

**DIRECTORATE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL**

**MASTER OF ARTS-HISTORY  
SEMESTER -II**

**HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA 1857-1964  
ELECTIVE-205  
BLOCK-2**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Self Learning Material (SLM) is written with the aim of providing simple and organized study content to all the learners. The SLMs are prepared on the framework of being mutually cohesive, internally consistent and structured as per the university's syllabi. It is a humble attempt to give glimpses of the various approaches and dimensions to the topic of study and to kindle the learner's interest to the subject

We have tried to put together information from various sources into this book that has been written in an engaging style with interesting and relevant examples. It introduces you to the insights of subject concepts and theories and presents them in a way that is easy to understand and comprehend.

We always believe in continuous improvement and would periodically update the content in the very interest of the learners. It may be added that despite enormous efforts and coordination, there is every possibility for some omission or inadequacy in few areas or topics, which would definitely be rectified in future.

We hope you enjoy learning from this book and the experience truly enrich your learning and help you to advance in your career and future endeavors.

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# **HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA 1857-1964**

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Unit 1 – The Great Revolt of 1857

Unit 2 – Peasants & Popular Resistance

Unit 3 – India under the Governor general-ship of Canning to Lord Minto II

Unit 4 – Principles & Policies Governing Foreign Relations

Unit 5 – India & Its Neighbours: Afghanistan, Tibet, Nepal, Burma, & Bhutan

Unit 6 – Agricultural Output, Levels & Brands, & Natural & Regional Explanations

Unit 7 – Domestic & Craft Industry, the Rise of Modern Industry & Capitalist Class, State, And Industrial Growth & The Rise of the Working Class (Formal & Informal Sectors)

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## **BLOCK-2 HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA 1857-1964**

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### **Introduction to the Block**

This block discusses in detail the characteristics of the Indian economy along with issues like that of population and national income. It also explains the establishment of various industries and the forest transformations that were happening across the country. It also discusses status of women and various tribes, class and communities.

Unit 8 – Trends in Population & National Income – Discusses the trends in population and the average national income during the times.

Unit 9 – Characteristics of Indian Economy: Pre-Colonial & Colonial – Discusses in detail the economy of India pre-colonial and how it changes during the British Raj

Unit 10 – Establishment of Industries Based on Indian Natural Resources & Its Impact on Environment & Ecology – Explains the industrial revolution in detail along with the impact that it had on the environment during the time

Unit 11 – Forest & Agrarian Transformations in the Colonial Regime – Discusses the plight of forests and other agrarian elements during the British Raj

Unit 12 – Social Composition: Ethnic Groups – Tribes (Creation of New Categories of Criminal Tribes & Castes) & Class and Community – Introduces us to the societal structure present during the time with special focus on social composition

Unit 13 – Colonial Intervention & Social Change: Reform Movements, Modern Education, Rise of Middle Classes & Caste Movements – Discusses the social reforms that were initiated in the British Raj with focus on education and caste movements

Unit 14 – Women: Status, Property Rights, Reform Legislation, Changing role, Political Participation in the Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Debate on Tradition & Modernity – Discusses the status of Women in the society in context of various issues like political participation, property rights and how things changed gradually at the turn of the century.

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# UNIT - 8 TRENDS IN POPULATION AND NATIONAL INCOME

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## STRUCTURE

### 8.0 Objectives

#### 8.1 Introduction

#### 8.2 Relationship between Population and National Income

#### 8.3 Statistical Evidence on the growth of Population and National Income of the world

#### 8.4 Estimates of National Income of India during Pre Independence Period

##### 8.4.1 Difficulties and Limitations of Indian Economy

#### 8.5 Estimates of National Income of India during Post Independence Period

##### 8.5.1 Features of Indian Economy

#### 8.6 Trends in National Income in India

##### 8.6.1 CSO's Revised 200-05 NNP Series

##### 8.6.2 CSO's Revised 2010-11 NNP Series

##### 8.6.3 Features of trends in National Income in India

#### 8.7 Trends in Population in India

##### 8.7.1 First Official census was done in 1890-1901

#### 8.8 Factors affecting Population Growth in India]

#### 8.9 Does India's Population Growth have any positive effect on National Income Economic Growth?

#### 8.10 Let Us Sum Up

#### 8.11 Keywords

#### 8.12 Suggested Readings

#### .13 Questions for Review

#### 8.14 Answers to check your progress

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## 8.0 OBJECTIVE

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After going through this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand the meaning of national income and the relationship between population and national income.

## Notes

- Other factors affecting population growth and national income.
- Statistical data of growth of population and national income of the world during previous years.
- The formula for calculating the growth of the population of the countries.
- Difficulties and limitations Indian economy has faced during Pre Independence Era.
- Features of National Income Committee Report during Post Independence Era.
- CSO's revised 2004-2011 Net National Product Data.
- First Census of population growth in India.
- Factors which affect population growth in India.
- The negative and positive effects of India's increasing population on economic growth and national income.

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## 8.1 INTRODUCTION

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In this chapter, we will discuss the meaning of national income in a shorter note and the changes in population and national income of our country. National income is an uncertain term which is used interchangeably with national dividend, national output and national expenditure. On this basis, national income has been defined in a number of ways. In common parlance, national income means the total value of goods and services produced annually in a country. In other words, the total amount of income accruing to a country from economic activities in a year's time is known as national income. It includes payments made to all resources in the form of wages, interest, rent and profits. Both terms affect each other in a direct or indirect way.

The relation between population growth and national income is not an easy topic to write about. The connections are complex, and the historical quantitative evidence is ambiguous, particularly concerning what the cause is and what the effect is. Does national income precede population



growth, or is population growth a necessary condition for national income to take place? The complexity of the subject is compounded by the fact that national income is a multi-dimensional concept meaning different things to different people. For the purposes of this chapter, I shall define national income as a sustained increase in the level of demographic transitions, although bearing in mind Goulet's (1971) three-core components of a wider meaning of development, namely, life-sustenance, self-esteem and freedom.

The level of per capita income may be a reasonable proxy for life sustenance, but a poor indicator of the distribution of income and of educational and job opportunities which give people self-respect, independence and freedom to choose. The issue of population and national income is about as old as economics literature. The argument is not only related to how population growth affects national income but also how national income precedes population growth. The noteworthy effects of demographic factors on national income have been well documented in the last decades providing a major role for this factor in economic growth models. However, the empirical formulation grounds heavily on a theoretical framework. Moreover, there is no set agreement on the relationship between population growth and per capita income. The methodology includes a recently advanced panel unit root tests and panel cointegration analysis.

Our preliminary empirical findings show support for the existence of a long-run relationship via cointegration when we match the developing and developed countries within each other. The results support a positive (*negative*) and statistically significant relationship between population growth and per capita income for developed (*developing*) countries. Population growth could be beneficial or detrimental to per capita income depending on whether a country is developed or still developing. Hence, developing countries can expect to make gains in income dramatically by limiting population growth and therefore family planning programs can be justified; in contrast to developed countries which can follow policy actions to increase population growth rates in order to increase income.

### Check Your Progress-1

Q1. Explain the meaning of National Income in detail.

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Q2. What is the relation between population and national income? Give reference with the current situation of your own country?

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## 8.2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND NATIONAL INCOME

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The relationship between population and national income is very controversial and complex. Increase in population directly affects the change in national income. It is necessary to mention that by a change in the population we do not mean only change in national income or per capita income but also change in the rate of unemployment and poverty. Since national income also depends upon the rate of savings, investment and productivity of the population. It draws on historical data to chart the links between population growth and growth in national income over the past 200 years. Low population growth in high-income countries creates many social and economic issues while high population growth in low-income countries may slow down their increase in national income.

Many analysts believe that economic growth in high-income countries is likely to be comparatively slow because population growth in these countries is predicted to be slow. On the other hand, many other argues that population growth has been and will always be problematic as more people necessarily use more of the resources available on earth, therefore

reducing long-term potential growth. Growth in population affects many areas such as the age structure of a country's population, international migration, economic inequality and the size of a country's labour. These factors affect the trend in national income of an economy. The purpose of this chapter is to analyze long term historical data on the relationship between the growth of population and per capita income.

Economic growth is by the changes in the country's national income which can be decomposed into its population and economic elements by writing it as population times per capita GDP. Economic growth is equal to population growth plus growth in national income. The average annual world economic growth between 1700 and 2012 was 1.6% made up of equal parts population growth and per capita income growth of 0.8% each. While these growth rates seem to be very small, they can reach to impressive increase over a long period of time. Population growth at an average annual rate of 0.8% over the period 1700 to 2015 resulted in a 12-fold increase in world population from about 600 million in 1700 to over 7.3 billion in 2015.

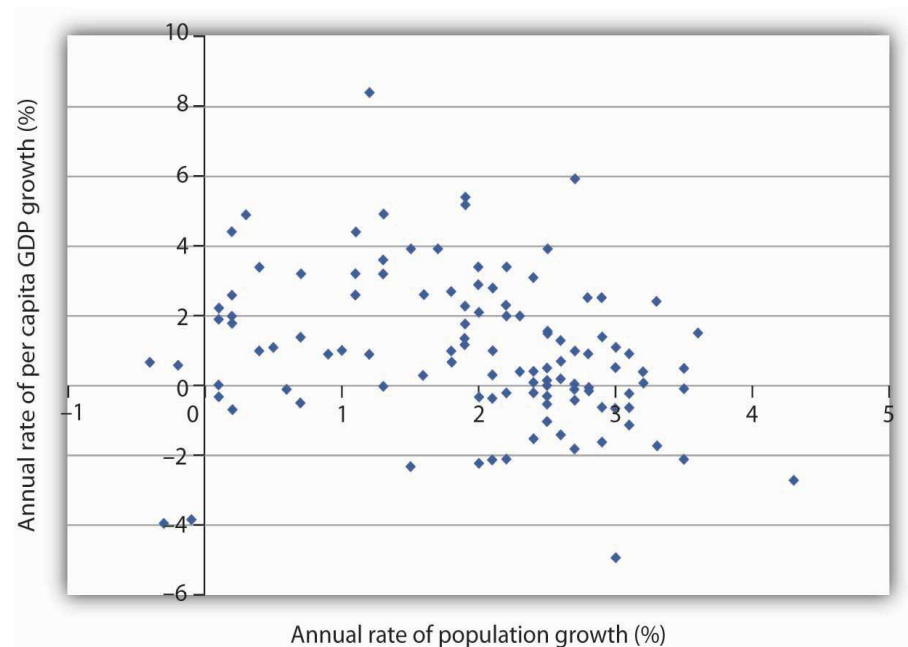
Economic growth is necessary for raising living standards around the world and the role of population growth is a significant policy issue. Population growth and growth in national income have significant impacts on a few controversial topics such as international migration and global resource use. Some authors serve theoretical arguments and evidence to show that population growth enhances national income and economic growths while others find evidence to support the opposite conclusion. Heady and Hodge point out to a large change in empirical analyses of the relation between population growth and growth in national income due to different methods, control variables and other factors. In the coming section, statistical evidence on the long term evolution of population, national income and total economic product for many countries are laid out.

["Population and Income Growth, 1975–2005"](#) plots growth rates in population versus growth rates in per capita GDP from 1975 to 2005 for more than 100 developing countries. We do not see a simple and easy relationship. Many countries experienced both rapid population growth and negative changes in real per capita GDP. But still others had

## Notes

relatively rapid population growth, yet they had a rapid increase in per capita GDP. Clearly, there is more to achieving gains in per capita income than a simple slowing in population growth. But the challenge raised at the beginning of this section remains: Can the world continue to feed a population that is growing exponentially—that is, doubling over fixed intervals?

### Population and Income Growth, 1975–2005



A scatter chart of population growth rates versus GNP per capita growth rates for various developing countries for the period 1975–2005 suggests no systematic relationship between the rates of population and of income growth.

Source: United Nations Development Program, Human Development Report 2007/2008 (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

**Check Your Progress-2**

Q3. What are the other factors affecting national income and population?

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Q4. What are the two factors which affect economic growth?

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Q5. What did Heady and Hodge contribute in analyzing the relationship between population growth and growth in national income?

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### **8.3 STATISTICAL EVIDENCE ON THE GROWTH OF POPULATION AND NATIONAL INCOME OF THE WORLD**

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Angus Maddison compiled an extraordinary data on population growth and national income for virtually all countries in the world from 1 to 2008 of the Common Era (World Economics, 2016 and Maddison' 2001). After his death in 2010, researchers at the Groningen Growth and Development centre launched an initiative known as the "Maddison Project" which seeks to maintain, refine and update Maddison's original data (The Maddison Project, 2013). Earlier, there were no public agencies collecting data on the national accounts of countries that might not have existed in year one of the Common Era, or in 1700 or 1820 for that matter. The data

## Notes

resulted in a less reliable one. The World Bank (2017) publishes an online database with a great many socioeconomic variables, including population growth and real national income, from 1960 to the present for most countries and world regions.

Average annual compound growth rates are calculated using the formula:  $V=Ae(rt)$ , where  $V$  is the final value,  $A$  is the initial value,  $r$  is the rate of growth,  $t$  is the number of years and  $e$  is the exponential. For example, the total world population in 1960 was 3.04 billion rising to 7.35 billion in 2015, a period of 55 years. Solving the formula, the average population growth will result to be 1.61%.

Regional groupings in the following tables reflect the classifications used by Maddison and the World Bank. In general, high-income countries include the members of the OECD (Europe, North America, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Chile) along with such countries as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay and a number of smaller island economies. These mentioned countries have a national income of \$12,476 and above according to World Bank data. Average yearly compound growth rates for population and national income are shown in Table 3.1 & 3.1(0).

Table 3.1 Average Annual Growth Rate of Population and National Income from 1820-2010

Region	1820-1913 National Income	1820-1913 Populati on	1913-2010 National Income	1913-2010 Populati on	1820-2010 National Income	1820-2010 Populati on
West Europe	1.67	0.73	2.32	0.47	2.00	0.60
East Europe	1.44	0.84	2.21	0.42	1.83	0.62
Former USSR	1.62	1.13	2.36	0.66	1.98	0.87
Western	3.97	2.47	3.08	1.29	3.48	1.84

Offshoos						
Latin America	2.40	1.43	3.57	2.05	3.00	1.75
Asia	0.51	0.34	3.76	1.48	2.18	0.93
Africa	1.23	0.26	3.00	2.17	2.13	1.38

Source: - World Economics (2016), US Census Bureau (2016) and The Maddison Project (2013)

Table 3.1(0) Average Annual Growth Rate of Population and National Income from 1820-2010

Country	1820-1913 Population	1820-1913 National Income	1913-2010 Population	1913-2010 National Income
France	0.30	1.51	0.47	2.34
Germany	1.03	2.34	0.24	2.03
Italy	0.66	1.11	0.48	2.63
Norway	0.99	2.19	0.71	3.22
UK	0.82	1.75	0.33	1.95
Former USSR	1.13	1.89	1.36	1.83
Canada	2.43	4.14	1.51	3.29
US	2.45	3.91	1.19	2.99
Mexico	0.88	1.97	2.13	3.67
Japan				

Source:- Author's calculation based on data from World Economics(2016) and The Maddison Project(2013)

Average yearly world population growth over this period was above 1% but has changed considerably across regions and over time. The countries under the Soviet Union had shown relatively less population growth. One reason for slower population growth was emigration to

## Notes

Latin America and the “western offshoots” where high population growth rates were recorded during 1820 and 1913. On the other hand, European population growth rates slowed from 1913 to 2010. Note that a constant annual population growth rate of 1% means that the population doubles every 69.3 years. The results shown in Table 1.4.1 can shed light on the timing of the demographic transition in various parts of the world. These demographic transitions include the initial phase during which both birth rate and mortality rates are high and population growth is less. A very interesting feature of the estimates in the above-given tables is that, with the exception of the immediate postwar period, economic growth in the US has been faster than in Western European countries both in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when it was catching up to more advanced European economies. From 1960 to 2015, the US economy grew at an annual rate of 3.04% compared with 2.66% for the European Union. If the US and EU are both set at 100 in 1960, these growth rates mean that the US would end up in 2015 at 532 compared with 432 with the EU, a benefit of about 23%. Now, the reason is not that the US had greater growth in national income but rather US population growth was higher.



**Check Your Progress-3**

Q6. Which project has launched in the early years for the data of population and national income?

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Q7. How do we calculate Average Annual Compound Growth Rate?

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Q8. What was the reason for the slower growth of Soviet Union?

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## **8.4 ESTIMATES OF NATIONAL INCOME OF INDIA DURING PRE INDEPENDENCE PERIOD**

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During the British Era, many estimates of national income were made by Dadabhai Naoroji (1868), William Digby (1899), Findlay Shirras (1911, 1922 and 1934), Shah and Khambatta (1921), V.K.R.V. Rao (1925-29) and R.C. Desai (1931-40).

Among these estimates of National Income in India, the estimates of Naoroji, Findlay, Shaw and Khambatta have calculated the value of the output raised by the agro sector and then included some portion of the income earned by the non-agro sector. But these estimates were having no scientific basis of its own. After that V.K.R.V. Rao applied a combination of the census of output and census of income methods.

### 8.4.1 Difficulties and Limitations

Following are some of the important difficulties and limitations of the estimates of national income in India during the pre-independence period:

1. In the absence of any government agency for estimation of national income, no such estimates were prepared in India at the official level. Rather all those estimates were prepared at the personal level and, therefore, suffered from the personal bias of the individuals.
2. Different personal estimates of national income were based on different methods.
3. All these estimates were not prepared as per the standard definitions and concepts of national income.
4. All these estimates were prepared on the basis of incomplete and unreliable data.
5. These estimates of national income were not of much relevance as these covered different geographical areas.
6. These estimates of national income were prepared at current prices only and also for a particular year and therefore could not be compared between themselves.
7. In the estimation of national income during the pre-independence period, different methods were adopted in the same sector as per personal choice, leading to distortion of these estimates.

**Check Your Progress-4**

Q9. Who all had made the estimates of national income during British era?

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Q10. What are the limitations Indian Economy has faced?

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## **8.5 ESTIMATES OF NATIONAL INCOME OF INDIA DURING POST INDEPENDENCE ERA**

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After Independence, the government of India appointed the National Income Committee in August 1949 with Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis as its chairman and Prof. D.R. Gadgil and Dr V.K.R.V. Rao as its two members to compile national income estimates rationally on a scientific basis. The first committee report was prepared in 1951. In its report, the total national income of the year 1948-49 was estimated at Rs.8830 crore and the per capita income of the year was calculated at Rs 265 per annum. After three years, the final report of national income was published in 1954.

### **8.5.1 Features of the National Income Committee Report**

## Notes

The following were the main features of the National Income Committee report:

1. Agriculture including forestry, animal husbandry and fishery contributed about one half of the national income of the country during 1950-51.
2. Mining, manufacturing and hand trades contributed nearly one-sixth of the national income India.
3. Commerce, transport and communication also contributed a little more than one-sixth of the total national income of the country.
4. Income earned from other services such as professions and liberal arts, house property, administrative and domestic services contributed nearly 15 per cent of the total national income of the country.
5. Commodity production constituted a nearly two-thirds share of the national income whereas services contributed the remaining one-third of the national income of India.
6. In 1950-51, the share of the Government sector contributed about 7.6 per cent of net domestic product.
7. In the computation of national income estimates, the margin of error was estimated at about 10 per cent.

**Check Your Progress-5**

Q11. What was the total National Income in 1951?

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Q12. What are the features of National Income Committee Report?

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## **8.6 TRENDS IN NATIONAL INCOME IN INDIA**

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A study of the trend of the national income in India over the last 60 years, in detail, is very much necessary for attaining a clear understanding of the impact of planning on the Indian economy. Both the national income and per capita income are first collected at current prices and then at constant prices for eliminating the effect of any change of price level during that period.

This trend in national income also reflects on the standard of living of the people of India. Thus the national income at current prices is influenced by both the increase in production of goods and services and the rise in prices. In order to make the national income figures comparable, these figures are deflated at constant prices just for eliminating the effect of any change in the price level of the country.

## Notes

Let us now look into the trends in the national income figures and per capita income figures of India both at current prices and at constant prices obtained through CSO's new series with 2004-05 as the base year.

### 8.6.1 CSO's Revised 2004-05 Based Net National Product (NNP) Series:

CSO's new series with 2004-05 as the base year.

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has released the new 2004-05 based NNP series. Let us now look into the trends in the national income figures and per capita income figures of India both at current and constant prices obtained through

**TABLE 3.1 (a). New Revised 2004-05 based NNP and per capita NNP at Factor Cost**

Year	At 2004-05 prices		At current prices	
	Net National product at Factor cost (₹ crore)	Per capita NNP (₹)	Net National product (₹ crore)	Per Capita NNP (₹)
1950-51	255,405	7,114	9,464	264
1970-71	541,867	10,016	41,294	763
1990-91	1,202,305	14,330	471,618	5,621
2000-01	2,074,858	20,362	1,762,358	17,295
2004-05	2,629,198	24,143	2,629,198	24,143
2005-06	2,878,410	26,025	2,999,792	27,123
2006-07	3,150,904	28,083	3,500,396	31,198
2007-08	3,451,829	30,354	4,076,878	35,825
2008-09	3,664,388	31,754	4,705,447	40,775
2009-10	3,966,408	33,901	5,411,104	46,249
2010-11 (R)	4,293,585	36,202	6,406,834	54,021
2011-12 (R)	4,573,328	38,048	7,434,965	61,855
2012-13 (R)	4,728,776	38,856	8,255,978	67,839
2013-14 (PE)	4,920,183	39,904	9,171,045	74,380

Table 3.1(a) reveals the estimates of new 2004-05 based net national product (NNP) series of last 64 years since 1950-51 both at 2004-05 prices and at current prices. It is observed that NNP of India at 2004-05 prices increased from Rs 255,405 crore in 1950-51 to Rs 2,629,198 crore in 2004-05 and then to Rs 4,920,183 crore in 2013-14 (P) registering a growth rate of 1926 per cent during the last 64 years.

Again the national income (NNP) of India at current prices increased from Rs 9,464 crore in 1950-51 to Rs 2,629,198 crore in 2004-05 and

then to Rs 9,171,045 crore in 2013-14 (P) registering a growth of nearly 969 times during the last 64 years.

Again the per capita income figure at constant (2004-05) prices increased from 7,114 in 1950-51 to Rs 24,143 in 2004-05 and then to Rs 39,904 in 2013-14 (P) registering a growth rate of 560 per cent during the last 64 years. Moreover, the per capita income at current prices also increased from Rs 264 in 1950- 51 to Rs 24,143 in 2004-05 and then to Rs 74,380 in 2013-14 registering a growth of 281 times during the last 64 years.

### 8.6.2 CSO's Revised 2011-12 Based NNP Series:

The Central Statistical Organization (CSO) has released the new 2011-12 based NNP series. Let us now look into the trends of national income figures and per capita income figures of India both at current and constant prices obtained through CSO's new series with 2011-12 as the base year. This new estimate is prepared as Net National Income at market prices instead of Net National Income at factor cost.

**TABLE 3.1(b). New Revised 2011-12 based NNP and per capita NNP**

Year	At 2011-12 Prices		At Current Prices	
	Net National Product at market prices (₹ crore)	Per Capita NNP at market prices (₹)	Net National Product at market prices (₹ crore)	Per Capita NNP at market prices (₹)
2011-12	7,846,531	64,316	7,846,531	64,316
2012-13	8,193,427	66,344	8,841,733	71,593
2013-14	8,751,834	69,959	10,056,523	80,388
2014-15 (A)	9,400,266	74,193	11,217,079	88,533

Table 3.1(b) reveals the estimates of new 2011-12 based net national product (NNP) series of last 4 years since 2011 -12 both at 2011-12 prices and at current prices. It is observed that NNP of India at 2011-12 prices increased from Rs 7,846,531 crore in 2011-12 to Rs 8,751,834 crore in 2013-14 and then to Rs 9,400,266 crore in 2014-15 (A) registering a growth rate of 19.8 per cent over the last 4 years.

Again the national income (NNP) of India at current prices increased from Rs 7,846,531 crores in 2011-12 to Rs 10,056,523 crore in 2013-14 and

then to Rs 11,217,079 crores in 2014-15(A) registering growth of 42.9 per cent during the last 4 years.

Again, the per capita income figure at constant (2011-12) prices increased from Rs 64,316 in 2011-12 to Rs 69,959 in 2013-14 and then to Rs 74,193 in 2014-15(A) registering a growth rate of 15.3 per cent during the last 4 years.

Moreover, the per capita income at current prices also increased from Rs 64,316 in 2011-12 to Rs 80,388 in 2013-14 and then to Rs 88,533 in 2014-15(A) registering a growth of 37.6 per cent during the last 4 years.

### **8.6.3 Major Features of National Income in India**

Trends and composition of national income estimates of India during the post-independence period show the following major features:

#### **1. Excessive Dependence on Agriculture:**

One notifying feature of India's national income is that a considerable proportion, i.e., 27.8 per cent of the national income is still contributed by the agricultural sector. Naturally, the development of this sector is very essential considering its employment potential, marketable surplus and necessary support to the industry sector.

#### **2. Poor Growth Rate of GDP and Per Capita Income:**

The poor growth rate of GDP and per capita income is another important feature of the national income of the country. The annual average growth rate of GDP in India was 5.2 per cent during 1980-92 as compared to 9.1 per cent for China and 5.7 per cent of Indonesia. Again the annual average growth rate of per capita GNP in India was only 3.1 per cent during 1980-92 as compared to 7.6 per cent for China.

In 1994, the national income figure in Switzerland was nearly 119 times, in the USA about 81 times, in Japan about 105 times the per capita income in India. This low national income has also resulted from a lower growth rate of national income and higher growth rate of population. The growth rate of GDP at the constant price was 6.8 per cent in 2013-14.



### 3. Unequal Distribution and Poor Standard of Living:

The distribution of national income in India is mostly not equal. Human Development Report, 1994 shows that in 1993, richest 20 per cent of the total population shared 84.7 per cent of the total income and the poorest 20 per cent of the total population shared only 1.4 per cent of the total income of the country. Due to the highly skewed pattern of distribution of income, the standard of living of the majority of population of our country is very poor.

### 4. Growing Contribution of Tertiary Sector:

Another notifying feature of India's national income is that the contribution of tertiary sector has been increasing over the years, i.e. from 28.5 per cent of total national income in 1950-51 to 52.6 per cent in 2014-15.

### 5. Unequal Growth of Different Sectors:

In India, different sectors are not growing at equal rates. During the period 1951-97, while the primary sector has recorded a growth rate of 2.9 per cent but the secondary and tertiary sector recorded a growth rate of 6.3 per cent and 7.1 per cent respectively and in 2013-14, the same growth rates were 3.9 per cent, 4.4 per cent and 11.1 per cent respectively.

### 6. Regional Disparity:

One more notifying feature of India's national income is its regional disparity. Among all the states, only six states of the country have recorded a higher national income over the national figure. Out of these six states, Punjab ranks highest and Bihar ranks lowest. In 2013-14, the national income of Bihar at the bottom was Rs 31,229 as compared to that of Rs 92,638 of Punjab at the top, reflecting the ratio at 1: 2.96.

### 7. Urban and Rural Disparity:

The urban and rural disparity of income is another essential feature of our national income. The All India Rural Household Survey shows that the level of income in urban areas is just twice that of the rural areas depicting poor progress of the rural economy.

## Notes

### 8. Government and Private Sector:

Another crucial feature of India's national income is that the major portion of it is generated by the private sector (75.8 per cent) and the remaining 24.2 per cent of the national income is contributed by the public sector.

### Check Your Progress-6

Q13. Mention the features of National Income of India.

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Q14. Which sector serves the most in the growth of national income and how?

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## 8.7 TRENDS IN POPULATION IN INDIA

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India is the second most populated country in the world, next to China. According to the 2001 Census, the Indian population was 1027 million while according to 2011 census; India's population was 1210.2 million. India has 17.2% of the total world population (so one in every six people in the world is an Indian), but if we talk about land area, India take its position at seventh place and has only 2.42% of total land area of the world, while land area of U.S.A. is about 4.8%. India's population is about three times than that of the U.S.A., twenty-one times than that of Canada and about six times than that of Japan. India shows trends in its population very frequently.

Growth trend of the population in India is revealed in Table 3.1(c)

Table 3.1(c). The trend of Growth of Population in India.

Census year	Population (in millions)	
1901	236.2	Stagnant
1911	252.2	Population
1921	251.3	-
1931	279.0	STEADY GROWTH
1941	318.7	-
1951	361.4	-
1961	439.2	Rapid growth
1971	546.9	Growth
1981	683.81	(684 million)
1991	843.9	High growth with
2001	1027	Signs of slowing down

Table 3.1(c) shows that from 1921 to 1951 A.D., there was an increase in population by 12% and from 1951 to 1981, the growth showed an increase of 24.75%. The Indian population was about 350 million at the

## Notes

time of independence but it zoomed to 1 billion (1000 million) on 11 May 2000.

Among the Indian states, U.P. has the largest population with nearly 199.6 million people while Sikkim has the smallest population. With reference to population size, Calcutta, with a population of 15.1 million people, is 5th largest city in the world. Other major cities of the world with population size more than Calcutta are: Mexico City (Mexico)-24.4 Million. San Paulo (Brazil)-23.6 million; Tokyo (Japan)-21.3 million and New York (USA)-16.1 million.

### *The first official census was done in 1891-1901:*

India's population is currently growing at the rate of 1.2 million per month and there is a net annual increase of 16 million, which is even higher than the population of Australia (14.8 million) while in respect of area Australia is about 2.5 times larger in size.

From 683.9 million in 1981, the Indian population has grown to 843.9 million in 1991, showing a 23.50% increase. The decennial population growth (1981-91) in absolute terms is 160 million. It is actually a little below than in the decade 1971-81 (24.66%).

The average annual exponential growth in population declined from 2.22% in 1971-81 to 2.11% in 1981-91, 1.8% in 1991-2001 and only 1.58% in 2001-2011 periods. Minimal decennial growth is reported from Kerala (13.98%) while maximal decennial growth is reported from Nagaland (58.86%).

