

**BVP LKR**

**CLASS-12, SUBJECT-ENGLISH**

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**INDIGO**

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**Summary:---**

**“Indigo” is a story that narrates Gandhiji's struggle for the poor peasants of Champaran. The peasants were share croppers with the British planters. There was an agreement between them. As per the agreement, the peasants had to produce indigo on 15 % of the land and give it to the landlords as rent. Around 1917, synthetic indigo was developed by Germany. The landlords thus did not need to raise indigo on their land any longer. They demanded compensation from the peasants for freeing them from the indigo-raising agreement. The landlords forced the sharecroppers to sign agreements to pay them compensation to freed from the 15% arrangement.**

**Raj Kumar Shukla, a poor peasant, was among the sharecroppers who refused to sign. Gandhiji, at his request, appeared in Champaran. Receiving reports of exploitation of the poor sharecropper peasants at the hands of the British planters, he tried to get the facts. Lawyers from Muzaffarpur briefed him about the court cases of these peasants.**

**According to Gandhiji, at that stage, money was less important. For this, Gandhiji organised a gathering of the peasants at Motihari around the court. This was the beginning of their liberation from the fear of the British.**

**Finally, after the inquiry committee's report, the landlords had to surrender their prestige and the peasants realised that they too had rights which they could defend.**

**Although, the cruel landlords were made to surrender the partial amount (15%) of the extorted money but indigo sharecropping disappeared for all times to come.**

**Thus, we find that Gandhiji did not bother about the money; but for the submission of the opponent's pride and prestige which showed that 'self-reliance was of utmost importance'.**