

J. S. Mill

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Introduction

- ▶ **He was born on May 20, 1806 in London.**
- ▶ **He was the eldest son of his father James Mill**
- ▶ **He started the learning of Greek language at the age of 3**
- ▶ **He was the child in 'Age of Ideology'**
- ▶ **He contributed many articles for 'Westminster Review'**
- ▶ **From 1856 to 1868 he was member of Westminster Parliament**

His Writings

- ▶ **A System of Logic—1843**
- ▶ **On Liberty—1859**
- ▶ **Consideration on Representatives Government—1861**
- ▶ **Utilitarianism—1859**
- ▶ **Thoughts on Parliamentary Reform—1859**
- ▶ **Subjection of Women—1869**
- ▶ **The Autobiography—1878**
- ▶ **Principles of Political Economy--1848**

Views on Liberty

- ▶ **He is universally as the champion of Individual Liberty/classical liberalism**
- ▶ **He discussed concept of Liberty in his famous book “On Liberty” which equals in John Milton's ‘Aeropagitica’**
- ▶ **Mill wrote Utilitarian liberty which was accepted in England**
- ▶ **His concept of liberty is based on utility of liberty in terms of individuals**
- ▶ **He wanted to protect individual liberty from the intervene of state and society**

Two Types Individual Liberty ---J.S. Mill

Freedom of Thought and Expression

Freedom of Action

Mill's Conception of Individual Liberty

- ▶ Individual is sovereign over his body and mind
- ▶ He assumed that the activities of every individual are either Self-regarding and Other-regarding
- ▶ In **Self-regarding** matters of individual state shall not interfere and **other-regarding** matters of individual state shall interfere i.e. social activities
- ▶ Mill propounded a negative concept of liberty i.e. According to him individual personality could develop in absence of external restraint in individual liberty
- ▶ Mill supported for absolute and unrestrained freedom of thought and expression but the freedom of action and association was to be limited by state

Qualifications of Mill's concept of Liberty

- ▶ **His concept of liberty applied only to human beings in their maturity**
- ▶ **He held that absolute and unfettered freedom of thought and expression necessary for the development of individual personality**
- ▶ **He tried to protect individuals from majority absolutism**
- ▶ **According to him individual can enjoy full liberty inside the state**
- ▶ **He made a distinguish between Self regarding and Other regarding matters of individual liberty but further he gave much stress on collective utility of individuls**

Representative Government

- ▶ **He was criticized the idea of democracy i.e. the majority will tyrannies over the minority**
- ▶ **So he was supported the representative form of government as ideal and best type of government**
- ▶ **He wanted to reform British Parliament on Proportional Representation system that everyone should get his representation on voting strength**
- ▶ **Mill took task of rectifying negative idea of democracy that it should be replaced into a good form of government**
- ▶ **He discussed his conception of Representative government in his book “Representative Government”**

Mill suggested following Reforms

- ▶ **He invented Proportional Representation system in British Parliament which was proposed by the first time Thomas Hare in England.**
- ▶ **He suggested that voting right should be given on intellectual ability. He supported for universal franchise for both men and women.**
- ▶ **He recommended plural voting to citizens those who possess superior intellect and high character.**
- ▶ **He opposed payment to members of parliament on the ground of degenerated form of government.**
- ▶ **He also opposed the secret ballot system on the ground of selfish and irresponsible voting. So He favored open ballot system of voting.**

Functions of the Representatives Assembly

- ▶ **To watch and control the government**
- ▶ **TO throw the light of publicity on its acts**
- ▶ **To compel a full exposition and justification of all of them which anybody considers questionable**
- ▶ **To ensure them if found condemnable**
- ▶ **To expel those persons who misuse his power and loose trust**
- ▶ **Mill rejected Bentham's idea of annual election to parliament and idea of delegation**
- ▶ **He supported democracy and best form of government on the basis that any work is done by those whose interests are immediately involved and that active political life develops the moral and intellectual qualities of people.**

Utilitarianism

- ▶ ***Meaning of Utilitarianism***
- ▶ It was basically an ethical theory. Its origin is on the basis of a psychological theory i.e. Hedonism
- ▶ David Hume was the founder of Utilitarianism. Lateran it was developed by many writers and thinkers such as Jeremy Bentham, James Mill, J. S. Mill etc.
- ▶ The basic principle of utilitarianism is '**The Greatest Happiness in Greatest Number**'
- ▶ The utilitarian's were reformists. They supported the interference of the state in the reforms of certain social evils and defective laws.

Mill's Theory of Utilitarianism

- ▶ **He was suggested certain revisionist idea on Bentham's Utilitarianism**
- ▶ **He placed moral ends above happiness which was neglected by Bentham**
- ▶ **It is better to be a human being dissatisfied than a pig satisfied. It is better to be a Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied.**
- ▶ **Mill explained self regarding and other regarding go together**
- ▶ **He differs between higher and lower pleasure. So he was advocated that quality rather than quantity of pleasure.**
- ▶ **Blending of utilitarianism and individualism**
- ▶ **Great champion of liberty**

- ▶ **Advocated of peoples welfare**
- ▶ **End of human beings is self dignity than pleasure**
- ▶ **Happiness in life is indirect product**
- ▶ **He stood for collective happiness over individual happiness**
- ▶ **He gave some positive role to the state such as compulsory education**
- ▶ **Social will not utility is the basis of every human institutions**