

Name: _____ Date: _____

Women, Caste and Reform

Q1. In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?

Ans. _____

Q2. Give an account of the movement that spread in different parts of the country in favour of widow remarriage. Did the movement get success?

Ans. _____

Women, Caste and Reform

Q1. In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?

Ans. Many new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low" during British period.

i. There was work in the factories that were coming up, and jobs in municipalities.

ii. Expansion of cities in created new demands of labour. Drains had to be dug, roads laid, buildings constructed, and cities cleaned. This required coolies, diggers, carriers, bricklayers, sewage cleaners, sweepers, palanquin bearers, rickshaw pullers.

iii. Some also went to work in plantations in Assam, Mauritius, Trinidad and Indonesia.

iv. The army, for instance, offered opportunities. A number of Mahar people, who were regarded as untouchable, found jobs in the Mahar Regiment.

Q2. Give an account of the movement that spread in different parts of the country in favour of widow remarriage. Did the movement get success?

Ans. By the second half of the nineteenth century, the movement in favour of widow remarriage spread to other parts of the country. In the Telugu-speaking areas of the Madras Presidency, Veerasalingam Pantulu formed an association for widow remarriage. Around the same time young intellectuals and reformers in Bombay pledged themselves to working for the same cause. In the north, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, who founded the reform association called Arya Samaj, also supported widow remarriage.

The movement did not get much success. The number of widows who actually remarried remained low. Those who married were not easily accepted in society and conservative groups continued to oppose the new law.