

NAME: CLIFFORD PRINCESS-  
ESTHER

MATRIC NO: 17/SMS09/020

LEVEL: 300

DEPARTMENT: IRD

JOHN RAWL'S FIRST  
PRINCIPLE:

EQUAL BASIC LIBERTIES

John Rawl believed that for every individual citizen there are two fundamental capacities or powers and, correspondingly, two 'higher-order interests' in the realization of those capacities. Each person has, over that person's entire life, an interest in being able to formulate and live according

to some particular conception of the good and an interest in exercising one's 'sense of justice' and being motivated by it, providing others do so as well. The second point means that each person has the right over that person's entire life, an interest in living cooperatively with fellow citizens, on terms of mutual respect and reciprocal benefit, under a unified and stable scheme of basic political and economic institutions organized by a shared set of principles of justice which each citizen can affirm. He also had a notion that in a democratic society citizens are both equal and free due to the two power of citizens which makes all citizens equal.

THE SECOND PRINCIPLE:

# DISTRIBUTIVE ECONOMIC JUSTICE

It begins with the fact that people have different natural endowments and are born into and grow up in different social circumstances. No one can be said to be responsible for these factors in their own case. Nonetheless, factors such as natural endowment and initial social circumstance are not negligible; they powerfully affect a person's life prospects, advantageously for some and disadvantageously for others. So, this may be the main sources of inequality between people. Rawls's argument sets out from this point. He first develops the idea of democratic equality of opportunity—conceived as the taking of remedial steps,

conscientiously, to reduce the initial differences in the advantages that accrues to individuals, arbitrarily, from their starting points in life. State-supported primary and secondary education (of good quality and at no cost to the individual student) would be an example of such a step. The leading idea here is to try to make people somewhat less unequal at the point where they actually enter into adult life, as citizens and as workers. And to make sure that everyone there, so far as possible, has the basic capabilities required to be contributing members of society.

## THE ORIGINAL POSITION

The original position is an arena for deliberation and

decision about principles of justice; its various features are meant to frame and constrain the debate about such principles. 'The idea of the original position is to set up a fair procedure so that any principles agreed to will be just. Rawls envisions two main roles for the original position. In its first role the original position is to serve as a screening device for the candidate principles, that is, principles taken from a short list of main, historically available theories of justice—such as Plato's republic, various versions of utilitarianism, and so on. Here the features of the original position serve as a checklist against which the candidate principles are to be measured and to be assessed. The second main role of the

original position: to rank the remaining eligible candidates, after the preliminary screening has been accomplished. In performing this second role, of ranking, the parties rely on the balance of reasons (determined in light of assessments that could be reached in the original position) to decide which of the remaining eligible candidates is best. If they can do so unanimously, there should be no real doubt about that particular ranking.

In summary John Rawls Idea of justice has advantages in the sense that the first principle was about the equality of individuals/ citizens in the society and which makes it a democratic one, also through the

distribution of economic justice everyone has a fair chance to make it be t any background you hail from. I liked his principles and theories because I believe that if there is equality and justice the society would be a stable one even though it might be a little flawed just like his theories because there is no society that is completely equal and democracy is the complete other of the day.