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# India during British Raj: Marxist View

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## ABSTRACT

*“The Government which attacks its own innocent subjects has no claim to be called a civilized government. Bear in mind, such a government does not survive long. I declare that the blows struck at me will be the last nails in the coffin of the British rule in India.”* Britishers were like “I am nothing, but I must be everything” and the foolish Indians had allowed them to rule over and exploit them. So, the Researcher in this article has focused primarily on an assortment of discrimination faced by the Indian peoples during the colonial rule, which further led to the economic inequality. He firstly discussed about the Indian economy in the pre-colonial India, in various sectors like agricultural Sector, Industrial Sector, Foreign Trade, Demographic Condition, Occupational Structure and the Infrastructure. He then looked upon aspects like racism, discrimination faced by Indian citizens due to racism and how it promotes capitalism. Also he talked about the Marxist feminism, discrimination against women, economic inequality of women with men, how British imperialism worked, how British ruled India, economic inequality among the white and black and also how the British exploitation is responsible for the India’s poverty. Researcher also putted the efforts in looking for the discrimination between the working class (Indian workforce like, employees and workers) through the Marxist view. How working class were filled with Indian while the commanding or industrial class with white men, women were treated as unequal to men, working class were not pay with the stipend or the wages according to the work they use to do, they never got the share from the profit earned by the Britishers through European markets and women were pay even less than the men. All these criteria led to the formation of many trade unions. They had certain main objectives like the distribution of the fair wages to the working class, quality of life, stop exploitation, opportunities to be given, less working hours and many others. Followed by which he also explained about the changing dimension or parameters for the economic policy after the independence and at the last researcher gave the conclusion of the research

**Keywords-** Karl Marx, Feminism, British Raj, Marxism, India.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

When we talk about the British Raj or the colonial period, It basically refers to phase of the British or colonial rule on the Indian subcontinent, between 1858 and 1947. As Britisher came in India in 1600, in the form and name of *East India Company*, which was a joint stock company, and which was formed to operate trade in the Indian Ocean region, initially with the East Indies (the Indian subcontinent & the Southeast Asia), and afterward also with the Qing China. The **company** created trading posts in the Surat (where a factory was built in 1612), the Madras (in 1639), the Bombay (in 1668), and the Calcutta (in 1690) and the system of the authority domination was instituted in the 1858 when the rule of East India Company was transferred to the Crown in presence of the Queen Victoria (who in the 1876 was proclaimed Empress of India).

It lasted until 1947, when the British provinces of the India were partitioned into two sovereign dominion states: the Dominion of the India & the Dominion of the Pakistan, leaving the generous and charitable states to opt between them. Most of the significant, generous and princely states decided to join either Dominion of the India or Dominion of the Pakistan, except the state of J&K. It was only at the last moment that the J&K agreed to sign the "Instrument of Accession" with India. The two innovative dominions which after a while became Republic of the India and the Islamic democracy/Republic of the Pakistan (the eastern half of which, still later, became the People's Republic of Bangladesh). The province region of the Burma in eastern region of Indian Empire had been ended a separate, split gathering in the 1937 and became independent and the self-governing in 1948.

Basically the Indian citizens were treated very badly by the British government as the racial discrimination was prevailing at the time period of the crown rule. Though I agree that the Indian citizen and culture was being exploited through very earlier only but during the English colonial rule Indians had to suffer a lot and the discrimination was at its peak. The condition of women was very bad the economic status of the women was almost zero, they don't had the property rights, they were not educated, they had to face many discrimination in almost all the fields. It was the Britisher who uses to rule over the India, so it was a clear cut example of the Imperialism where India is being ruled by come external force which invaded in India before few years ago. They exploited the India in every possible way they could, all the administrative post were given to English men while all the lower post were filed by the Indians. They declared the English to be the official language, Indians in initial stage was not given the opportunity to even get the basic education and after a period of time, as per the need they started giving the

basis education only and they never wanted Indians to be educated more than that, Education may act as a problem to them and also may act as a danger to their monarchy government.

