

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

A) The industrial revolution was a process in which the use of modern machinery and tools was started for producing goods at a large quantity in less period amount of time. It started from about 18th century. It first successfully hit England.

Following were the factors due to which Industrial revolution first occurred in England:-

1) Geographical factors:-

i) Since England was an island country it could easily perform maritime activities through its ports and could easily avoid political conflicts from rest of the European countries.

ii) It had good reserves of coal and iron.

iii) It had sound agriculture due to agricultural revolution.

2) Political factors:-

The laws that were framed in England were largely pro-capitalist.

3) Socio-cultural factors:-

The society of England was liberal in thoughts as compared to rest of the European countries.

The society was highly enthusiastic and risk taker as well.

4) Economic factors:-

→ Along with industrial revolution England subsequently witnessed the growth of banking and financial institutions as well.

→ Institutes for technical training started to emerge.

## Socio - Cultural consequences of Industrial Revolution:-

- 1) During industrial revolution two new classes emerged in England. That is the capitalist / industrialist class and the industrial worker class.
- 2) There started to emerge ~~two~~ differences in the living standards of people. The capitalists had high living standards whereas workers had low standard of living. This led to inequality in the society.
- 3) Colonies started to develop. Two types of colonies were push colonies and the others were slums.
- 4) Conditions of women, children etc. was miserable in slums, the living conditions were sub-human. The children living in slums were often victims of malnourishment.
- 5) Earlier there were no labour laws in England regarding wages, no. of working hours, insurance regarding injury, medical support, holidays etc.
- 6) When the workers met and exchanged ideas during lunch breaks and tea breaks they started to develop class consciousness and it was supported by intellectuals and this subsequently led to the formation of trade unions.

## Comparison with India:-

Earlier India was a socialist country but after the 1990 BOP crisis came the ~~NEP~~ NEP (New economic policy) of LPG (liberalisation, privatisation, globalisation) which gave a lot of importance to the private sector and the industries.

Post that India is observing a slow shift from socialism to capitalism.

The industries in India are growing at a large scale and the government of India is coming up with various schemes and policies to promote industrialization in India such as Make in India, Skill India, Vocal for Local, Aatma Nirbhar Bharat etc.

### Socio-cultural consequences in India due to industrialization:-

- 1) Growing gap between rich and poor. ~~Poor~~
- 2) Formation of slums especially in big industrial cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata.
- 3) Formation of trade unions.
- 4) Existence of lush colonies and slums in cities.
- 5) Difference in the standard of living between Rich and Poor.

### Conclusion:-

We can say that slowly India is also going through a phase of industrialization similar to that of England however in India it is a bit slow because even today around 54.5% of the population is still dependent on Agriculture.

We can say that we are in early - Mid phase of industrialization and are facing the same challenges that England had faced.