

Impact of British rule in Chhattisgarh

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From 1741 AD to 1854 AD, Chhattisgarh was ruled by the Bhonsals of Nagpur. Chhattisgarh remained neglected during the Maratha rule. They saw it as a colony and exploited it for the fulfillment of their personal interest. Therefore, during this period in Chhattisgarh with anarchy, disorder and uncertainty, the situation here remained retrograde till 1854 AD and its development was blocked.

Maratha rule could not bring any innovation and progress in the political, social, economic and cultural field of Chhattisgarh. When the British rule was established in Chhattisgarh in the year 1854, then there was a definite change in the situation here. After many years of disorderly rule, peace and order was established here for the first time. The signs of regularity, agility and public interest were reflected in the British governance system. The beginning of a development-oriented, modern era was visible in this area due to the promotion of agricultural industry, new land system, revenue system, development of means of transport, proper taxation system, proper justice system and police system. Saw a ray of light.

Due to the British rule, the material progress of Chhattisgarh took place and it moved towards modernity. A new change was visible in its civilization and culture. The details of the elements which influenced the culture of Chhattisgarh during the British rule are as follows-

Administrative changes-

During this period general rules regarding British administration were established in Chhattisgarh. In this period, important work related to new principles and changes, administrative experiments, revenue, finance, justice, police, creation of new system in relation to prison, new relations with landlords, suppression of dacoits, robbers, establishment of peace, etc. Happened. In this way a new administrative system was introduced in Chhattisgarh.

During the British rule, efforts were made by the British to bring innovation and order in the administration of Chhattisgarh by establishing new posts. According to this, many steps were taken in the direction of their development by organizing the Department of Justice, Police, Forest, Education and Public Welfare. To make the revenue system effective at the lower level, Patwaris were appointed in the villages and a Revenue Inspector in the circle. For the first time, the British rule formulated a proper justice system here.

With a view to organize the Justice Department, the District and Sessions Judge was posted as the senior most officer in the Chhattisgarh Division, whose headquarters was Raipur. Due to this new system, justice became cheap, simple and accessible in Chhattisgarh, with a view to make the justice system successful, the police department was alerted and organized. Indians started getting separated from their

native culture. This created a gap between the educated and the uneducated. The western educated class could not mix in social life, so a new class was formed for them. The British rule had a special impact on the tribes here in the field of education. In order to prepare for the conversion, the missionaries spread English education in the tribal areas, due to which the people of the tribal class got educated and started coming in the main stream of the society and the literacy of this class increased.

With a view to establishing peace and order in the Chhattisgarh region, many new police stations were formed, where the officer was called Thanedar. The highest police officer of the district was the superintendent of police and was there to assist him. Police and Justice Department started working consciously to establish peace. A new momentum and direction was given to the administration of Chhattisgarh through administrative changes during the British period.

On November 2, 1861, when the Central Provinces was formed, the administration of Chhattisgarh was placed under the Chief Commissioner. In the year 1862, Chhattisgarh got the status of an independent division. The headquarters of the division was kept at Raipur. Raipur was made the capital of Chhattisgarh. After this there was no special change in the administration of Chhattisgarh division till the year 1905. In 1905 AD, Sambalpur district was merged with Bengal and in turn five princely states Changbhakhar, Koriya, Surguja, Udaipur and Jashpur were included in the Central Provinces from Bengal. Due to this arrangement in the administrative system of Chhattisgarh in 1906 AD, according to the new and other subsidiary changes, three districts Raipur, Bilaspur and Durg were created here. The name of Chhattisgarh division remained the same. Its chief officer was called the commissioner. This administration system remained more or less till 1947 AD.

Economic Development

Poverty was rampant in the region during the Maratha period. The Haihaya era prosperity vanished during the Maratha rule. There was a decline in the condition of agricultural trade and the revenue deposits in the government treasury were also reduced. As soon as the British came, they worked for the advancement of agriculture. New land system, revenue system was introduced. Means of transport were developed for the progress of business. The tax system was made agile and just. Systematic justice and police system started, due to which the public and businessmen got security and there was an increase in business and economic activities.

