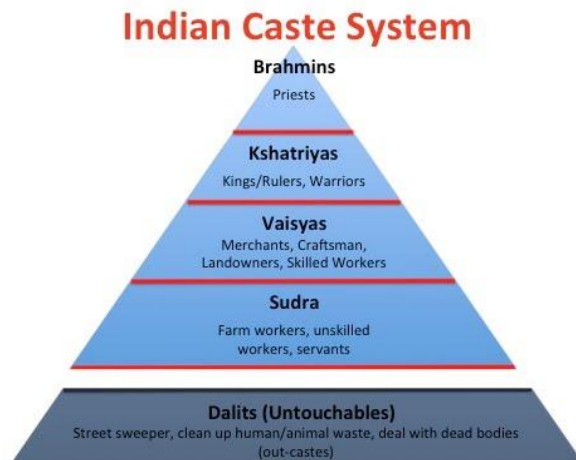


## The Life Of A Vaisya

Hi, my name is Aesha B. Teli I live in Pune, India. I am a Vaisya, which is one of the castes in India. I am going to tell you about being part of the caste system in contemporary India. The caste System is a social classification which separates people into different groups based on their last names. Based on their caste they have different jobs and living conditions. There are 5 castes; Brahmins are the highest, Kshatriyas are the second highest, Vaisyas (Me) are the caste before servants also known as the 'last of the Twice-born', Sudras are second to lowest caste who treated terribly and Pariah (untouchables) who are well, untouchable. Most of the time when you look up caste system it will only say there are 4 castes because Pariah (untouchables) are not even considered people.



I chose to write about what it is like to live in the caste system present day because I thought it would be more interesting because it tells you what it would be like if you were to go there today.

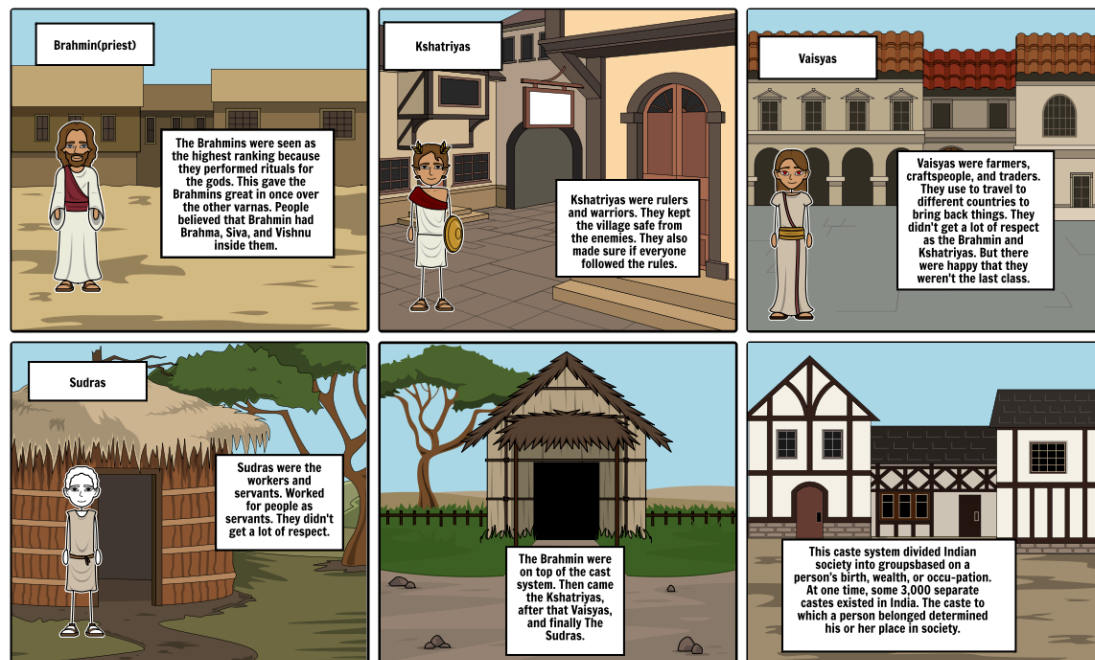
The idea behind the caste system was that people are different and different people would fit well into different jobs and parts of society. It also was used to set boundaries. Some reasons the caste system is so beneficial functional are;

- It determined social status.
- Social security.
- Choosing of life mate.
- Religious security.
- etc...

A Vaisya is considered a farmer or merchant. Vaisyas are the lowest level of the twice-born. They are commoners but not a servant group. Their main jobs are agriculture, cattle raising, bringing food to markets and trading.

Twice-born is for the three highest castes (Brahmin, Kshatriya and the Vaisyas). It is only for boys between 5 and 24 years old. The ritual is that they are bathed, then dressed in deer skins. The meaning of Twice-Born is to visibly show the admitting of a boy into the caste system and it is thought of as a second or spiritual birth. They then wear a sacred thread tied loosely from their left shoulder to their left hip. Throughout the years the thread is usually changed but it is always worn. The ritual and the thread are to represent the transition from a boy to a man. And only the more respected higher castes wear it.


Even though the vaisyas are more respected and higher in the caste system they usually have pretty bad living conditions because usually their wages tend to be low. Because of that their education is not very good either but it definitely was much better than the Pariah or the Sudras. Women more often study in the arts such as music, dance, art (painting, drawing, etc..) but before, a long time ago they all only studied agriculture.



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Vaisya's tend to eat honey, fruits, veggies and drank milk. They believed these things would provide wisdom, honesty, goodness and intelligence. They probably ate grains as well. They mainly ate veggies because they are farmers.

From what I could tell from the images, Vaisyas wear less jeweled and fancy clothing than brahmins. They wore patterned fabric made from silk or woolen yarn.

 <p><b>Vaisyas</b> clothing</p>	 <p><b>Brahmin</b> clothing</p>
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Now that you know about being a Vaisya maybe you'll be interested in reading/learning about the other castes in India and hopefully you understand India a little bit more.

Resources: Buddhists.com, [www.everyculture.com](http://www.everyculture.com) and encyclopedia.com.