

Chapter 4 The Age of Industrialisation

Before the Industrial Revolution

- Proto-industrialisation was a phase when there was large-scale industrial production for an international market which was not based on factories.
- Proto-industrial system was part of a network of commercial exchanges.

The Coming Up of the Factory

- By the 1730s, the earliest factories in England came up.
 - The first symbol of the new era was cotton.
- A series of inventions in the eighteenth century increased the efficacy of each step of the production process.
- Richard Arkwright created the cotton mill.

The Pace of Industrial Change

How rapid was the process of industrialisation?

- The most dynamic industries in Britain were clearly cotton and metals.
- The new industries could not easily displace traditional industries.
- Technological changes occurred slowly because:
 - The New technology was expensive.
 - The machines often broke down and repair was costly.
 - They were not as effective as their inventors and manufacturers claimed.

Hand Labour and Steam Power

- In Victorian Britain, there was no shortage of human labour.
- Therefore, industrialists did not want to introduce machines which required large capital investment.
- Many seasonal industries were also there who usually preferred hand labour.
- Handmade goods came to symbolize refinement and class

Life of the Workers

- Labours were available in abundance in the market which affected the lives

of workers.

- After the busy season was over, workers became jobless.
- In the early nineteenth century, wages increased but the prices of goods also increased.

Industrialisation in the Colonies

The Age of Indian Textiles

- Before the age of machine industries, silk and cotton goods from India dominated the international market in textiles.
- A vibrant sea trade operated through the main pre-colonial ports.

What Happened to Weavers?

- After the East India Company established political power, they tried to eliminate the existing traders and brokers and establish a more direct control over the weaver.
- It appointed a paid servant called the gomastha to supervise weavers, collect supplies, and examine the quality of cloth.
 - Loans were provided for purchasing raw material for production.
 - The produced cloth was to be handed over to the gomastha.
- In many weaving villages there were reports of clashes between weavers and gomasthas because:
 - The new gomasthas were outsiders, with no long-term social link with the village.
 - The price weavers received from the Company was miserably low.

Manchester Comes to India

- As cotton industries developed in England, industrial groups pressurised the government to impose import duties on cotton textiles so that Manchester goods could sell in Britain without competition.
- Also, they persuaded the East India Company to sell British manufactures in Indian markets as well.
- Thus, cotton weavers in India faced two problems at the same time:
 - Their export market collapsed as market overloaded with Manchester imports.
 - Availability of lower cost cotton goods produced by machines.

- By the end of the nineteenth century, factories in India began production, flooding the market with machine-made goods which created a problem of weavers.

Factories Come Up

- In 1854, the first cotton mill in Bombay came up.
- In 1855, first jute mill in Bengal came up.
- By 1862, four cotton mills came up.
- In 1862, another jute mill came up.
- In the 1860s, the Elgin mill was started in Kanpur
- In 1861, the first cotton mill of Ahmadabad was set up.
- In 1874, the first spinning and weaving mill of Madras began production.

The Early Entrepreneurs

- In Bengal, Dwarkanath Tagore made his fortune in the China trade.
- In Bombay, Parsis like Dinshaw Petit and Jamsetjee Nusserwanjee Tata who built huge industrial empires in India.
- After colonial power came in power, Indian businessmen were barred from trading with Europe in manufactured goods.

Where Did the Workers Come From?

- In most industrial regions workers came from the districts around.
- Industrialists usually employed a jobber to get new recruits.
→ He got people from his village, ensured them jobs, helped them settle in the city.

The Peculiarities of Industrial Growth

- European Managing Agencies established tea and coffee plantations, acquiring land at cheap rates from the colonial government.
- By the first decade of the twentieth century, the swadeshi movement promoted Indian industries.

- From 1906, moreover, the export of Indian yarn to China declined since produce from Chinese and Japanese mills flooded the Chinese market.
- During the First World War, British mills busy with war production to meet the needs of the army, Manchester imports into India declined.
- After the war, Manchester could never recapture its old position in the Indian market.

Small-scale Industries Predominate

- Large industries formed only a small segment of the economy and most of them were located in Bengal and Bombay.
- In the twentieth century, handicrafts production and handloom actually expanded.
- By the second decade of the 20th century, weavers used looms with a fly shuttle.

Market for Goods

- New consumers are created is through advertisements.
- Advertisements appear in newspapers, magazines, hoardings, street walls, television screens.
- Advertisements became a vehicle of the nationalist message of Swadeshi.