



Chapter 12

Indian Renaissance

NOTES:

Socio-religious reform movements

- One of the major effects of the national awakening in the 19th century was seen in the field of social reforms as the newly educated persons increasingly raised their voices against the rigid social conventions and out-dated customs.
- Some of the prominent persons who raised their voices against the out-dated customs were Jyotiba Phule, Gopal Hari Deshmukh, Justice Ranade, Vireslingam and B.R.Ambedkar.

Abolition of sati

- The Supreme Court in Kolkata, the Danes at Serampore, the Dutch at Chinsuria and the French at Chandernagore prohibited the practice of Sati within their jurisdiction as early as the last quarter of the 18th century.
- Raja Rammohan Roy spearheaded the movement for its abolition. He sent petition in August 1818 narrating gruesome details related with the practice.
- Lord William Bentinck, On December 4, 1829, declared sati to be illegal in Bengal by Regulation XVII. In Chennai similar regulation was passed on February 2, 1830.

Age of consent

- An Act of 1872 abolished marriage of girls before 14 but it was applicable to those who were outside the impact of Hinduism, Islam or other recognized faith.
- Behrany Mermanji Malabari started agitation against the practice of child marriage and placed his views in his notes on Infant Marriage and Widowhood in 1884.
- The Age of Consent Act was passed in 1891, to forbid the consummation of marriage before the wife had reached the age of 12.

Widow Re- marriage

- Re- marriage of widows was also an important social measure undertaken by the British in India.
- The reforming sects like Brahma Samaj introduced remarriage of widows within their societies.
- Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, an educator appeared on stage and began educating the people and the government about widow remarriage.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's effort led to the passing off the Hindu Widow Re-marriage Act (Act XV of 1856) legalising the marriage of widows notwithstanding any customs or interpretation of the Hindu Law to the contrary and declaring children born of such marriages as legitimate.
- Jyotiba Phule was a pioneer of widow re-marriage movement in Maharashtra.

Widow re-marriage association :

- The PrahahamsaMandali – Maharashtra (1849)
- Satya Prakash – founded by KarsandasMulji in Gujarat at 1852
- A Widow Re-marriage Association – Mumbai in 1866

Reformers who founded Widows Home :

- D. K. Karve–Widow's Home in Pune in 1896
- 1898, Veerasalingam – Widow's Home in Chennai
- SasiapadaBannerji – in Kolkata

Ideas of different reformers on the position of women and women's education

- In the 19th century, many great leaders worked for the upliftment of the position of women. Prominent among them were Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Jyotiba Phule.
- Raja Rammohan Roy fought for the upliftment of the status of women and for their rights. He founded Brahma Samaj in 1828. He also demanded right of inheritance and property for women.
- Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar also worked for the upliftment of the status of women. He waged a long struggle in favour of widow re-marriage. He also protested against child marriage and organised thirty five girl's school at his own expense.

- Vishnu Shastri Pandit founded the Widow Re-marriage Association in the 1850's.

Challenging the caste system

- The caste system causes social disintegration in the society and became a major obstacle in the growth of united national feeling and the spread of democracy.
- Some of the prominent leaders who took active part in the caste system were Phule, Veerasalingam, Sri Narayan Guru, Periyar, Gandhi, Ambedkar.

Jyotiba Phule

- Jyotiba Phule started a girl's school in Pune in 1851.
- In 1873, he started the 'Satyasodhak Samaj'
- He declared that man is born free and both men and women have equal freedom to express their views.

Narayan Guru

- Narayan Guru was a spiritual leader in Kerala who worked for the upliftment of the lower caste in South India.

Veerasalingam Pantuku Kandukuri

- Kandukuri Veerasalingam spearheaded the widow movement in the Andhra region. He started the movement by founding the Social Reform Association in 1878 in Rajahmundry.
- In Chennai he started a home for child widows and schools for them



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