Due to economic development, the development-oriented modern era started in this area. The establishment of British rule led to material progress of Chhattisgarh. The standard of living rose with change. Its impact was visible in every sphere of life. The introduction of rail traffic made the limited economic activities of Chhattisgarh nationwide.

western education-

During the British rule, the seeds of English-education were planted in India. This led to the spread of education in western literature, science, politics, economics, history and other branches of knowledge science. Arrangements were also made for the teaching of western medicine and engineering. Such educational institutions were established all over the country. At this time there was a lot of spread of English education and western culture. The spread of English education led to the fusion of Indian and European culture.

The spread of English education was also done in Chhattisgarh and that too was affected by it. In the field of higher education, Chhattisgarh College, Raipur and S. B. R. The contribution of Mahavidyalaya, Bilaspur is particularly noteworthy. English education encouraged the spirit of independence, due to which political and social progress also came in Chhattisgarh. Now English education was given in the

secondary levels also. The credit for bringing Chhattisgarh region closer to western civilization and creating a renaissance here goes to English-education.

Western education created a sense of progress in the regional people, along with it a new tendency of criticism also awakened in them. As a result, people started expressing dissatisfaction with the then condition and started trying to improve it. These people started opposing the indolence and fatalism of the region. They looked to the future and started adopting the principles of progress in practice. The result of this new approach was that remarkable progress was made in various areas of life. English education gave birth to a new class in the society, which came to be known as middle-class. This class was educated and resourceful. His influence in the society started increasing, he encouraged religious and social reforms in the country and laid the foundation of the national movement.

promotion of women's education

Women's education was encouraged during this period. Now work was started for the upliftment and progress of women. During the reign of Lai Ripon, the Haughter Commission suggested to encourage women's education in particular. Many girls' schools were opened on personal grant also. The District Board and the Municipality also established many Kanyashalas. But adequate arrangements could not be made for the girls' schools in the countryside. Separate girls schools were built in the cities of Raipur, Bilaspur etc. Due to the influence of women's education, later on women also contributed in the national movement.

development of national movement

Thoughts of liberty, equality and nationality were derived by Indians from Western literature, the ideas of freedom and nationality of scholars like Burke, Mill and Spencer proved to be encouraging to Indians. The independent environment of Europe had an impact on Indians, it gave birth to a new awakening in the political field, it gave birth to many popular institutions. A wave of nationalism arose in the whole country, the spirit of rebellion against the government developed. The desire for democracy prevailed. The influence of these new ideologies was also visible on Chhattisgarh and there also the emphasis of religious, social and national movement started increasing. National ideology should be active in this direction

joined to.

religious influence

India has been prosperous from the very beginning and a source of inspiration to the rest of the world in terms of religion and philosophy. The land of India itself has been the birthplace of many great religions of the world and the shelter of many religions of the world. Hinduism influenced other religions and itself was also affected. In the beginning of the 19th century, the British also gave legal recognition to the propagation of Christianity here. Christianity made extensive inroads here through preaching. Here the mission was duly started for the propagation of religion, in which many lucrative programs were run by the missionaries for conversion. Through education, wealth, social respect and criticism of Hindu religion, tribes and Dalits were converted from Hindu to Christian on a large scale. In response and for protection from the invasion of Christianity, many reformist movements were born here, due to which for the first time Hindus understood some evils and unnecessary principles prevalent in Hinduism.

To establish the natural superiority of Hindu religion through logic, many reformist organizations like Brahma Samaj, Arya Samaj, Prarthana Samaj, Ramakrishna Mission were born, which condemned the evils prevalent in Hindus and worked for its improvement. Due to these reforms, the natural life force of Hinduism manifested with divinity and its messages were sent abroad, the effect of this new religious consciousness was also visible in Chhattisgarh. A new religious environment was created here against

exploitation and discrimination in the name of religion. As a result, the new Satnami cult emerged here and the branch of Kabir Panth started. Many Dalit Hindus here offered their faith in Satnam and many assimilated the thoughts of Kabir. Although both of them are part of Hindu religion, yet religious and caste discrimination was strongly challenged in this area by them. By propounding the principles of equality in the field of religion, an attempt was made to remove the feeling of exploitation and discrimination existing in the society. This infused new enthusiasm among the lower class people of the society. This struck a chord with untouchability and reduced caste discrimination. This led to the emergence of religious equality.

