology when it attempts to convert the masses to the particular concept of Bhakti with prescribed rules of conduct and forms of worship.

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- The preachers of Bhakti cult laid emphasis on the fundamental equality of all religions and all individuals.
- They held the view that the dignity of a man depended on his action and not on his birth.
- They protested against the then prevailing defective formalities of Hindu religion and ritualistic practices by the priestly class which happened to go against the majority of the Indian population.

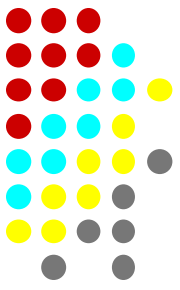
Some Famous Preachers of Bhakti Model



The ideas of some of the famous preachers of Bhakti cult and their contribution to social fields in India are stated here-

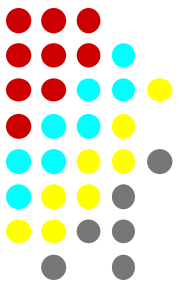
1. Ramanuja

- Ramanuja was considered as one of the earliest exponents of the Bhakti movement.
- He established Vaishnavism on a sound bed rock and proclaimed that the way to moksha laid through 'Karma' 'Jnan' and 'Bhakti'.
- 'Karuna' implies kindness or the performance of duty without any selfish motive.
- Ramanuja propagated that salvation laid only in devotion to God.
- His main achievements were the simplification of worship and the emancipation of people from the traditional caste practices.



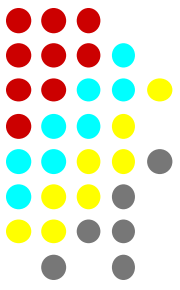
2. Ramananda

- Ramananda was born at Prayag in the year 1299. His role was instrumental in bridging the gap between the Bhakti movement of the South and the North.
- He initiated the process of breaking the shell of orthodoxy which covered the Hindu society, to withstand the so called threat posed by Islam.
- His movement embraced the generous recognition to the spiritual as well as social needs and aspirations of the common people.
- He accepted the members of all castes as his disciples and allowed them to eat and drink together.
- He also accorded sanctity to family life and tried to enhance the position of women in the society. Ramananda's ideas brought tremendous change in the Indian society.



3. Kabir

- Kabir was one of the disciples of Ramanada. He followed the trails of Ramananda. Because of his variety of religious experience and cosmopolitan outlook, Kabir made the Bhakti movement more meaningful and responsive to the needs of the people.
- Although he spoke of himself as a Sudra, he was brought up in the family of a Muslim weaver. Kabir believed in the unity of God and rejected both the Vedas and the Quaran and the supremacy of Brahmins and Mullas.
- Kabir composed many poems known as ‘Kabir Dohas’ which contained his religious teaching and had a great spiritual appeal for common man.
- Although his teachings evoke luke-warm response from the Muslim masses, the lower order among the Hindus accepted him as their religious guide.



4. Srichaitanya

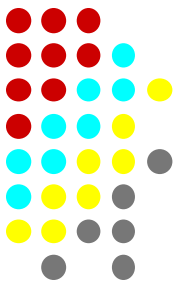
- The greatest among the proponents of Bhakti movement was Chaitanya. He was born in Bengal in 485 AD. At the age of 25 he renounced the world and became a Sanyasi.
- He traveled all over the country and taught the people to worship Lord Krishna.
- His presence in any place drew masses of people who received his message of love and peace.
- He advised his followers not to take pride of their own deeds and to have perfect humanity in their actions.
- He said, 'Krishna dwells in every soul therefore give respect to others without seeking anything for himself'.
- Chaitanya opposed the prevalence of caste system and expressed his love for poor and the weak.
- He preached universal brotherhood and love for each other.



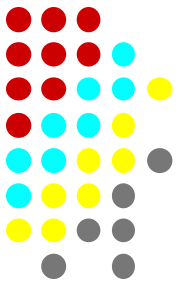
5. Guru Nanak

- He was born in 1469 at Talwandi. He was a great preacher of Bhakti cult and founder of Sikhism.
- He spent his life by propagating universal brotherhood, religious tolerance, and unity of God.
- He condemned caste distinction, idolatry, rituals and expensive ceremonies. He said good deeds alone shall be counted in the court of God.
- He condemned caste system and believed that it was against the will God.
- He attacked the supremacy of Brahmins and Mullas and gave place to honesty, morality, humanity, charity, truth and mercy in teachings.
- Nanak upheld the doctrine of 'Karma' and believed in the transmigration of souls.

Bhakti movement and social work practice in india



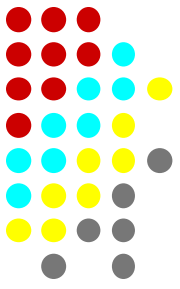
- It cannot be denied that Bhakti movement as a strong religious instrument brought about some significant changes to the Indian social structure through the attacks on social inequality based on caste and class, gender discrimination, supremacy of Brahmins, blind beliefs, ritualism and socially harmful practices etc.
- It also aimed at supporting the cause of establishing egalitarian society, women empowerment, and community development based on social democracy.
- Religious feelings served as a prominent driving force for social work practice in India. The history of social work is greatly glorified by the religious ethos of the people in India.



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- Spiritualism and religiosity of Indians kept on fueling the practice of social work in India.
- The discussion on the history of social work practice in India remains incomplete without thinking about the religious practice in the country.
- The history of social work is greatly glorified by the religious ethos of the people in India.

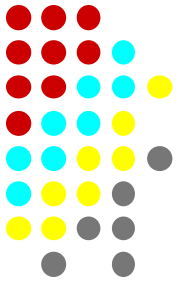
Value-system Developed by Bhakti Model



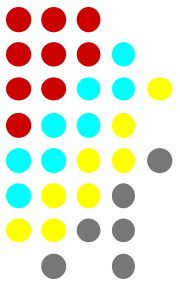
A major contribution of Bhakti saints is the value-system developed, the values may be summarized briefly.

1. Equality and respect for all human beings irrespective of difference by caste (**kula**), creed, sect, gender, and even religion.
2. To be compassionate towards people who are in distress, mental, material, or physical.
3. To share one's earnings/ wealth with others in need i.e. to practice charity.
4. Emphasis on good character, purifying one's mind by controlling or eliminating a variety of temptations of sex, wealth and to be free from delusion (**Maya**); controlling feelings of anger and jealousy etc.
5. Emphasis on work ethic-work is worship. One should be proud of one's occupation and work hard and honestly ("**Kayaka**").
6. Not to entertain pride or a sense of superiority while helping others. Don't feel proud when helping others in distress.

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THANK YOU