

Women, Caste and Reform

Q1. What social ideas did the following people support?

- (a) Rammohun Roy
- (b) Dayanand Saraswati
- (c) Veerasalingam Pantulu
- (d) Jyotirao Phule
- (e) Pandita Ramabai
- (f) Periyar
- (g) Mumtaz Ali
- (h) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

Answer.

- (a) Rammohun Roy - Ban of Sati
- (b) Dayanand Saraswati - Widow Marriage
- (c) Veerasalingam Pantulu - Widow Remarriage
- (d) Jyotirao Phule - Equality amongst castes
- (e) Pandita Ramabai - Women's education
- (f) Periyar - Equality to untouchables
- (g) Mumtaz Ali - Women's education
- (h) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar - Widow Remarriage

Q2. State whether true or false:

- (a) When the British captured Bengal they framed many new laws to regulate the rules regarding marriage, adoption, the inheritance of property, etc.
- (b) Social reformers had to discard the ancient texts in order to argue for reform in social practices.
- (c) Reformers got full support from all sections of the people of the country.
- (d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed in 1829.

Answer.

- (a) True
- (b) False
- (c) False
- (d) False

Q3. How did the knowledge of ancient texts help the reformers promote new laws?

Answer. Whenever the reformers wished to challenge a practice that seemed harmful, they tried to find a verse or sentence in the ancient sacred texts that supported their point. He then suggested that this practice was currently against the early tradition. That's why knowledge of ancient texts helped the reformers promote new laws.

Q4. What were the different reasons people had for not sending girls to school?

Answer. Following were the reasons why people did not send their girls to school:

- (a) They were afraid that the school would expel girls
- (b) Schools will prevent them from performing their domestic duties.
- (c) Girls had to go through public places to reach school.
- (d) Traveling in schools will have a corrupt effect on them.
- (e) They felt that girls should stay away from public places.

Q5. Why were Christian missionaries attacked by many people in the country? Would some people have supported them too? If so, for what reasons?

Answer. In the nineteenth century, Christian missionaries were attacked by many people in the country because they suspected that they were involved in the forced conversion of poor and tribal people from Hinduism to Christianity. He also started setting up schools for tribal groups and lower caste children. These children were trained to step into the changing world. Soon the poor left the villages and started searching for jobs in the cities. The people of the lower castes did not like the progress of this class of people.

Q6. In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?

Answer. Many poor people left their villages and towns to search for jobs in cities. Some even went to work in plantations in Assam, Mauritius, Trinidad and Indonesia. Poor and low-caste people saw it as an opportunity to get away from the oppressive grip that upper-caste landlords faced in their lives and daily humiliation.

Q7. How did Jyotirao, the reformer justify his criticism of caste inequality in society?

Answer. Jyotirao Phule, who stood against caste inequality, believed that the upper caste 'Aryan' did not belong to their land. He expressed his opinion by telling the people that the land is always there Belonged to lower caste people and Aryans came from outside. He claimed that a golden age existed when warrior-peasants filled the land and ruled the Maratha country in a just and just manner.

Q8. Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Answer. Jyotirao Phule wrote his book, 'Ghulamgiri' in 1873. The title of the book means very slavery.' From 1861 to 1865, the American Civil War was fought. The Civil War began primarily as a result of a long-standing dispute over slavery of black people. He dedicated his book to all Americans who fought slaves, thus establishing a link between the conditions of the "lower" castes in India Black Slaves in America.

Q9. What did Ambedkar want to achieve through the temple entry movement?

Answer. Dr. BR Ambedkar started a temple entry movement in 1927 in which his nobles participated The Brahmin priests were angered when lower castes used water from the temple tank. Dr. Ambedkar led three such movements for temple entry between 1927 and 1935. Their objective was to see the power of caste prejudices within all of society.

Q10. Why were Jyoti Rao 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 Naikar were critics of the national movement who could see no difference between anti-colonialism and the propagandists of colonialism. Phule believed that although the upper caste leaders were then asking people all over the country to unite to fight the British, once the British left, they would continue their oppressive caste policies, Due to which they were trying to divide among the very people. They believed that they only wished unity to serve their purposes, and once the purpose was fulfilled, the divisions would creep up again. Naikar's experience in Congress showed him that the national movement was not free from the stains of casteism.

At a banquet organized by the nationalists, seating was arranged to accommodate caste differences, that is, the lower castes at a distance from the upper castes. This led him to believe that the lower castes had to fight their battalion's wales. His criticism led to a rethink and some self-criticism among upper caste nationalist leaders. This in turn helped to strengthen the national struggle because, free from the prejudices of race, religion and gender, leaders could focus on the single objective of overthrowing the colonial administration.