

# Vidya Bhawan balika Vidyapeeth shakti utthan aashram Lakhisarai

## Study material for class 9<sup>th</sup>

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History

### Forest society and colonialism

#### Contents

- The fears of the people
- Forest Transformation in JAVA
- The Woodcutters of JAVA

#### The Fears of the People

When about two-thirds of the forest was made into reserve forest and shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce was stopped, it disturbed the people of Bastar. Some villagers were allowed to stay in the reserved forests. But they had to work for free for the forest department. The work included cutting and transporting trees and protecting the forest from fires. Such villages came to be known as 'forest villages'.

But most of the people were forced to leave their villages. Their problem was further aggravated by the famines of 1899-1900 and 1907-08. People began to group together. The Dhurwas were the people to take initiative. There was no single leader but Gunda Dhur from village Nethanar was an important figure in that rebellion. The rebellion began in 1910 and every village contributed towards the rebellion expenses. The rebels looted the bazaars, houses of officials and traders. They burnt schools and police stations.

The British sent troops to suppress the rebellion. Negotiations by adivasi leaders failed and the British surrounded their camps and fired upon them. Most of the villages became deserted as people took refuge in the jungles. It took three months (February-May) to control the rebellion.

Work on reservation of forest was suspended for the time being. The area to be reserved was reduced to about half of what was earlier planned. This was a major victory for the rebels.

### Forest Transformation in JAVA

Java is in Indonesia and it used to be a Dutch colony. This was the place where the new forest management policy was initiated by the colonial rulers.

#### The Woodcutters of Java

The Kalangs of Java were a community of skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators. Their expertise was valuable for the kings; for building palaces. Their importance can be gauged from the fact that when the Mataram kingdom of Java split in 1755, the 6,000 Kalang families were equally divided between the two kingdoms.

When the Dutch began to gain control over the forests in the eighteenth century, they also tried to take the Kalangs under their control. They resisted by attacking the Dutch fort in 1770 but their rebellion was suppressed.

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