In Kerala, the total fertility rate is 1.7 per cent as against the country's average of 2.7 per cent. Decennial population growth was 21.34% during 1991-2001. Kerala still has the lowest decadal growth percentage of 9.42%. For a long period, the human population remained in lag phase characterized by very slow growth. But the exponential phase of growth of human population started in about 1750 A.D. It is still in exponential phase.

The future of the human population growth curve is difficult to predict. It may stabilize and become sigmoid when birth rate and death rates are balanced; or may decline rapidly to form J-shaped growth curve

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## 8.8 FACTORS AFFECTING POPULATION GROWTH IN INDIA

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1. Economic development: Countries who are still in the early stages of economic development tend to have higher rates of population growth. In agro-based societies, children can be seen as potential bread earners. From an early age, they help with household tasks and collecting the harvest. Also, in societies without state pensions, parents often want more children to act as insurance for their old age. It is expected that children will look after parents in their old age because child mortality rates are often higher, therefore, there is a need to have more children to ensure the parents have sufficient children to look after them in old age.

2. Education. In developed countries, education is usually compulsory until the age of 16. As education becomes compulsory, children are no longer economic assets – but economic costs. In the US, it is estimated that a child can cost approx \$230,000 by the time they leave college. Therefore, the cost of bringing up children provides an incentive to reduce family size.

3. Quality of children. Gary Becker produced a paper in 1973 with H.Gregg Lewis which stated that parents choose the number of children based on a marginal cost and marginal benefit analysis. In developed countries with high rates of return from education, parents have an incentive to have a lower number of children and spend more on their education – to give their children not just standard education but a relatively better education than others. To be able to give children the best start in life, it necessitates smaller families. Becker noted rising real GDP per capita was generally consistent with smaller families.

## Notes

4. Social and cultural factors. India and China (before one family policy) had strong social attachments to having large families. In the developed world, smaller families have now become the norm.

5. Availability of family planning. Increased availability of contraception can enable women to restrict their family size closer to the desired level. In the developing world, the availability of contraception is more restricted, and this can lead to unplanned pregnancies and more rapid population growth. In Africa in 2015, it was estimated that only 33% of women had access to contraception. Increasing rates would play a role in restricting population growth.

6. Female labour market participation. In developing economies, female education and social mobility are often lower. In societies where women gain a better education, there is a greater desire to put work over starting a family. In the developed world, women have often chosen to get married later and delay having children (or not at all) because they prefer to work and concentrate on their career.

7. Death rates Level of medical provision. Often death rates are reduced before a slowdown in birth rates, causing a boom in the population size at a certain point in a country's economic development. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, there was a rapid improvement in medical treatments which helped to deal with many fatal diseases. Death rates fell and life expectancy increased.

8. Immigration levels. Some countries biggest drivers of population growth come from net migration. In the UK from 2000 to 2013, around 50% of net population growth came from net international migration. Countries like Japan with very strict immigration laws have seen a stagnation in the population.

9. Historical factors/war. In the post-war period, western countries saw a 'boom' in population, as couples reunited at the end of the Second World War began having families. The 'baby-boomer' period indicates population growth can be influenced by historical events and a

combination of factors which caused a delay in having children until the war ended.

10. Welfare payments/State pensions. A generous state pension scheme means couples don't need to have children to provide effective retirement support when they are old. Family sizes in developing countries are higher because children are viewed as 'insurance' to look after them in their old age. In modern societies, this is not necessary and birth rates fall as a result.

**Check Your Progress-7**

Q15. What are the factors that affect population growth in India?

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## **8.9 DOES INCREASE IN INDIA'S POPULATION HAVE ANY POSITIVE EFFECT ON NATIONAL INCOME AND ECONOMIC GROWTH?**

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Popularly, the world population has passed above the six billion marks and is still on an exponential path upwards. Yet, what does this do to the status of nations' economies and national incomes? Economists are bifurcated between two theories; one that explains population increase or growth help a nation's economy and national income by stimulating economic growth and development and another that bases its theory on Robert Malthus' findings. Malthus explains that population increase is detrimental to a nation's economy and income due to a variety of problems created by the growth. For example, overpopulation and population growth place a tremendous amount of pressure on natural resources, which result in a chain reaction of problems as the nation

## Notes

grows. On the macroeconomic level, it is more trustable to argue that population does undermine a nation's economy and income because an increase in the number of people leads to an increase of the number of mouths to feed. The increase in demand for food leads to a decrease in natural resources, which are needed for a nation to survive. Other negative effects of population growth and, specifically, overpopulation contains poverty caused by low income per capita, famine, and disease. India is a prime example of Thomas Malthus' theory of population growth and its effect on the economy and income. India is a country plagued by poverty primarily caused by overpopulation. Inhabited by over nine hundred billion people, India has a population of three hundred million under the poverty line. A majority of the poor population is starving and is being insisted to beg on the streets to make ends meet. Still, the government is not showing any positive signs of reforms to decrease the poverty of the nation which will help in to hike up the overall economy and income.

Many economists advocating the positive side to population growth that these growth rates cause many problems in the short run only. But in the long run, it will lead to new advancement, new technology and new developments. A country cannot grow easily, without facing any problem.

Let's look at the positive side now; an individual can see a chain reaction of events caused by population growth. According to the neoclassical growth model, the population is beneficial to an economy due to the fact that population growth is interrelated to technological advancement. Growing population promotes the need for some sort of the technological change in order to meet the rising demands for certain goods and services. With the increased population, economies are blessed with a large labour force, making it cheaper as well, due to its immense availability. An increase in labour availability and a low cost for labour results in a huge rise in employment as businesses are more inclined to the cheap labour. Low labour costs result in a shift of money usage from wages into advancement through technology. According to this model, the technological advancement that accompanies the growth of population and the expansion of population allows for even more



population to survive due to the rise in overall outputs by the business and the nation as a whole. Thus, it generates demands for goods and results in overall economic growth and national income. The rising population provides a supply of labour and contributes to the increase in output of goods side by side income.

Commonly, through conventional wisdom, economists might argue that population growth and overpopulation hinders the growth output per worker. The important factor to this theory is Malthusian diminishing returns to labour, as the stock of capital, including land, does not increase in the same proportion as does labour. Another important factor, that contradicts Simon's theory, is the dependency effect, which suggests that saving is more difficult for households when there are more children and that higher fertility causes social investment funds to be diverted away from high-productivity uses. These factors seem to suggest that high fertility, and, more importantly, increasing population growth creates a negative effect on output per worker and on the broader aspect, it creates negative economic growth and development.

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## **8.10 LET US SUM UP**

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In tracing the recent history of theory and research on the connection between demography and economics, we find a new consensus is emerging; that reductions in fertility and declining ratios of dependent to working-age populations provide a window of opportunity for economic development and poverty reduction. The population of India has increased rapidly over a period of time which has many negative effects on the country's economic growth and the nation's income. But according to few economists, this population growth in India will have positive effects in long run like, increase in technology, advancement, etc.

Not only the population of India should be controlled, but also the other demographic factors should be controlled like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, low birth rate, high death rate, etc. It will result in positive effects of population growth in India as if there will be more working hands, there will be more income and growth. Trends in

Population and National income both affect each other over the period of time. There are many factors which affect the growth of population and national income. The population is not an only factor affecting national income, but there are many other demographic transitions which are affecting our national income indirectly. There is no systematic relationship between population growth and national income.

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### 8.11 KEYWORDS

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- National Income: It refers to the total financial/monetary value of the entire goods and services produced in a country during its financial year.
- GDP: Gross Domestic Product. It is not the same as the National Income. It forms only the domestic part and does not count the foreign aspect.
- CSO: Its full form is the Central Statistics Office. It is a department in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Application. It conducts an economic census and collects data on related areas
- Death Rates: It is the number of deaths that take place in a population within a specific duration. It is also known as mortality rates.
- Macroeconomic: According to [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org), *Macroeconomics* is the system that connects together the countless policies, resources, and technologies that make economic development happen

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### 8.12 SUGGESTED READINGS

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- Sivasubramonian, Siva. *The national income of India in the twentieth century*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Dandekar, Vishnu Mahadeo, and Nilakantha Rath. "Poverty in India-I: Dimensions and trends." *Economic and Political Weekly* (1971): 25-48.

- Roy, Tirthankar. "Globalisation, factor prices, and poverty in colonial India." *Australian Economic History Review* 47.1 (2007): 73-94.

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## 8.13 QUESTIONS TO REVIEW

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- Suggest some ways in order to control the rapid increase in the population of India.
- Explain the effects of demographic factors on national income in detail with an example each.
- According to you, what are the main reasons for trends in national income and population over a period of time?
- Compare the changes in national income and population of any two developing countries. Also, identify the factors of both the countries through which the changes took place.
- Population growth in India has positive effects on National Income and Economic Growth in the long run. Comment
- What is the reform government should create in order to control the excessive population growth in India?
- Do you really think that population growth is good for an economy? Give your personal opinion.

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## 8.14 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. In this chapter, we will discuss the meaning of national income in a shorter note and the changes in population and national income of our country. National income is an uncertain term which is used interchangeably with national dividend, national output and national expenditure. On this basis, national income has been defined.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q1)
2. The relation between population growth and national income is not an easy topic to write about. The connections are complex, and the historical quantitative evidence is ambiguous, particularly concerning what the cause is and what the effect is. Does national

## Notes

- income precede population growth, or is population growth a necessary condition for.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
3. Growth in population affects many areas such as the age structure of a country's population, international migration, economic inequality and the size of a country's labour. These factors affect the trend in national income of an economy.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q3)
  4. Economic growth is by the changes in the country's national income which can be decomposed into its population and economic elements by writing it as population times per capita GDP. Economic growth is equal to population growth plus growth in national income.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q4)
  5. Heady and Hodge point out to a large change in empirical analyses of the relation between population growth and growth in national income due to different methods, control variables and other factors.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q5)
  6. Angus Maddison compiled an extraordinary data on population growth and national income for virtually all countries in the world from 1 to 2008 of the Common Era (World Economics, 2016 and Maddison' 2001). After his death in 2010, researchers at the Groningen Growth and Development centre launched an initiative known as the "Maddison Project" which seeks to maintain, refine and update Maddison's original data.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q6)
  7. Average annual compound growth rates are calculated using the formula:  $V=Ae^{rt}$ , where  $V$  is the final value,  $A$  is the initial value,  $r$  is the rate of growth,  $t$  is the number of years and  $e$  is the exponential. For example.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q7)
  8. Average yearly world population growth over this period was above 1% but has changed considerably across regions and over time. The countries under the Soviet Union had shown relatively less population growth. One reason for slower population growth

was emigration to Latin America and the “western offshoots” where.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q8)

9. During the British Era, many estimates of national income were made by Dadabhai Naoroji (1868), William Digby (1899), Findlay Shirras (1911, 1922 and 1934), Shah and Khambatta (1921), V.K.R.V. Rao (1925-29) and R.C. Desai (1931-40).  
.....(answer to Check Your Progress-4 Q9)

10. Following are some of the important difficulties and limitations of the estimates of national income in India during pre-independence period.....(answer to Check Your Progress-4 Q10)

11. In its report, the total national income of the year 1948-49 was estimated at Rs.8830 crore and the per capita income of the year was calculated at Rs 265 per annum.....(answer to Check Your Progress-5 Q11)

12. The following were the main features of the National Income Committee report.....(answer to Check Your Progress-5 Q12)

13. The features of National Income of India

- Excessive Dependence on Agriculture
- Poor Growth Rate of GDP and Per Capita Income
- Unequal Distribution and Poor Standard of Living
- Growing Contribution of Tertiary Sector
- Unequal Growth of Different Sectors
- Regional Disparity
- Urban and Rural Disparity
- Government and Private Sector.....(answer to Check Your Progress-6 Q13)

14. The sector that serves the most in the growth of national income:

Excessive Dependence on Agriculture -

One notifying feature of India’s national income is that a considerable proportion, i.e., 27.8 per cent of the national income is still contributed by the agricultural sector. Naturally, development of this sector is very essential considering its employment potential, marketable surplus and necessary support to industry sector.....(answer to Check Your Progress-6 Q14)

## Notes

15. Factors affecting Population growth in India are:

- Economic development
- Education
- Quality of children
- Social and cultural factors
- Availability of family planning
- Female labour market participation
- Death rates
- Immigration levels
- Historical factors/war
- Welfare payments/State pensions.....(answer to Check Your Progress-7 Q15)

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# UNIT -9 CHARACTERISTICS OF INDIAN ECONOMY: PRE-COLONIAL AND COLONIAL

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## STRUCTURE

9.0 Objectives

9.1 Introduction

9.2 Characteristics of Pre-colonial Economy

9.2.1 Agriculture

9.2.2 Trade

9.2.3 Handicraft Industries

9.3 Aspects of Colonial Rule

9.4 Evolution of Colonial Rule

9.5 Impact of the Colonial Rule: Western View-point

9.6 Impact of the Colonial Rule: Indian View-point

9.6.1 The Drain theory

9.6.2 Deindustrialization

9.7 Phases of the Colonial Rule

9.8 Agriculture under the Colonial Rule

9.8.1 The New Land Settlement

9.8.2 Commercialisation of Agriculture

9.8.3 Impact on Agriculture

9.9 Role of the Colonial State

9.10 Let Us Sum Up

9.11 Keywords

9.12 Questions for Review

9.13 Suggested Readings

9.14 Answers to check your Progress

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## 9.0 OBJECTIVE

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After going through this chapter, readers will be able to understand,

- The characteristics of Pre-colonial Indian Economy
- Aspects and Evolution of Colonial Rule

- Impact of Colonial Rule as per Westerners
- Impact of Colonial Rule as per Indians
- Various Phases of Colonial Rule
- The state of Agriculture
- New Land Settlement under Colonial Rule

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## 9.1 INTRODUCTION

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In this chapter, we are going to learn about the Characteristics of Indian Economy during pre-colonial times and then during the colonial rule. This chapter will help you learn all the aspects that were involved in Colonial Rule. Along with this, you will also learn about the gradual evolution of the Colonial Rule and its impact from the viewpoint of westerners and Indians. You will also learn about the phases and developments in the field of Agriculture under the Colonial Rule. But before proceeding further let's learn about the term 'Direct Colony' as India was a direct colony of the British. A direct colony is under the complete control of the colonizers and colonial policies and its interests penetrate every aspect of the social life of a colony.

The British had made India its direct colony, this meant that their action was faced with consequences by the economy, society and polity of the nation. Here, it is important to understand that the Britishers colonized India for a very long period of time. This had an obvious impact on the Indian economy.

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## 9.2 CHARACTERISTICS OF PRE-COLONIAL ECONOMY

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The essential features of Pre-Colonial Indian Economy are:

### 9.2.1 Agriculture

During the Pre-colonial Indian Economy phase, villages were a self-sufficient economic unit. Farmers grew only those crops that they required personally. A portion of these same crops was used for barter with the village artisan who could provide him simple manufacture that



was essential in the domestic consumption. Agriculture during this phase as a means to provide only the family of the farmer or some of the non-farming families in the village. Due to unavailability of any modern means of communication the trading of crops was limited. On occasion of favourable climatic conditions if the crops yielded in huge amounts then the farmer would store it for the coming years. This was a great way to protect the family during the times of famine, thus it became a common practice to store excess produce during the pre-colonial times. Towards the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this way of agricultural activities started changing as the British rule came along with,

- 1) Introduction of new forms of land tenure, and
- 2) The active export trade in agricultural produce.

### **9.2.2 Trade**

The modes of communication may have been primitive in the pre-colonial times but India enjoyed the perks of trading within the country as well as with other Asian and European countries. The villages were self-sufficient. Still, in India, there was engagement in activities of import and export. The major items exported and imported were,

Imports:

- pearls, wool, dates, dried fruits and rosewater from the Persian Gulf
- coffee, gold, drugs and honey from Arabia
- tea, sugar and silk from China
- gold, musk and woollen cloth, metals like copper, iron and lead, and paper from Europe

Exports:

- Cotton textiles and Raw Silk
- Indigo
- Opium
- Rice, Wheat, Sugar, Pepper and other Spices
- Precious stones
- Drugs

Major features in Pre-colonial era:

## Notes

- Excess of exports compared to imports in order to maintain a favourable balance of trade.
- India being self-sufficient imported only items of requirement and exported more products than imported.
- India maintained a healthy trade by exporting specialized items and importing crucial items.
- This was a perfect way of foreign trade as it suited the manufacturing pattern in India.
- In colonial times this healthy balance was turned upside down when India was turned into an importer of cotton textiles, one of its richest export commodities.

### 9.2.3 Handicraft Industries

India being a self-sufficient country was an extensive source of manufacturing. The skilled hands of artisans produced handicrafts that gained fame worldwide. India had many successful centres of textile industry, spread across Dacca and Murshidabad in Bengal; Patna in Bihar; Surat and Ahmedabad in Gujarat; Chanderi in Madhya Pradesh; Burhanpur in Maharashtra; Jaunpur, Varanasi, Lucknow and Agra in U.P.; Multan and Lahore in the Punjab; Masulipatnam, Aurangabad and Visakhapatnam in Andhra; Bangalore in Mysore and Coimbatore and Madurai in Madras and Kashmir with special wool rearing.

Apart from textiles and other goods, India also excelled at shipbuilding. Andhra Pradesh, Bengal and Maharashtra were the renowned centres for this industry. After the Industrial Revolution that took place in England, India had started bearing consequences as aftermath. The sudden surge of British goods in the market led to Indian artisans and weavers jobless. This led to a major downfall in India's centres of economic activities.

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## 9.3 ASPECTS OF COLONIAL RULE

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The major aspects of Colonial Rule that impacted the Indian economy were,

- British used their knowledge gained from one region of India to the other parts by extending or modifying.
- This knowledge helped them in dealing with a large colony like India.
- Throughout the colonial rule, the modern British societies kept progressing to industrial capitalism from mercantile capitalism and monopoly industrial capitalism from competitive industrial capitalism.
- Britishers exported Raw materials from India and started importing finished goods from Britain, this had a direct and negative impact on the economy.
- This eventually meant that any kind of social or economic changes in Britain would impact British Colonial Policies in India.

### Check Your Progress-1

Q1. Name the three characteristics of Pre-Colonial Indian economy.

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Q2. Name the goods that were exported from India.

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## 9.4 EVOLUTION OF COLONIAL RULE

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The gradual evolution of Colonial Rule in India,

- In 1600, Mughal ruler gave a legal charter to British East India Company for trading with leading to the conquering of India.
- In 1757, the Nawab of Bengal was defeated by Robert Clive.

## Notes

- From the Battle of Plassey in 1757 to War of Independence in 1857, for a period of one century, East India Company ruled India.
- In 1858, India was defeated and Queen Victoria took it upon her to directly rule India.
- In 1858, the East India Company came to an end, and the British Parliament gained the position of handling the governance of India until India acquired freedom in 1947.

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## 9.5 IMPACT OF THE COLONIAL RULE- WESTERN VIEW POINT

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The westerners have always had a stark difference in the viewpoint when discussions related to the impact of British rule in India arise.

According to Morris D. Morris, an American Scholar,

"Despite a Hindu tradition of imperial expansion, at no time in Indian history over any large region did a stable political unit survive for more than a century or a century-and-a-half. There was nothing that compares with the imperial chronologies of Rome, Egypt, or China. A crucial consequence is that no tradition of continuous administrative institutions and no persistent bureaucracy ever developed."

"...the Indian subcontinent was a region in which per capita income was relatively low in the centuries before 1800. Given the lack of political stability, low agricultural and non-agricultural productivity, and insignificant commerce no other conclusion is supportable."

Here are some common beliefs the westerners held against India,

- India could never have become a political unity
- The western writers summed up viewpoints state that India was an underdeveloped country before the British rule.
- Lack of modern technology in India meant the country couldn't achieve any major feats.
- Lack of political unity in the 18<sup>th</sup> century left India with very low levels of commerce and capital accumulation.
- The British rule in India thus survived on a very low level of the economy.

- Using the evidence of early European travellers, it has been concluded that there was an inelasticity in the textile productivity in India.
- It was the British who introduced the cultivation of peanut, potato and tobacco in India as the Indian history revealed a very low level of agricultural productivity.
- It is the British who are responsible for bringing political unity and stability in India
- The positive impact on the economy of India was only experienced after the development of railways and roads by the Britishers.
- Without the benevolent policies of the British, India wouldn't have achieved the foundations on which the economy of India stands.

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## 9.6 IMPACT OF THE COLONIAL RULE-INDIAN VIEW POINT

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Indians scholars have a different hypothesis of the Colonial Rule which has been highlighted by them throughout the years. Important questions were raised by Dadabhai Naoroji, Romesh Chandra Dutt and Rajni Palme Dutt in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century respectively when they represented the Indian Nationalist perspectives,

- Why did the British East India Company gradually get involved in local wars of conquest?
- Why did the British Queen in 1858 take up the direct responsibility of ruling over?  
India till 1947?
- How was it that the East India Company which came to India with a trading capital of 68,000, went on to make fortunes?
- If the Indian economy was really stagnant, how did it sustain the East Indian Company and its expenditure?

### 9.6.1 The Drain theory

‘A significant wealth from the country of India being exported to England for which no economic returns were given to India.’ Is the process that has been referred to as drain theory by nationalists.

England was highly benefited by this drain theory, as the British officers posted in India would get access to the Indian wealth in forms of salaries or by making profits through the investment they made. This eventually was considered as India being indirectly forced to pay tributes to England.

Amiya Bagchi observed that since the British now held dominance over the Indians they didn't have to pay for goods or provide any profits to the locals. Instead of Britain sending Bullion to India the situation had turned vice versa for the nation. He also states that the surplus that is usually generated for investment was constantly getting siphoned by the Britishers from India. This meant that there couldn't be any economic development as per an elementary principal, as there was no surplus left in the hands of India for investment.

External drain began on India which started from the state of Bengal wherein 3 to 4% of the gross domestic material product was constituted which started off after the 1757 Battle of Plassey. During the war of the East India Company, minimum 5 to 6 per cent were siphoned.

The drain theory was just the tip of the iceberg, there were several other methods that were put into action by the British to exploit India, heavy taxation levied on the common people and unfavourable trade with nil profits were to name a few. The plunder exceeded when the East India Company obtained civil rights over the states of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in 1765 after the war. This clearly opened more doors for the Britishers to exploit Indians. This plunder did not end until Emerging Industrial Capitalists in Britain demanded for an end of the Company rule at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in India.

### Check Your Progress-2

Q3. What was the view point of the westerners in regards to the impact of Colonial Rule?

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Q4. List down the 4 major events that took place during the evolution of Colonial Rule.

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### 9.6.2 De-Industrialization

The nationalists believed that along with external drain theory another aspect brought forward by the British to heavily exploit Indians was the act of de-industrialisation. India was well known for its cotton exports; this is also how it gained the attention of the East India Company with them turning sides making India an importer.

A country that was flourished in a product soon started importing it leading to the collapse of several small and large industries including Indian artisans, craftsmen and many crucial trading centres.

This import took place exclusively from Britain which led to complete destruction of any manufacturing activities.

According to Amiya Bagchi, India imported more than forty per cent of exports from Britain which took place over a period of seventy-five years until 1913. So, while on one hand industrialization in England was at its peak, India kept declining. This led to Indians moving towards agriculture instead of depending on individual industries. Artisans,

manufacturers, traders, handicraftsmen all had to move towards agriculture, which eventually caused an overburden.

Sumit Sarkar sums it up as, 'The sufferings of artisans have to be kept in mind as a significant factor in the understanding of many movements of our period: both in the way in which de-industrialization stimulated patriotic sentiments among intellectuals alike in the Moderate, Extremist and Gandhian eras, as well as more directly, in occasional urban and rural explosions of various types.'

Sir Charles Trevelyan also observed the consequences faced by India in 1840, he said, 'The population of the town of Dacca has fallen from 1,50,00 to 30,000 or 40,000 and the jungle and malaria are fast encroaching upon the town. Dacca, which was the Manchester of India, has fallen off from a very flourishing town to a very poor and small one; the distress there has been very great indeed.'

These flourishing towns were forced to bear consequences. The price of it was paid by India as a country.

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## 9.7 PHASES OF COLONIAL RULE

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The process of De-Industrialization and Drain theory was carried out extensively over a period of a century in India in stages. This began in the year 1757 with the Battle of Plassey and finally ended only after India's War of Independence in the year 1857. In 1964, the Bank of England had already been established which helped in capital accumulation from the plunder of India. Many inventions took place in Britain during the same phase that brought about an industrial revolution.

- The Spinning-Jenny of Hargreaves in 1764
- Watt's steam engine in 1765
- Water frame of Arkwright in 1769
- Crompton's mule in 1779
- Cartwright's power-loom in 1785.

R.P Dutt sums up the impact of British rule in initial stages as, 'While machine-made cotton goods from England ruined the weavers, machine-made twist ruined the spinners. Between 1818 and 1836, the export of cotton twist from England to Indian rose 5,200times.'



The same process could be traced in respect of silk goods, woollen goods, iron, pottery, glass and paper.

The effects of the destruction of this whole of the Indian manufacturing industries on the economy of the country can be imagined. In England, the ruin of the old handloom weavers was accompanied by the growth of the new machine industry. But in India, the ruin of the millions of artisans and craftsmen was not accompanied by any alternative growth of new forms of the industry... The old populous manufacturing towns, Dacca, Murshidabad, ... Surat and the like were in a few years rendered desolate under the 'Pan-Britannica' with a completeness which no ravages of the most destructive war or foreign conquest could have accomplished.'

The British East India Company exploited India in newfound ways, they held the monopoly of buying Indian material which was done by the revenue earned from India. These materials were then exported in the foreign markets at very high profits. When British East India Company won the war against India, it held the upper hand in obtaining several powers such as the power to collect land revenue and other forms of taxes as well as the power to levy such taxes. This was possible as the profits they made through meagre investments in the market by the money earned by the revenue in India.

The gross profits were so high that they started the exploitation of Indian commodities at ease. It was noted that India now became a major source of exports and observed a decline in imports. As per the observations were done by Professor Habib, in the latter half of the eighteenth century whereas the British exports to India increased by only by 2.6% from 9% to 6.4% overall. On the other hand, the total imports from India increased from 12% to 24%.

It was the phase of Merchant Capitalism that eventually gave way to the phase of Industrial Capitalism. This began at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Indian economy was now only targeted towards serving the interest of industrial England. The interest had shifted from revenue collection to more inventive ways of exploitation. England had technology which helped them in producing finished goods from the crucial raw material they had secured from India. They would then sell

this same finished good in the Indian market at significantly high prices. The raw materials were drained continuously out of India in several different ways. After 1857 when the British took hold over the governance of India, the drain theory and deindustrialization reached new heights. British had accumulated excessive capital and readymade goods which were now taking place in the Indian market.

England needed India in this phase more than ever as it became their base for investment apart from being a suitable market for goods. British were in charge of handling the major industries like Iron, Jute, Railway and Steel, and all the profits they accumulated from these industries were being taken back to England. Be it mercantile capitalism or industrial revolution, the British kept draining India throughout until the end of the nineteenth century.

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## 9.8 AGRICULTURE UNDER THE COLONIAL RULE

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As per the British, they brought about plantation development policy in India. This was brought in the field of indigo, jute, tea and tobacco and none of these was of benefit to the people. The British agrarian policies destroyed the Indian agricultural economy in multiple ways, which caused a direct impact on the life of the people living in the countryside. The British created policies that affected various aspects involved in building the economy of India.

### 9.8.1 The New Land Settlement

- East India Company had established a stable position in Indian society. The fall of the Mughal Empire meant the British could now form a plan that would help them extract excessive amounts of land revenue from the people.
- A class of Zamindars was created after the permanent land settlement of Lord Cornwallis in 1793 for Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and parts of North Madras. They eventually became 'landlords in perpetuity'.

- Fixed land revenue was set on a permanent basis. Between the peasantry and rulers, the zamindars became intermediaries.
- This caused a great benefit to the Rulers and Landlords whereas the peasantry kept suffering heavily.
- Lord William Bentinck observed, 'If security was wanting against extensive popular tumult or revolution, I should say that the Permanent Settlement, though a failure in many other respects and most important essentials, has this great advantage at least, of having created a vast body of rich landed proprietors deeply interested in the continuance of the British Dominion and having complete command over the mass of the people.'
- The Ryotwari System implemented by Sir Thomas Munro in 1820 in the Madras Presidency was evolved by the British.
- One of the features of the Ryotwari System was that the government and cultivators would have no intermediary. A direct relation would persist between the two and the land revenues will be settled without any interference.
- The second feature was based on periodic re-assessment of land revenue which was not like the system of Lord Cornwallis.
- Under the rule of the British came forward the Temporary Zamindari settlements as well as the Ryotwari Settlements and landlordism. The real farmers and cultivators were now in debt and landless whereas money lenders were the ones gaining benefits.
- The major population of the country was tackling the issue of poverty with agriculture suffering unimaginable damage. A clear result of the policies of the British.
- The landlords and government were the only benefitting party whereas the peasants became the victims.
- Daniel Thorner observed, 'In no other period of Indian history can be found so large, so well-established, and so secure a group of landholders as that which grew up and flourished between the 1970s and the 1940s.'
- The famines of the 1870s and late 1890s were clear proof that the system of agrarian built by the British was meant for destruction

of the flourishing agriculture in India. There was a rise in epidemic whereas the growth in population was stagnant.

- Agriculture couldn't develop without any efforts put forth by the governing bodies or the peasants. This wasn't possible as the Government or landlords, as well as the British, were least interested in any kind of public work which could have highly affected the condition of agriculture.
- The British kept flourishing with a regular inflow of capital whereas it was the labourers who soon became landless and had no source of access to food or other essentials but were still forced to pay taxes.
- This saying by the Simon Commission clearly defined the condition back in those days, 'The vast majority of peasants live to debt to the moneylender'
- It became a circle that kept going on and on where the people would borrow money to pay debts and then become indebted again.

