

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, Lkr.

Class-6th, Sub. -Social Science, 04-08-201

Ch5-The Vedic Age(History)

The Later Vedic Period(1000BC To 600 BC) -A Time of change and transition

This period is called later Vedic period because the main Sources of information are the three later vedas-Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda. These are written after Rigveda. During this period, other books like Upanishads, Aranyakas and the Puranas were also produced. The events described in Mahabharata are believed to have taken place towards the end of Later Vedic period. Hence, this period is also called the Epic Age.

Better technology:-In later Vedic period Aryans expanded from Punjab to Uttar Pradesh. By the end of the period, Vedic people learnt the use of iron weapons and horse drawn chariots.

Improvement in Agriculture & other Crafts

Better tools enabled them to have better agricultural production. Barley, rice and wheat were the chief crops produced by the Aryans.

Weaving, leather work, pottery and carpentry made great progress. Painted grey ware was the most popular pottery produced by the Later Vedic Aryans.

Political Organisation

The kings became more powerful in the later Vedic period. Gradually, kingship became hereditary and the crown generally passed on to the eldest son. . The King's influence was strengthened by rituals & sacrifices like Rajsuya and Ashwamedha Yajna. All these rituals increased the power and prestige of the king.

Social Organisation

By this time, varna system had become hereditary. Now varnas were fixed according to one's birth. Brahmana was the religious and spiritual heads of the society. They were also the teachers, gurus and scholars. Kshatriyas were the warriors & supervised administration. Vaishyas looked after agriculture, craft &

trade. Shudras were at the bottom of the social order and had to serve the varnas. According to Vedic tradition there are four stages of man's life.

Brahmacharya or the students life.

Grihastha or the life of a householder fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of a family life.

Vanaprastha is the phase of one's life in which a man detached himself from his family duties

Sanyasa – The last stage of a man's life when he gives up all worldly pleasures & often retired to the forest & fully devote himself to meditation & prayers.

Chalcolithic Age

Historically, the period after the Neolithic Age came to be known as Chalcolithic age. Copper was widely used along with their other tiny stone implements.

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