

History Chapter - 8 Women and Reforms

C. Answer these questions in brief
Q1 Which social evils were prevalent in the Indian society before Independence?

Ans Social evils prevalent in Indian society before Independence were:

- ▶ Sati
- ▶ Female infanticide
- ▶ Polygamy
- ▶ Child marriage
- ▶ Dowry
- ▶ Widowhood
- ▶ Sarda system
- ▶ No right to property.

Q2 What was the contribution of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar to the reformation of women's condition?

Ans Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar supported the cause of widow remarriage. He published the book, Hindu Widow Marriage in 1855. His efforts were pivotal in the passing of Hindu Widow's Remarriage Act, 1856.

Q3 Who established the Sakhawat Memorial Girls School in Kolkata?

Ans Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain established the Sakhawat Memorial Girls School in Kolkata.

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Q4. What is the purdah system?

Ans. The purdah system is a social evil in which women were supposed to stay inside their houses - the kitchen and bedrooms. Many areas of the houses were not accessible to women. Women would go out in palanquins, so that people who did not belong to family could not see them.

Q5. Which Governor-General of India helped Raja Mohan Roy abolish sati?

Ans. Lord William, Bentinck helped Raja Ram Mohan Roy to abolish the practice of sati.

D. Answer these questions in detail.

Q1. Why is Raja Ram Mohan Roy called the 'father of modern India'?

Ans. Raja Ram Mohan was a learned scholar, well versed in Persian, Sanskrit and English. He was a pioneer of western education and championed the cause of women empowerment.

He was against the practice of sati and started a movement against it. He also demanded equal inheritance rights for women. He was

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against polygamy. He extended help to the people who opened schools and colleges and encouraged women to receive modern education.

By all the above reasons Raja Ram Mohan Roy is called the 'father of modern India'.

Q2. State the contribution of Ramabai towards the upliftment of women.

Ans Ramabai made an effort to provide education and vocational training to women. She was given the title of Pandita as she was very learned.

She also established the Mukti Mission in 1889 as a refuge for young widows who were abused by their families.

Q3. Discuss the position of women in the 19th century.

Ans In 19th century the condition of Indian women was so miserable and pitiable during that period as 'she' was considered someone else's wealth and had no say in their own life.

Women were not allowed to study and at the very young

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age only they were married off to start their new life. They were prey to several social evils.

Q4. How did the social reformers change the Indian society?

Ans Social reformers change the Indian society in following ways:

- Positive changes in the attitude of people towards women.
- Many women stepped out of the house and gave up the purdah to receive education.
- The women became aware of their rights, and also started taking interest in political matters.
- Issues of women were represented through various organizations.
- Many organizations worked to create social consciousness, like the All India Women conference and the National Federation of Indian Women.

Q5 Describe the contribution of Swami Dayananda Saraswati to the Indian society.

Ans Swami Dayanand Saraswati the founder of Arya Samaj, also fought for

Teacher's Signature : _____

Date

pt. No.

Page No. 69

improvements in the position of women in Indian society. He opposed the tradition of sati and strongly promoted widow remarriage. He opened many schools which imparted modern education and Indian culture.



Work out

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy opposed the practice of
a. western education
b. working women
 c. sati
d. widow remarriage
2. was known as the father of the modern India.
a. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
b. Jyotiba Phule
 c. Dadabhai Naoroji
d. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
3. published the first literary magazine for children called *Balak*.
 a. Jnanadanandini Devi
b. Munshi Premchand
c. Rabindranath Tagore
d. Keshab Chandra Sen
4. Sharda Sadan was established by
a. Jyotiba Phule
b. Begam Rokeya
 c. Kandukuri Veerasalingam
d. None of these people

B. Write T for true and F for false.

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was not in favour of English education.
2. Lord William Bentinck passed the law to abolish the practice of sati.
3. Jyotirao Govindarao Phule established schools for girls in Pune.
4. Syed Ahmed Khan established the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1875.
5. Pandita Ramabai started the first women's school in India.

Write in brief