### **9.8.2 Commercialization of Agriculture**

- The commercialization of agriculture began after the new land settlements. This was a revolution in the previously set up property relations. This took place during the 1860s in Indian agriculture.
- Agriculture becoming a marketable commodity was the main aspect of this revolution. Agriculture could now be targeted towards a particular area or market.
- The increase in the length of the railway tracks was a crucial factor highly responsible for the revolution. This increment took place between 1857 to 1908 and went from 288 miles to 30576 miles. This was a determining factor in the commercialization of agriculture.
- Sea routes were shortened with the opening of the Suez Canal that took place in the year 1869. This shortened sea route cut short England to India route by an extensive 3000 miles. This, in turn, shortened the travelling time.

- Between 1873 to 1886, several innovations took place in England, majorly technological which also played a role in replacing the normal sailing vessels. These were replaced with modern steamships. This helped in bringing the two countries closer than before. This caused a major reduction in the freight rates and cost of exports.
- A surge in the demand for raw cotton was noticed from the United States after the Civil War. Between a period of a mere five to six years from 1859 to 1865, the export amounts rose from 5.6 crores to 37.5 crores.
- Between a span of approximately 45 years i.e. from 1859 to 1907 the total value of exports taking place from India went up by more than five hundred per cent which was considered phenomenal.
- Although India witnessed such tremendous growth, the country did not benefit from the same, the development was not equivalent to the rise in Indian agriculture. The farmers faced a lack of technological improvement and this caused the British to take undue advantages of the opportunities.
- The growth was clearly seen as one-sided as the people responsible for the same gained zero benefits or properties whereas the British kept accessing high amounts of profits through colonialism. This was a forced process that showed growth but which was not genuine.
- Commercialisation led to a scarcity of food, it caused deaths by malnutrition. The demand was substituted by commercial crops as they were in high demand for e.g., raw cotton, jute, indigo and opium.
- In lieu of getting higher profits, the traditional food crops started observing low cultivation rate, the impact of which caused famine in Bengal and Orissa in 1866. Best lands that should have been used for cultivating rice were instead being used for indigo.
- The farmers too were divided due to this situation, on one hand, some farmers experienced stability due to shifting towards

## Notes

farming of the commercial crops, the farmers with less land and poverty had to survive on food grown on their own land.

- The only positive impact of this commercialization was that the villages could now form a direct link with the world markets instead of being in isolation.
- The farmers also grew wiser by adhering to demands of the markets and setting prices accordingly instead of sticking to his own needs.

### Check Your Progress-3

Q5. Explain the New Land Settlement under the Colonial Rule.

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Q6. List down the inventions that occurred in Britain during the phase of Colonial Rule.

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### 9.8.3 Impact on Agriculture

Basically, the agrarian system and other policies made by the British caused havoc in forms of epidemics, malnutrition causing deaths, leaving peasants in deep debts and troubling the labouring class who had no land. The British followed one stringent policy, that was to extract taxes from peasants irrespective of them being able to pay it or not. The landowners started selling their lands for very low prices which were done to pay the heavy debts.

Professor Irfan Habib points out, 'The land revenue under the preceding Indian regimes was fixed as a share of the crop and varied according to the crop cultivated. The land revenue under the British, whether directly

imposed on the ryots or assessed on the zamindars, was a true tax on land.'

The revenue collections were ever-increasing whereas the price of food grains was now at a new low. The rural economy kept declining with peasants in severe debts and stagnant economy due to the appropriation of agricultural. This was one goal that the Britishers had set straight and managed to accomplish through their tactics.

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## 9.9 ROLE OF THE COLONIAL STATE

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In the year 1857, the British Government had completely taken charge of Indian Governance. This led to the powerful colonial state into a pro-landlord, pro-moneylender, the pro-princess and pro-British economy in India contrary to the falsehood cooked up by western historians. According to them, the British colonial state was liberal *laissez-faire* or 'benevolent despotism' which acted as a night watchman, making minimal interferences in Indian affairs.

Queen Victoria's proclamation in 1858:

"We shall respect the rights, dignity and honour of the Native Princess as our own."

"We know, and respect the feelings of attachment with which the natives of India regard the land inherited from the ancestors, and we desire to protect them in all rights connected therewith, subject to the equitable demands of the State."

- The proclamations made by the Queen were a series of promises made with the aim of achieving collaboration with the landlords and native princess as well to gain social support.
- The main reason behind the abolition Company's rule in 1858 was to completely exploit the Indian market by the British industrial classes.
- The aim was to bring the British industrial capitalists at an esteemed secured position as they held a leading position in the British Parliament.

## Notes

- With complete integration of India with the world capitalist economy as a colony, the British colonial state subjected India to exploitations.
- Professor Sumit Sarkar notes, 'Behind a façade of laissez-faire, government policies often actively promoted European enterprise (railways under the guarantee system, and the allotment of vast tracts of land to Assam tea planters at nominal prices, would be two obvious examples) while discriminating against Indians. The railway network and freight-rates encouraged traffic with ports as against that between inland centres. The organised money-market was largely under white control. Most significant of all perhaps was the fact that nineteenth-century Indian economic growth was largely geared to export needs, and the British controlled the bulk of the external trade of the country through Exchange Banks, export-import firms and shipping concerns.'
- It is important to understand that the economic development of India cannot be linked to the establishment of Railways, or spread of English language and activities. These were majorly done for the benefits of the British.
- British investors were gaining profits from the Indian markets as their finished goods and capital was circulated and relied upon in the market.
- The locals were discriminated whereas the British kept securing benefits in the form of concessions and extended facilities in the hands of the colonial bureaucracy.
- All the significant features of the colonial state focused only on one particular agenda, that was the thorough exploitation of India and its people.
- Breaking down India's export-based economy, the Britishers started accessing Raw materials from the nation by the revenue generated in India. The colonial state ensured no harm ever came to British or their interests and ideals.
- It was only after the two World Wars that the Indian capitalist started seeing a ray of hope in the form of development in the field of chemical factories, jute, steel plant, sugar and textile. The



World Wars had a direct impact on the British economy. India was no more a profitable ground for exports manufactured by the British as it was before the wars.

- The requirements for the second world war compelled the British to introduce indigenous industries in India.

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## **9.10 LET US SUM UP**

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- Colonial State played a key role in the exploitation of India for the British Indian Capital
- The pressure brought upon by two world wars helped in the development of Indian capitalist class and industries in fields of chemicals, jute, iron, sugar, steel and textile.
- The British left behind a stagnant economy in India
- On the eve of independence in the year 1947, India was not an industrialised nation even though there was a development of industries.
- There was no development of proper infrastructure or basic industries, without these industries cannot develop and a country cannot be called industrialised.
- British economy only focused on the aspect of building industries and not industrialization as that was not their area of interest.
- Indian agriculture had become stagnant
- British rule directly impacted India with low per capita income, low level of human skills, low level of savings, low agricultural output as well as underdeveloped infrastructure.
- The fact that British motorized Indian economy is thus hard to believe with the above-stated points.

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## **9.11 KEYWORDS**

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- Capital Accumulation: The process by which resources of land, labour and entrepreneurship are put together for industrial development.

## Notes

- De-industrialization: The phenomenon under the Colonial rule under whose impact a large number of traditional industries declined.
- Foreign Capital: Money or resources acquired from outside a nation either from another nation or a transnational firm.
- Gross Profits: Total profits before deductions are made for taxes, depreciation etc.
- Laissez-Faire: The philosophy in 19th century British which said free trade or trade without restriction was the solution to all economic problems.
- Monopolistic: A tendency of capital, resources or industries to come under individual control.
- Per Capita Income: Money earned per head.
- The productivity of Land: Producing capacity of the land.
- Underdeveloped Society: A society in which development is retarded because of factors like the colonial rule or colonial pressures. This is different from non-developed or developing societies, where the colonial factor does not play a strictly significant role since a direct colonial rule is not there.

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### 9.12 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- Explain the impact of the colonial rule as per the Indian viewpoint.
- Write a short note on the characteristics of the pre-colonial economy.
- Discuss the evolution of colonial rule in India.
- Explain the changes in Agriculture under the colonial rule in India.
- Write a short note on the role of a colonial state.

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### 9.13 SUGGESTED READINGS

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- Traditional Industry in the Economy of Colonial India by Tirthankar Roy
- Structural Evolution of Indian Economy by Arun Majumdar
- Economic History of Modern India by S.N. Pandey
- Indian Economy Since Independence: Persisting Colonial Disruption by Arun Kumar

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## 9.14 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. The essential features of Pre-Colonial Indian Economy are:
  - Agriculture
  - Trade.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
2. The goods that were exported from India are raw cotton, raw silk, indigo, opium, rice, wheat, sugar, pepper and other spices, precious stones and drugs.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
3. The westerners have always had a stark difference in the viewpoint when discussions related to the impact of British rule in India arise. According to Morris D. Morris, an American Scholar, "Despite a Hindu tradition of imperial expansion, at no time in Indian history over any large region did a stable political unit survive for more than a .....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q3)
4. The gradual evolution of Colonial Rule in India,
  - In 1600, Mughal ruler gave a legal charter to British East India Company for trading with leading to the conquering of India.
  - In 1757, the Nawab of Bengal was defeated by Robert Clive.
  - From the Battle of Plassey in 1757 to War of Independence in 1857, for a period of one century, East India Company ruled India.
  - In 1858, India was defeated and Queen Victoria took it upon her to directly rule India.

## Notes

- In 1858, the East India Company came to an end, and the British Parliament gained the position of handling the governance of India until India acquired freedom in 1947.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q4)
- 5.
- East India Company had established a stable position in Indian society. The fall of the Mughal Empire meant the British could now form a plan that would help them extract excessive amounts of land revenue from the people.
    - A class of Zamindars was created after the permanent land settlement of Lord Cornwallis in 1793 for Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and parts of North Madras. They eventually became 'landlords in perpetuity'.
    - Fixed land revenue was set on a permanent basis. Between the peasantry and rulers, the zamindars became intermediaries.
    - This caused a great benefit to the Rulers and Landlords whereas the peasantry kept suffering heavily.
    - Lord William Bentinck observed, 'If security was wanting against extensive popular tumult or revolution, I should say that the Permanent Settlement, though a failure in many other respects and most important essentials, has this great advantage at least, of having created a vast body of rich landed proprietors deeply interested in the continuance of the British Dominion and having complete command over the mass of the people.'
    - The Ryotwari System implemented by Sir Thomas Munro in 1820 in the Madras Presidency was evolved by the British.
    - One of the features of the Ryotwari System was that the government and cultivators would have no intermediary. A direct relation would persist between the two and the land revenues will be settled without any interference.
    - The second feature was based on periodic re-assessment of land revenue which was not like the system of Lord Cornwallis.

- Under the rule of the British came forward the Temporary Zamindari settlements as well as the Ryotwari Settlements and landlordism. The real farmers and cultivators were now in debt and landless whereas money lenders were the ones gaining benefits.
  - The major population of the country was tackling the issue of poverty with agriculture suffering unimaginable damage. A clear result of the policies of the British.
  - The landlords and government were the only benefitting party whereas the peasants became the victims.
  - Daniel Thorner observed, 'In no other period of Indian history can be found so large, so well-established, and so secure a group of landholders as that which grew up and flourished between the 1770s and the 1840s.' .....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q5)
6. The inventions that occurred in Britain during the phase of Colonial Rule are:
- The Spinning-Jenny of Hargreaves in 1764, Watt's steam engine in 1765, Water frame of Arkwright in 1769, Crompton's mule in 1779 and Cartwright's power-loom in 1785.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q6)

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# **UNIT – 10 ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES BASED ON INDIAN NATURAL RESOURCES AND ITS IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY**

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## **STRUCTURE**

10.0 Objective

10.1 Introduction

10.2 Indian economy before Colonial Rule

10.2.1 Trade and Commerce

10.2.2 Agriculture

10.2.3 Handicraft

10.3 Effect of changing political situation of Britain on Indian Colonial rule

10.3.1 Colonial rule through the changing times

10.4 Impact of British rule on India

10.4.1 The Western Approach

10.4.2 The Indian Approach

10.4.2.1 The Drain Theory

10.4.2.2 De-industrialization

10.5 Effect of the different phases of Colonial Rule on Indian economy

10.6 Changes in Agricultural Policies during Colonial Rule

10.6.1 The New Land Settlement Act

10.6.2 Commercialization of Agriculture

10.6.3 Impact on Agriculture

10.7 Role of Colonial State

10.8 Let Us Sum Up

10.9 Keywords

10.10 Questions for Review

10.11 Suggested Readings

10.12 Answers to Check Your Progress

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## 10.0 OBJECTIVE

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After going through this chapter, you will be able to:

- identify the state of the Indian economy prior to Colonial rule
- tell the effect of the changing state of British industrialization on Indian economy
- understand the different schools of thought with respect to the impact of the British rule in India
- identify the various ways in which the British exploited India in the different stages of colonial rule
- identify the different land revenue acts that result in depletion of India's agricultural wealth
- how the commercialization of agriculture damaged the Indian economy

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## 10.1 INTRODUCTION

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One of the most crucial turning points in the history of India is that of Colonial rule. The fact that the British rule lasted for centuries resulted in it having a direct impact on the vitals of Indian society. Being a direct colony of the mighty British Empire ensured that when we finally became free in 1947, our way of life was mimesis of colonial life. Today, more than 70 years have elapsed since our Independence. There are a number of aspects of British rule that is affecting contemporary Indian society. To have an understanding of those issues, it is essential that we delve into the details of the colonial phase of Indian history.

If we look at the history of British Rule in India, we will see that it was a series of historical events that made it possible. As the British Rule passed through the different stages of establishment of power, growth came to be established in a slow and steady manner. From being mere guest traders, they came to be the ruling power. Eventually, such was their might that all the kings of the country came to dread them. To achieve such heights of power, it was their experiences with the natives

dictated their strategies and policies. Before we get to the details of the same, it is essential for us to have an idea of what the state of the Indian economy was prior to the British invasion.

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## 10.2 INDIAN ECONOMY BEFORE COLONIAL RULE

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Ever since the Vedic Era, Indians were culturally and economically privileged over other nationals. The fact that the Indian territory was a very fertile land had a significant role to play here. Prior to the British Rule, the modern India as we know of it today was a land of numerous smaller kingdoms. With self-sufficient agriculture, the economy of these kingdoms was pretty stable. The Indian handicraft industries were the envy of the world. Our exquisite designs in cotton and jute were sought by many royal families of the world. In general, trade flourished, and that was the reason India was then known as the 'Golden Bird.' Back then, poverty was less, and most of the people had enough resources to meet the needs of themselves and their families. To understand the situation better, let us delve into the details of the significant aspects of the Indian economy.

### 10.2.1 Trade and Commerce

In the ancient days, the barter system was the lifeline of the Indian economy. Over time, currency came to be established, and that formed the basis of trade. In the pre-colonial era, India had good trade relations with other Asian countries as well as with Europe. Despite the fact that the infrastructure was not very good at that time, trade did take place between the different villages. The fact that most of the Indian communities were self-sufficient did nothing to affect the ongoing business.

During this time, India had a favourable balance of trade. The country was able to export more than what it needed to be imported. The nation was self-sufficient, and that was its biggest boon. As of then, India did



not need foreign imports on a very large scale.

If we go a little fast forward here, we will see that in the colonial times, the commodity pattern of the country was turned upside down. A nation that had export surplus came to stand at the mercy of foreign imports. A very good example in this regard will be that of cotton textiles. During the British rule, India moved from being an exporter of Cotton goods to an importer of the same. Not only did this ruin our traditional handicrafts industry, but it also caused irreparable damage to our economy.

### **10.2.2 Agriculture**

The favourable land and weather conditions ensured that a significant section of the Indian population were farmers. The social setup of most Indian villages was such that farmers formed the lifeline of the economy. They would produce crops that their family needed. They also gave food to the non-agricultural section of the village population. The latter was made up of artisans, teachers, etc. In return, the artisans would give them the essential manufacturing products for their homes, and the teachers would impart primary education to their wards. Such was the social setup that most Indian villages were self-sufficient, and people here lived in harmony with each other.

In cases where tax for the land had to be given to the king, the same was done by means of agricultural produce. This system seemed to be favourable for everyone. If the farmer produced surplus food on a particular season, the same was carefully stored away in granaries. This was more of an emergency fund of agricultural produce.

### **10.2.3 Handicrafts**

In the pre-colonial era, India excelled in the production of indigenous products. The handicrafts from India were well known across the globe. From silk fabrics to dye, India was a pioneer in handicrafts and

handloom. From Surat in the West to Murshidabad in the East, every region had its unique material. The woollen clothes of Kashmir were equally renowned. Other than fabric, jute and indigenous oils were also an important part of Indian heritage. Handicrafts also included metal wares, arms, and ammunition.

It is to be noted that the British first came to India as traders of the East India Company keen to do business with us. It was the latter part of the 18th century and, by then, India was a major centre of world trade. It was the British rule coupled with the impact of the Industrial Revolution in England that made things difficult for traditional Indian artisans. The indigenous manufacturers could no longer compete with the machine-made cloth of England. It was the pressure from British textiles that ensured that weaving was no longer a sustainable business in India. As a result, a lesser number of people took to weaving, and Indian handicrafts died a slow and natural death.

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### **10.3 EFFECT OF CHANGING POLITICAL SITUATION OF BRITAIN ON INDIAN COLONIAL RULE**

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We must realize that the Colonial rule in India lasted for a very long time and during the period a lot of things were changing in Great Britain. The society there moved from mercantile capitalism to industrial capitalism. In fact, what started as competitive industrial capitalism soon took the shape of monopoly industrial capitalism. All of this had an impact on India as well. The initial mercantile British capitalists wanted to establish trade relations with India. With industrial capitalism taking over, the interests of the British in India were also set for a change. Now, they looked upon India as a place where they can get their raw materials. The same would then be processed in the British industries and sent back to India only to be sold at a much higher price. Indians were forced to buy these finished goods.

As is obvious in this case, the changing state of the manufacturing sector

in Britain dictated the colonial policies of India. But, there is one more thing that comes to the picture here. Back then, India was a land of kings, and every land was proud of its heritage and thought itself to be different from the rest. But, in essence, all of them were the same and were bound by the Indian culture. The British were the first to realize this and used the knowledge to their advantage. They started extending their knowledge and experience gained in one region to that of the other. By making modifications along the way, they were able to make the most of their 'learning through experience' approach. It was this approach that allowed them to colonize a nation as large as India itself successfully.

### **10.3.1 Colonial rule through the changing times**

In the 17th century, the Mughals were the most powerful rulers in India. Although there were a number of other smaller kingdoms spread all over the country, the Mughals occupied a considerable portion of the Indian territory. Their army, arms, and ammunition were superior over other kings, and that is what helped them establish their presence as the strongest in the country. It was the Mughals who gave the British East India Company the right to trade in India. That was in 1600, and by the next 150 years, they began their conquests in India. One of the most significant earlier conquests was that of Robert Clive, wherein he defeated the Nawab of Bengal in the year 1757. The century that followed was a crucial one and saw Indians fighting their first war for Independence. Eventually, it was the British might which won against the natives. The year 1858 saw Queen Victoria taking up direct leadership of India. At this point, the supremacy of the East India Company was terminated. The years from 1858 to 1947 saw India under the direct governance of the British Parliament. Indeed, those were the darkest days of Indian history.

### Check your Progress – 1

Q1. What was the impact of the British Industrial Revolution on the Indian economy?

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Q2. When did the British parliament take over the governance of India?

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## 10.4 IMPACT OF BRITISH RULE ON INDIA

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If one turns the pages of Indian history, they will see that almost every aspect of Indian life went through a period of change during the colonial era. While Indian historians establish the loot of wealth and cultural identity that took place during this period, the Western ideology talks about how India came to have a specific political character during this very period. In order to do justice to this and form our own viewpoint on this, it is essential that we have a clear idea of both the views in question.

### 10.4.1 The Western Approach

The central idea of the Western approach was that the Colonial rule was beneficial for India. In their defence, at no point in Indian history did a stable political unit survive for long in this country. India is a land where the Hindus have always been the majority. Despite the basic tradition of imperial expansion, the Hindu rulers were nothing similar to their

counterparts in Egypt, China, or Rome. That is why here no empire survived even two centuries at a stretch. As a result, there was neither any persistent bureaucracy nor any continuous administrative institution. With the coming of the Colonial rulers, an Indian political unity was established. Foreign scholars believe that without it, India had very bleak chances of making it big in an industrialized world.

Another point that western writers often speak about is the low level of agricultural productivity in the period prior to the British era. India was a fertile land, but there was no worthwhile technology to make the most out of it. It was the Britishers who introduced technology to Indian agriculture and as a result of the productivity on the land increased manifold. Moreover, the Britishers introduced a number of crops to India. Today, India is a significant exporter of potato, tobacco, and peanuts. These were brought to the country during the colonial rule.

Back then, India had expert craftsmen and the textiles produced were of superior quality. However, the lack of manufacturing technology ensured that these could only be produced in small numbers. As a consequence, there was a constant dearth of goods in the market, and the prices were exorbitantly high. The British introduced the country to technology, thereby tackling the inelasticity of textile production here.

The western approach to India's colonialism believes that the British did more harm than good by bringing out stability and political unity in the nation. The public works and irrigation developed by them facilitated the growth of the manufacturing and agricultural sector, thereby promoting commercial activities. Moreover, the road, rail, and infrastructure network established by the British was a driving force in the economic development of the nation. In a nutshell, the western approach says that the British found India as an underdeveloped nation with low productivity and made it into one that was self-sufficient to a large extent.

### 10.4.2 The Indian Approach

The Indian approach had a completely different take on the impact of British rule. Their hypothesis was that the colonial rule did the nation more harm than good. Prominent nationalists raised questions on why did a company that came to have trade relations with India get involved in local wars of conquest. If India was actually as low productive as the western scholars claimed, then how did it sustain the expenditures of the East India Company? There is documentation of the fact that the East India Company came to India with a trading capital of merely 68,000. By the time the British Queen took over the governance of India in 1858 (and East India Company was dissolved), the company had made fortunes. If the Indian economy was as stagnant as claimed by western writers, then how was that possible?

These questions were raised by Indian nationalists like Romesh Chandra Dutt, Rajni Palme Dutt, and Dadabhai Naoroji and formed the basis of the Indian approach. This approach highlights the theories of de-industrialization and drains theory as the two central principles involved.

#### 10.4.2.1 The Drain Theory

The drain theory emphasizes the fact that a major part of India's economic wealth was being sent to England. For this, the country got no economic (or other) gains in return. The drain on India's economic wealth came in many forms. At times it was the profits made on British capital invested in India. At other times, it was in the form of payment of salaries of British officers posted in Indian territory or additional home charges.

The draining of economic resources of India by the British rulers was a carefully planned and gradually executed move on their part. It was in 1765 that the East India Company obtained the Dewani Rights (also known as the rights to civil administration) of the provinces of Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa. They then misused this power and introduced heavy

taxation and unfavourable trade conditions for the natives. The poor Indians could not do much about it. All the revenue remitted by the company was directed back to England. The exploitation of Indians continued well into the late eighteenth century. By then, England had gone past mercantile capitalism and was standing at the threshold of the industrial revolution. It was the emerging class of industrial capitalists who started asking for the end of company rule in India. This was the main reason for the dissolving of the mighty East India Company.

#### **10.4.2.2 De Industrialization**

When the East India Company established its trade relations with India, it was because of India's strong presence in the international market as an exporter of cotton. With the settling of British rule, India came to be an importer of cotton. Indian artisans and craftsmen suffered heavily because of this. The import of cotton from England destroyed whatever little industries that India had. The effect of this was that the next generation of artisans and craftsmen had to seek other sources of livelihood in order to support themselves and their families.

By the early 19th century, very few families in India were dependent on indigenous industries. With most of them switching to agriculture, there was an overburdening of this sector. Although this transformation harmed both the agricultural and the manufacturing industry, it was the Indian economy which was the real victim here. The cities of Surat, Murshidabad, and Dacca were the worst affected. If we are to go by statistics, as a result of this de-colonization the population of Dacca fell from 1,50,000 to 30,000 in a few years time. One of the most flourishing towns of India, Dacca fell prey to malaria, hunger, and poverty that accompany unemployment. The colonial rule was eating into the Indian economy, and Dacca was just one of the victims here.

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## **10.5 EFFECT OF THE DIFFERENT PHASES OF COLONIAL RULE ON INDIAN ECONOMY**

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Following the battle of Plassey, the East India Company took over the control of the Indian territory in the year 1757. They represented the British mercantile class. While they were busy carrying out the draining and decentralization in Indian territory, a lot of changes were taking place in Great Britain as the industrial revolution was in progress. Watt's steam engine, Arkwright's water frame, Cropton mule and Cartwright's power loom were some of the most significant technological accomplishments of this period. By then, the Bank of England had been established, and the accumulation of money from India helped in financing these technological developments.

Over time, the East India Company promoted monopolistic buying of raw material from Indian, and the finished products were exported around the globe. The conquests of the British on Indian land allowed them to levy tax and collect revenue from the common people. On the basis of the money earned as revenue in India, the British were buying Indian commodities for profitable exports and created a semi-bondage situation.

The machine-made cotton products had a drastic impact on the lives of Indian weavers. Their services were no longer needed, and many of them were forced to switch to other professions. At the same time, Indian cotton spinners were equally affected. The machine produced twist from England took away their bread and butter. The two decades between 1818 and 1836 saw a 5200 times rise in the export of cotton twist from England to India. The rapid deterioration in Indian manufacturing industries goes beyond that of cotton. Pottery, glass, paper, woollen items, and silk goods were other industries that had to bear the brunt of the same. In the last few years of the eighteenth century, the total imports from India to Britain increased from 12% to 24%. Conversely, the export figures rose from 6.4% to 9%. The British were having a favourable



balance of trade throughout the century, while India was being pushed into further economic distress.

In all fairness, the depletion of the handloom industry took place all over the world due to the industrial revolution, and India was not an exception. However, in other places, the ruin of old handloom weavers was accompanied by the growth of a new machine based industry. The people who lost their jobs here had somewhere else to go to. But that was not the case in India. The ruin of millions of artisans, weavers and craftsmen were not accompanied by the growth of any other forms of income. As a result, poverty thrived in this 'Pan-Britannica' period. Prosperous towns like Surat, Murshidabad, and Dacca, which were the hub of textile manufacturing now only saw poverty, plague, and unemployment.

The dawn of the 19th century saw a change in the phase of colonial rule. Economists say that this is a result of Merchant Capitalism and call this a phase of industrial capitalism. Here, the focus no longer remained on mere trade or revenue collection. The British were now looking for ways and means to come up with newer forms of surplus appropriation. At this stage, the colonial rulers were more interested in taking the high-quality raw materials out of Indian territory. They wanted Indians to buy the finished products being sold to them at whatever price the rulers deemed fit. Unlike in the past, now there were different forms of draining out resources from India. This shift came in order to accommodate the exploitation of India in the now industrialized Britain. It was during this phase that de-industrialization of India was at its peak. Colonial policies were specially formulated to ensure that nothing remained of India's indigenous manufacturing industries.

In the year 1857, the British East India Company lost its monopoly over India and was dissolved. This pushed the colonial rule to its last and most exploitative stage in India. The British Queen took over the direct control of the Indian territory. By then, Britain had seen an unprecedented accumulation of wealth and capital. As a result, some of it began to be

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redirected to India. With this foreign capital, India joined the bandwagon of industrialization. Jute, iron and steel industries came to be established in India. All the profits made from these industries were sent back to Britain, and the story of exploitation continued. For their business needs, the colonial rulers worked on improving the infrastructure of the country. As a result, India came to have better roads and a well-connected railway network.

Thus we see that by the end of the nineteenth century, the British had exploited India in every possible way. The nation was made to suffer through both mercantile capitalism and industrial capitalism during the different phases of colonial rule.

### Check your Progress – 2

Q3. Did India benefit from British wealth being redirected to it?

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Q4. Which Indian cities were the worst affected by the de-industrialization policies of the British?

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## 10.6 CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES DURING COLONIAL RULE

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Prior to British rule, India was an agrarian economy. Even today, agriculture continues to be the primary source of livelihood for Indians. Now it is important to realize that at any stage, the different pillars of the economy are dependent on each other. Industry develops agriculture as much as agriculture supports industries. At the onset of British rule, India

had a prosperous agricultural economy. The agrarian policies of the British were such that all of it was destroyed in a matter of years. Not only did it harm the overall economy, but it also brought untold misery in the lives of millions of rural Indians. Farmers were forced to grow indigo, a plant that brought down the productivity of their lands. Similarly, the other plantation development policies of the British government also harmed the Indian economy. From tea and coffee to jute and tobacco, each of the plantations spoke of tales of exploitation and deprivation.

### **10.6.1 The New Land Settlement Act**

Post the disintegration of the Mughal empire and the contemporary Hindu kingdoms. The British were very careful in coming up with a new Land Settlement Act. The act aimed at coming up with a collaborating class in rural India so that there would be smooth payment of land revenue to the British treasury. At the core of this act lay the idea of exploiting Indians for colonial gains.

In the year 1793, Lord Cornwallis came up with a permanent land settlement act. This act established a class of landlords in perpetuity who were known as zamindars. Under this act, fixed land revenue was established, and the zamindars were responsible for collecting the same from the peasants and handing it over to the British. For their service, the zamindars would be paid a commission. The zamindars took it upon themselves to punish the poor peasants who could not afford to pay the revenue. This system was first set up in the provinces of Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa and later extended to that of North Madras. Under this system, while the peasants suffered enormously, it was the zamindars and the British rulers who accumulated a lot of wealth.

In the year 1820, Sir Thomas Munro came up with the Ryotwari System. Under this system, there would be a direct relationship between the colonial government and the Indian cultivators. The peasants would directly settle their revenue with the government. That way, there was no

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need for an intermediate landlord in the British process of revenue collection. Another factor that sets this apart from that of Lord Cornwallis's is the fact that here the revenue would not be fixed and there would be a periodic reassessment of land revenue. The Ryotwari System of revenue collection was implemented on a trial basis in the Madras Presidency.

