

CLASS NOTES

Class:

VIII

Subject:

Social Science(Our Pasts III)

Topic: Women ,Caste and Reforms

Exercise questions and answers .(To be written in Notebook)

Match the column and True /false to be done by the students.

Q.1)How did the knowledge of ancient texts help the reformers promote new laws?

Ans. Ram Mohan Roy was well versed in Sanskrit, Persian and several other Indian and European languages. He tried to show through his writings that the practice of widow burning had no sanction in ancient texts. The strategy adopted by Ram Mohan Roy was used by later reformers as well. Whenever they wished to challenge a practice that seemed harmful, they tried to find a verse or sentence in the ancient sacred texts that supported their point of view. They then suggested that the practice, as it existed at present, was against early tradition. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar used the ancient texts to suggest that widows could remarry.

Q.2)What were the different reasons people had for not sending girls to school?

Ans. The different reasons people had for not sending girls to school are given below.

- They feared that schools would take girls away from home.
- Schools will prevent them from doing their domestic duties.
- Girls had to travel through public places in order to reach school.Travelling to schools would have a corrupting influence on them.
- They felt that girls should stay away from public spaces.

Q.3)In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as “low”?

Ans.

With the expansion of cities, new demands of labour created. Drains had to be dug, roads laid, buildings constructed and cities cleaned. This required coolies, diggers, carriers, bricklayers, sweepers, rickshaw pullers, etc. The labour for these works came from people who belonged to the “low” castes.. Some went to work in plantations in Assam, Mauritius, Trinidad, and Indonesia. Although it was not easy to work in the new locations, poor people saw this as an opportunity to get away from the exploitations of the upper-caste.

Q.4)Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Ans. Jyotirao Phule wrote his book, ‘Gulamgiri’ in 1873. The title of the book means ‘Slavery.’ From 1861 to 1865, the American Civil war was being fought. The Civil War began primarily as a result of the long-standing controversy over the enslavement of black people. Phule dedicated his book to all those Americans who had fought to free slaves, thus establishing a link between the conditions of the “lower” castes in India and the black slaves in America.

