

VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPITH SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHRAM LAKHISARAI

Class:8th Subject:History Date:8.12.2021.

Ch:British rule and Women Society (Notes)

Overview

In today's modern world, girls go to school and study with boys. After growing up, they go to colleges and universities and take up jobs after that. Before getting legally married, they have to be adults and can marry anyone they like, irrespective of their caste and community, and widows can remarry too. All women can vote and stand for elections. But these rights were not enjoyed by poor people as they had little or no access to education.

But, things were different two hundred years ago. At an early stage, most children were married. In some parts of the country, women were forced to practice sati. Women's rights to property were also restricted and there was no access to education.

According to the caste system, Brahmans and Kshatriyas were considered as "upper castes". Others, such as traders and moneylenders (often referred to as Vaishyas) were placed after them. Then came peasants, and artisans such as weavers and potters referred to as Shudras. The lowest rung were those who laboured to keep cities and villages clean or worked under upper castes. The upper castes considered these groups as "untouchable".

Working Towards Change

Debates and discussions about social customs and practices took on a new character. One important reason was the development of new forms of communication like books, newspapers, magazines, leaflets and pamphlets. All kinds of issues like social, political, economic and religious could be debated and discussed by men and sometimes by women in the new cities.

Raja Rammohun Roy (1772-1833) founded the Brahma Sabha (later known as the Brahma Samaj) in Calcutta. Rammohun Roy felt that changes were necessary in society, and unjust practices needed to be done away with. He was keen to spread the knowledge of Western education in the country and bring about greater freedom and equality for women.

Read the above passage carefully and try to understand and give the answer of the following questions:

Q.1. was the founder of the Brahma Sabha?

Q.2. What is the Caste System?.

Q.3. Name four important caste.

Subject teacher Mukesh kumar.