Across the wide horizons of the country, the British introduced different ways of revenue collection on agricultural land. At some places, there was the Ryotwari system, whereas others had the Permanent Zamindari settlement or the Temporary Zamindari settlement. In any case, landlordism became the way of life in colonial India. Not only did it deem the actual cultivators poor and homeless, but it also promoted the entering of the money lenders in the rural Indian market. This made the Indian economy worse than what it was. The intermediate and non-cultivating class of zamindars emerged powerfully, and the poor only became poorer. Throughout the years the British policies were targeted such that the beneficiaries would be the landlords (who were in favour of British rule) and the victims were the poor helpless peasants. In fact, it was the wicked agrarian policies of the colonial government that amplified the destruction of the famines of 1870 and late 1890s. The years from the mid-1910s to early 1940s saw the wealth of the secure group of Indian landlords increasing manifold.

For the agriculture of any country to develop, it is important that public works had to undergo modernization and that required funds. The funds had to be accumulated either by the farming class or given by the government. With the high land revenue imposed by the British, the peasants were left with barely left enough to feed themselves and their families. They had no means to get money for public works. The British government invested in public works only in a very limited manner. That is the main reason for agriculture being so backwards in the colonial era. The number of landless labourers increased, and most of them were in debt to moneylenders. In rare cases of British investment on public works in India (such as in the case of the canal system in Punjab),

significant improvement in agricultural income was noted. In most other places, the profitable plantation income only benefited the British royal treasury.

### **10.6.2 Commercialization of Agriculture**

In the traditional Indian setup, agricultural produce was taken to be something that was meant to feed the society and not something that is a marketable commodity. It was in the 1860s that the British government introduced the process of commercialization in Indian agriculture. Even a single agricultural product was oriented towards a market. This was a major change for the rural Indian market. The change was not thought of overnight, and there were a number of factors that led to it.

In the initial days of British rule in India, the biggest problem in mass production was the transportation and storage of the agricultural produce. Post the industrial revolution, and the British government was able to establish a good rail network across India. From a track length of a mere 288 miles in 1857, the figures grew to 30576 miles by 1908. This enabled the storage of agricultural produce from one part of India in proper granaries situated in some other location. The advancement in the railway network was one of the key factors for commercialization of Indian agriculture.

As far as the Britishers were concerned, the transfer of commodities to London was the prime motive. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1860 reduced 3000 miles in the sea route between India and England. The years between 1883 and 1886 saw a further reduction in the travel time between the two countries. The sailing vessels were now replaced by modern steamships. Not only were these ships cheaper to travel (or send commodities) in but they were considerably faster. This fostered better communication, and the British now had more incentives in orienting the agricultural produce of India towards a particular target group.

Another factor that worked in favour of this was the Civil War of

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America. The British now diverted their need for raw cotton to the colony of India. As a result, the years following 1862 saw a huge increase in the export of cotton from India. In the financial year 1859-60, the value of cotton export stood at a mere 5.6 crores. By 1864-65 the same had raised to 37.5 crores. The cumulative effect of this commercialization of agriculture resulted in the year 1906-07 witnessing a 500% increase in the total export value as compared to that of 1859-60.

Now, you would think that commercialization of this extent would have resulted in a massive growth of the Indian economy. But that was far from being true. The substitution of traditional food crops by commercial cash crops led to a massive food shortage in the country. Farmers preferred growing commercial crops like opium, indigo, cotton, and jute as those yielded more money. Farmers needed that money to be able to pay their taxes. This change in their preference was a disaster on the food chain of the country. The 1866 famine of Orissa and Bengal was a result of this.

It is to be noted that by shifting to the production of cash crops, a section of the farming population prospered. But this was only a small segment in comparison to the millions of poor farmers who now had to depend on a market for his own food requirements. The fact that the average farmer had very little access to improved technology further aggravated matters.

The reason why the commercialization of agriculture did more harm than good in India was that the whole process was superimposed by the British. The growth of the Indian economy was never at the core of such development. That is why the backward agricultural organization of the country could not gain from the process of commercialization.

### 10.6.3 Impact on Agriculture

The land revenue policies of the British were aimed at getting maximum revenue out of the Indians. They did not care about whether the peasants could afford the same or not. This resulted in a good number of farmers

giving away their land on distress sale. The same was encouraged by the British rulers. It was all a chain reaction that started from here. As the revenue collections went up, there was a decrease in the price of food grains. This increased the rural indebtedness as the low price did not allow farmers to make many gains out of their produce. Subsequently, the Indian rural economy collapsed. This created a vicious cycle of stagnation of the rural economy and the impoverishment of the peasantry.

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## **10.7 ROLE OF COLONIAL STATE**

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In 1857, after dissolving the British East India Company, Queen Victoria took over the governance of India. At that time she promised that the British Parliament would have minimal interference in Indian affairs. She further stated that the British government would protect the dignity and honour of the native Indian princes and respect their rights. History is a testament to the fact that this was far from being true. In the coming years, the colonial rulers only served the pro-British economic interests in India.

The sensitive speech by the Queen during the Proclamation of 1858 was only to seek the collaboration and support of native Indian princely states. The only motive of the Queen was to promote the interests of the British industrial capitalists. At that time, many of these capitalists were occupying important positions of power in the British parliament.

In the centuries of Colonial rule, the development of the country may be seen in the form of establishment of the Railway network. Other peripheral developments include the spread of English as a language and the popularity of English as a medium of instruction. Such was the oppression of the Britishers, that for the first time in history, India came to have a collective national identity.

The policies of the British was such that the government extended concessions and benefits to its officials who were serving in India. These were aimed at encouraging more colonial bureaucracy to take up the job

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of serving at a distant land. At the same time, the colonial policies discriminated against the locals by their highly biased tariff and excise policies. The land revenue taxation system was so insensitive that it forced the peasants even during years of famine when they were starving. This form of inhumane treatment was only aimed at making more revenues for the British royal treasury.

Somewhere along the path of colonization, India was integrated with the capitalist economy of the world. Most Indians did not even realize the change. By being a major supplier of raw cotton to the British industries, India came to become an export-oriented economy. Thus, although India was a part of the capitalist economy, it was functioning under the dictatorship of British industrial interests. This ensured that the Indian economy remained stagnant throughout the scope of British rule. The discriminatory colonial policies ensured that Indian industrialists were never given the scope to come out in the open and make profits of their own.

The scope of development of Indian capitalists came to the picture in the early 20th century. By then, the two World Wars had a major impact on the British economy. No longer was India a profitable market for the British manufacturing industries. The requirements of the Second World War made the British promote indigenous industries in India. As a result, jute, sugar, and textile industries were set up in India. Even a few chemical factories and steel plants were established. It for the first time in history that India was entering the large scale manufacturing industries.

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## 10.8 LET US SUM UP

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In short, we can say that the centuries of British rule in India were ones of exploitation and took a toll on the nation's economy. It was a series of world events like the two World Wars or the industrial revolution that created situations that made the British develop in some aspects. These



aspects may be that of infrastructure development(roads and railways) or setting up of jute and textile industries.

Despite the setting up of these industries, India was not an industrialized nation when the colonial rulers left the country in 1947. In order to be an industrialized nation, a country needs basic industries to produce heavy machine tools that support the jute and textile industries. The colonial policies were planned in a manner such that India lacked these basic things. In 1947, Indian agriculture was as stagnant as the Indian industrial sector. Low agricultural output, very poor per capita income, underdeveloped infrastructure, left India a poor country. The low level of human skills did nothing to improve matters. Thus, as you can see, the western writers' belief that colonial rule motorized the Indian economy is a shallow claim.

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## **10.9 KEYWORDS**

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- **Favourable balance of trade:** Favourable balance of trade is a condition where the amount of exports exceeds that of imports.
- **Per capita income:** Per capita income is the total income per head. This is computed by taking the total income of a place or region and then dividing the value by the total population of the place.
- **Foreign capital:** The capital acquired from outside the nation in question is a nation's foreign capital. The same may either be obtained from some other nation or from a transnational firm. The capital in question may be in the form of money or other resources.
- **De-industrialization:** A series of carefully crafted policies of the British government which resulted in the gradual destruction of the indigenous industries of India.
- **Zamindar system:** A colonial policy wherein some Indians were appointed as landlords or zamindars by the British government. These people acted as the intermediate between the Colonial rulers and the Indian working class.

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### 10.10 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- Write a note on the state of Indian agriculture prior to the British rule.
- What was the effect of de-industrialization on the life of Indian artisans?
- How did the merchant capitalist phase of colonial life affect Indian economy?
- Which basic agrarian policies of the British government damaged the Indian agricultural economy?
- Write a note on commercialization of agriculture in colonial India

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### 10.11 SUGGESTED READINGS

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- A People's History of India: 1858 – 1914 by Irfan Habib
- Economic History of Modern India – S. N. Pandey
- British Rule in India – Pandit Sunderlal

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### 10.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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- The British Industrial Revolution changed their trading relations with India. In the 1600s, when they established their trading relations with India, it was pure trading. With the industrial revolution taking place, the 'give and take' policy was done away with. The British started buying raw materials from India at a very low price. The same was shipped to Britain where industries made finished products out of them. The finished goods were sent back to India, and natives were forced to buy the same at a very heavy price. This ensured that British industries thrived and Indian handicrafts died a slow death. (Check your Progress 1 – Q1)

- In the year 1958, the British Parliament took over the supreme command of India. The nation came to be a direct colony of the British and Queen Victoria was the monarch of India then. (Check your Progress 1 – Q2)
- It is important to realize that the British redirected their wealth to India only after a significant wealth accumulation on their part. At this point, they invested in the industrialization of India and set up iron and steel plants. Jute and sugar mills were also established. Manufacturing industries to make goods out of cotton (a raw material grown in bulk in Indian soil) was deliberately avoided. To the British, these industries were mere investments. Whatever profit was made from them was not shared with the Indians. For the smooth functioning of these industries, good rail and road connectivity was necessary, and that is why the British established those. (Check your Progress 2 – Q1)
- Prior to the British rule, the Indian cities of Dacca, Surat, and Murshidabad were centres of manufacturing industries. These cities were highly prosperous during that time. Post the de-industrialization policies of the British, these were reduced to nothing more than a hub of poverty and unemployment. (Check your Progress 2 - Q2)

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# **UNIT -11 FOREST AND AGRARIAN TRANSITIONS IN THE COLONIAL REGIME**

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## **STRUCTURE**

11.0 Objectives

11.1 Introduction

11.2 Forest Policy during Colonial Period

11.2.1 Forest Policy, 1855

11.2.2 Indian Forest Act, 1865

11.2.3 The Forest Act, 1878

11.2.4 National Forest Policy, 1894

11.2.5 Indian Forest Act, 1927

11.3 Impact of British Rule in Eastern India

11.3.1 Permanent Settlement

11.3.2 Transfer of Zamindari Rights

11.3.3 Indebtedness and Alienation of Land

11.3.4 Tenancy

11.3.5 Tenancy Acts

11.4 Impact in Northern and Central India

11.4.1 Impact of Land Revenue System

11.4.2 Land Transfers

11.4.3 Landholding Structure and Tenancy

11.5 Impact of British Rule in Western India

11.5.1 Changes in Agrarian Society

11.5.2 Stratification

11.5.3 Tenancy

11.6 Impact of British Rule in South India

11.6.1 Changes in Agrarian Structure

11.6.2 Tenancy

11.7 Agricultural Labourers

11.8 Let Us Sum Up

11.9 Keywords

11.10 Questions for Review

11.11 Suggested Readings

11.12 Answers to Check your Progress

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## 11.0 OBJECTIVES

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Once you go through this unit, you should be able to understand the following:

- about the evolution of colonial forestry and the various forest policies during the colonial period.
- regional variations in landed property relations during British Rule;
- the impact of British rule on the village economic system; and
- the poor agricultural growth during the colonial regime.

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## 11.1 INTRODUCTION

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During the British rule, there was widespread destruction of village communities, the formation of the land market, rising rents, indebtedness, formation of layers of intermediaries, frequent famines and impoverishment of the population as a result of some direct and indirect influences of British rule.

There is a subtle difference between ‘agrarian relations’ and ‘land relations.’ Agrarian relation is a much broader term and includes credit and marketing facilities apart from land relations. On the other hand, land relation depicts the land tenure system and ownership. As there were considerable variations in the land tenure system across regions we bring out the essential features of this regime at a regional level.

In the constitution of India, ‘forestry’ appears on the ‘concurrent list’ meaning that both federal, as well as state governments, have control over forestry activities but the federal government, as a policy-making body, has overriding authority. However, management authority is with the state governments. The organizational structure and operating

procedures of the state Forest Departments, as lineal descendants of the colonial system of management, are almost similar in all the states of India.

Conservation of forests had been an integral part of the Vedic tradition of India as early as 300 BC. The Maurya kingdom recognized the importance of forests, and the first emperor of the dynasty, Chandragupta, appointed an officer to look after the forests. The forest policy is a complex balance between economic, social, and political objectives in an environment where the forests and the institutions continuously change. The forest policy in India changed over some time. The arrival of British and their perception about forest resources created enormous change in the forest cover, forest resources, and the rights of tribal people in India. The forest management and conservation practices in India are dissimilar in a different period, and it is primarily divided into two periods namely (i) colonial and (ii) post-colonial period for analysing the changes generally in the forest sector and particularly in forest management for preventing the atmospheric concentration of GHGs, especially CO<sub>2</sub>. The forest policy discussions include a variety of topics like timber supply, sale and pricing, forest taxation, international trade, forest management standards, carbon sequestration, deforestation, forest ownership, property rights and policy reforms.

In this Unit, we will discuss the agrarian relations as well as the forest policies during the colonial rule in India.

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## **11.2 FOREST POLICY DURING COLONIAL PERIOD**

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During colonial rule in India, the forest policy gave much importance to the exploitation of forest resources without concerning conservation. The colonial powers assumed the ownership and this period records a march towards centralization, and the forests came under the control of the state. Huge quantity of natural resources was exploited in the name of development. However, the reality behind this was commercial

exploitation by the state. The colonial British Administration realized the international demand for timber and potential monetary benefits from the forests, strict rules were enforced by a compulsion to bring all these forests under the state control.

The overexploitation of forest resources during the British Administration marked a new phase in the use of forest produce in India. Most of the policies during the colonial period have a custodial attitude, and they gave much importance to the forests than the dependent people. Between 1800 and 1947, India witnessed rigorous policy interventions in forest management, and there was much debate within the colonial bureaucracy on the subject of forest versus people. Since 1855, the establishment of railway network required large quantities of wood for sleepers and low-cost engine fuel, and the expansion of railways and deforestation positively related.

### **11.2.1 Forest Policy, 1855**

In 1855, Lord Dalhousie framed the Forest Charter, which leads regulation of wasteland by changing its status into government property in India. It was treated as a key intellectual transition of legal rights of wasteland, which leads to forest conservation in the later period. The Forest Charter of 1855 put the Indian forestry on a solid scientific basis which introduced new environmental interventions which were paternalistic, radical and previously untried. These forest initiatives, born in India, spread to other British colonies and the United States of America. Lord Dalhousie's new forest policies greatly expanded British authority over the land and people of India. British India's forest administrators feared the potential long-term environmental, economic and climatic effects of deforestation caused by indiscriminate logging which convinced Dalhousie to support modern scientific forestry methods and conservation.

### **11.2.2 Indian Forest Act, 1865**

The organized forestry activity began in 1864 when the Imperial Forest Department was established in India. The Imperial Forest Department attempted to establish its control over forests, by various legislations with the help of German Forester Dietrich Brandis, who was brought to look into the process of forest resource management in India (Mishra, 1999). The Indian Forest Act, 1865 was legislated to assert state monopoly on forest resources. Brandis argued about the influence of forest on climate, rainfall, and irrigation sources as a strong tool to the imposition of state control over forests. The property rights regime changed with the first Forest Policy Statement of Colonial British Government. In India, British rulers transformed the indigenous decentralized forest management systems into a centralized system, created a bureaucratic agency, Forest Department (FD) to meet their timber and revenue demands. The bureaucratic structure of the FD with its hierarchical working practices, though non-responsive to societal needs, was in line with the colonial government's requirements (Kumar and Kant, 2005). The Indian Forest Act, 1865 was declared the British Administration's monopoly over the forests of India.

### **11.2.3 The Forest Act, 1878**

In India, by the Forest Act of 1878, the British Administration also acquired the sovereignty of all the wastelands which by definition included forests. This Act also authorized the administration to demarcate reserved and protected forests. The local rights were refused in the case of protected forests while some privileges which were given to the local people by the government, which can be taken away are anytime. This Act classified the forests into three – reserved forests, protected forests and village forests. It was attempted to regulate the collection of forest produce by forest dwellers, and some activities declared as offence and imprisonment and fines were imposed in this policy to establish the state control over forests.

### **11.2.4 National Forest Policy, 1894**



The Forest Policy 1894, the first formal policy in India gave much importance to commercial exploitation of forest products, state custodianship, and permanent cultivation. This policy is primarily based on Dr Voelcker's recommendations given in a report on 'Improvement of Indian Agriculture,' 1893. Through this policy, the British Administration encouraged the Zamindars to convert the open forests into agricultural land for enhancing the revenue earning of the state. Forests are treated as a source of revenue to the state and not to meet the needs of the people.

In this policy, the forests were divided into four classes. The first-class generally situated in hill slopes and essential to protecting the cultivated plains from landslides, and they played a conservation role for the benefit of cultivated plains and assured revenue to the state. The second class of forests consisted of valuable timber trees like Devadharu (*Cedrus deodara*), sal (*Shorea robusta*) and teak (*Tectona grandis*), and due to commercial interest natural regeneration of Devadharu and Sal are promoted, and artificial regeneration of teak was developed. The third class of forests as per the classification under this policy meant for minor forests, which yields low-quality timber, fuelwood and fodder and for meeting the demands of local people. Finally, the fourth class covered the pastures and grazing lands; the local people were allowed to use them with restrictions.

### **11.2.5 Indian Forest Act, 1927**

This Act impacted the life of forest-dependent communities. The penalties and procedures given in this Act aimed to extend the state's control over forests as well as diminishing the status of people's rights to forest use. The village communities were alienated from their age-old symbiotic association with forests. Further amendments were also made to restrain the local use of forests mainly by forest-dependent communities.

The people's interests were made subservient to the state's commercial interests about forests in the colonial period. Colonial forest management paid much attention to the maximum output of quality timber for export

## Notes

and sleepers for expanding railways. British Administration used to project from the fear of deforestation on the climate and irrigation to extend state control over the forest, and they never gave due importance to the climatic impact of deforestation. They performed effective destruction of forests on the one hand and talking about the preservation of forests on the other and continuously focused the forest dwellers as destroyers. It is acknowledged the fact that the British initially destroyed forests and subsequently implemented policies for forest conservation.

### Check Your Progress-1

Q1. What happened because of the forest policies during the British colonial rule in India?

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Q2. Name all the forest policies during the British colonial rule in India.

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## 11.3 IMPACT OF BRITISH RULE IN EASTERN INDIA

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The East India Company took over the Dewani (financial rights) of Bengal, Bihar, and parts of Orissa in the year 1765. Immediate interest of the company was to collect the maximum amount of income in the quickest possible time. The company required a large amount of money to (a) finance trade and commerce, and (b) maintain the army for strengthening and expansion of the rule. To realize the higher land revenue, the zamindari was auctioned to the highest bidders. The policy of maximizing land revenue altered the composition of landed society.

Many old zamindars could not compete in the race. The highest bidders at the public auction in many cases were people who made fortunes through their association with the new administration and the participation in modern trade and commerce. The peasants were robbed by these zamindars, to pay up the company's dues, and were often forced to flee. This reckless process, which continued till the permanent settlement, frequently resulted in famines, loss of human life and large areas of land were rendered as waste. From 1765 to 1793, the revenue demand of the company nearly doubled.

### **11.3.1 Permanent Settlement**

The Permanent Settlement of 1793, in Bengal and Bihar, besides declaring the zamindars' proprietors of the soil', fixed their dues forever to the state. It was argued that this would ensure not only the security of revenue but also the prosperity of the company's commerce. Thriving commerce was the vital need of the British, and agriculture provided a variety of goods for export. It was more critical also because that was the time of the commencement of the Industrial Revolution in Britain. It was thought that the creation of private property in land would create the right conditions for investment in agriculture. Landed property would acquire value and the significant capital possessed by many natives in Calcutta, which they were employed in banking, or monopolizing salt, or other necessities of life would be appropriated to the more useful purpose of purchasing and improving lands. Moreover, the creation of a class of loyal supporters (zamindars) for the stability of British rule was another important objective.

However, their expectations were only partially fulfilled. As far as the creation of a class of loyal supporters is concerned, the British substantially succeeded in it. But zamindars, new as well as old, failed to become agrarian capitalists and preferred to remain federal landlords. The capital was invested not for agricultural development but for the purchasing of land. Moreover, in due course of time, a long chain of intermediaries cropped up between the state and the tiller. The Zamindars

were expected to pay a fixed sum as revenue to the government. This revenue amounted to 90 per cent of the rent collected by the zamindars in 1793. However, with an increase in prices, the value of money eroded. The state lost because its revenues in terms of payment were permanently fixed while the amount of money had drastically fallen. The peasant lost because rents were not regulated, and the increased value of agricultural produce was transferred to the hand of the zamindars and intermediaries.

The Bengal model was, however, not replicated in parts of Orissa and Assam. It was realized that the freezing of the land revenue demand, which constituted by far the most important source of the government income at that time would be sheer folly.

Both in Orissa and Assam settlements were temporary, and the revenue demand was increased from time to time. In Orissa, between 1805 and 1897, land revenue of the government increased by 93 per cent. But in Assam, the peasants surrendered to the state a more significant proportion of their total agricultural output than peasants in other parts of eastern India. Since the British had their distinct professional army, and an elaborate administrative bureaucracy, the labour services of the *paiks* became redundant (see unit 1). The *paiks* were given a cash tribute, which was quite high as compared to the nominal taxon *Paik's* land during Ahom rule. Moreover, the old Assamese aristocracy, to which the Ahom king trusted the defence of the state and a large part of the administration, also became superfluous under the new system. Their revenue-free estates were gradually confiscated.

### 11.3.2 Transfer of Zamindari Rights

As we know, the high land revenue demand, especially during the early British period, and the unprecedented rigour in its collection, created serious difficulties for many zamindars, which led to the ruin of their estates. Moneyed persons were interested in buying these, and a market in land gradually developed. In addition to selling property, zamindars also leased out portions of their zamindaris, thus creating further layers of intermediaries between the state and actual cultivators.

### 11.3.3 Indebtedness and Alienation of Land

Whatever was the condition before British rule, the pervasiveness of rural debt the British government remains an indisputable fact? Rural credit provided two sources of control: the dependence of a considerable number of peasants on a regular supply of credit, eventually involving surrender by them of a large part of their produce to the creditors, and the acquisition by creditors of the lands of defaulting peasants.

An important source of peasants' miseries was their undefined rent relations with zamindars, who abused their legal powers towards increasing their rental income. There was an increase in the cultivation of cash crops such as indigo, opium, and jute, during British rule. However, it contributed to the growth of rural indebtedness.

Unremunerative indigo cultivation was forced mainly on the cultivators by European planters through various devices. Opium cultivation, though not always forced, was vulnerable to the fluctuations of weather which resulted in frequent losses and indebtedness of the peasants. The cultivators of jute usually borrowed money from money lenders and jute traders, and, in return, surrendered part or whole of their crops to the creditors, at lower prices. This affected them adversely, thus perpetuating their indebtedness. The sudden slump in jute prices also affected them adversely, thus increasing their dependence on moneylenders. Indebtedness of the peasants resulted in *distress sale* of land holdings, and such sales increased in number over the years. Indebtedness and certain other factors converted the peasants into agricultural labourers.

### 11.3.4 Tenancy

The peasants who thus lost land were not necessarily driven out of the land, except where the new owners cultivated them directly with hired labourers. The old peasants many a time cultivated their sold plots on a crop sharing basis. The share-cropping (*barga*) The system did not result from rural credit relations alone, though its growth was considerably due to these. The *barga* system also prevailed where the owners, for various

reasons, we're unable to organise the cultivation of their lands. Some owners preferred the *barga* system where this ensured an increased rental income. Because of increased demand for land by the peasants, share-cropping became more.

### 11.3.5 Tenancy Acts

With the Permanent Settlement, the zamindars acquired exclusive property rights inland. Moreover, the entry of new zamindars destroyed all the customary rights of the peasants. The zamindars who bought the zamindari estates were trying to obtain a maximum return for their investments. To get the maximum out of the peasantry, they committed such excesses that the government was forced at times to intervene to stop a possible revolt. Two major tenancy acts were enacted in Bengal after the Permanent Settlement: the Rent Act of 1859 and the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, which was amended several times in the 1920s and 1930s. The tenancy act put some restrictions on the rights of the landlords to check the excesses committed by them.

Under the tenancy act, occupancy rights were conferred on those ryots and underryots who had been in possession of any land for twelve consecutive years. The 'occupancy rights' of a ryot or an under-ryot also included rights of inheritance, transfer, and mortgage. The occupancy ryot could not be rejected right away by the landlord even for non-payment of rent. However, the court could sell his land for failure to pay rents. Rents of these tenants could be enhanced only under certain specified conditions.

Such occupancy ryots did not necessarily cultivate their holdings on their own and many of them, especially some big ryots, further leased out their lands to the tenants and sharecroppers rarely having any tenancy rights (non-occupancy tenants). One of the motives of the big ryots behind subletting their holdings was the considerable margin between the rent that the non-occupancy-tenants paid and the one they themselves paid. There was no legal protection against an increase of rent of these non-

occupancy tenants and sharecroppers by the occupancy tenants. By the year 1940, as many as one-third of peasants households, were constituted of such inferior tenants, cultivating as much as one-fifth to one-fourth of all land.

**Check Your Progress-2**

Q3. What changes took place before the Permanent Settlement of 1793?

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Q4. What were the two major tenancy acts enacted in Bengal after the Permanent Settlement?

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## **11.4 IMPACT IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL INDIA**

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In Northern India, there was an intermixing of various kinds of revenue systems. Both zamindari and Mahalwari systems were introduced in this region. Initially, it was Bengal type permanent settlement that was favoured, but later, after 1811, considerations of enhancement of revenue led to the abandonment of fixed revenue system. So even in the case of zamindari areas only a small proportion was under the permanent settlement, the rest were settled temporarily. In Punjab and parts of United Provinces, Mahalwari system was introduced where the unit of assessment was the village and payment of revenue became the joint responsibility of the proprietary village body. Each individual cultivator contributed his share in the revenue. Initially, the burden of revenue was very heavy. The British laid claim to about 85 per cent of the rental. In principle, it was reduced to two-thirds after 1833 and to one-half after

1855. But in actual practice, this principle was not adhered to in the central parts of India, in the early decades of British rule, heavy assessments were the rule. They assessed the lands too high, demanded impossible revenue, and impoverished the people. The mistake was realized at a later date and was condemned in the strongest terms.

It was only in 1834 that a long settlement for twenty years was concluded in these territories, which was allowed to continue till the early 1860s. Under the new settlement of 1864, which was introduced in the Central Provinces, malaguzars or revenue-payers was recognized as the proprietors of the soil with a right to sell or mortgage their property. Tenancy rights were conferred on the cultivators. In principle, it was decided that the land revenue would be limited to one-half of the rental of estates. But the principle was not adhered to when the assessments were made. Settlement officers did not accept the actual rental of estates. They estimated what the rental should be from their own calculations, and based the land revenue demand on those estimated rentals. Thus, the rental considered as the basis of assessment was higher than the actual rents received by the landowners. As a result, land revenue demanded was higher than 50 per cent of the actual rental.

### **11.4.1 Impact of Land Revenue System**

We noticed that land revenue was to be paid in cash, not in kind. Secondly, the amount of revenue was kept fixed for a period of twenty or thirty years, under the permanent settlement. Consequently, the revenue of the state did not increase. On the other hand, the payment of revenue in cash generated pressure on the cultivators.

They were forced to produce cash crops like indigo, sugarcane, and wheat. Moreover, they had to borrow money for the payment of tax. Sometimes they took advance from the village moneylender. Everywhere the local grain dealer-cum-moneylender, who was in some cases also the village accountant (patwari), found his position strengthened.



The cultivator was moved more by his immediate cash requirements to meet revenue and rent instalment and to pay marriage expenses rather than by the mere prospect of higher profits from valuable crops. In fact, the profits tended to make their way into the middleman's pocket. In the Shahjahanpur district, the fatal effects of accepting the inducement of urban *Khandsaris* or sugar factories became so notorious that the Chandel Rajputs inhabiting the Ramganga tract in the Khundur pargana refused to grow sugarcane rather than risk the loss of their independence and proprietary title to alien creditors.

### 11.4.2 Land Transfers

With the introduction of transferable proprietary rights inland, the land sales increased. The Board of Revenue on revenue administration of North West Province commented in 1854. "In no country in the world probably do landed tenures so certainly, constantly and extensively change hands. These mutations are affecting a rapid and complete revolution in the position of the ancient proprietors of the soil." Behind this alienation and mortgage of land lay the much larger problem of indebtedness. It was estimated that 10 per cent of agricultural land had already passed into the hands of what district officers termed 'the wily *Mahajan* and sleek, impassive *bania*.' Yet official opinion remained opposed to any tampering with free trade in the land. It was because of the realization that legislative interference might seriously upset the provision of rural credit and jeopardize the security of the land revenue.

Similarly, in the districts of Central Provinces, by the time of the 1864 Settlement, almost the whole of the profits was taken away by the moneylenders. While mortgage was growing rapidly, decrees were being carried out through the civil courts in the 1870s. Continuous transfer of land from cultivators to moneylenders prompted legislation in the shape of Bundelkhand Alienation Act of 1903. But despite the Alienation Act the professional moneylenders in Bundelkhand remained a permanent part of the rural scene and sustained their hold over peasants. These moneylenders-cum-traders were more interested in rent-receiving or in

controlling the disposal of peasant grown cash crops than indirectly engaging in agriculture. So the introduction of legal private property rights in land tended to lengthen the claim of intermediaries above the actual cultivator and left the peasant-based small scale traditional cultivation intact. British hopes of the emergence of capitalist agriculture, which would take benefits of economies of scale, did not materialize.