As all the workforce comprises of the Indian peoples, which was headed by some white men. They had to work a lot and the basic pay which they use to get was very low then the service they provided. Indian farmer were force to grow the crops as per the order of the British administration and had the only option to sell the goods or produce to the lowest price decide by Britisher and to the Britisher. While they use to sell the Indian goods in the European market and use to earn a huge profit by exploiting the Indians. Also in the similar way they use to exploit the women and the labor working in the British industry, they were asked to work for more than the 14-15 hours with twice of the efforts they could put, while the pay given was almost negligible in terms of the work done. Resulting the trade and labor unions were formed against them.

## **II. INDIAN ECONOMY DURING PRE-COLONIAL INDIA**

Before the initiation of the colonial rule, India was an autonomous, self-sufficient and flourishing economy. Unmistakably, India was readily acknowledged as the golden eagle. India had already well-knowingly recognized itself on the world plot with the well-brought-up sum of exports. Even though first and foremost it was an agrarian country, many of industrialized activities were up-and-coming in the pre-colonial India. Indian craftsmanship was widely admired in the region of the world and garnered huge hustle demands<sup>2</sup>. The financial system was well-known for its handiwork and handcraft manufacturing industries in the fields of silk and cotton textiles, precious metal and stone works etc. Such enlargement lured the British to paralyze our state circumstances and use it for their dwelling country's reimbursement.

### **(A) The Pre-Colonial Agricultural Sector in India**

For the duration of the pre-British era, a foremost important part of India's inhabitants were dependent on farming and cultivation. The irrigation amenities and the farming technologies were not much pleasing and satisfactory. However, crop cultivation in the villages was self-sustaining, self-sufficient and independent. The rural communities either consumed or purchased the raw materials and the articles directly. As a result, famines and starvations were exceptional if not repeated. Of course, agricultural practices were remained prehistoric, but the villages use to function autonomously and were self-reliant. All of this went for a toss when the Britishers set feet on the Indian subcontinent. The Indian agricultural sector, which supported almost the entire

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<sup>2</sup> Wilson, Jon E. "Early Colonial India beyond Empire." *The Historical Journal*, vol. 50, no. 4, 2007, pp. 951–970.

economy, went towards stagnation<sup>3</sup>. There was a insignificant preamble of the reforms to make sure a boost in efficiency. On the divergent, the Britishers sustained to extract profits which penniless knees of the Indian.

### **(B) The Pre-Colonial Industrial Sector in India**

Before the rise of English Empire in the India, India was famously known for its handicraft industry. Obviously, this industry enjoyed wide-reaching claim and was held in a far above the ground regard. Almost in all parts of the world, the Indian craftsmanship was much-admired. The cloth and fabric industry was along with the most imperative urban handicraft manufacturing industry. Articles made up of silk, cotton, and wool was important both inside and outside the country's limitations. In addition, an assortment of metal industries, marble work, stone carving, leather industries, and shipbuilding and tanning were intriguing shape<sup>4</sup>. These industries potentially accelerated the India's growth, establishing it on the humankind map. However, the crown rule took every possible step to make it sure that this wasn't the case.

### **(C) Foreign Trade in the 17th and 18th Century**

Pre-colonial India had the worldwide market connections for its manufactured products. The outstanding levels of the craftsmanship were under arrest in high gaze at and enjoyed a large-scale worldwide standing. Remarkable ones are textile and handicrafts industries. Carpets and shawls from Amritsar and Kashmir, silk cloth of Nagpur and the silk sarees of Banaras are various examples. Pre-British India also achieved excellence in the imaginative handicraft manufacturing industry which includes jewellery made of brass, copper, silver, gold and bell metal merchandise, wood, stone, carving works in ivory, artistic glassware, marble work etc.

