

GURUKUL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, JANJGIR
SESSION: 2024-25

Subject: Social studies HISTORY

CH: WOMEN, CASTE AND REFORMS

1. Write a short note on the following:

The Brahmo Samaj

The Prarthana Samaj

The Veda Samaj

Answer:

The Brahmo Samaj – The Brahmo Samaj, formed in 1830, prohibited all forms of idolatry and sacrifice, believed in the Upanishads, and forbade its members from criticising other religious practices. It critically drew upon the ideals of religions – especially of Hinduism and Christianity – looking at their negative and positive dimensions.

The Prarthana Samaj – Established in 1867 at Bombay, the Prarthana Samaj sought to remove caste restrictions, abolish child marriage, encourage the education of women, and end the ban on widow remarriage. Its religious meetings drew upon Hindu, Buddhist and Christian texts.

The Veda Samaj – Established in Madras (Chennai) in 1864, the Veda Samaj was inspired by the Brahmo Samaj. It worked to abolish caste distinctions and promote widow remarriage and women's education. Its members believed in one God. They condemned the superstitions and rituals of orthodox Hinduism.

- 2. Why were Jyotirao Phule and Ramaswamy Naicker critical of the national movement? Did their criticism help the national struggle in any way?**

Answer: Both Jyotirao Phule and Ramaswamy Naicker were critical of the national movement. Phule believed that mostly the upper caste leaders were involved in the nationalist movement against the British. He believed that once the British would leave, the people of upper caste would again use their power and authority oppress and subjugate the people belonging to lower castes. This would result in division amongst the people.

Naicker had joined Congress early in his years. He gradually realised that even Congress was not free from the evil practice of casteism. When a feast was organised by the nationalists within the party, different seating arrangements were made for the people of upper and lower castes. This mad

3. Why were Christian missionaries attacked by many people in the country? Would some people have supported them too? If so, for what reasons?

Answer:

- a) Christian missionaries began setting up schools for tribal groups and "lower"-caste children. They were also involved in reform activities as they denounced caste system, sati and advocated education of girls.
- b) They were opposed by the orthodox section of the society as they believed that they were trying to interfere in their religious matters.
- c) Many people also believed that the ultimate motive of the Christian missionaries was to convert the people into Christianity.
- d) Thus, they were attacked mainly by conservative section of people in the society.

4. Why were changes necessary in Indian society?

Answer: Indian society had been a prey to many evil practices for long time. Some were:

- Most children were married off at an early age. Both Hindu and Muslim men could marry more than one wife.

- In some parts of the country, widows were praised if they chose death by burning themselves on the funeral pyre of their husbands.
- Women's rights to property were also restricted.
- Besides, most women had virtually no access to education.
- In most regions, people were divided along lines of caste. Brahmans and Kshatriyas considered themselves as "upper castes".

5. Give a brief description of movements that were organised by people from within the lower castes against caste discrimination.

Answer:

- Gradually, by the second half of the nineteenth century, people from within the Non-Brahman castes began organising movements against caste discrimination, and demanded social equality and justice.
 - The Satnami movement in Central India was founded by Ghasidas who worked among the leatherworkers and organised a movement to improve their social status.
 - In eastern Bengal, Haridas Thakur's Matua sect worked among Chandala cultivators.
 - Haridas questioned Brahmanical texts that supported the caste system. In what is present-day Kerala, a guru from Ezhava caste, Shri Narayana Guru, proclaimed the ideals of unity for his people. He argued against treating people unequally on the basis of caste differences.
- 6. In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?**

Answer: Many new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low" during British period.

- There was work in the factories that were coming up, and jobs in municipalities.
- Expansion of cities in created new demands of labour. Drains had to be dug, roads laid, buildings constructed, and cities cleaned. This required coolies,

diggers, carriers, bricklayers, sewage cleaners, sweepers, palanquin bearers, rickshaw pullers.

- Some also went to work in plantations in Assam, Mauritius, Trinidad and Indonesia.
- The army, for instance, offered opportunities. A number of Mahar people, who were regarded as untouchable, found jobs in the Mahar Regiment.

GURUKUL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, JANJGIR
SESSION: 2024-25

Subject: Social studies HISTORY

CH: THE MAKING OF NATIONAL MOVEMENTS

1. Evaluate the dynamic role of Gandhiji in the Indian nationalist struggle for freedom as a leader of the masses. (any 5 points)

Answer: Role of Mahatma Gandhi

- Mahatma Gandhi emerged as a mass leader. Gandhiji, aged 46, arrived in India in 1915 from South Africa.
- Having led Indians in that country in non-violent marches against racist restrictions, he was already a respected leader, known internationally.
- His South African campaigns had brought him in contact with various types of Indians.
- Mahatma Gandhi spent his first year in India travelling throughout the country, understanding the people, their needs and the overall situation.
- His earliest interventions were in local movements in Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad where he came into contact with Rajendra Prasad and Vallabhbhai Patel. In Ahmedabad he led a successful millworkers' strike in 1918.
- In 1919 Gandhiji gave a call for a satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act that the British had just passed.

- Gandhiji supported urged the Congress to campaign against "Punjab wrongs" (Jallianwala massacre), the Khilafat wrong and demand swaraj. The Non-Cooperation Movement gained momentum through 1921-22.
- He abruptly called off the Non-Cooperation Movement when in February 1922 a crowd of peasants set fire to a police station in Chauri Chaura.
- Gandhi again took off with another nonviolent movement known as the civil disobedience movement in 1930.
- The Quit India Movement was launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in August 1942.

2. Why was the Satyagraha call given by Gandhiji in 1919? What did it lead to?

Answer: The Rowlatt Satyagraha

- In 1919 Gandhiji gave a call for a satyagraha against the Rowlatt Act that the British had just passed.
- The Act curbed fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression and strengthened police powers.
- Mahatma Gandhi, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and others felt that the government had no right to restrict people's basic freedoms. They criticised the Act as "devilish" and tyrannical.
- Gandhiji asked the Indian people to observe 6 April 1919 as a day of non-violent opposition to this Act, as a day of "humiliation and prayer" and hartal (strike). Satyagraha Sabhas were set up to launch the movement.

3. What reasons were responsible for the growth of dissatisfaction amongst people against British rule in 1970's?

Answer: People were dissatisfied with British rule in the 1870s and 1880s due to the following reasons:

- The Arms Act was passed in 1878, disallowing Indians from possessing arms.
- In the same year the Vernacular Press Act was also enacted in an effort to silence those who were critical of the government. The Act allowed the

government to confiscate the assets of newspapers including their printing presses if the newspapers published anything that was found "objectionable".

- In 1883, there was a furore over the attempt by the government to introduce the Ilbert Bill. The bill provided for the trial of British or European persons by Indians, and sought equality between British and Indian judges in the country. But when white opposition forced the government to withdraw the bill, Indians were enraged.

4. Explain the event of Dandi march.

Answer: Dandi march

- Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law.
- According to this law, the state had a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.
- Gandhiji and his followers marched for over 240 miles from Sabarmati to the coastal town of Dandi where they broke the government law by gathering natural salt found on the seashore, and boiling sea water to produce salt.
- Peasants, tribals and women participated in large numbers. A business federation published a pamphlet on the salt issue.
- The government tried to crush the movement through brutal action against peaceful satyagrahis. Thousands were sent to jail.