

2. Why did the Industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present time.

Ans Industrial Revolution changed the course of history forever. Began in mid-1750s, it shifted the economic structure of England and later the whole Europe from agrarian to Industrial. Though could have begun in any other corner of the world, but it started from English England due to the favourable conditions required for the Revolution. These factors included aspects such as geography, its political scenario, economical conditions and the society.

Geographical Factors

- Being an Island country gave Britain various advantages among which its large coastal line was most important favouring the maritime activities.
- Vast reserves of coal and iron found here became the base for industry sector building.
- Transportation improved significantly through infrastructural development like road, railway and canals spreading all over the country.
- Isolated from the other countries provided it with a stability required for thriving ~~the~~ of the production process.
- Agriculture sector strengthened due to 'Enclosure movement' providing raw material and labour for Industry.

Economic Factors

- Maritime activities and extraction of cheap raw material increased the wealth of England immensely.
- Financial Institution which were set-up to hoard such merchant's money, provided loans to ~~the~~ for further investment.
- Technical Training Institutions set-up to make specialisation for ~~the~~ efficient helped the revolution gain speed.

Political Factors

- The government made pro-capitalist laws as these industrialists provided for government's expenses to maintain army.

Social and Cultural Factors

- English people as a society were more liberal, meaning open to new ideas and innovations. Due to being free from full Church control and risk-taking mindset, new discoveries easily accommodated themselves in their life.

This industrial Revolution, made England the richest country of the time, but it too as its other face filled with pain of miseries of common people.

- > As the urbanisation grew due to inflow of rural population into the cities in search of jobs, so did the population.

The workers lived around the factories, and as more and more filled the space, it became ~~too~~ congested to live. A slum type condition developed where people lived in inhumane conditions.

- > Poor water quality, bad sanitation, dirty lands, polluted air decreased the living standards of people. ~~It is the~~
- > Due to abundant workforce, workers ~~were~~ were invaluable commodities for the factory owners which made them ~~to~~ work more than 12 hours. Children and women were not exempted from the harsh condition of factory life. Due to lack ~~of or not~~ of labour unions and factory units, their dignity of life kept degrading.
- > Working conditions fostered the growth of various old and new diseases. No health facility or insurance made the life of lower class miserable.

These conditions are no different from today's India. Although India is a democratic country with a ~~own~~ constitution protecting the life of every single citizen of it, the capitalism and its adversities has made its way in the life of poor for all the wrong reasons. On one hand, industrialists supported by government are contributing in country's economy positively, and on other hand huge population boom has given rise to ~~unemployment~~

and worst living condition prevails side by side to the skyscrapers of rich urban settlers. Rich are becoming and richer and poor, ~~more~~ poorer. Filth ~~is~~ surrounds the slum of these workers forced to drink dirty water and defecate in open.

Conclusion

Industrial India is no different from industrial England except from the ~~time~~ for the time period. Though capitalism ~~becom~~ has its benefit, it also ~~is~~ has its fare share of disadvantages which only affects the lower strata of the population composition. If India wants a shift from the tag of 'developing' to 'developed', it has to look after its poor and protect their dignity of life.