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## The Gift: A Sociological Interpretation from Assamese society

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The Gift is important part of human life. It refers an exchange process of things for identifying social relationship and social action. The gift is significant part to exchanging human mind. It is a presentation of identity between men as well as social groups. The gift are symbolise between two person one is giver and another is receiver. The people explain interpretation in common mood. The presentation of gift is an imposition of identity. The gift is a reflection of transmitted of minds.

Sociologist are interpreted about the gift system. The first sociological interpretation of Gift is given by Marcel Mauss in his book 'The Gift: The form and reason for exchange in archaic Societies'. He explains the gift method of Polynesia, Melanesia and the American Northwest. He describes the gift is an exchanging process. This exchange related with property, wealth, rituals, military services, women, children, dances festivals and fairs.

The exchanging system of gift related with marriage, birth of a child, sickness, puberty, funeral rites and trade. The Classical Hindu Law system prevail the 'law of the gift of Hindu religion. The Hindu religious people belief in 'Danadharma'. The major caste people in Inia like- Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaishya emphasis on danadharma as a symbol of purity. The Kshatriya and Vaishya caste gifted to brahmin and other upper caste people. They belief that gift is a part of 'Dharma'.

Gift giving as a mode of social control. Social control refers to control human action for irrelevant activity and control of human behaviour which is unrecognised by society. The reward is a part of gift. When human being performs good habit there had given rewards and when people are ignored good habit it get punish. The gift is necessity for mobility of human life. It helps to encourage better chance and social action. It helps to control deviance action of human life.

The gender role is one of the ways of gift identity. The gender role differentiates the picture of masculinity and feminine behaviour. The masculine gift of boy and feminine gift of girl differentiate the gender role in society. The parents and other agent determine the gift habits to play significant role in socialisation process. The process of socialisation refers as capacity to acquire knowledge as a member of society.

The gift is an important economic practice of society. It is a part of economic exchanging role between human relationships. It helps to grow up economic bonding. The gift not only an identity of money exchange, it helps to exchange social norms, customs, value in society. The gift economy related to barter economy as well as market economy. The gift economy builds community within a particular section of people.

Anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski describe about gift economy. He describes Kula ring system in Trobriand Island. This ring gifted as a security and protect during World War-I.

Levi-Strauss has written that goods are not only commodities. The goods are realities of influence, power, sympathy, status, emotion and skilful game of exchange. It consists of a complex totality of conscious as well as unconscious order of security, alliances and rivalry.

The gift is crucial part of social phenomena because it's not only help to build wealth and alliance but social solidarity pervades in all aspects of the society. The gift is exchanging process. Its related with reciprocated interest and idea.

Gender socialization is an important part of gift socialization process. Gender socialization refers adaptation of learning behaviour to play gender role. The gender role known as a particular activity of male and female. The family member and other agent of socialization take role to conduct what is the male and female role in society. The family member gifted to children with gender identification. The boy's gift is different from girls' gift. The gift of boys as related with masculine identity such as- gun, ball, soldier dress etc. On the other hand, girls' gift is related with feminine identity like- toy, flower, hair band etc. The gifting style not same between boys and girls. The gifting style help to identify gender role.

In Assam, the gift exchanging process of Assamese society is found from unique characteristics. The Assamese people main gift is known as 'Gamusa'. The gift of Gamusa is related with all kinds of social, economic, cultural reflection of Assam. This gift represents Assamese culture, custom and tradition. During the rule of Ahom, they use Gamusa as a part of society. It represents social unity of Assamese society. The Assamese people used Gamusa to solve ritual activities.

The Assamese society occur wedding as a process of gift exchanging. The Assamese wedding is known as Biya. The 'Xorai' is important part of Assamese Biya. The Kanyadan is important gift of Assamese marriage. The Kanyadan is precious from bride side where parents gift daughter as a part of dan. They believe that dan is a symbol of purity. The Xorai is complete including betel leaves and Nuts (Pan and Tamul) and covered with a Gamusa which is important gift of Assamese society. The Xorai is exchange gift in all activity of Assamese tradition. The Biya ceremonies held with multiple ceremonies before and after wedding celebration. In the ceremonies, the day before of marriage, they had celebrated 'Juroon' festival where grooms mother gift Xorai, Gamusa, mekhla-sador and other ornaments to ready for wedding. In the wedding day, there are follow around the witness of holly fire and Choklong tradition. The father of bride gift her daughter as follow the ritual of Kanyadan. The bride's father gift her daughter to groom for security and love. The Seleng chadar is one of the ritual gifts of Assamese society.

In short terms, the presentation of a gift is an imposition of identity. The recipient evokes in the imagination of the giver. The giver expresses the feeling, pleaser and social habits through gift. The gift is an agent of social control where society member reward and encourage through gift. It is a part of social identity. The gift transmitted mind and social interaction. Its helps build up social relationship and mutual understanding. The gift is also use in consumer purpose which is known as Relational gifting. It includes all kinds of consumer gifting, business gifting, knowledge sharing and transactional gifting. The gift is a direct and indirect expression of giver and gift receiver. It is a psycho-social expression of human being. The gift economy contrasts with barter economy and money economy. It is an expression of economic needs.

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