### **11.4.3 Landholding Structure and Tenancy**

The picture presented by the Zamindari Abolition Committee's report of 1948 was a startling one. In North-Western Provinces, the landholding structure was such that the greater part of the land was held by a relatively small group of large landholders. Altogether a mere handful of zamindars, just 1.3 per cent of the total population held more than half of the land. Yet it must be remembered that a large proportion of such 'estates.' Had no physical existence as larger local landholdings but were simply bundles of rent collecting rights over scattered parcels of land. Thus a large part of the land in this region was cultivated by one or the other type of tenants. Similarly, in Punjab, just 3.5 per cent of the total landowners owning above 50 acres of land owned more than one-fourth of the total area in 1924. By 1939 their proportion in total landowners came down to 2.4 per cent, but area owned increased to 38 per cent. Invariably these bigger owners in Punjab were leasing out their lands to the tenants.

This is also borne by the fact that in 1924 around 120,900 owners owned more than 50 acres of land whereas only 20,000 cultivated more than 50 acres. In Punjab, which was generally considered as the land of peasant proprietors, between 1891-92 and 1939-40, the area cultivated by the tenants increased from 10.6 million acres to 17.8 million acres whereas its proportion in the total cultivated area increased from around 46 per cent to 57 per cent (a total cultivated area also increased from 23.1 million acres to 31.2 million acres during this period). Around 85 per cent of all the 'tenants at will' was without any security of tenure, and they were normally paying very high rents.

**Check your progress-3**

Q5. What was the impact of the land revenue system in Northern and Central India?

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Q6. What scenario was presented by the Zamindari Abolition Committee's report of 1948?

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## **11.5 IMPACT OF BRITISH RULE IN WESTERN INDIA**

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The system of revenue collection adopted in this part was the ryotwari system. The settlement was normally for a fixed period of 30 years, which meant that the revenue demand could be enhanced after that period. Under the *ryotwari* settlement, the *ryoti* cultivator is directly under the state. He is recognized as proprietor and can sublet, mortgage or transfer by gift or sale his plot of land. He cannot be ejected so long as he pays the revenue, which is fixed. With the introduction of new land revenue system in Western India, the *miras* and *upart* tenures were merged, and the occupant of the land had the same rights irrespective of their earlier status. The ancestral village and higher officials (*patils*, *desais* and *desmukhs*) were prohibited from the collection of customary perquisites from people. In addition to this, exclusion of these hereditary officials from revenue administration also tended to lower their independence.

### 11.5.1 Changes in Agrarian Society

In the 1860s the American Civil War had stimulated the international demand for Indian cotton (which was earlier fulfilled by North America) and significant investments in railways and irrigation also facilitated exports. During this period, there was a sharp rise in the prices of agricultural commodities, especially of cotton. The first to benefit from the boom were the traders and moneylenders, but cultivators also got some benefit. But new settlements were due in many districts in the late 1860s. Based on prevailing high prices, the new settlements of land revenue raised the assessment.

Between 1856-57 and 1870-71, the total revenue of the Bombay Presidency went up by 37 per cent (and by a further 18 per cent by 1890). Prices began to decline after 1870 and by 1876 many agricultural prices had fallen to 1860 level. Thus it became difficult for the ryots to pay the increased revenue and they went to the moneylenders for loans. Increasing indebtedness of the cultivators culminated in the Deccan riots in 1875 against moneylenders.

In addition to massive land revenue demand, the new legal system had also given the village moneylender more freedom. As we know from the previous unit, during the Maratha rule, the moneylenders knew that the government would not support them if they tried to confiscate peasant's land for recovery of debt. But the British courts were much more rigid in enforcing the land transfer, and the cultivators were often ignorant of the new laws.

But what the moneylenders were interested in, was control of the crops, and the trade. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the moneylenders controlled nearly all the internal trade in both grains and cotton in the Deccan. Their main interest was to preserve this control through advancing loans to the peasants who were required to sell their crops to them at a much lower price than prevailing market prices. However, not only the banias but the prosperous members of the traditional cultivating

castes, the kunbis, also took to moneylending. These agriculturist moneylenders had a much higher appetite for land than the mercantile castes and possibly the land transfers in favour of the *kunbis* may have been of greater importance than transfers to traditional moneylenders. In 1930, it was reported that only 29 per cent of the peasants in Konkan was free from debt, and in the north Konkan much of the land held by peasants had passed into the hands of creditors, whether professional moneylenders or large peasants.

### **11.5.2 Stratification**

There was a rise of the prosperous peasantry and increasing stratification of the peasantry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The cultivation of the cash crops such as tobacco, groundnut, sugarcane, and cotton expanded. The small section of the cultivators who had a surplus to market made enormous profits and invested them back into agriculture mainly into irrigation. They also bought carts, and instead of handing over their grain to the local shahukar at his price, they could seek better markets. These rich farmers, who had been able to seize the new market opportunities, often replaced the traditional moneylenders as sources of credit in the village. These commercialized agriculturists also commonly purchased the land of small cultivators, who were often in massive debt. Data collected for the Royal Commission on Agriculture showed that in 1924-25, 86 per cent of the total cultivated area was held by large owners each having more than 25 acres and they formed just 12 per cent of the total landowners.

### **11.5.3 Tenancy**

There were landlords and tenants in south Konkan, north Kanara and *inam* lands in the Deccan even before the British period. But there appears to have been significant growth in the number of tenants, especially from the 1880s onwards. Many former revenue officials and moneylenders were leasing out their land to the tenants.

## Notes

It seems that well-to-do owner cultivators started withdrawing from cultivation and leased out their land during the first half of the twentieth century. In Gujarat land owned by non-cultivating holders increased from 24 per cent to 30 per cent of the agricultural area between 1916-17 and 1942-43 while their number rose from 65,000 to 1,01,000.

Most of these tenants were tenants-at-will. The majority of tenants in Maharashtra paid in kind; the general rate was half the crop, with the landlord paying the land revenue. This system was particularly advantageous to the landlords when prices were rising.

### Check your progress-4

Q7. What was the ryotwari system of revenue collection in Western India?

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Q8. Explain the role played by the moneylenders in Western India during the unstable economic period after the American Civil War.

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## 11.6 IMPACT OF BRITISH RULE IN SOUTH INDIA

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The first half of the 19th century was a period of experimentation with methods of collecting land revenue. As the British rule was extended over South India, they were faced with the question of whom to settle with for the land revenue.

Revenue was taken directly from individual cultivators and contracts were made with intermediaries. In general, the policy adopted was that, for the sake of political stability, there should be a minimum disturbance of traditional rights. However, the British did not always uphold this principle.

Initially in individual districts ryotwari settlements were introduced. But soon after the introduction of Permanent Settlement in Bengal, similar arrangements were made in individual districts of Madras Presidency. The land revenue was fixed in perpetuity, the zamindaris were made both inheritable and transferable, and uncultivated land were given to the zamindars tax-free. The zamindars were a diversified group. Some claimed descent from kings or military chieftains, others from tax officials. Others were new men who had bought estates. The zamindaris were varied in size. Some were enormous, sometimes covering almost the whole of a district while others consisted of just a few villages. Though the land revenue and tenure in this part of India was basically ryotwari, by 1830 over a third of the Presidency was under the zamindari system. After that, the area under zamindari declined. Whenever zamindars were unable to pay the revenue as demanded, the government confiscated their estates and converted them to ryotwari. But even then around one-fourth of the area remained under the zamindari system until the 1940s.

In this part of India, the division of rights between the peasants and the zamindars remained undefined. It appears that the peasants of the southern zamindaris were, in general, more secure than those in northern zamindaris. When the Permanent the settlement was introduced, it was assumed that the zamindars would collect half the gross produce and pay two-thirds of that to the government in cash, retaining one-third for the expenses of his revenue establishment and his income. But the actual collection from the peasants was much higher than this.

For some time the land revenue collection from the villages in most areas was contracted out to middlemen, who might be former rent collectors or the leading cultivators of the town, or in some cases, speculators with little experience of the revenue system.

These leases were initially to last for three or five years followed by decennial leases. But by 1822, it was decided that the ryotwari system should be introduced in all the non-zamindari areas, as and when the village leases expired. Under the ryotwari system, in principle, the land revenue was generally fixed at half the gross produce on unirrigated lands and three-fifths on irrigated lands. Besides the land revenue and the amounts officially set aside for community purposes and village officials, there was unrecorded plunder by revenue officials. The cultivator was thus often left with very little.

### **11.6.1 Changes in Agrarian Structure**

During the latter half of the nineteenth century, the area under cultivation increased faster than the population. Large irrigation works were completed on the Godavari and the Krishna. The cultivation of cotton, groundnut, and oilseeds increased. The building of roads and railways facilitated trade. Between 1881-82 and 1915-16, price of gains rose by 100 per cent or even more. The terms of trade moved in favour of agriculture. The burden of land revenue fell. The cultivator was able to invest in inland progress was rapid in some of the regions, notably the Krishna-Godavari delta. It led to a tremendous increase in the prices of land. In one village, Peddapadu in the East Godavari, N.G. Ranga calculated in 1926 that the price of fertile land had risen from Rs. 40 to Rs. 1500 per acre in sixty years. The real income of the village had increased by 250 per cent during the same period. The rich peasants widened the sphere of their activities and invested in rice mills, mica, and other industries. They also extended their money lending business and went into banking.



But the depression of the 1930s hit both the rich as well as the poor. Agricultural prices and employment fell sharply. Payment of fixed revenue became difficult. It was difficult for farmers to pay back their loans. Grain looting and attacks on rich moneylenders and landlords were symptoms of widespread agrarian distress. The rural economy, as a whole, grew much poorer in the 1930s. Moreover, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the population was growing faster than agricultural output. Until 1916 or so, the increase in agricultural output probably managed to match the increase in population; from then on the two diverged. Foodgrains output per head was 30 per cent lower in 1946 than in 1916.

Indebtedness of rural population increased during the 19th century. The same trend continued during the early 20th century, and during the Great Depression; the burden of debt became so pressing that the government was forced to take action. The debt conciliation boards as set up by the government during the depression scaled-down debts in some cases, but over the 1930s, the volume of debt rose further. It was only during the Second World War, when agricultural prices rose sharply, that, probably, there was a fall in the real burden of debt.

### **11.6.2 Tenancy**

According to Dharma Kumar, there is little evidence regarding the growth of tenancy during British rule. The most common arrangement was sharecropping, and the tenant commonly got the half of the crop on drylands, but his share could be less on fertile, irrigated lands ranging from one-third to one-fourth of the crop. The tenants' share also depended on input sharing arrangements. Generally, the landlord used to pay the land revenue and made substantial repairs to well and water channels. The tenant provided the manure. The quantities of manure per acre and the number of manuring were occasionally prescribed. Usually, the leases were oral but were continued for long periods. Tenants in ryotwari areas had no legal standing, and they being a weak party, tenancy disputes were rare. Whether because of the relative infrequency of tenancy disputes or because of an implicit assumption that tenancy

could not be a problem under a system of 'peasant proprietorship' like ryotwari, hardly any measures were taken in Madras presidency to protect tenants.

### Check your progress -5

Q9. Explain indebtedness in South India in the context of the depression of the 1930s?

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## 11.7 AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

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In the traditional village economy of pre-British India, the small cultivator was the focal point, and there was no scope for a distinct class of persons working solely as agricultural labourers on the lands of others. The absence of such a separate category of farming labourers is also strikingly borne out by the fact that none of the accounts, which contain a detailed list of the traditional occupations in Indian village communities refers to agricultural labour as the sole occupation of a sizeable part of the population. In sharp contrast to this, the 1931 census figure shows that nearly 38 per cent of the entire agricultural population was composed of landless agricultural labourers. This reveals that the structure of the traditional Indian agrarian society had undergone a great transformation under British rule.

The number and proportion of agricultural labourers had not been evenly spread the country. In Bombay, Madras and Central provinces their proportion was more than half of the total agrarian population in 1931. It was 58 per cent in Bombay, 53 per cent in Madras and 52 per cent in Central Provinces. S.J. Patel calls this Southern Triangle of India as the 'land of the landless labourers.' The second region, where the proportion of agricultural labourers to the total agricultural working population was between 22 to 35 per cent, comprises Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and Assam,

i.e., eastern India. Separately, their proportion was 35 per cent in Bihar and Orissa, 33 per cent in Bengal and 22 per cent in Assam (including plantation workers).

The third region comprises those areas where the proportion of agricultural labourers the total agrarian population was still lower, i.e., less than 20 per cent in 1931. The United Provinces (22 per cent), Punjab (14 per cent), North-West Frontier Province (18 per cent) were in this region.

The tremendous increase in the proportion of agricultural workers was the result of an immense social and economic transformation that went on in India during the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries. A significant change which took place during the nineteenth century was in the organization of village communities. The agrarian society of India, before British Rule, was founded on the integrated units of cultivation and handicrafts.

Groups of cultivators and artisans, supplementing each other's needs, lived together in substantially self-sufficient village communities. The cultivators and the artisans lived together for centuries based on traditional arrangements regulating the exchange of the cultivators' products and the artisans' services. Each cultivator carried on the cultivation of his farm with the assistance of his family. In such a society, there was no room for the existence of an independent and distinct class of agricultural labourers whose primary source of livelihood was work on the land of others for which they received wages in kind or cash. During the 19th century, the village communities were confronted with economic, social, and political changes of a far-reaching character, which served ultimately to bring about their disintegration.

One of the reasons for their disintegration was the decline of domestic industries. With the Industrial Revolution in England, exports of British manufactured goods to India rose sharply. The construction of a network of railways during the latter half of the 19th Century further stimulated it. The net result was a decline of handicrafts in India without being

compensated by modern industrialization. Many artisans left their earlier profession and became agricultural labourers. As we have already noted earlier, with the introduction of new land revenue system, private property in land was strengthened and free alienation of land also granted. Further, under the new land revenue system, government revenue was a fixed amount, irrespective of crop output, and was to be paid in cash.

Thus during periods of bad crops or low prices, the peasants were forced to borrow from moneylenders to pay the land revenue. Once in the clutches of moneylenders, they were rarely able to free themselves from debt, and the result invariably was mortgage or sale of land. This, in addition to commercialization, led to the proletarianization of some poor peasants and concentration of land with few resourceful rich peasants who later on employed the landless on their farms. Thus the decline of domestic industries and the disintegration of the peasantry led to the transformation of the social basis of the agrarian society in India. New classes appeared on the scene: the moneylenders and rich peasants, on the one hand, pauperized peasants and agricultural labourers on the other

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### 11.8 LET US SUM UP

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The people's interests were made subservient to the state's commercial interests about forests in the colonial period. Colonial forest management paid much attention to the maximum output of quality timber for export and sleepers for expanding railways. British Administration used to project from the fear of deforestation on the climate and irrigation to extend state control over the forest, and they never gave due importance to the climatic impact of deforestation. They performed effective destruction of forests on the one hand and talking about the preservation of forests on the other and continuously focused the forest dwellers as destroyers. It is acknowledged the fact that the British initially destroyed forests and subsequently implemented policies for forest conservation. After Independence, the Indian Government travelled through the path showed by colonial forest policies and strengthened the state power by

legislative measures. Then the drive switched over to industrial wood production. Diversion of forest land for agricultural and industrial purposes leads to the degradation of forests. The JFM implies a historical shift towards decentralization of forest management in India through the New Forest Policy of 1988.

During British rule, the traditional village economy underwent a social and economic transformation, mainly through the decline of handicrafts and domestic industries without being compensated by modern industries. It is a process which resulted in the creation of a whole lot of agricultural labourers. With the introduction of new land revenue system, of course, right to the alienation of land was granted, and land revenue was fixed at a particular amount irrespective of the level of output, but bad crops forced the peasants to borrow from the money-lenders. Once trapped in the clutches of money-lenders with hardly any opportunity to free themselves from debt, the peasants had no other option but to mortgage or part with the land. This, in addition to the commercialization of agriculture, led to the pauperization of poor peasants and concentration of land in a few rich landlords.

There were some variations across regions in the nature of agrarian relation during the British period. Punjab, for instance, witnessed some growth in output during this period. On the other hand, Bengal witnessed a decline in agricultural output. The overall growth rate was very low.

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## **11.9 KEYWORDS**

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- **Industrial Revolution:** This denotes the transition from the agrarian economies to mass production of goods. It was first observed in Europe and the United States in the latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Great Depression:** It was one of the worst recorded economic crises that began in the United States in the 1930s and impacted the entire world.
- **Agrarian:** Related to agriculture or cultivation of land

## Notes

- Peasant: A historical term used to refer to poor landholders, farmers or agricultural labourers.
- Forester: A person appointed to look after the trees of a forest or to plant new trees.

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### 11.10 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- Explain the Impact of British Rule in Western India.
- Explain the Forest Policy during the Colonial Period.
- How is the Permanent Settlement associated with the Tenancy Acts in the context of the British rule in Eastern India?
- Explain the different revenue systems in Northern and Central India.
- What were the changes brought in the agrarian society due to the impact of the British rule in Western India?
- How did the British implement the land revenue system in South India?
- What was the condition of the agricultural labourers during this period?

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### 11.10 SUGGESTED READINGS

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to Western Ghats of South India', Journal of Tropical Forest Science, Vol.13, No.4, 2001, pp. 601-620.

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## 11.12 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. During colonial rule in India, the forest policy gave much importance to the exploitation of forest resources without concerning conservation. The colonial powers assumed the ownership and this period records a march towards centralization, and the forests came under the control of the state. Huge quantity of natural resources was exploited.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q1)
2. The forest policies during the British colonial rule in India were:
  - Forest Policy, 1855
  - Indian Forest Act, 1865
  - The Forest Act, 1878
  - National Forest Policy, 1894
  - Indian Forest Act, 1927.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
3. The East India Company took over the Dewani (financial rights) of Bengal, Bihar, and parts of Orissa in the year 1765. Immediate interest of the company was to collect the maximum amount of income in the quickest possible time. The company required a large amount of money to (a) finance trade and commerce, and (b) maintain the army for strengthening and expansion of the rule. To realize the higher land revenue.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q3)
4. Two major tenancy acts were enacted in Bengal after the Permanent Settlement: the Rent Act of 1859 and the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885, which was amended several times in the 1920s and 1930s. The tenancy act put some restrictions on the rights of the landlords to check the excesses committed by them.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q4)

## Notes

5. We noticed that land revenue was to be paid in cash, not in kind. Secondly, the amount of revenue was kept fixed for a period of twenty or thirty years, under the permanent settlement. Consequently, the revenue of the state did not increase. On the other hand, the payment of revenue in cash generated pressure.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q5)
6. The picture presented by the Zamindari Abolition Committee's report of 1948 was a startling one. In North-Western Provinces, the landholding structure was such that the greater part of the land was held by a relatively small group of large landholders. Altogether a mere handful of zamindars, just 1.3 per cent of the total population held more than half of the land. Yet it must be remembered that.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q6)
7. The system of revenue collection adopted in this part was the ryotwari system. The settlement was normally for a fixed period of 30 years, which meant that the revenue demand could be enhanced after that period. Under the *ryotwari* settlement, the *ryoti* cultivator is directly under the state. He is recognized as proprietor and can sublet, mortgage or transfer by gift or sale his plot of land. He cannot be ejected so long as he pays the revenue, which is fixed. ....(answer to Check Your Progress-4 Q7)
8. But what the moneylenders were interested in, was control of the crops, and the trade. By the middle of the nineteenth century, the moneylenders controlled nearly all the internal trade in both grains and cotton in the Deccan. Their main interest was to preserve this control through advancing loans to the peasants who were required to sell their crops to them at a much lower price than prevailing market prices. However, not only the banias but.....(answer to Check Your Progress-4 Q8)



9. Indebtedness of rural population increased during the 19th century. The same trend continued during the early 20th century, and during the Great Depression; the burden of debt became so pressing that the government was forced to take action. The debt conciliation boards as setting up by the government during the depression scaled-down debts in some cases, but.....(answer to Check Your Progress-5 Q9)

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# **UNIT - 12 SOCIAL COMPOSITION: ETHNIC GROUPS-TRIBES (CREATION OF NEW CATEGORIES OF CRIMINAL TRIBES AND CASTES) AND CLASS AND COMMUNITY**

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## **STRUCTURE**

12.0 Objectives

12.1 Introduction

12.2 The Colonial Experience and India

12.3 The World of the Peasantry

12.4 The Tribal Response

12.5 Caste Order and Colonialism

12.5.1 Impact of the British Administrative practices

12.5.2 Anti caste movement under the influence of the liberal  
policy

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12.7 Middle Class, Intelligentsia and Social Reforms

12.7.1 The Vision of the New Class

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12.10.1 Zaminda

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12.10.3 Peasant Proprietors

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12.10.6 The Capitalist Class

12.11 Rise of the Working Class

12.12 Let Us Sum Up

12.13 Keywords

12.14 Questions for Review

12.15 Suggested Readings

12.16 Answers to Check Your Progress

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## 12.0 OBJECTIVES

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After going through this chapter, you may know the following things:

- Elaborate on the nature of the anti-caste movement which stands up in the repercussions of the British Council.
- Explain the genesis and evaluation of the Tribal movement.
- The feedback of the proletariat to the colonial policies,
- The input to the tribes to it.
- The feedback to the middle classes
- The conditions of the rise to social and cultural movement during the conical period.

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## 12.1 INTRODUCTION

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You may already read about how British Colonialism rapidly changes the social and economic structure of India. They also altered the political and administrative setup. These changes lead to the building of the civil services. It was essential to making changes in the socio-economic structure of the country. It was not an end, but it started face-lifting the appropriation of the surplus from the colony. It is also outcome into the beat within the society. The feedback influenced by the conditions in which people lived. In this chapter, we explain several feedbacks to proper historical content in the last two hundred years or more.

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## 12.2 THE COLONIAL EXPERIENCE AND INDIA

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You have already read about the trading companies from Europe. Several Other countries such as Britain, Portugal, Holland and Portugal entered into India during the 16th company received the dewani of the Bengali, Bihar and Orissa. When its first decade in the 19th century, a trading company starts in authority over a vast tract of the Indian during the sixtieth company. Before the first decade of the 19th century, a trading company started its jurisdiction over the extensive track of Indian sub-continental. On the one hand, the clinical put their efforts to change

society and use their political power to grow economically. The British Government already took English and French Revolution with them.

At the rise of the company, they introduced the two primaries Tenurial and lender revenue system. Zamindari and Ryotwari help them to force to pay the high level of the rents and takes illegal dues. Even they performed forced labour too. The increasing rate of revenue forced the people to go for borrowing money at a high level of Interest. Also, they force for selling it. On the other hand, situations such as flood make the money lenders stronger day by day. This increasing grip of the money lenders on the economy helps to get the land of the distressed peasant.

The British made efforts to connect the Indian culture and the tribal economy in increasing their market. In the end, Indian culture started fulfilling the needs of the British capital. At the time, there was the creation of cotton, indigo, sugar, tea and coffee. It helps to design the export to India. The Social relationship is among the essential changes made by British politics.

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### **12.3 THE WORLD OF THE PEASANTRY**

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The permanent settlement of the Bengal and the Ryotwari system introduced. Both connected to the subcontinent. It executes the super seeding of the traditional rights of the village community over the land. In the Bengal, Zamindar became the interconnected between the Britishers and the peasants. In other areas, the higher burden of Interest imposed on them. In the year 1762-63, the revenue collected more than 63 lakhs from the Bengal alone. It has said that the 3.7 crores revenue in 1769-70. Famines also fail to decline in taxation. It leads to the collapse of the old lenders. The new land arrangement revenues affected several other people such as fakir, artist, and so on. The rivals of zamindars and other people go against colonial power.

The new system directly affects the worst victim of the new system. One of the earliest response from the Bengal was Titu Mir's rebellion, and It

leads to poor presents near Barasat. The movement reaches to Nadia and Faridapur. Its popularity finally leads to death of the Titu Mir. The headquarters were destroyed in November 1831.

Farzi Movement followed this. The leader of the movement, Haji Shariatullah, asked peasant followers to check the duties of Quran and Sunna. They were stressing about the prayers on Jumma and Id. The Farazis attacks the landlord, who were either Hindus or Britishers.

In 1859-60, the peasant came to know about the new Governor who was sympathetic to their conditions. The peasant refuses to accept the advance by the indigo planters. They come to know their real intentions, and in the end, the revolt leads to the end of indigo cultivation system. There were other protests in Patna, and adjoining areas was another massive indictment of the conical rule.

Peasantry came into the pressure of the revenue asked in cash. The situation was the aggregated when the commercial crops introduced.

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## **12.4 THE TRIBAL RESPONSE**

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Several people lived in the socio-cultural and economic worlds which were different from the other social formations based on the cast. They called this world tribal. Colonists built the space and conditions for the non-tribal outsiders to move on the large number into the habitat of the tribal people. It turned into some fundamental changes in the life of the tribal population.

They were living in relative isolation, so they build their culture, social and political patterns differently over the centuries. The colonial state facilitated the penetration of the revenue formers, forest contractors and Christian missionaries in the large numbers, and they didn't know the communities and hilly terrain. They were ruling potentates over the tribal lands and came into the revenue sharing with them. It resulted in the tribal people being deprived of the traditional right over their lands. The

## Notes

tribal people were at a disadvantage even after their conventional power over the area. They did not know the new legal system which leads to rapidly penetrating the agriculture communities.

Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas area were the main tribes living and suffering different things. The British started imposing a tax on the Jhaga Mahal and Chhota Nagpur. Along with them, thikardas and the people took that system. The colonial system and outsiders started treating the individual with the tribe. The coming of the missionaries in the last decade of the 19th century created new differences in the lives of the tribals. The Ghatwals in the jungle was the police force of the local ruling potentates in the Chhota Nagpur. The reservation of the forest land also changed the tribal relationship with the habitat and forest.

The moneylenders gave the most potent expression against the outsiders. Landlord, revenue contractors and landlords help in the rise of the Santhals. In the year 1855, the leaders of the sidho and Kanu attack the authorities. In 1832-33, the Bhumiji in the Jungle Mahal revolted against the colonial powers. In 1850, Sardar took the strike against them.

Tribal people got help from the Christine people. They not only open the hospital and school but also give several authorities to the tribal. The colonial powers never had an intention of the intervening. The followers of the Misra attacked a police station. When the Gaya Munda and the Ulgan return from the attack on a police station, they got a great welcome from the people.

The forces of the change were too rapid for tribal people to adjust. Sidho, Birsa and Kanu Munda, all of them painted a glorious picture of the tribe. This consciousness gave the ideological basis for solidarity among the tribes. The Khasi tribe attack on the outsiders and the British rules took place at the end of the 19th century.

The ongoing movement influenced by the tribal movement in the early decades. Several campaigns happen early in the 19th century, such as the

Tana Bhagat Movement of Ghumla and The Zeliangrong movement in the Naga Hills. Due to action and tribe against the British Government, Jadonang, a leader of the Zeliangrong movement, was arrested and sentenced to death. The Britishers didn't stop there, but the entire village of Bopugoanmi was burned down. The 17-year-old called Ranigaidinilu, the new leader, arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment. When India got independence, then they decided to leave her. In short, she spends her youth living in jail.

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## **12.5 CASTE ORDER AND COLONIALISM**

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You must know about the caste system and must aware of the structure and mechanism of the upward mobility between the different casts. It helps to learn the impact of the colonialism on the caste order. Before we go ahead, you must learn about the basic features of the caste system.

There six features of the cast which are as follows:

- Segmental parts of society. It is governing body as a result of which members of the caste ceased to be members of the community as a whole. It executes consequences in which the citizen allegiance to their rank first.
- Each group has hierarchy and rigid ordering of the society from top to bottom on the base of the ritual status and equally strict functions and roles.
- There were several restrictions in connected details rules such as what kind of the drink and food a person should eat and accepted by the cast.
- There were disabilities and privileges of the different sections. It expressed through the separate living. In short, some castes are not allowed in the temples and practices with the untouchably and so on.
- Lack of unrestricted decision of profession
- Restriction of the marriage.

Colonialism affects the cast system in two different ways:

1. Through several judicial practices which the British Government introduced.
2. Indirectly with the help of the influence of liberal ideas on the section of the Indian society.

### **12.5.1 Impact of the British Administrative Practices**

They introduced the principle of equity before the law, and there is no distinction between the castes. Further, introduction by the British of a uniform law "removed from the purview of the rank, mainly matters which used to be decided by the later. No longer were caste governing bodies to decide on the issues of the assault, rape, and so on, even in the enactment of the absolute law eroded the rank.

The second aspect was the enactment of the laws that practically affected the castes. These acts are widow remarriage bill of 1856 and the Castes Disabilities Removal Act of 1850. It changed the authority of the rank. They also took the question of equality for lower castes. In the year 1923, the Government issued a resolution in 1923 that threatening the grants to any school which refuse to admit the students from the lower cast.

### **12.5.2 Anti caste movement under the influence of the liberal policy**

The British Government also affected economic changes and caste structure. It was also affected by the anti-caste and social reform movements under the Arya Samaj in Northern India, Raja Rammohan Roy in Bengal, Sri Narayan Guru in Kerala and so on. They put efforts regarding the position of the woman and general reforms and rituals. Bengal faces the question of widow marriages and sati. They made



efforts to raise the ladder. These feelings helped to build strength in the movement of the lower caste.

All the movements passed through the two stages. In the first stage, lower cast tried to get the symbols of and rituals of the high status. They made the efforts for acquisition of the political power and shared the new economic opportunities. There is nothing wrong in saying that all the reforms have the same reasons. It became the total reforms. Social changes in the Bengal face several challenges. It has noticed that the movements that organized the lower cast against the upper cast domination that transferred into the evolution of the cast solidarity themselves.

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## **12.6 TRIBAL MOVEMENT**

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It is essential to understand, and it is born out of the deep dissatisfaction and the discontent against the socio-economic policies of the Britishers. There were several consequences such as the intrusion of the tribal land by the British government, the acquisition of the tribal forest, high level of tax, and so on.

The consequences became worse when famines forced the tribals into poverty. There was a decline in the tribes due to loss of the land and the forest. It had an effect of the enervating tribal organism that had no internal resistance against the authority. If we saw all the tribe rebellion against the body, then we can see that all arise due to this one point. So the Kol revolution of 1833 happened due to the encroachment on tribal land. As per the several other movements, the movements spread over the more significant part of India.

