

Q. 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** - The transformation of industry and economy in Britain.

Factors :-

1. Geographical factors

- Increase in agriculture productivity due to agricultural revolution ensured availability of raw material for industrial revolution.
- Infrastructural developments like building of roads, railways.
- Increased maritime activities through rivers and canals.
- Proximity of iron and steel mines. Plentiful availability of coal and iron ore, the staple materials for mechanisation.

2. Economical factors

- Capital accumulation was maximum because of their maritime activities.
- Availability of technical institutes helped in the accelerating of industrial revolution.

3. Political factors

- There was political stability in Britain. The Government was pro-capitalist and helped in making laws favourable to capitalists in England.

4. Social factors

- Liberal, progressive ideas led to many breakthrough inventions. The Protestant ethics led to accumulation of wealth and high savings rate.

Impact on quality of life of people -

- Had positive as well as negative impacts on the living standards of people.
- Capitalist class got benefit as they earned more wealth and more incomes.
- At the same time there was a massive negative human cost. Nuclear families, degraded cities, appalling working conditions in factories. Children tended to enter workforce at a younger age.
- Ethical and moral foundations weakened due to problems of slums, social crimes etc.
- The life of workers, women and children in the slum was in the subhuman condition.

Comparison with India at present times

After independence, India embarked on the journey of planned industrialisation on the socialistic pattern. The role of state was very important with focus on industrial goods. There is less exploitation of working class as many labour laws are enacted to protect their rights. The social institutions like marriage, family are getting transformed due to industrialisation. However 47% of economy is still agriculture based, which is much higher than Britain of 19th century. Rural urban migration in search of new job opportunities landing people in slums and poor hygienic conditions.