Despite this, a large number of people of the neglected class of Hindu religion accepted Christianity, in which tribal and Satnami society of Chhattisgarh is prominent. Especially the Uramb tribe of Surguja district and Satnamis of Bilaspur district changed from Hindu to Christianity. Under the influence of the British rule in the field of religion, the emergence of Christianity in Chhattisgarh and at present about 2 percent of the population here is noteworthy. This effect is more visible in the northern part of Chhattisgarh than in other parts,

Social Impact

The prosperity and dynamism that existed in the Indian society in ancient times had become inertia in the medieval period. During the period of Muslim supremacy, Indian society suffered a severe blow, but the influence of Islam in the social environment of Chhattisgarh was negligible, because Chhattisgarh was not directly under Muslim rule.

In the Maratha period, the society here was comparatively very backward, English policies changed the entire political, economic system here, which had a deep impact in social life. The great contribution of western culture is the modernization of Indian society. Due to this Chhattisgarh started getting free from social stereotypes. The shadow of western influence started appearing in the dress, conduct, behavior and etiquette of the area. Now the emphasis was on trade, due to which social bonds were loosened. Although it hurt the joint family system and the self-centred tendencies of the individual began to flourish, yet the influence of the West in Chhattisgarh proved beneficial for the prevention of social evils.

There was inspiration to end the evils of Sati, infanticide, marriage etc. and the practice of widow marriage started. The social equality of men and women was established. Restrictions on inter-caste eating and marriage were lifted. Now the people here got excited to get more amenities. It freed people from indolence and apathy. Thus a new dynamic came in the social life of Chhattisgarh, which tried to free it from the curse of backwardness. As a result of the social reform movements, a new consciousness emerged in the majority of the Dalit castes of Chhattisgarh. Christian missionaries, Theosophical Society and Arya Samaj made a lot of efforts to improve their condition.

Pt. Sunderlal Sharma and Gandhiji started the movement for Harijnodar. The Dalit classes themselves also started agitating for their rights. As a result of these efforts, great changes took place in the social condition of Chhattisgarh. With the conversion of Hindus to Christianity, a new Christian society came into existence. English education, culture and way of life had a deep impact on the social system of Chhattisgarh. Due to these, a new environment was created in the Hindu society. As a result the condition of the untouchables started improving relatively.

cultural influence-

India has been a very rich country culturally. The cultural heritage related to ancient philosophy, fine arts, literature etc. was very glorious, but the cultural flow had been blocked since the time of Muslim domination in the country. A situation of cultural inertia had been created. India had forgotten its glorious past, the British explored this Indian treasure through archaeological exploration, literary adaptation and

analysis and research. The West has given us the knowledge of ancient Indian fine arts and the glory of the past. Western scholars such as Prinsep, Wilkins, Max Muller, Cunningham, Willivam Jones, Smith, John Marshall, Colonel Todd etc. studied and discussed Indian literature, articles etc. European scholars clarified Indian inscriptions. Here the work of excavation was done and various materials of history writing were presented.

British scholars did a comprehensive survey of the society and languages of India and the report was presented by them. In this way, only with the efforts of the West, we could regain the forgotten heritage of our ancestors, the British also tried to know and compile the regional history of India, which helped in writing national historiography along with knowing the regional pride. Today, if the information about the orderly Indian history is said to be the result of the efforts of the British, then it will not be an exaggeration. With the knowledge of our glorious past, we came to know about the superiority of Indian religion and philosophy and instilled confidence in us. With the attainment of this new moral force, Indians were able to successfully resist the western invasion of their culture. Similarly, the influence of the West was visible in the field of music and other arts as well. At this time, the abundance of buildings built on western patterns was visible in the Chhattisgarh region.

Whether the British rule is beneficial or harmful, but the reality is that western education and culture has influenced the life of Chhattisgarh in a big way. It challenged all the existing beliefs and beliefs in Chhattisgarh, due to this the medieval forms of religion, belief and practices were faltering. Traditional political, social and economic institutions were shaken and western civilization left permanent marks on them. Its influence was not limited to the cities only, but spread to the villages. Due to this the social, economic and moral life of the place was affected.

A new awakening came in Chhattisgarh due to the influence of western culture and the beginning of a new revival took place. The place of religion and belief was taken by conscience, reason and just decision. Progress has replaced stagnation. The desire to remove the defects and evils was awakened, due to which giving up apathy and laziness, the people here became active. In this way, during the British rule of about a hundred years in the Chhattisgarh region, English influence was visible in all the areas. Even after him, the process of change started during his period continued and is still going on today.

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