

Pastoralists in the Modern World

Q.1 Explain why nomadic tribes need to move from one place to another. What are the advantages to the environment of this continuous movement?

Answer: Itinerant tribes move from one place to maintain their way of subsistence and lives. Since they are involved in animal husbandry, the availability of water is paramount for their survival, along with fresh pastures for their animals. When the pasture is over, they move to the next area in search of new pastures. The advantages of the environment are as follows:

- The environment thus gets a chance to maintain and recover the ecological balance of the region.
- This prevents overgrazing as it will reduce future grazing grounds.
- Animal manure helps fertilize the soil, which will be helpful in repeating the nomadic process of moving from one place to another.

Q.2 Discuss why the colonial Government in India brought in the following laws. In each case explain how the law changed the lives of the pastoralists.

1. Wasteland rules
2. Forest Acts
3. Criminal Tribes Act
4. Grazing Tax

Answer:

Wasteland rules: Waste Land Rules: All grazing lands were considered as waste lands by the colonial rulers as they did not bring any revenue for them. If this land can be converted into a cultivable field, it will increase land revenue and produce crops like jute, cotton and wheat. This is why waste land regulations were formulated. However, he heard the sound of death for the rustic people because the growth of cultivated land meant an apparent decline in pastures, and a loss of means of livelihood for them.

Forest Acts: They were made for the protection and protection of wood, which was of commercial importance. These acts changed the lives of pastoral people. They were now prevented from entering many forests, which previously provided valuable fodder for their cattle. They were issued permits that monitored their entry and exit into the forests. They could not live in the forests as much as they liked because the permit specified the number of days and hours they could spend in the forests.

Criminal Tribes Act: The British government doubted and ignored the nomadic people due to their constant agitation. Unlike rural people in villages, which were easy to identify and control, they could not be kept in a particular place or kept. Therefore, colonial power viewed nomadic tribes as criminals. The Criminal Tribes Act was passed in 1871 and further ruined the lives of the rustic people who were now forced to live in notified settlements and were barred from going out without government permits.

Grazing Tax: It was imposed by the colonial government to expand its revenue income. Pastoral people had to pay taxes on every animal grazing on pastures. This right was now auctioned to the contractors. They extracted as much tax as they could, to recover the money they had paid to the state and make as much profit as possible. Later the government itself started collecting taxes. This created problems for the rustic people who were harassed by taxpayers. It also became an economic burden on them.

Q.3 Give reasons to explain why the Maasai community lost their grazing lands.

Solution: Maasai lost his grazing land for the following reasons:

In 1885, the Maasai lands were cut in half by the international border drawn between the two colonies "British Kenya and German Tanganyika."

The best pastures were reserved for white settlements, and the Maasai tribes were given small areas of arid, southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. Lack of good pasture land and two years of drought killed about 60% of the Masi tribe's cattle. Their troubles were increased by increasing farming and promoting game reserves. Thus, with the increasing power of the colonists and their adverse effect on the social life of the Maasai, this community gradually lost all its pasture land.

Q.4 There are many similarities in the way in which the modern world forced changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa. Write about any two examples of changes which were similar for Indian pastoralists and the Maasai herders.

Answer: The way the modern world forced changes in the lives of pastoral communities in India and East Africa has many similarities. All unused land was seen as barren land by the colonial powers. It produced neither revenue nor agricultural produce. This land was brought under cultivation. The lands taken in most areas were actually grazing routes regularly used by pastures, so the expansion of farming was essentially a degradation of pastures and a problem for both Indian rustic and Maasai. From the 19th century, the colonial government began to ban rustic communities. They were issued permits that allowed them to go out with their stock and it was difficult to obtain permits without trouble and harassment. Those found guilty of disobeying the rules were severely punished.