One of the best features of these tribal movements is that they happened in different time and space. It not only happened in one place but all-out across the country. The tribal movements happened at the beginning of the 20th century. One of the most critical moments occurred in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It is the place where tribal forest agitation merged

with Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. The Sitarama Raju took its withdrawal. This movement went far from Andhra Pradesh, and tribal forest agitation merged with the Gandhi's noncooperation movement. On the July 1921, 2,50,000 out of 4,00,000 acres of forest in Kumaon division of UP had been burnt down. Cavalry had to be sent to Muzaffarpur to tackle an allegation over the grazing rights. Santhal also lost forest rights in the Jhargram region of the Minotaur.

Studies on the tribal movements show unusual behaviour that similar is similar to agrarian movements elsewhere in the world. Majority of these behaviours have been created by the negative consciousness. Some of the movements got connected to the national movement. Particularly during the Non-Corporation movement which called as the forest Satyagrahas. It played an important role and got imbued with the anti-imperialist ideology. It was still rudimentary. Sitaram Raju said that he was unable to shoot Europeans because they were surrounded by the Indians whom he never wants to kill.

All of the tribal movements and protests were the result of the deep resentment and discontent against the policies of the British imperialists which affect them adversely.

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## 12.7 MIDDLE CLASS, INTELLIGENTSIA AND SOCIAL REFORMS

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The colonial rule saw the emergence of the new class whose members came from the new educated sections of the society. They were not connected to the royal court and did not have any religious point of view. They were entirely dependent on the original colonial economy for their survival. They had a new perspective towards everything and institution for their merit. Furthermore, they were never bound to the religious and social practices of untouchability, the prohibition of female education, widow remarriage and absence of critical knowledge. Ethical and social practices were changing. Education in classical mode imported in the Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian was devoid of any essential component. It

was about the basis of caste and gender discrimination that non-Brahmins and women were not allowed Sanskrit education. A majority of the educated person turned towards Christianity. Social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy had understood there is no use of the debates and discussions unless they started focusing on the reforming. The new society will be ideas of freedom, equality and fraternity.

### 12.7.1 The Vision of the New Class

Raja Ram Mohan Roy is a historical figure who reformed the new ideas into society. He has in-depth knowledge of the other religions such as the Arabic, Sanskrit and several European and Asian Language. He is the one who took the movement to the other countries. He understood that it was crucial to critique the tradition to change the mindset of the people. It helped in removing the illiteracy, ignorance and the practice of inhuman treatment of particular sections of the society. Religious texts supported these practices. Not only Raja Ram Mohan Roy but the other leaders also familiarised themselves with the *Shastras* to prove the people that the methods they are following are entirely wrong. Several of these practices were due to the misinterpretation of these texts by the Brahmins. They were clear that tradition should support the right reasons and uphold social welfare. It was based on the notions of equality, liberty of thoughts and fraternity. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was one of the critical leaders who had the right vision of the new class.

### 12.7.2 Social Reforms and Public Debates

The reforms never reject tradition but rather put them to critical evaluation. Some of the critiques need the engagement of an informed and mass of people. They made a point to engage in the public debate through journals, magazines and newspapers. Raja Ram Mohan Roy used the *Mirat-ul-Akhbar*, and all the issues debated publically. It was reflecting a core democratic principle that comes to fruition during the national movement, gaining ground during this time. It helped to enrich

the several Bengali, Marathi, Gujrati, Tamil and other Language. It also helps in the growth of the communities that was recognized clearly in the 1890s. In the long run, it contributed to the demand for different Andhera, Orissa and other states.

The reforms help to understand that to defend in the society against the colonial criticism. Education needed to be imparted not only to all the sections of men but women too. Raja Ram Mohan Roy argued that promotions of the more liberal and enlightened system of guidance. Lord Macaulay's purpose was to create a class of Indians in British colour. Raja Ram Mohan Roy wants to bring the new education and knowledge into India.

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## **12.8 FACTORS LEADS TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW CLASSES**

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The changing in the economic arrangement such as the starting of the new land relation, introduction of the new administrative mechanism, a modern education system and the building of the contemporary industries were some of the factors accountable for the emergence of the new classes. The construction of the private property in the form of lands gave birth to the new classes in the form of the large estate owners and peasant proprietors. To get the right of the lease, the tenant and subtenant have built. Absentee landlords and agriculture labour were created for private property in the land and power to employ labourers to work. They also emerged in the class of the moneylenders.

Industrial and agriculture started growing under the British Government. This built opportunities for those people who were into import and export business. They were known as merchants. Even in pre-British India, there were several merchants, but it was a very small community or class. They never carried enough weight in society. The merchant class came from the Zamindars and among the other Indians who owned industries. It leads to the start of entirely new classes. Among these

classes is the industrial capitalist who possessed mills and mines and other enterprises.

British introduced the new social, economic and state system. These people were highly educated in the law, technologies, medicines and economics. This was the main objective of the introduction of the modern education system. Educated people needed new economic and administrative arrangements. These classes were not available before the pre – British India. This professional person knew the fields of the arts and science. Those who studied law had a lot of opportunities which were given by the British. Medical colleges and hospitals were also built for those who wished to study medicine.

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## **12.9 THE OLD CLASSES IN NEW MILIEU**

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India went through the transformation of the capitalist lines when they were under the British Government. The change was not like in France, England or the other United States of America. It just meant industrial development. It was one of the old classes that continued to survive. Village artisans and the urban handicraftsmen were such classes. The context in which they were working had changed due to the growth of the capitalist economy. Now they were no more working for the others or servant of the village community. In the past, they used to work for the village communities, but the industrial growth and capitalism change everything for those groups. They started sending goods to the manufacturers or the market. These people were making handicrafts and working for others before capitalism. Now, they were directly selling their goods to the market. It helped them to build their self-esteem and profit through the market.

Another group of people that survived the pre-British period were the princes who ruled over the third of Indian territory. The majority of the princes stayed loyal to the British government, and that is the only reason that they survived. To survive, they accepted British superiority and bow down to them. In short, all the power of these princes rested with the

Britishers. The Britishers took decisions on behalf of the other states and even interfered with those states. This made the situation worse for the people who were working for the princes. The condition of the common people became miserable due to the incompetence of those princes. Most of these princes helped in imposing the high taxes and revenue ordered by the British and in return spent these on their luxuries.

When the new economy was introduced, those princes got the chance to invest in the commercial, Industrial and other financial ventures. They earned enormous benefits for themselves, but their state suffers a lot. They even invested their money outside their territory and lived the luxurious life while remaining under the command of the British Government. These are the people who build the industries in India. The nobles of the medieval times had transformed into capitalists with the capitalist structure of the economy. They became one of the influential people of India before the independence and the post-independent era. They built a capitalist class later on in India.

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## 12.10 THE NEW CLASSES

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### 12.10.1 Zamindar

The Lord Cornwallis Permanent Settlement in 1793 built the class of the zamindars in Bengal and Bihar. By creating the class, it helped them to establish a base for their rule in India. These groups of people are essential for the stability of the British government. The zamindars were one of the loyal supporters of the Britishers, and they existed because of the British government. On behalf of their support, they got the representation in the several constitutional schemes. Another reason to build this class was the need for the stability of income. The perpetual financial crisis faced the company. The land revenue raised from the Bengal region has been using for the company. It compensated the cost required to set up the company in Bengal, Madras and Bombay. They were also using this money for buying the Indian commodities for export. Even the collection system was not right, and it was not enough

to fulfil the needs of the revenue collection easier. At the start of the company, they had lakhs of peasants to deal. The zamindar became the link between the government and the peasants.

These are the agents of the British. They got the right to collect as much money as they can from the peasants. They did this on behalf of the Britishers while paying a fixed amount to the British government. There was a simple rule that if the peasant couldn't able to pay the revenue on time, the British Government took away their position of the zamindar. If there were any fights, then the zamindars had the support of the court and Government. As a result of this, the tenants used to leave their lands. They had no option left. Even agriculture suffered a lot. It is because tenants had no money to spend on the seeds.

Zamindars never cared about the labourers, tenants and agriculture. This class was always on the side of the Government and even at the time when Congress started protesting against the Government. These groups of people were still afraid of the democratic struggle because it was a threat to their existence. The British used the zamindars to counter the weight of the rising tide of the nationalism.

### **12.10.2 Tenants**

The permanent settlement leads to the building a class of the tenants in the countryside — those who failed to pay their debt due to the uncontrollable tax increment. The arrangement of the zamindaris resulted in the improvement of the tenants. The Bengal tenancy act of 1859 and 1885 aimed for the development of the condition of the tenants.

The tenants were not only against the British Government and their zamindars but also against the Congress for showing leniency towards the interests of the zamindars. Their aim was to reduce the rent and the abolition of the illegal dues collected by the zamindars. The Kisan Sabha was the one who opposed the zamindars and the zamindari system. It

was started by Swami Sahajanand. It was essential to stop the Zamindari system at that time that leads to the loss of freedom in India.

### 12.10.3 Peasant Proprietors

The Ryotwari settlement that was introduced in the south, lead to the emergence of the class of peasant proprietors. They were against the British Government because of excessive land tax and massive indebtedness. There were a few whose conditions improved, but the rest of them joined the poor peasants. They became a politically conscious group much ahead of the tenants.

On the other hand, Zamindar was linked to the Zamindari pratha. The peasant proprietors failed to know the real enemy, the British rule. Due to the Gandhian approach, the consciousness of the tenants blunted. Gandhi needed cooperation between the Zamindar and tenants. In some of the areas, even Congress was aligning with the zamindars.

#### Check Your Progress-1

Q1. What are the factors that give rise to the New Classes?

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Q2. Explain why the British built a class of Zamindars?

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Q3. How did the zamindars exploit the tenants?

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### 12.10.4 The Kisan movement

In February 1918, the Kisan Sabha was formed in U.P. These were the times when the peasants started exhibiting political consciousness. Their organization was determined to achieve all the goals and programs. It doesn't mean that there were no other peasant movements in 1918. But this is the movement that focused on the local aims, devoid of any proper understanding of colonialism.

Indigo revolt was one of the most significant movements in the 19th century. Indigo was used as a dye for the cotton clothes which was created by the factories in England. Indigo planters have forced the peasants to grow indigo in the best part of their land. Whenever a dispute happens, all the magistrates took the side of the indigo planters. Both the indigo planters and the magistrates were European. The indigo planters tried to build their fortune in Bengal, but all the tenants came together and filed a case against it. As a result of this, the planters decided to close their factories. It has a drastic impact on the whole nation. Neel Darpan, a play by Din Bandhu Mitra became popular due to the explanation of the exploitation by the planters.

In between 1870 to 1880, a large part of East Bengal faced several consequences due to the efforts of the Zamindars. They took the rent more than the limits. Tenants were not getting their occupancy right under the act X of 1859. Zamindars used to forced eviction and seizure of the crops. In May 1873, tenants decided to go against the Zamindars. They refused to pay money to the zamindars and used that money to file a case against them. Finally, some hope arrived when most of the dispute was settled partly.

## Notes

In 1930, the country witnessed an awakening of the Indian peasants. The economic depression of the 1929-30 and the fall in the price of agriculture affected the peasants. They were imposing as much tax as they could. It led to the movement in the U.P., Bihar and Andhra region. They were influenced by Subhash Chandra Bose and J.L. Nehru. They understood the need of the independent class organization of the peasants. In 1936, the All India Kisan Sabha was formed. The birth of this organization represents the expectation and the common demand of the peasants from all over the country. This was a development of great significance. In some cases, several farmers got arrested and meetings were banned.

After the end of World War 2, hopes of independence began to rise. The peasants began getting their rights slowly. The demand of the zamindari abolition created urgency in India. In 1946, the Kisan Sabha led the movement to share their crop, and it became famous as the Tebhaga Movement.

### **12.10.5 Rise of the modern Indian Intelligentsia**

In the 19th century, the numbers of educated people were very less. The British government was responsible for the spread of modern education. Other Indians and Christian missionaries built schools and colleges in India. It led to the rise of the contemporary Indian intelligentsia. These groups of people understood the western culture and religious reform movements. It also led to religious reforms and integrated the Indian people with the modern world. They occurred in different phases, but their mindset behind each was the same. They could all be traced back to the modern Indian intelligentsia.

Several leaders led to the moderate phase of the national movement. These leaders were Gopal Krishna Gokhale, M.G. Ranade and others. The trio of leaders were quite popular. Lala Lajpat Roy, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and B.C. Pal were the foremost leaders. All of them were the product of the modern education system. These are the people who have different thinking than the traditional one. They believe in the

equality, liberty and justice with the contemporary education system. They understood the negative influence of the British Government. It was wrong to think that the nationalism movement of the was the result of the modern education system. It just helps to understand the conflict in a better way. These are the highly educated people such as the poets, scientist, economist and philosophers, and so on. They have the dream of modern India.

The middle-class people were a profession in the doctor, lawyer, journalist and others. They were the result of the modern education system — the numbers of school and collages built in the second half of the 19th century. The issue was a rise in the education system won't lead to the names of the job. Economic policies failed to create employment in India. The educated unemployment lead to the growth of the militant nationalism.

### **12.10.6 The Capitalist Class**

The capitalist class was built due to the Indian economy and the world capitalist system. It helped in the process of the industrialization and the growth of the banking sector. An Indian merchant had sufficient savings and several other groups helped to build the Indian industries. It has started with the cotton, jute and coal mining in the year 1850. Most of the sectors were under the British Government. India only provides labour and raw material. Indian capitalist suffered hostility when it came to trade, tariff, taxation and other things. Indian industries needed protection from the Government to promote a high level of growth.

In the beginning, the cotton textile industries were owned by the Indians. In 1905, the Swadeshi movement was launched by the Congress. It helps in the expansion of this sector. Even the period of the First World War helped in the development of the Indian industry. It helped to complete the need of the war. As a result of this, the class became more powerful. It was supported by the Congress because of their interest. According to

## Notes

Bipin Chandra, it is the Congress to get fund from them and maintaining the Indian independent position on policy and ideological matters.

During 1930, the Congress was getting radicalized under the leadership of Nehru and other socialist leaders. In 1942, they made the commitment that accommodated to the demand, such as the distribution of the property and land reforms.

### Check your progress-2

Q4. Role of the education in the rise of the modern Indian Intelligentsia

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Q5. What was the relationship between Congress and Capitalism?

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## 12.11 RISE OF THE WORKING CLASS

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They emerged in the second half of the 19th century. This class started building with the growth of the modern industries, railways and so on. It grew out of the population of peasants and ruined artisans. These peasants and artisans were forced to join the rank of the workers. The workers were living under the inhuman and degrading conditions. In 1938, the Labour Conference was held in the Geneva and S.V. Parulekar explained the consequences of the Indian workers. A majority of them were getting the wage which was not sufficient to complete the needs of daily life.

The labour movements started, but the condition of the workers worsened due to the bad economic situation of India. The financial status was draining due to the World War. N.M. Joshi, Lala Lajpat Ray and Joseph Baptia played a significant role to build the All India Trade Union Congress in 1920. Their goal was to coordinate all activities of the organization to the interest of the Indian labour. It resulted in the common struggle against the imperialism. Industrialization was also considered as something that could solve the problem of poverty.

In the 2nd half of the 1920s, there was the consolidation of the sinister ideological forces in the country. When the trade union movement emerged it created left-wing leadership. The group of the Joshi becomes a minority. The workers took participation in a large number of strikes that influenced all the communities all over India. They also took place in the Simon Boycott demonstration.

They promised to focus on the labour disputes before the election took place in 1937. The civil liberties had increased under the Congress Government. It led to some of the significant changes in the act. There were cases of the banning labour meetings and imprisonment of the leaders. The working class of the Bombay took part in the anti-war strikes. Around 90,000 people took the part in it. The working-class supported the applied power and disconnected themselves with the Quit India Movement in 1942. The movement had a massive impact on the working class of India. Once they arrested Gandhi and other leaders, there were strikes all over India. The Bombay workers lead to striking Naval Ratings in 1947.

The building of the new classes had far-reaching effects. In general, these were the classes which helped in the freedom struggle, but they started several other reactionary trends too. The conservative group people had no trust in the new communities. It led to the growth of the communalism. The extinction of the zamindari system was essential to improve the condition of the rural masses. One of the crucial factors to learn is all these people help in independence before the vision of the

post-independence in India. The form of the socio-economic structure had become diverse.

### Check your progress-3

Q6. What was the attitude of the working class towards the Simon commission?

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Q7. What was the attitude of the provincial government led by Congress towards the working class?

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## 12.12 LET US SUM UP

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During the colonial period, many new classes were built. Those were Zamindars, tenants, money lenders and so on. Other categories that were formed before the independence were agricultural labourers in the rural area, the capitalists, modern intelligentsia and new working class. All the new classes were the result of the development of the capitalist system, education reforms, new administrative structure and other factors. These groups of people play a vital role in the national movement depending on their class, position and interests.

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## 12.13 KEYWORDS

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- Zamindar: refers to a landowner in the british colonial period whose lands were cultivated by tenants
- Tenant: a person who occupies land or property rented from a landlord, here a zamindar.

- Ryotwari: a land revenue system introduced by thomas munro in british india.
- Indigo: a plant used as a primary raw material to make blue dye mainly for the textile industry.

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## 12.14 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- Write in detail about the british intrusion in the tribal areas and the resulting response it received from the tribal communities in various parts of india.
- How did colonialism affect the rigid caste system?
- Describe the reasons behind the rise of the three new classes. Mention each class in detail.
- Discuss the kisan movement and its significance.
- Analyse the role of the indian intelligentsia during the freedom struggle. Explain it in the context of the rising working and middle class in india during this period.

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## 12.15 SUGGESTED READINGS

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## 12.16 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. Introduction of the capitalist system, new administrative structure and a modern education system.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q1)
2. To protect their interests by creating a loyal class, which could provide the revenue and other kinds of support to dominate India.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
3. By extracting rent, eviction from the land and physical torture.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q3)
4. It inculcated the ideas of rationalism, equality, democracy.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q4)
5. The Indian capitalist class funded the Congress, they supported the national movement led by the Congress.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q5)
6. They opposed it.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q6)
7. The Congress governments took steps in settling the labour disputes and securing the rights of the working class. However, in provinces like Bombay, it took anti-working class measures.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q7)



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# **UNIT – 13 COLONIAL INTERVENTION AND SOCIAL CHANGE: REFORM MOVEMENTS, MODERN EDUCATION, RISE OF MIDDLE CLASSES AND CASTE MOVEMENTS**

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## **STRUCTURE**

13.0 Objective

13.1 Introduction

13.2 Colonial Intervention and Social Change

13.2.1 Determinants of Social Change

13.2.1.1 Socio-Cultural Changes

13.2.1.2 Growth Of Transport

13.2.1.3 Development Of Industries

13.2.1.4 Inequality During The Development Of Industries

13.2.1.5 Education

13.2.2 Sanskritization

13.2.3 Westernization

13.2.4 Beginning of Indian Renaissance

13.2.4.1 Bengal Renaissance

13.2.5 Secularization

13.2.5.1 Theories Of Secularism

13.3 Changes In Indian Agriculture

13.3.1 Commercialization of Agriculture

13.3.2 Agricultural Labour

13.3.3 Rise of New Social Class

13.4 Altering The Caste Equation

13.4.1 Western India Non-Brahmin Movements

13.4.2 Radical Movements of The South

13.4.3 Ambedkar and Gandhi on Caste Divide

13.5 Let Us Sum Up

13.6 Keywords

13.7 Questions for Review

13.8 Suggested Readings

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## 13.0 OBJECTIVE

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After studying the chapter, you will be able to:

- Explain the social change that was happening during the colonial period in India.
- You will be able to talk about modern education and the rise of terms like Sanskritization, Westernization and Secularization.
- You will be able to understand the rise of the middle class during that age.
- You will perfectly understand the changing caste equations of the colonial times.

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## 13.1 INTRODUCTION

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Indian society in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century was marked with stagnation as it only dwelled in its past glories. However, society could still be called free as people could not be grouped according to the social and cultural lines. Inherently, there was no pattern at all. But, the indigenous population were definitely divided along the caste, religion and all the other social lines. There was every kind of social disparity that you could think of. The upper class had a different life than that of the lower class. As most of society's wealth was concentrated in the hands of the upper class they were hugely aware of their supremacy and thus dictated upon all the economic and social practices. The weaker section of the society had to follow the commands of the upper class.

Each community had its own set of social traditions and customs and they remained confined within it. The local population did not have any urge to create a new set of social customs and blindly followed the old ones. They also thought that any aberration from the established laws could lead to excommunication from society. The social structure during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century was based on two premises:

1. Official position
2. Religious and traditional caste division of society.

For Muslims, the order was done based on 'Kufr' or the believers and non-believers. In the beginning, the British had come as traders and later on took themselves as rulers and administrators of the land. They hugely influenced the political and economic outlook of our country but the social and cultural change was brought in gradually. Until, the year 1813, the British administration followed a policy of non-interference in the social and cultural processes of Indian society. But, later on, provided lots of help to the Indian reformers for bringing in the social change.

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## 13.2 COLONIAL INTERVENTION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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Colonization of India played a huge role in the political, economic and social development of the country. The impact of British rule on Indian culture and society was way different from what had been expected. The establishment of British Rule was followed by a proper effort to publicize and bring in practice the colonial ideology, language, education and its dominant culture. As India faced a heavy intrusion of colonial ideology and culture there was a serious attempt made to revitalize the traditional institutions and culture during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The indigenous population later came to understand that their internal weaknesses had led to the colonization of a vast nation by a minority.

### Role of Press And Literature

Even with numerous restrictions on Press by the colonial rulers the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> Century saw a huge growth in the Indian owned vernacular and English newspapers across the country. There were 169 newspapers in circulation across 100,000 populations by 1877. The Press urged the indigenous population to unite and fight. They also spread modern ideas of industrialization, self-government, civil rights and democracy. The journals, national literature and pamphlets helped in the exchange of ideas of different national freedom fighters across the nation.

### Western Thought and Education

Introduction to the modern English education system provided opportunities for Indian nationalists to adapt the modern western

ideologies and give Indian politics a new turn. Even though the English education system was conceived in India for efficient administration but the western liberal and radical thinking of John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Paine, Spencer, Marx and many more helped the Indian nationalists imbibe ideologies like democracy, secularism and equality etc. The English language broke the vernacular barriers between different Indian nationalists and they could communicate easily. People who took up different professions and visited England compared the freedom, and political working system that was denied to them. This expanding English middle class formed a nucleus that started the political unrest.

### 13.2.1 Determinants of Social Change

Due to the establishment of a new type of state system, administrative system, education system, transport and changes in the social economy brought about a new social class in India.

#### 13.2.1.1 Socio-Cultural Changes

19<sup>th</sup> century saw a major change in the Indian system and there was a lot of awareness among people about what was happening in the west. Due to the spread of western education in India, many social reformers tried to bring in the changes to cultural and religious malpractices. These cultural changes finally led to modernization. To address the basic social changes, the reformers and nationalists fought hard to discard elements like caste and purdah system of the Indian society.

It is largely due to the efforts of Jyotiba Phule, Raja Ram Mohun Roy, Dayanand Saraswati, Ishwar Chand Vidyasagar and many others that social reforms could be introduced in the society during the British Rule.

- **Abolition of Sati:** Raja Ram Mohun Roy was a social reformer from Bengal and fought hard against the malpractice of Sati. This age-old custom was finally banned by Lord Bentick in the year 1829 and was made punishable by Law.
- **Widow Remarriage:** According to the ancient Hindu traditions widows are not allowed to remarry and were forced to lead an

ascetic life. Lord Dalhousie passed a law in 1856 abolishing this age-old tradition.

- Other Measures: According to ancient Hindu tradition and ideology a baby boy is known to be the saviour and heir of the family. This often led to the custom of killing the born baby girls. This inhumane practise was banned in 1843 along with slavery by Lord Bentinck. Many tribal groups in India followed a practice of human sacrifice which was banned by Lord Hardinge. Here, the British Government also tried to abolish child marriage by raising the marriageable age for boys and girls to 12 years and 10 years respectively.

### **13.2.1.2 Growth of Transport**

The transport system in India was inadequate until the revolt of 1857. It was only during the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the British government began to pay undivided attention to the improvement of the transport system in India. The British government used the raw materials available in India for the finished transport goods. Their main aim was to interlink major agricultural centres, cities, markets and ports through, railways, highways, and canals. This improvement was mainly done for their own interest and not for the economic development of the country. The first rail line was inaugurated by Lord Dalhousie in 1853 from Bombay to Thane. After this Calcutta was linked with Raniganj and Bombay was linked with Kalyan, major coalfields. Thereafter, the development of railways was brisk and was given maximum encouragement. But, no attention was paid to link the rail lines to all the parts of the country.

The British government applied higher freight charge for the movement of goods within the country and less rate for movement within the port cities. The main defence base in the country was linked together to provide quick movement of the troops. Railways made travelling within the country fast, cheap and safe.

### **13.2.1.3 Development of Industries**

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, there was a massive growth of machine and plantation industries. This happened due to heavy demand for indigo, tea and coffee by the European nations. Thus many Europeans got attracted towards the plantation industry and provided employment to the locals. But, the profit was solely managed by the British Government. However, the machine industry that mainly began with Textile and Jute was owned by Indians. The growth of modern industries led to a demand for cement, chemicals, steel and power. In India, coal was the main source of power and British capitalists invested here greatly. They did not let the Iron and Steel industry prosper in India as wagons, railway engines and other iron goods were imported from Britain.

### **13.2.1.4 Inequality During the Development Of Industries**

There were two new classes that now emerged in the Indian society, the Industrial worker and capitalists. But, herein there was also the intellectual class or the middle class that grew with the expansion of the industries. The professional class also appeared as many Indians took to professions like teaching, engineering, law and much more. It is the professional class which played a massive role in the modernization of Indian society. India saw extreme poverty during these times where the money rolled in the hands of the landlords and factory owners while the workers and labourers earned less than a rupee a day and suffered from the unequal distribution of work, long working hours, unhygienic working conditions and much more. Gradually, the middle class began to raise their voice against the British policies and demanded equal rights.

### **13.2.1.5 Education**

In the earlier days, education was a privilege and was available to few in India. It mainly was concentrated in the hands of the upper class and elite sections of the society. The British government took the first step towards bridging the divide with the Charter Act of 1813. Nothing was implemented after the charter and for two decades there was no

consensus on the basic mode of teaching. Finally, in 1835 the government planned to impart western style education through English. In 1854, the government declared its intention of creating a proper western education system from Primary school to University. This way first universities were set-up in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta.

### **13.2.2 Sanskritization**

The term Sanskritization was first coined by Indian Sociologist M.N. Srinivas during his study on Coorgs. The term was only meant to analyse cultural mobility. According to Srinivas, this is an ongoing process and can be defined as a procedure through which a low caste Hindu or any other group tries and changes its rituals or way of life towards becoming a high or “Twice born caste”. This is a case, he stated where a caste group claims a higher position than what he is originally deemed. This breakage from the original caste hierarchy is not willingly conceded by the other fellow members of the core group.

Sanskritization often results in the upward mobility of a particular caste group. But this is only a change in position and not the change of the basic structure of the inherent caste system. Sanskritization was not confined to Hindus, it also took place in other tribes like Gonds, Bhils, Pahadis and Oraons. According to the sociologist, the caste system in India was far from being rigid. Although the system was structurally solid, there was always scope for movement in the middle regions and a change in positions.

Srinivas states that earlier the meaning of “Dominant caste” was the one that yielded political and economic power, enjoyed the high position, and had endless rituals. But today, there are many other factors that affect the dominance of a caste group, like high position jobs, western education, urban living and income etc. These days, the “dominant caste” can be from any group. They are a major source for the socio-cultural change around us. Different caste groups from time to time have altered their traditional cultural and economic practices to achieve a better position in society. But Sanskritization is not just about adopting new rituals, it is

also about exploring new avenues, ideas and values that are secular in nature.

### 13.2.3 Westernization

Westernization was described by Srinivas as a procedure where the society starts adopting the lifestyle, food habits, language, religion, ideas, alphabet, culture, philosophy and values of the “West”. This term was coined mainly to indicate the changes that had taken place in the Indian society during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century of British India. Westernization had its impact mainly on the elites of the country in the beginning, as they had access to British education and modern lifestyle. The higher caste groups including Brahmins took to the western education system.

British government brought with them new technology, communication devices, institutions and knowledge that had a lasting impact on the country. They helped in integrating the country in the way it had never been done before. They laid the modern foundations of education, bureaucracy, police, army, post office, press, law courts, revenue and taxes, transport system and much more. The printing press introduced by the British had a lasting impact on the nation as it was then used for integrating the nation against the rule and imparting education for all.

There are two related processes that Srinivas talks about, they are urbanization and industrialization. The urbanized cities needed large rural areas for support. Urbanization was not just a function of industrialization because even in a country like India many rural areas are highly urbanized but not industrialized. Westernization not only brought in new technology it also brought in better learning. Although India had an education system before the arrival of British in India it was completely different and was a core product for the elite unlike the new British system of education.

One major quality of British education system was to impart the value of “humanitarianism”. It meant an active concern for the people around you. This resulted in many humanitarian activities by the Christian Missionaries and government to fight epidemics and end inequalities which existed in Hindu and Islamic laws. Purdah system, sati, child



marriage, untouchability, female foeticide, low status of women were looked down upon by the British and further led to a reinterpretation of the basic ideologies of Hinduism and Islam at the core level. It further led to the lower castes from these societies to convert to other religion.

As stated by Jena and Mohapatra, the impact of westernization was noted in both “little and great traditions” termed as primary and secondary westernization.

1. **Primary Westernization:** It means changes brought in by the western influence on the basic Indian traditions. During the early period of westernization, its impact was seen on a specific group that was limited to a particular area and thus it was localized. Westernization was seen in the new commercial class or middle class of the main trade centres, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. This middle class served as brokers between the natives and English. Thus, though not completely westernized they did adopt the English language, western clothes and lifestyle easily.

