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Crafts and Industries

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ An overview of Indian crafts at the time when the British arrived and the industrial changes that took place thereafter
- ▶ Understanding the changes in industry and the reasons for them and for the decline of indigenous crafts

Objectives

- ▶ To understand the initial status of Indian crafts, the change caused by British control, industrialisation, and their impact
- ▶ To learn the features of Indian industrialisation
- ▶ To know about the reasons for the decline of Indian handicrafts
- ▶ To appreciate the changes then and the current revival of Indian crafts, and India's progress in industrialisation

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Globe
- ▶ Pictures, charts, atlas and wall maps
- ▶ Blackboard
- ▶ Internet

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Explain the status of Indian handicrafts before British rule and after.
- ▶ Explain the setting up of new industries, the growth and development, and impact in handicrafts.
- ▶ Students should be encouraged to know places, locations and their placement on the maps.

Background and Reading

- ▶ Read the lesson aloud and explain, sharing the aids, etc., pausing to examine and explain the data in the boxes.
- ▶ Particularly focus on the industrialisation of India, against the background of Indian handicrafts, and the impact of industrialisation on local crafts.

The Pre-British Period

- ▶ Economic growth of a country usually attributed to industrialisation – provides employment opportunities and enables earning of foreign exchange through import-export.
- ▶ British rule broke down entire fabric of India's society and economy – cottage industry flourished in India – craftsmen and artisans met their needs through their professions – long before arrival of machines and tools from Britain – clothes, domestic vessels, implements on a small scale ready to use – [also decoration items, weapons, jewellery, furniture, pottery, ivory and sandalwood crafts, sculptures] East India Company began changing all this – Indian handicrafts declined – British responsible for it.

Decline of the Indian Handicrafts

- ▶ Reasons for the decline and de-industrialisation of Indian industries:
 - East India Company rule for 150 years – trading spices, jewellery and textiles – fetched them good revenue – artisans forced to make things in demand at fixed low prices – impoverished them and made them quit their jobs.
 - Indian products in demand and popular – threatened machine-made goods of Britain – British government took steps to check inflow of Indian goods – imposed heavy taxes and duties on them – stopped export of these goods from India – killed the Indian industries.
 - Industrialisation – improved British goods – Act of 1813 abolished monopoly of East India Company's trade – in India this made Indian traders face competition from British goods, free of duty, that were cheaper than Indian goods which carried heavy duties – Indian artisans could not sell their products.
 - Lost the support of Indian rulers, zamindars and nobles – they had lost their own powers to the British – handicraft industry declined steadily.

Growth of the Modern Industries

- ▶ Condition of Indian peasants and craftsmen miserable – British forced to take some action – recommended revival of Indian cottage industries.
 - Famine Commission set up in 1880 – recommended revival of Indian cottage industries.
 - Imperial Department of Commerce and Industries – established in 1905 – on demand of Indian National Congress.
 - Swadeshi movement – encouraged use of indigenous goods.
- ▶ The industries that were established and grew at the time:
 - Bengal Coal Company – established 1843 – many coal mining centres started – over 100 coal mines by end of the century.
 - Jute industry – flourished in the 19th century – first one started in Rishra near Calcutta in 1887 – around 20 jute mills set up.
 - Sugar industry – grew in the 20th century – India soon became the largest sugar producing country in the world.
 - Iron and steel industry – established in 1911 – by the Tatas in erstwhile in Bihar, now Jharkhand.

Growth of the Textile Industry

- ▶ One of the oldest crafts in India – spinning and weaving of cotton – origins in the Harappan civilisation – spindles, needles, pieces of cloth – had knowledge of weaving and spinning – ancient textbooks and Vedic literature references to methods of weaving and centres of textiles in India.
- ▶ Reason for growth of textile industry – availability of jute, silk, cotton in abundance.
- ▶ East India Company – began exporting Indian silk and cotton fabrics to other countries – centres included Bengal, Bihar, Odisha; also Kanchipuram, Ahmedabad, Aurangabad, Varanasi, Jaipur, Kashmir, etc. – each place with unique design and pattern carrying its identity.
- ▶ Machine-made materials – blow to hand-spinning and weaving industries – weavers out of work – British imposed heavy taxes on Indian goods – made it difficult to manage their business.
- ▶ Jamsetji Tata – Empress Mill in Nagpur in 1867 – in spite of British policy – many more – Cowasjee Nanabhoy first cotton mill at Bombay – many more later at Sholapur, Bombay and Nagpur.
- ▶ Swadeshi movement encouraged indigenous products – impetus to cotton industry.
- ▶ Gandhiji – encouraged use of the spinning wheel and cloth woven from it called khadi – still used.
- ▶ First cotton mill – England 1742 – spinning jenny invented by James Hargreaves in 1764 – water wheel powered loom invented by Arkwright in 1764 – first steam powered textile industry England in 1792.

Features of Indian Industrialisation

- ▶ Unbalanced growth – industries established not uniform – limited to certain type of industries only.
- ▶ British only concerned with profits – get cheap raw material – pay low wages to labourers – no attention to basic industries like iron and steel.
- ▶ Discrimination against Indian industries – faced stiff competition – not protected – lacked heavy industries – government partial and hostile – not sanctioned loans of licenses – policies favoured the British – division between capitalists and workers.
- ▶ British – began building network of roads and railways and canals – facilitated movement of goods – flow of British goods increased.
- ▶ First railway line – Bombay to Thane in 1853 during Dalhousie's tenure – also established the Post and Telegraph Department – utilised Grand Trunk Road connecting North and East of India.

Assessment Corner

Oral Assignment

- A. Ask for answers at random from the students. Confirm the right answers. Let them write down the correct answers if they like in their books.

Written Assignment

- B–E. The teacher has two options—(i) Either do these exercises orally first and then ask the students to write them down. OR (ii) Ask the students to write the answers on their own. Then the teacher can announce the correct answers from the students and they can ask their partners to cross-check them.

In either case, the answers can be written as homework and the teacher can check them in the class.

Think Tank

- F. **HOTS questions:** Discuss the questions in the class and let the students write the answers to F and G as homework. Teacher should assess individual work.