Towards the early 19<sup>th</sup> century a different professional English educated class emerged who played a major role in the socio-cultural transformation of the Indian society. They campaigned against the major social evils and tried to put an end to them. The movements like Prarthana Samaj, Brahmo Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission etc. played a vital role. Due to such reformist movements, many progressive laws were passed by the British government too.

2. **Secondary Westernization:** westernization of Indian culture had taken a firm ground towards the end of 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Western culture formed the main ideology. The collective effects of the changes in the “little traditions” affected the economic, administrative and political policies of the nation. The social reformers justified the adoption of western culture and institutions like equality, liberty, fraternity, universal education, commercialization, and freedom. Soon there were many new institutions and a new structural pattern in our country.

### 13.2.4 Beginning of Indian Renaissance

Indian renaissance refers to a time that was marked with the rebirth of Indian society. The quest for knowledge, development of arts and science improved the quality of life. The reformists undertook the acts of reformation with absolute eagerness. During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Hindu renaissance took place and it marked a new beginning towards the restoration of deities and its tradition. The reformists tried to curb the caste division of the society and it was during this period that Hindu nationalism also grew.

During this time, the reformists got an opportunity to interact with the British. Indian renaissance began in Bengal and most of the political leaders, writers, poets, politicians and historians come from here.

#### 13.2.4.1 Bengal Renaissance

Renaissance in Bengal refers to a religious, social and cultural reform movement that took place in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century but the impact was felt all over the country. This period began with Raja Ram Mohun Roy from 1775 to 1833 and continued till 1941 until the death of Rabindra Nath Tagore. This period was the appreciation of the positives of modern west and trying to inculcate it within our culture. Bengal renaissance tried to blend in the positive teachings of the west with the teachings of Upanishads and tried to teach locals about ill-effects of Hindu superstitions like child marriage, sati, caste division, polygamy, untouchability, dowry and much more.

During this time, a great socio-cultural and political exchange took place. A Bengali elite class emerged in the society, they were the 'bhadralok'. Professional, clerical and landlords belonged to this superior group. 19<sup>th</sup> century saw new entries like journalists, reformers, scientists, patriots, literary geniuses and many more. This period saw the printing of a large number of periodicals and newspapers in the city. Many new associations and societies came into being. There were lots of reform movements.

People of Bengal started questioning the orthodox customs and regulations like the social status of women, child marriage, caste system and many more. The Young Bengal Movement advocated atheism and rationalism as the basic civil conduct. Brahmo Samaj developed by Raja Ram Mohun Roy traced the Hindu roots to Upanishads but their version of this religion was different and avoided practices like Sati etc.

### **13.2.5 Secularization**

Secularization is another vital aspect of social change in any society and it refers to the transformation of a religion bound society to a non-religious and welcoming institution. When a society modernizes people there follow rationality and proper reasoning over religion. The religious scriptures lose influence over the social life of a man. Max Weber was of the opinion that the technological advancement of a society usually weakens the religious and superstitious beliefs of people. This process according to Weber is known as “disenchantment of the world”. The term was first coined in 1648.

According to M.N. Srinivas, secularization means what initially was regarded as religious ceases to do now and there is a procedure of differentiation that results in complete detachment of political, legal aspects to the socio-economic aspects. According to him, secularization in the country was brought in by the British Administration due to western education and the spread of ideologies.

The main points of secularization are:

1. The decline of religious sentiment- religion is based on faith over the supreme divine power. But, in the process of secularization, there is a decline over mythical faith and it is replaced with proper rationalistic considerations.
2. Rationality- in the process of secularization, there is a marked increase in rationality. People begin to think about daily problems. They do not take each thing for granted and try to find the real cause.
3. Commitment to science- in the process of secularization, people understand that the knowledge is based on experimentation,

observation and verification of data. Human conscious is governed by experience and experiments. Empirical observation takes over faith.

4. Easy differentiation- due to the growth in rationalism and empirical learning it becomes easy to differentiate different aspects of social life like, legal, economic, political etc.

### 13.2.5.1 Theories Of Secularism

After the rise of science in the 17<sup>th</sup> century many sociologists commented that religion is on a path of decline and proposed science and intelligence as the new way to enlightenment. Gandhi's secular theories became quite important in India during those days as the country was plagued with caste and creed based discrimination of the society.

The caste-based discrimination hindered all the chances of national unity in the early days of the British Rule. Gandhi preached religious tolerance and secularism all over the country. He supported the Khilafat Movement of Muslims. British government implemented the policy of Divide and Rule and was seen in its worst form when separate elections for two communities were announced. Communal tensions were seen till the end of the freedom movement and Gandhi's monumental efforts of secularising the nation were not completely realized.

### Check Your Progress-1

Q1. Who coined the term Sanskritization?

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Q2. Define Sanskritization according to Srinivas.

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Q3. What is secularization?

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Q4. What do you understand by westernization?

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Q5. Which was one of the earliest reform movements in Bengal in the colonial period?

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## 13.3 CHANGES IN INDIAN AGRICULTURE

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Before the British rule, India was a strong agricultural power in the world and its per capita production was almost five times what it produces today. During the year 1766, there were many villages that easily produced 12 tons of paddy in a hectare. This was possible without any use of machinery or environment ruining technologies. But, the British government disrupted this activity and levied heavy tax revenues. The British taxes were so high that there was no money left with the farmers to support their households. Thus, they could easily weaken the self-sufficiency of the farmers. Three kinds of land revenue were put up:

1. Zamindari System- According to the system a village elite was given the management and collection of the revenue within his area. There was a payment of a fixed amount to be made to the

British government. Thus the farmers became tenants on their own land. The major share of the crops produced went to zamindars and farmers were left with next to nothing.

2. Ryotwari System- this system was better than zamindari as the right of ownership of land remained with the farmers and taxes were collected from them directly.
3. Mahalwari System- this was the worst of them all as the revenue was fixed on the entire village considering it as one unit. This led to serious consequences and provided moneylenders with a chance to recover money by taking a share of the landholdings of the farmers. Thus, the division of land went into the hands of non-cultivators.

### **13.3.1 Commercialization of Agriculture**

The British rule led to the commercialization of agriculture that is the production of crops was done to be sold in the market and not for family use. The process began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and from here on the production of crops was not meant for family consumption but for the purpose of export. Soon the British administration realized the export potential of the country like indigo, cotton, jute etc. and thus the cultivation of such products was introduced in Bengal and Deccan. The peasants were forced to cultivate the cash crops on the best of their lands. This total system was fraudulent as the farmers were deceived with low prices and other law enforcement.

### **13.3.2 Agricultural Labour**

Growth in agricultural labour was also seen during this time. When the British destroyed self-sufficient Indian agricultural household a large number of peasants got deprived of their own lands and became agricultural labour. Due to its policy of commercialization and demanding revenue system many peasants were left landless.

Slave Trade

This mainly happened due to the British policy where the labourers almost lived the life of a slave. This category mainly came into being because the peasants had to serve the man whom they borrowed money from. As they could not repay their loan in cash they became labourers. These people were sold and purchased like commodities.

#### **Forced Labour**

Due to the abolition of slavery worldwide, there was a huge shortage of labourers in many British colonies. This way, the sugar plantation companies began putting huge pressure on the British government. Thus, the British administration was forced to send in forced labourers from India to the Sugar plantation companies around its colonies.

#### **Industrial Labour**

In the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a shift in focus from agriculture to other industries as well. The British administration introduced many new industries due to which many Indian labourers switched their occupation and left agriculture behind. Now, these farmers did not completely depend on agriculture as their sole source of income and supplemented it with industrial work too.

#### **Bonded Labour**

Due to the commercialization of agriculture, there emerged a class that was new and completely different, they were money lenders. Money lending to peasants became an easy way on income generation. The laws provided to money lenders by the British contributed to rural indebtedness. The high rate of interest, civil courts and other malpractices turned these free farmers into bonded labourers on their own land. The exorbitant interest rates were so kept that these farmers would never be able to free it under any circumstances.

### **13.3.3 Rise of New Social Class**

The rise of a new social class happened due to the direct consequence of the new social economy, western education, state machinery developed by the British. In the rural areas the new social class were as follows:

1. Zamindars
2. Absentee landlords

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3. Tenants
4. Peasant proprietors
5. Agricultural labourers
6. Merchants
7. Moneylenders

The new social class in cities were as follows:

1. The modern financial or capitalist class
2. Modern industrial working class
3. Petty traders
4. professionals

The new social classes emerged in society due to the major economic transformation brought in by the British government. The introduction of private property led to the rise of zamindars, estate owners and tenants. The creation of sell and purchase of land led to the emergence of absentee lords and agricultural proletariat. Due to this system a chain of intermediaries developed in the agrarian area like merchants, moneylenders etc.

Due to the rise in the external and internal trade, there emerged a new class of commercial bourgeoisie who were always seen engaged in foreign trade. This class was seen trading all types of industrial and agrarian commodities with foreign nations. Due to the accumulation of wealth by the Indian traders, most of the wealthy members of the group started Indian owned mining, textile and other large industries. They were the mill owners and other capitalists along with the working class.



There was a rise in the Indian professional class due to the spread of western education. They were professors, doctors, lawyers, architects, clerks, managers, engineers, journalists, chemists etc. These social groups were unknown in the pre-British period. These social groups were linked with the modern cities and industries and were commonly known as the 'Elite Middle Class'. The intelligentsia of those times stood firm to bring about a change in backward Indian society.

**Check Your Progress-2**

Q6. What was the impact of commercialization on Indian agriculture?

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Q7. Who comprised the middle class?

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Q8. Why did the British introduce the zamindari system?

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## **13.4 ALTERING THE CASTE EQUATION**

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There has been a lot of debate on the basic concept of 'Varna and Jati'. As the new social hierarchies were being theorized across the nation, there were numerous jatis or castes that became vital for practical grouping. In modern India, approximately 3000 jatis emerged due to the socio-economic overhaul and these were further divided into sub-castes on the basis of their profession.

The membership to these jatis as an occupational group used to be predetermined by birth. It was bound by rigid rules and other commensality limitations. These caste groups received a ritual rank too that helped them understand and locate themselves in the social hierarchy. There was an unseen purity-pollution scale that developed in

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Indian society and Brahmins were located at the top of the scale due to them being absolutely pure. However, the untouchables were always looked down upon as they belonged to the last group and were considered impure.

There is a huge difference between the caste system and class system. Even if the Brahmin was less affluent, he was found on top of the caste order and was more powerful than the affluent Kshatriyas or kings who belonged to the top class group. The caste system was always under attack from time immemorial and Bhakti Movement of the medieval period stands testimony to it.

The colonial rule put a new definition to the caste system in India. On one side, the new economic system created opportunities which led to the freedom in the caste structure. But on the other side, it deep-rooted the caste system in Indian society and made it even more rigid. The British administration gathered knowledge about the Indian society to simplify their rule. Herein, ethnographers played a vital role as they collect information about the caste system of India. Henry Risley the census commissioner during those days proposed to enumerate the caste and also locate it in the Indian caste hierarchy. Hence, caste was given an official legitimacy by the British Administration.

Nevertheless, the impact of the colonial state was not just limited to the deep-rooted caste system. The British administration gave an open public space that led to different caste movements all over the country. The state also created job opportunities that were open to all castes. Education and employment were open to public irrespective of caste because the British believed inequality before the law. But these initiatives could only be enjoyed by the upper classes as only they had the available resources. Gradually, the British also discovered the difference between high caste and low caste especially the untouchables.

They created a lot of policies to protect the interest of the untouchables. Reservation of jobs in the public sector and special schools were created for them. The introduction of common penal code and criminal procedure during 1861 and 1872 respectively also paved the way for the emergence of an egalitarian society. The gaining popularity of modern political thinking that was based on equality and liberty could not be

denied and it created an atmosphere where the caste system could easily be defended.

With the Act of 1919, the British administration made a special representation for the 'untouchables' in the legislatures through nomination. In 1932, the separate electorate was announced for them. These measures taken by the government led to a proper distribution of wealth and power to the lower caste groups. This was a period of Sanskritization and it was seen that the upwardly mobile caste groups were emulating the customs and traditions of the upper caste society. This is the reason of escalation in practices like sati, child marriage etc. however, these groups were also realizing the fact that law, jobs and education are the new ways to achieve a status in society. It led to growing demands of special considerations and privileges for the lower caste groups. A lot of non-Brahmin movements also took place during this period.

### **13.4.1 Western India Non-Brahmin Movements**

Many movements took place all over the country that questioned the fundamentals of the caste division in modern society. The most notable ones took place in western India. The non-Brahmin movement began in Maharashtra under the leadership of a great thinker and activist Jyotiba Rao Phule. She belonged to the Gardener caste. She established Satya Shodhak Samaj in the year 1873 and gave her life towards the education of lower caste women and in trying to remove untouchability from society. Her aim was to liberate the Shudras, Bahujans and Ati-Shudras and to protect them from being exploited.

A number of schools and orphanages were opened all over western India where all castes could come, stay and study for free. To make a big impact on local people's mind she also interpreted the 'Aryan' theory propounded by the Orientalists. She stated that since the Upper caste Hindus believe that they belong to 'Aryan' race it means that they are not the original inhabitants of India and that Caste division was a foreign product.

Phule stated that Aryans were the last settlers and invaders on Indian land who always tried to subdue the locals and destroy the native civilization. The lower caste according to her was the real inhabitants of Indian lands and were the aboriginals. She further stated that the Brahmins wanted to dominate under the pretext of religion and turn the other caste as their slaves. Therefore, according to her, a balance needed to be restored and to do that a social revolution was the basic requirement.

Therefore, she attempted to unite the Dalits and the peasant caste together to create a big revolution. In 1875, Arya Samaj attracted Phule but she never joined this movement as she saw all upper caste leaders as hypocrites. Although, these leaders were different and also opposed the caste division they operated within the societal lines. Congress according to her was a pure Brahmin movement created to achieve power and weaken the interests of other sections. Phule started focusing only on the Maratha region and the Kunbi peasantry. This is the main reason why Satya Shodhak Samaj failed to gain a common platform as a non-Brahmin movement across the nation.

### 13.4.2 Radical Movements Of The South

In the Madras Presidency, the non-Brahmin movement began with the Vellalas who advocated their Dravidian identity. Advancement of western education in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century affected the Vellala elite when they read the British orientalist text about the settlement of Dravidians. According to Reverend Caldwell, the Dravidians were the original settlers of the land and they settled in the south. Sanskrit was brought to the country by Aryans and Brahmin invaders to this part of the subcontinent. 3% of Brahmins had always monopolized the 42% of the local population with Sanskrit and high education. Thus, the non-Brahmin movement began asserting their supremacy with language, literature and culture.

They understood that the caste system was not native to the land and Tamil culture thus they could not describe Vellalas or other non-Brahmin Tamilians as Shudras. The caste system was imposed upon them by the

Aryan invaders. When the non-Brahmin south Indian movement began most of the associations started suffixing “adi” to their titles. Politically, Justice Party was formed in 1917 after a number of meetings and conferences. In the beginning, this party petitioned the imperial government for an increase in the representation of the non-Brahmins in the Administrative positions. They opposed the Congress and saw it as a Brahmin dominated elite party and claimed for separate representation just the way it was granted for Muslims in the Morley-Minto reforms.

After the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, the Justice Party was allowed to participate in the presidential governance and was allocated 28 seats in the Madras Legislature. When the Congress gave an all-India call for non-cooperation, Justice Party paid no heed and went ahead with the elections. This way they succeeded in forming the government after winning the first elections. The party remained in power for 13 years and was a chief political substitute to the Congress.

The 1920s was a high point and also the beginning of the decline for this party. The party mainly constituted elite non-Brahmins which were scattered all over the south. These elite members who once were working as reformists for Dravidian untouchables became less and less interested in the plight later on. Many low-caste non-Brahmins thus left the party and rejoined Congress.

### **13.4.3 Ambedkar and Gandhi on Caste Divide**

To Gandhiji, untouchability was a blot on the nation and Hinduism as a religion. According to him, Swaraj was a meaningless term until this tainted blot was permanently removed. He promoted and talked about the positive means for the development and upliftment of Harijans. In many public addresses, he talked about the welfare of this caste.

He started a journal, Harijan and Young India where he largely talked and discussed his ideas. He also began an ashram where all people could come and stay irrespective of their caste or creed. Harijan Sewak Sangh which was started by Takkar Bapa in 1932 was later on popularized by Gandhiji. This organization opened many dispensaries and schools all over the country to provide free medical, education and other facilities to

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the low caste. In 1920, he stated that along with the freedom of the nation, untouchability has to be removed from the core. He upheld the 'varnashram dharma' or caste system as a non-competitive economic order of the ancient society. And such division of labour according to him was uncalled for. But the Gandhian approach failed to please many national leaders. A Dalit leader like Ambedkar wanted a political solution like guaranteed access to education, reservation in political and employment sector.

Ambedkar also charged Gandhi for being utopian and ignoring the real issue at hand. He demanded a separate political identity for the lower caste so that their issues remain protected in the nation. Ambedkar was born in an untouchable Mahar family. He is popular for campaigning against the social and caste discrimination in India. Ambedkar worked hard for the upliftment of Harijans and believed that education was the solution to all of it. With the help of likeminded people, he created an organization Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha, to impart education and look after the economic and social development of the lower caste groups. During the 1920s he launched public protests and marches to condemn untouchability. He organized a protest to allow the untouchables to enter temples and open public drinking water places.

Later on, Ambedkar demanded a separate electorate for the weaker section of the society as an only means for the upliftment. All India Depressed Classes Leaders' Conference was held in 1931 in Bombay which took a resolve that depressed classes must be provided with a separate electorate as a guarantee of the protection of their rights. On the other hand, Gandhiji was of the opinion that a separate electorate for the Dalits would mean the segregation or division of the Hindu society forever. However, the British were in favour and awarded a separate electorate. Gandhiji opposed the "divide and rule" policy of British and began a fast. He was also jailed during those days in Yerawada, Poona. He condemned the British for separating the Harijans from the rest of the Hindu tribe. He stated to Ambedkar that political separation of a caste group would be suicidal for the nation.

Congress activists Madan Mohan Malviya and Palwankar Baloo discussed the matter at large with Ambedkar. The events that built up

following the situation there was a fear of communal unrest which led Ambedkar to agree and come to terms with Gandhiji. Ambedkar withdrew his demand for a separate electorate which was later popularized as Poona Pact. Under this pact, it was agreed that 151 seats would be reserved for the scheduled castes in the joint electorate. In the Karachi session in 1931, a joint resolution was taken by the Congress members that “all citizens are equal before the law irrespective of caste, creed or sex”.

**Check Your Progress-3**

Q9. Who initiated the non-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra?

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Q10. What were Gandhi's views on untouchability?

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**13.5 LET US SUM UP**

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- The emergence of new classes in India was a direct outcome of the formation of new state order, state administration, education, transport and economy under the British administration.
- It was mainly due to the efforts of reformists like Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohun Roy, Dayanand Saraswati and many others that reformative laws were introduced by the British.
- The major credit of installation of the first railway line goes to Lord Dalhousie. This line was inaugurated in 1853 from Bombay to Thane. In the following year, a network was also developed between Bombay and Kalyan, Calcutta and Raniganj and Madras Arakonam.
- An important outcome of the modernization and westernization by the British was the unification of the nation which even the British government could not prevent. Press, literature and many

more promoted national integration and fight for the nation. It also helped break caste barriers.

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### 13.6 KEYWORDS

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- **Sanskritization:** this is an ongoing process and can be defined as a procedure through which a low caste Hindu or any other group tries and changes its rituals or way of life towards becoming a high or “Twice born caste”.
- **Secularization:** Secularization is another vital aspect of social change in any society and it refers to the transformation of a religion bound society to a non-religious and welcoming institution. When a society modernizes people there follow rationality and proper reasoning over religion.
- **Harijan:** This term was coined by Gandhiji and refers to the Depressed classes of society. In a petition to bring the society together, Gandhiji called the lower caste “Harijans” or “people of God”.
- **Westernization:** Westernization was described by Srinivas as a procedure where the society starts adopting the lifestyle, food habits, language, religion, ideas, alphabet, culture, philosophy and values of the “West”.
- **Caste:** caste or varna has been there in the Indian society since ancient times and it also has a mention in the Upanishads. However, through the ages, the varna system that developed became stronger and caste came to be pre-determined by birth and not activity. This way caste created a strong divide in the Hindu society.
- **Indian Renaissance:** Indian renaissance refers to a time that was marked with the rebirth of Indian society. The quest for knowledge, development of arts and science improved the quality of life. The reformists undertook the acts of reformation with absolute eagerness.



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## 13.7 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- What do you mean by the term Indian Renaissance?
- Why was there an ideological divide among Gandhi and Ambedkar over the Caste Issue?
- What do you mean by Sanskritization?
- How was westernization important for the restructuring and integration of Indian society?
- Talk about the non-Brahmin movement of Western India.

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## 13.8 SUGGESTED READINGS

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- Development and Social Change- Philip Mc Micheal
- Law and the Economy in Colonial India- Tirthankar Roy and Anand V Swamy
- Modern India- Sumit Sarkar
- Social Change in Modern India- M.N. Srinivas
- Nationalism, Peasantry and Social Change in India- K.K.N. Kurup
- Social Change and Public Administration in India- S.N. Singh, K.K. Srivastav and S.S. Chauhan

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## 13.9 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. M.N. Srinivas coined the term Sanskritization.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q1)
2. this is an ongoing process and can be defined as a procedure through which a low caste Hindu or any other group tries and changes its rituals or way of life towards becoming a high or “Twice born caste”.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q2)
3. Secularization is another vital aspect of social change in any society and it refers to the transformation of a religion bound society to a non-religious and welcoming institution. When a society modernizes people

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there follow rationality and proper reasoning over religion.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q3)

4. Westernization was described by Srinivas as a procedure where the society starts adopting the lifestyle, food habits, language, religion, ideas, alphabet, culture, philosophy and values of the “West”.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q4).

5. The earliest reform movements began in Bengal by Raja Ram Mohun Roy in the year 1775. He protested against the evil practices like Sati, child marriage etc.....(answer to Check Your Progress-1 Q5)

6. Due to the commercialization of agriculture, the peasants were forced to cultivate the cash crops on the best of their lands. This total system was fraudulent as the farmers were deceived with low prices and other law enforcements.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q6)

7. Merchants and moneylenders formed the new middle class in the agrarian areas whereas the new capitalists, professionals formed the new middle class in the cities.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q7)

8. The British introduced the zamindari system so that they could easily weaken the self-sufficiency of the farmers.....(answer to Check Your Progress-2 Q8)

9. Jyotiba Rao Phule started the non-Brahmin movement in western India.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q9)

10. According to Gandhiji, untouchability was a blot on the nation and Hinduism as a religion. According to him, Swaraj was a meaningless term until this tainted blot was permanently removed. He promoted and talked about the positive means for the development and upliftment of Harijans. In many public addresses, he talked about the welfare of this caste.....(answer to Check Your Progress-3 Q10)

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# **UNIT -14 WOMEN: STATUS, PROPERTY RIGHTS, REFORM LEGISLATION, CHANGING ROLE, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY, DEBATE ON TRADITION AND MODERNITY**

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## **STRUCTURE**

### **14.0 Objective**

### **14.1 Introduction**

### **14.2 Status of Women in Society**

#### **14.2.1 Historical Overview**

#### **14.2.2 Parameters of Understanding Women**

#### **14.2.3.Pre-Industrial and Industrial Society**

### **14.3 Political Participation of women**

#### **14.3.1 Establishment of Women's organizations**

#### **14.3.2 Women's Campaign**

#### **14.3.3.Representation of women in political institutions**

#### **14.3.4 Political participation in Political discussions**

### **14.4 Reforms in Early 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century**

#### **14.4.1 Concept**

#### **14.4.2. Perspective Models**

#### **14.4.3 Reforms organizations and movements in Early 20s**

### **14.5 Role of women in Society**

#### **14.5.1 Changing role of women in society**

#### **14.5.2.Rights of women in society**

### **14.6 Debate on Tradition and Society**

#### **14.6.1. Difference between Tradition and Society**

#### **14.6.2.Conflicts between Tradition and Society**

### **14.7Let us sum up**

### **14.8 Keywords**

### **14.9 Questions for review**

### **14.10 Suggested Readings**

### **14.11 Answers to Check Your Progress**

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### 14.0 OBJECTIVE

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After going through this unit, you will be able to learn:

- Social reform movements in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with different perspective and conditions of women in the movement. Participation of women's in the national movement with the difficulties they had gone through. Telangana, Chipko and Arrack movement in Post-Colonial period. Also, a woman's as the representative pillars and their position during British India.
- The distinction between the women of working and middle class, they were different according to their perspectives. Gender inequality of women from men in the society, their complex roles, their dominance and seeking the position in society. Status of women's in diverse religions around the world.
- Described feminism with the reference to reform movements. Analyse different types of feminist backgrounds. Tracing the evolution and the need for feminism in the world with special reference to India presently.
- The role of women in society in general with the diversification of thought and views concerning the women's status. The extent of gender discrimination, the structure of women's movement in India, historical antecedents that led to women's mobilizations in India and the issues for women's mobilization in colonial India
- Lastly, the social concerns of women's movement in independent India.

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### 14.1 INTRODUCTION

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In this unit, we will discuss the status of women in India and the outside world during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. During that time, women faced a lot of difficulties and obstacles in seeking equality as men. They were distinguished and biased on the basis of being a woman. This was because they were supposed to sit in homes and do household chores. They were not considered as strong as men. Women's status in pre-industrial society was lower than men, as they were supposed to sit in homes and do household chores. There was a fine line of gender discrimination. But, after the emergence of industrialisation, the status of women was changing gradually in society. Women's had a prominent status in the subject matter of religion. They were having significant status in religious rituals and it was a tool for suppressing women's dignity. They were given much importance in the Hindu religion. In the Indian society, the status of women in pre-colonial, colonial and in Independence era is also precisely considered to outline the major changes in their status and roles. In this chapter, we will discuss the reform movements with two perspectives of 'Procreative' and 'Retroactive' models. During the colonial period, there was social reform and nationalism. In the post-colonial duration, women had taken a major part in the movements of Telangana, Chipko and Anti arrack movement. There were regional reform movement in British India and throughout the world suffered by women.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century women were getting employment and girls were seeking education. Their working conditions were improved. Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole were two prominent women of that time. There were many female emerging writers who had inspired those women who could not raise voice for themselves. The percentage of women labour was more than men during 1971. In the western European countries, females were modern housewives with their dominating feminine status. They had a major role in political participation. When there was the emergence of women's organizations and campaign. They were representing themselves for fighting in the context of the nationalist struggles. In the 1920s during elections, women were standing in the elections but they did not win. After 7 years S. Muthulakshmi Reddy became the first women in the legislative council in colonial India.

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Women's significance was growing with newly established organizations and campaigns. They were also being the representatives for the female society to seek equality for themselves. There were two Anti-colonial movements, in which women were in the nationalist movements and ideal nationalist movement. They were becoming the voice of for the whole nation by helping the class of working women in the elite group and for the middle class too. They had formed anti-caste movements also. Woman's rights carry numerous things to theory including not just an assortment of specific good and political cases, yet methods for posing and noting inquiries, investigate of standard philosophical perspectives and techniques, and new subjects of request. Women's activist commitments to and intercessions in standard philosophical discussions are canvassed in sections under "Woman's rights, mediations". Sections secured under the rubric "women's liberation, theme" concern philosophical issues that emerge as women's activist's eloquent records of sexism, study chauvinist social and social practices, and create elective dreams of a simple world. To put it plainly, they are philosophical points that emerge inside woman's rights.

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## 14.2 STATUS OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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The status of women in society explores the diverse factors for women's status. The status or position of women in various phases of history is significant. The Women's status regarding religion and their transforming status in Indian society in different phases of history. In all, the status of women in society intends to deliver the information for the interpretation of women's position in contemporary Indian society. The 'Status' of women is interrelated to the rights for participatory and her obligations for the management of the society surrounded by her. It is a concept, which is related to the position of women to the men. This position is followed by the social structure concerning the obligations and rights of the women. Her status is interpreted by the term, "role" offered by the ideologies, traditions and religions of the state for the economic development.

### 14.2.1 Historical Overview

The historical overview gives the commencement of questions regarding untouchability or communal questions on women in India. This question had popped up during the nationalism in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Through explicit research, this debate was much older to discuss. This debate was made in five stages or phases, whatever you may call it.

**I Phase:** The first phase of the women's questions came regarding the crises of identity in newly intellectual middle-class society. Many elite women's were imitating the standard of living similarly to colonial rulers. Colonial rulers were those who found themselves their women to be imperfect regarding all the equality given to men. Many traditional customs of badly treating women in the category of widows, discarding education, child marriages, infanticides were the common factors, which were becoming an obstacle in the path of societal development. The reforms were so impatient about eliminating these obstacles from the path of development. Hopefully, there were some reformers who actually tried to imitate the west and applied some methods of freeing women from oppression and subjugation.

**II Phase:** In the second phase, in the ending of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the women's question got elevated with a stain of rising revivalism and cultural nationalism. It was a counter-attack for spreading the effect of western values and culture in society. The revivalists were trying to conserve the old cultural traditions and started for providing support to the education of women by opposing the orthodoxy on the basis of making strong the education of women so that she could withhold the responsibility of the family. Education was the perfect opportunity for enhancing the position of women within the family and initiating a full-on break to represent the influence of the western culture and values to the mentality of youth, especially males. Voice of the female was also prominent during this age, as Jyotiba Rao Phule in the 1880s was primarily distressed regarding the dominancy of elites, referring to the

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subjugation of women. They were used as an instrument for balancing the control of Brahmans in the Indian society. Similarly, B.M. Malabari had interpreted the part of forming a social campaign in agitation to that; he commenced the Age of consent Bill. It was the foremost duration when Times of India had published something about women who had gone through oppression and subjugation by their husbands and families.

III Phase: The questions were getting intertwined with the changing in the nationalist movement. Many women were seeking the chance to involve themselves in the activities of revolution. They were challenging their leaders for permitting them to participate in the movement. The movement was successfully increasing over time with the mass group of women's participation. It was clearly visible, but it also raised many perplexing questions. The reformers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were impatient about issues of uprising middle-class women. They were an ideal image if being suppressed, secluded and subjugated Indian women, whether Hindu or Muslim. It occupied the Indian literature very earlier. It paid no tribute to those who introduced the literature in western parts. As they were crucial victims of the changes in the economy including men also. The historians had approved the movement of freedom but were having objections regarding the women's participation in the achievement of Mahatma Gandhi movements. The labour and peasants were those never paid any attention to the participation of women.

IV Phase: This question was absolutely solved without any dilemmatic conditions. The principle of equality was adopted in the constitution of India. It provided information to women's right to education, right to speak, right to vote and go for job opportunities in public and private offices. The women's organization played a major role in seeking equal rights.

V Phase: In the fifth Phase the crises of gender inequality, the threat to life and poverty and rights of the people is interpreted. From 1970-74, the Committee on the Status of India, it was incredibly provoked from marginalizing the women in society and economy. It was started much



before independence by the former Census Commissioner. They were failed in attempting to prove the major transformations in society. With respect to the demographic trends, the sex ratio, disparity, death rate, life expectancy, access to livelihood, education and literacy was gradually declining. The instruments of equality, rights and education for legitimacy and politics had relied on solving the issues of women's question. They were still out of reach to a major population of women who were marginalised in the patriarchal society.

The role and responsibilities of men and women had major differences in gender inequality and the position of women. Behind this, the reason was the initiate of communal rights concerning agriculture and herding. It caused the male dominancy to rise over the dowry and polygamy of marriages, where a man could marry more than one woman.

### **14.2.2 Parameters of Understanding Women**

There are different parameters for understanding women. But before this, it is necessary to evaluate the meaning of "status of women". It could be attained in various ways that could be the limitation of women's approach to the material and social accumulations within the family, society and the community. It could be her authority and control in the community and the reputation sought from male members. It could be the position that could be differentiated from other positions in the social system of Committee on the status of women in India in 1974. The degree of attaining knowledge, political control and economical sources and autonomy for the women to have made their decisions for their own choices at the most important phase of their life. The improvement in the status of women, which means that the horizon of participatory rights and society is elevating. Level-headed position of men and women increases their opportunities and chances of growth. Higher the responsibility and accountability, higher the position in the society. It connotes the notion of equality. Women's role has been varied in each and every society. In every single society, the changes have come over a period of time. Women's had played bit-role in economical issues where

they had partial or complete dominance over the situations and different conditions also. Their status in society affects their education, access over various resources and rights of the property for which, there are general constraints, traditional, historical and constitutional that are absolutely and solely accountable for their position in the society. The position of women is a significant issue in the development of the economy. The alternative changes in the positions of women are correlated to cultural and social traditions, degree of seeking education, phases of economic development and their participation in economic development. Sociologists had given a concept of, 'changing the status of women' despite 'status of women in society'.

There are dimensions of assessing the status of women in the phase of changes in the position of women. It was in the stratified social and complex structure, which are:

- a) the level up to which, dominance is enjoyed by women over their lives
- b) the extent up to which, they have the power of making decisions in the processes. They are highly effective in the status of power and authority

### **14.2.3.Pre-Industrial & Industrial Society**

There were many social feminist and Marxist who announced the necessity for experimenting the history and searching the major reason behind the genders. The transition in society was the primary factor with gender stratification, which was communal property form of development to the clan of elites. They were having exclusive and beneficial rights over the property. In the course of time, patrilocal, polygamous and matrilineal societies got developed with gender inequalities from society to society. In different pre-industrial societies and has transformed in many ways after the phase of the industrialization and the pre-industrial era. The greater degree of distributing their work and emotional roles followed by men and women. The trend altered with the industrialization, women had to often stay at their home for taking care of their children and also men had to go on their work in the factories. The Gender roles were becoming more distinctive with the industrialization than they were even before.

In Western European societies, the consequence of industrialization was the modern role of the housewife as the dominant mature feminine role. During the early stages of industrialization after the Industrial Revolution in England women were employed in factories where they often continued their traditional work in textiles. From 1841 until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 a combination of pressure from male workers and reformers in Europe restricted female employment in industry and gradual withdrawal of all-female labour from the factory. Ann Oakley (1974) states that from 1914 to 1950, there was a “tendency towards the growing employment of women coupled with retention of housewifery role. During these years women received many legal and political rights in England but all these had little effect on the mother housewife role, which was central to their lives.

### Religion: Oppressing Tool for Women

The socialist revolution has a positive impact. Revolutions will further the cause of women even more if the positive aspects of the Quran can be emphasized and the patriarchal misinterpretations abandoned. According to many non-Muslim writers, the veil is variously depicted as a tangible symbol of women’s oppression, a form of social control, religiously sanctioning women’s invisibility and subordinate socio-political status. However, there is another viewpoint: *Idijale*, or religious modestly maintained through veil, actually has an advantage for women, which can reduce or allow them to cope with male oppression.

### Check your progress-1

Q1. Give the historical overview of Women’s question in society in phases.

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Q2. How religion was an oppressing tool for women?

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## 14.3 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

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In the nineteenth century, various new strategies for leading American political decision crusades created in the United States. Generally, the systems were unique, not duplicated from Europe or anyplace else. The crusades were likewise changed by a general expansion of the democratic establishment—the states started evacuating or decreasing property and expense capabilities for suffrage and by the mid-nineteenth century, the extraordinary larger part of free grown-up white guys could cast a ballot.

The framework was described by two noteworthy gatherings who ruled government at the nearby, state and national levels and enrolled most voters into a reliable "armed force" of supporters. There were various little outsiders that typically were brief or unimportant. The mind-boggling arrangement of choosing the government, state and nearby authorities implied that political decision crusades were both successive and important as far as political power. About all administration employments were disseminated on a supporting premise to party labourers. The employments were honorific and typically paid great. The most ideal approach to find a support line of work was to work in the political decision crusade for the triumphant party, and volunteers were various. Decisions furnished Americans with a lot of their news.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was the period of struggle for the colonized people in political representation for going through participatory crises in colonialization. The women were taking a step ahead in politics. It was questioning matter for society to accept a woman a political participatory.

### 14.3.1 Establishment of Women's organizations

Many newly political organizations have emerged namely Arya Mahila Samaj, Anjuman-E-Khwatin-E-Islam or Mumbai and Stri Zarthosti Mandal, Indian National Congress or National Social Congress. They have founded with the encouragement efforts men and many newly ideal

women met the other women to have a discussion on the issues concerning their welfare. At that same time, they were also feeling alienated in traditional societies. The Women's Indian Association was formed in 1915 for Literacy, politics, religion and philanthropy. They made an effort in involving themselves in 1918 when All India Ladies Association established by a clan of Muslim elite women in Bhopal. The National Council of women in India was founded in 1925 where the women of elite classes raised their voice for national struggle by the women in the society. In 1927, All India Women's Conference came up as claim for this education, legal disabilities and issues. Notwithstanding the origins of the middle class, the urban and rural class was also included in this conference as 'Solidarity sisters'.

### **14.3.2. Women's Campaign**

In 1917, the need for women's vote was demand during the Montague Chelmsford visit to India. They provided assistance support to Universal franchise and Women's franchise to vote. The women's organizations, which are mentioned were struggling for voting rights. They had made many strategic aspects by distributing themselves in each area for strikes, protests, meetings and campaigns. In 1923, around 18.3% of women had voted. It signified the elimination of gender discrimination and biases. In 1927, the Simon Commission puts forward replaced the property qualifications of wifehood. The property holders who were wives and widows were given the right to vote 25 years above age. There were numerous debates and corruption in the franchise over voting rights of women. They wanted the right to vote not because they wanted it for self-reputation but because of their involvement of roles in and responsibilities in public life. 'Equal but different', the slogan was used for women organization to decrease the distinction between the gender inequality of men and women.

### **14.3.3. Representation of Women in Political Institutions**

In many formal institutions, the question of women's participation as the representative on politics was a critical issue. The main problem was the reservation of women in political representation for voting rights. In 1920, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay fought in elections including two females but, in the end, they lost. In 1927, S. Muthulakshmi fought in the elections and became the first woman in the legislative council in colonial India. She was a medical student from the devadasi community in Madras Presidency. She passed bills concerning to devadasi abortion, medical, child marriage and educational provisions. In 1937, the legislative assemblies had made reservation for women's seats. The elected women in Congress were limited to legislative assembly. The political rights of the women were considered essential for the position in opposition to claims in politics. These claims were made by Untouchable or depressed classes. For instance, the women's organization was based on equality, merit and were basically unprivileged. The discarded privileges for women's organization led to stagnant growth and insult to intellectuality and their efficiency. It caused the demands of Muslim women and depressed classes by the separate electorate to be legal.

### **14.3.4 Women's Participation in Political Discussions**

In 1927, *Mother India* was published worldwide by Katherine Mayo. It brought out the female voices of India. The female writings were facilitated all over Indian writing scope. The revolutions were against the reply back of the books namely, 'Mother India ka Jawab' by Chandravati Lakhanpal and 'Sex fair of India', by Charulata Devi. In the Indian National Congress session, in 1931, women's equality regarding political work was proposed. The National Committee contained top leading women under Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade. She published a report concerning the topic of, 'Women's Role in Planned Economy' (WRPE). It was the foremost planned document that had revealed the productive and efficient role of women, which is useful for the country. It led to the creation of many radical demands like letting females work even after getting married, right on their assets and power over their remuneration.

It criticized the female prohibitions to work outside, paid attention to unpaid family labour of women and initiated an argument for training men in domestic chores.

**Check your Progress 2**

Q1. Name those women's organizations mentioned in this text.

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Q2. Who published 'Mother India' and 'Mother India Ka Jawab'?

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## **14.4 REFORMS IN EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

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### **14.4.1 Concept**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, modern education was growing by the influence made by Britishers. It caused the expansion of India and the growth of the western system in Indian society. It affected the rational thoughts equality, freedom and justice in all the facets of life. The ideologies were preached in European institutions and most educated people were included in this group, that became the reason for development in the forming different sections of the Indian society. In regard to the traditional norms of the society in India which was not appropriate for rational and modern society that was intended to grow. They thought that gender discriminations, traditional caste and religious rituals made available those people who had restricted growth in the thought of rational process. It was allotted as the hallmark to the European countries. They had tried to construct India with traditional forms for those people who could take part in modern world. These efforts caused 'Reform Movements' in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 14.4.2.Perspective Models

There are two perspectives of reforms namely, Procrative and Retroactive models. They are briefly discussed below:

- Procrative Reforms

This reform is concerned with women who tried to bring advancements in the lives of women. They brought many opportunities for jobs and literacy. They had also initiated the greater degree of women's bit-role in public and had freed them from the old traditional stereotype lifestyles in the pre-modern era. This model enhanced the condition of women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It has four key features

Ritual Sphere— This spere focus on the prohibitions imposed on women. Those prohibitions were child marriages, sati and restrictions on widow-remarriages.

Educational Sphere— This sphere focuses on familiarizing the women to the importance of literacy and the outer world. The domestic housewives were also included in this sphere by inviting them to schools for education.

Social Sphere— This sphere focuses on the ill-treatment of women in comparison to men regarding the caste system and gender biases and discriminations.

Public & Political Sphere— This sphere focuses on the efforts and endeavours made by women in playing roles in politics and major involvement in public life.

- Retroactive Reforms

At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the criticism of the 'Procreative reforms' is known as 'Retroactive Reforms.' It recreated the reform movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and did not persuade the women to uplift in individual unique identity.



It gave three arguments with respect to 19<sup>th</sup>-century reforms

Strategies for balancing families in Modern World: The reforms of the 19<sup>th</sup> century did not improve the condition of women. They attempted to make resolutions in solving the issues relating to the family system introduced by Britishers for the western system. The modern phase had intended the women to study with bearing child and doing household chores. But, it failed as they were unable to make up for their studies that created issues in their literacy and family crises.

Criticising Eurocentric Visitors: The Eurocentric visitors assumed the Indians as ignorant, backward, filled with prohibitions, false hope and religious practices. So, they felt the need for taking responsibility for making the Indian society a civilized country. For them, the most crucial part was to preach the ideologies of modernity and rationalism. They provided the legitimacy for the colonial rule, by showcasing their power to Indians. They served Indians as British Imperialists. But, still, they were criticized because most of Indians were uneducated and illiterate. They were not familiar to the civilized society of the modern world.

Male Dominance: This argument is based on the fact that reforms were made in the effort of men for women but not for women themselves. They were the shadows for inspirations and notions of femininity. The women were expected to follow the reforms and regulations made by the masculine dominance of society.

### 14.4.3 Reform Organizations & Movements in the Early 20s

The women's position has travelled from various periods and forms of religions and caste. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, prohibition on women for literacy, widow remarriages and burning themselves on the funeral pyre of their husbands. During the British period, the literacy and western liberty within the Indians and activities involving missionaries had led to creation of many movements and religious reforms. These reforms were established for castes, advancement in the women's position and status,

## Notes

to promote their education. The social, religious and illegal practices were paid attention to close them down. In this period, there were major organizations that made the transformation in the life of women by prohibiting the illegal practices of social and religious practices.

Reform Organizations are Brahmo Samaj, Prarthna Samaj, Arya Samaj and Muslims Women and Social Reforms given below:

- Brahmo Samaj:

It was established by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1925 for eliminating the ill-treatment done on women and prohibiting them. The prejudices, child marriage, sati, literacy, widow remarriage, polygamy. Education was significant at that duration. Kesab Chandra Sen was impatient about women's condition. He felt the essential requirement for women's literacy. Bamabodhini Patrika was introduced with solemnizing the inter-caste marriages. In Brahmo Samaj, the Civil Marriage Act of 1972 was proposed for inter-caste marriages and divorce with which it made permanency of ages of marriage for boys and girls.

- Prarthna Samaj:

It was established in 1965 by M.G. Ranade and R.G. Bhandarkar. In 1869, Bombay Widow Reforms Association passed for widow remarriage. R.G. Bhandarkar and N.G. Chandravarkar became the vice-chancellors of the first women university, established in 1916.

- Arya Samaj:

It was established by Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 1875. It was opposing the idols, orthodoxy, religions and caste system. They were against the divorce and widow remarriages. They separated schools for boys and girls, which were later transformed into universities.

- Muslim Women and Social Reforms:

Purdah system imposed on Muslims women was removed and slowly the education system was growing. Syed Ahmad Khan, Begum, Sheikh Abdullah and Karmat Hussain in Lucknow had flourished the movement for improving the conditions of women's literacy. In 1916, Begum of

Bhopal had a conference named All India Women's Conference, in which activities were disapproved by 1917. Polygamy was abolished and after some years the Muslim women took their involvement and participation in the nationalist struggle against the Britishers.

Reform Movements are given below:

Telangana Movement:

It started in 1946 and ended in 1951. It is the post-war struggle of peasants in India. It was the protests made by the people opposing the Nizam regime, Jagirdars and Patils in the state of Hyderabad. The peasants were directly linked to the rulers and numerous illegal taxes were imposed by Jagirdars and labours were forced unwillingly to extricate the money from them by the landlords. In the Vetti system, people had to collect wood, supply food and carry post to other sections of the state. The peasant's daughters were kept by the rulers as collateral for inability to pay taxes and after marriage they served as their concubines. Women were totally exploited during this period due to slavery and sexual exploitation.

Chipko Movement:

Chipko Movement was started in Advani village in Tehri Garhwal district of Uttar Pradesh. In 1972, this movement has started a clan of women who fought for protecting trees by preventing them to get cut. They believed that timber can have many uses. They have relied on their needs from the forests as they provide them with fruits, vegetables and to gather firewood for domestic chores. The crop combustion is used as rice straws. They proposed that people should support animal husbandry and agriculture with protecting forests life. In 1974, April the per capita income rose to Rs.129.

Anti Arrack Movement

The Anti Arrack movement was started in Andhra Pradesh, in its Nellore district a small village named Dubagunta. This movement was achieved because they have literacy mission, which was launched on January 2,

1990, in Nellore district. It was the National Literacy Mission effective from January 1991. It was implemented in advance with the objective for the development and to flourish the literacy and encourage women empowerment. The Anti-arack movement was initiated as on spot outburst of lower class and caste of women in it, soon to become a rage by the discrimination in classes and castes. It was opposing the local arack shops, liquor contractors, excise officials and all the types of machinery of state. This movement gave excessive self-confidence and powerful sense to those women, who were realising their strength and used it to their benefit.

### Check Your Progress 3

Q1. What were the major Reform organizations during early 20s?

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Q2. What were the argument given against 19<sup>th</sup> century reforms?

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## 14.5 ROLE OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY

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In the duration of the Nineteenth century, the importance of reforms and the transformations regarding the woman question in five phases was presumed as the centre of focus. At some degree it was concerned to campaigns and organizations formed. The women's condition in the country was transformed by literacy. The western ideas in the society were introduced in society to make it civilized. The facets of 19<sup>th</sup>-century reforms were made for transforming society and its ideologies. There were some great scholars like Sushoban Sarkar in Bengal during the colonization. He saw the rebirth of reforms with women questions that created major helpful reform legislation. The Widow Marriage Act was passed in 1856 with establishment of separate institutions for boys and girls were made and later converted to the universities. The reform movements created many focal points for issues in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The

reforms were made for education of women in the western parts of India. The degree of evil practices and ill-treatment on women such as widow remarriage and child marriage in addition to their freedom has not consented to the marriage.

Pandita Ramabai. Tarabhai Shinde and Ramabai Ranade altogether in different locations were working on the problems of evil practices and ill-treatment done on women. Ramabai Ranade was the wife of M.G. Ranade, who was the social reformer in Maharashtra. His position made possibilities in initiating the raising of these problems in campaigns. The women questions for marriage and opportunities for seeking education was side interest of reforms. It was for the Indian Social Conference, whose leader was M.G. Ranade. On the issue of Age of Consent Bill, a debate had come up in the were Bal Gangadhar Tilak was opposing the alien government to take any serious action on it, on the contrary, M.G.Ranade was supporting it. For instance, those women had used the bill whose husbands were not literate. Pandita Ramabai's main consent was to provide divorce with the bill.

In Reforms of Bengal in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there a primary debate held on the issue of efforts for forming the social reforms. For some of the historians, it was just an agenda for reforms in the process of modernization. To remain, it was an instrument of the colonization for attaining the image of modern women in traditional society. For some, it was their weak point of social reform of agenda in 19<sup>th</sup> century. But never mind, Act of Sati, widow remarriage was passed in 1856 regarding the conditions of the women in the traditional society. Need for education was growing gradually concerning women for their own welfare and to be a part of public life and live in modern civilization.

### **14.5.1 Changing Role of Women in Society**

Of course, ladies, today have more options throughout everyday life. On the off chance that they need to remain at home and deal with the children, they can. In the event that they need to have a profession, they

can do that as well. The wellsprings of social, political, and monetary disparity are various. They incorporate factors, for example, race, class, sexuality, religion, training, and culture. Anticipating that the women's activist development should take care of every one of those issues is request excessively, and yet, in the event that the development is just about the privileges of favoured, straight, white, working-class ladies, ladies, particularly in states where there are not very many foetus removal facilities and compulsory three-day holding up periods. For ladies who are poor or debilitated, for instance, they will most likely be unable to bear to take three days, so they have even less access to these administrations than increasingly special ladies do. They may likewise say that by concentrating exclusively on access to anti-conception medication and foetus removal, we disregard the regenerative worries of other, more minimized ladies.

It depends on the policies of the state and pressures that by reforms organizations and cultural politics there are numerous actions being taken up for welfare women. They have the consequences to be suffered by society and their major effect on the lives of the women were no doubt, progressing. The measures of reformations in order to educate women in elite organizations is still a substantial part of society. The social and national reforms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century differed in accordance with the region, community and clan that we do talk about mostly. It is also essential to keep in mind the fact, during the creation of general assessment for women reforms in India. For upper-caste woman, the subject matter of literacy and remarriage was truly significant. On the contrary, lower caste women were only covering their body and going to temple with pallu on their heads in front of their in-laws. This all had happened in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It made the distinction in the rights and empowerment regarding their quality of standard life.

### **14.5.2. Rights of the Women**

One may concur that women's activists should work to end all types of abuse - mistreatment is unjustifiable and women's activists, similar to every other person, have an ethical commitment to battle unfairness -

without keeping up that it is the mission of woman's rights to end all persecution. One may even accept that so as to achieve woman's rights' objectives it is important to battle bigotry and monetary misuse, yet in addition, imagine that there is a smaller arrangement of explicitly women's activist targets. At the end of the day, restricting abuse in its numerous structures might be instrumental to, even a vital way to, women's liberation, yet not characteristic for it. Women's rights, as freedom battle, must exist separated from and as a piece of the bigger battle to annihilate control in the entirety of its structures. Women and men must share a typical comprehension - essential information of what woman's rights is - in the event that it is ever to be an amazing mass-based political development. In Feminist Theory, from edge to focus, it is recommended that characterizing women's liberation extensively as "a development to end sexism and chauvinist persecution" would empower women to have a typical political objective. Sharing a shared objective doesn't infer that ladies and men won't have fundamentally dissimilar viewpoints on how that objective may become too. There is an assortment of translations - women's activist and something else of what precisely mistreatment comprises in, yet the main thought is that abuse comprises in "an encasing structure of powers and boundaries which watches out for the immobilization and decrease of a gathering or classification of individuals

**Check Your Progress 4**

Q1. Name three females who were working on problems of evil practices done women.

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Q2. Name one scholar in 19<sup>th</sup> century from the text.

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**14.6 DEBATE ON TRADITION AND MODERNITY**

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## Notes

Modernization can be characterized as those arrangements of thoughts or convictions which are regularly streaming and advancing like a stream. Custom and modernization are contrary. One must pick between them. Present-day contemplations way of life, working society, garments and all the incorporated pieces of modernization. Despite the fact that there are a few clashes in a conventional manner and modernized method for getting things done, these two methods various prompts similar outcomes.

Besides, referenced India with the otherworldly and the West with the material. The creator is custom was most unblemished' and thinks that it is unexpected that they 'were least ready to talk about it.' But the conventions he has looked for are pāramārthika (managing interminable facts) in their direction. Indeed, they can't address advancement, yet what is their capability to address vyavahāra (reasonable world) in any case? The educator of the Samavedaschool in this paper has nothing to state to advancement except for, so far as that is concerned, he would not have had anything to state even to the common Hindu of the pre-present day India who was a specialist in the dharmaśāstras and arthaśāstras. The main contrast is that innovation treats him like an outcast while the pre-current common Hindu would have loved him. Be that as it may, the pre-present day common Hindu would not have moved toward him for counsel in the direct of vyavahāra anything else than advancement thinks of him as important in the administration of its undertakings. The educator completely comprehends this restriction. He completely comprehends that his insight can't achieve any change in vyavahāra. Everything he can do is keep his insight secure – beejRaksha as he calls it – and wait for his chance for vyavahāra to turn good. In fact, that is 'everything that could possibly be done' by him for it will require a common Hindu mastermind – a Manu or a Chanakya – who is scholarly in the field of vyavahāra, to realize an adjustment in the contemporary type of Indian advancement. These are not the sort of individuals the creator has looked to meet and, in reality, one would not be astonished in the event that he would not have any desire to meet them.



### **14.6.1 Difference between tradition and modernity**

Tradition alludes to those social orders or components of social orders that are little scale, are gotten from indigenous and regularly old social practices. Modernity alludes to those practices that identify with the modern method of generation or the advancement of enormous scale frequently provincial social orders. Traditional society lays accentuation on religion (and enchantment) in conduct standards and qualities, suggesting coherence (profound connections) with a genuine or envisioned past. It generally acknowledges ceremonies, penances, and sacred banquets. While in modernity, the strength of common political authority over state and minimization of religious impact from state/political issues (political characteristic). The supplanting of primitive economy (get-ting administrations by the proprietor of land) by an economy where cash framework gives the medium to trade (in exchange) in view of huge scale generation and utilization of products for the market, broad responsibility for property, and gathering of capital on a long haul premise (monetary trademark).

### **14.6.2 Conflict between Tradition and Modernity in India**

In the investigation of modernization in India, the convention has consistently been a fixation. During the 1950s, there was a hot discussion in India on convention and advancement. In the west additionally, when modernization started after illumination, there was a genuine discussion on religion, science, state, and fundamentalism. Feudalism was tested by levelheadedness, private enterprise, and science. In India, advancement should be broke down with regards to progressivism, vote based system, and private enterprise. The Britishers had pilgrim capacity to abuse the Indian masses, however, in their exertion, they likewise needed not to meddle in the customary structure of Indian culture. The royal rulers were profoundly hostile to advancement. Their endurance relied upon the progression and reinforcing of convention. Furthermore, accordingly, in

the Indian circumstance additionally, it is very important to talk about innovation as far as India's customs and subsequently the fixation.

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### 14.7 LET US SUM UP

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- The 'Status' of women is interrelated to the rights for participatory and her obligations for the management of the

#### Check your progress 5

Q1. What do you understand by the term Tradition and Modernity?

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Q2. Highlight the major issues or problems between Tradition and modernity in India?

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society surrounded by her. It is a concept, which is related to the position of women to the men.

- The transition in society was the primary factor with gender stratification, which was communal property form of development to the clan of elites. They were having exclusive and beneficial rights over the property
- The Women's Indian Association was formed in 1915 for Literacy, politics, religion and philanthropy with the effort to include in All India Ladies Association established by a clan of Muslim elite women in Bhopal.
- Modern education was growing by the influence made by Britishers they expanded the growth of the western system in Indian society. The ideologies were preached in and intellectuals were included in this group, that became the reason for development informing different sections of the Indian society

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, prohibition on women for literacy, widow remarriages and burning themselves on the funeral pyre of their husbands. During the British period, the literacy and western liberty within the Indians led to religious reforms established for castes, advancement in the women's position and status, to promote their education
- The facets of 19<sup>th</sup>-century reforms were made for transforming society and its ideologies. The Widow Marriage Act was passed in 1856. The reform movements were made for the education of women in the western parts of India. The degree of evil practices and ill-treatment on women such as widow remarriage and child marriage in addition to their freedom did not consent to the marriage.
- The social and national reforms in the 19<sup>th</sup> century differed in accordance with the region, community and clan for women reforms in India. For upper-caste woman, the subject matter of literacy and remarriage was truly significant. On the contrary, lower caste women were only covering their body and going to temple with pallu on their heads in front of their in-laws. This all had happened till the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Women's rights is a scope of social developments, political developments, and philosophies that offer a shared objective to characterize, set up, and accomplish the political, financial, individual, and social equity of the genders.
- The fundamental goal of women's liberation is to organize and helps to prepare programs for researchers, organizers, executives, advancement operators, communicators, individuals from ladies associations, cooperatives, and so on.
- Woman's rights also collaborate and work together with scholastic foundations, grassroots level associations, and people occupied with partnered exercises.
- Women's liberation is a mind-boggling set of philosophies and hypotheses, yet on the most essential level, it will probably accomplish equivalent social, political, and monetary rights for ladies

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### 14.8 KEYWORDS

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- **Women rights-** Women's rights are the rights and qualifications guaranteed for women and young ladies around the world, and which framed the reason for the ladies' privileges development in the nineteenth century and the women's activist development during the twentieth century. In certain nations, these rights are organized or upheld by law, neighbourhood traditions, and conduct, while in others they are overlooked and smothered.
- **Tradition and modernity-** The Traditions kept up in the present has its causes before. Custom is regularly stood out from advancement, especially as far as a society.
- **Modernity** can be characterized as those arrangements of thoughts or convictions which are regularly streaming and advancing like a stream.
- **Reforms:** It is a process of re-establishing an institute or policy
- **Movements:** It is an action against opposition and activities of whereabouts.

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### 14.9 QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

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- Define women rights and status in their own understanding.
- Write two differences between Tradition and Modernity.
- Give the historical overview and parameters of understanding women
- What was the status of women in Pre-Colonial, Colonial and Independence?
- How women took their participation in Politics?
- What are the two basic perspective models of reforms?
- Write about the Reform movement and Organizations.

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## 14.10 SUGGESTED READINGS AND REFERENCES

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## 14.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

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1. The first phase of the women's questions came regarding the crises of identity in newly intellectual middle-class society. Many elite women's were imitating the standard of living similarly to colonial rulers. Colonial rulers were those.....(Answers to check your progress 1-Q1)
2. According to many non-Muslim writers, the veil is variously depicted as a tangible symbol of women's oppression, a form of social control, religiously sanctioning women's invisibility and subordinate socio-political status. However, there is another viewpoint: *Idijale*, or.....(Answers to check your progress 1-Q2)
3. Arya Mahila Samaj, Anjuman-E-Khwatin-E-Islam or Mumbai and Stri Zarhosti Mandal.....(Answers to check your progress 2-Q1)
4. In 1927, Mother India was published worldwide by Katherine Mayo. It brought out the female voices of India. The female writings were facilitated all over Indian writing scope. The revolutions were against the reply back of the books namely,

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- ‘Mother India ka Jawab’ by Chandravati Lakhanpal.....(Answers to check your progress 2-Q2)
5. Reform Organizations are Brahmo Samaj, Prarthna Samaj, Arya Samaj and Muslims Women and Social Reforms.....(Answers to check your progress 3-Q1)
  6. It gave three arguments in respect to 19<sup>th</sup> century.....(Answers to check your progress 3-Q2)
  7. Pandita Ramabai. Tarabhai Shinde and Ramabai Ranade altogether in different locations were working on the problems of evil practices.....(Answers to check your progress 4-Q1)
  8. Sushoban Sarkar was a scholar. ( Answers to check your progress 4-Q2)
  9. The Traditions kept up in the present has its causes before. Custom is regularly stood out from advancement, especially as far as a society. Modernity can be characterized as those arrangements of thoughts or convictions which are regularly streaming and advancing like a stream. ....(Answers to check your progress 5-Q1)
  10. Traditional society lays accentuation on religion (and enchantment) in conduct standards and qualities, suggesting coherence (profound connections) with a genuine or envisioned past. It generally acknowledges ceremonies, penances, and sacred banquets. While in modernity, the strength of common political authority over state and minimization of religious.....( Answers to check your progress 5-Q2)