Each and every one of the aforementioned items as well as opium cinnamon, indigo, pepper, etc. amounted to a most important part of the sell abroad from India. Successfully, India be exporting far above the ground eminence feigned goods to the European nations and owned a highly regarded divide and contribute to in the global financial system.

### **(D) Demographic Condition in Colonial India**

The majestic administration or British government hadn't showed any inquisitiveness in conducting a survey census in India before 1881. In such a state, this job was filled up by some folks like Dadabhai Naoroji, Findlay Shirras, and V.K.R.V. Rao etc. However, the demographic

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<sup>3</sup> Borthakur, Anwasha, and Pardeep Singh. "History of Agricultural Research in India." *Current Science*, vol. 105, no. 5, 2013, pp. 587–593.

<sup>4</sup> Jodhka, Surinder S. "Caste & the Corporate Sector." *Indian Journal of Industrial Relations*, vol. 44, no. 2, 2008, pp. 185–193.

statistics unruffled was not reliable and precise. Conspicuously, the estimates of V.K.R.V. Rao are well thought-out to be best. It was not until 1881 that the colonials were paying attention in studying the Indian demography. The grand colonial rule is characterized by two centuries of the exploitation. Mostly, the policies and measures taken aimed at pleasing British benefits and interests. Indian people were considered and treated as servants and slaves. Under their grand colonial masters, they were underprivileged of even the basic human facilities<sup>5</sup>. Thus deaths and hunger became a trait of grand colonial India. These tied with influenza and famines epidemic proved to be the catastrophic. Clearly, the life anticipation in the India hit an all-time low or near to the ground underneath the British rule.

### **(E) Employment in India before Colonization**

Pre-British India was rambling with the opportunities. Generally known as golden eagle, it was in the middle of the most significant contributors to the humanity economy. Pre-colonial India saw merchants and traders from all in the order of the humankind. Metropolitan handicraft or handwork industry was the highlight of the industrial sector of that time frame. But a variety of other industries, even though meager, were arriving inward on prospect. The rambling industrial and manufacturing sector had promised luminous expectations. This also gave the confinement to add up to the employment ways. Most people found employment in the industrial sector (under enemy control by metropolitan handicraft) and farming sector<sup>6</sup>. Skillful and accomplished craftsmen shaped the mainstream of all these workforces. Markedly, India was identified and acknowledged for its first-rated and exceptional craftsmanship. As well, individual villages were self-reliant, autonomous and the village communities in a straight line consumed these outputs. Some other occupations were- tending cattle, pottery, goldsmith, washer men, weaving, cobblers, surgeons, carpentry, etc. Sadly, all these affirmations gone absent with the dust because the initiation of the English East India Company.

### **(F) Infrastructure in Pre-colonial India**

The utter condition of the infrastructure, road and railway infrastructure during the pre-colonial India was very poor. The shipping and the communication announcement lines are beneath the standard. In reality, the majority of the rural villages lacked connectivity by the main line roads or the pucca roads. As a result, natural covered in dust tracks were the roads which were

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<sup>5</sup> Deshpande, Anirudh, and Anirudh Deshpande. "COLONIAL MODERNITY AND HISTORICAL IMAGINATION IN INDIA." *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, vol. 72, 2011, pp. 1311–1324.

<sup>6</sup> Balyan, Nidhi. "Contextualising Agrarian Change in India: Debates and Themes." *Indian Anthropologist*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2019, pp. 75–90.

predominant and can be easily found in India. However, such roads spelt misery for the duration of monsoons as they became grubby or muddy and difficult to pass through.

Furthermore, during ordinary calamities, these road and rail network became unfunctional as a consequence of which a variety of areas became difficult to get to and were cut-off. Animal-drawn carriages were the most widespread mode of the transport. This meant it would in general take a huge time or a lot of days to pass through to other places. Hence the movement of the passengers and freights was very unproductive and sluggish<sup>7</sup>. Apart from a few parts of Northern India where the rivers were passable, water transport was not very fashionable. In a nutshell, the pre-colonial condition of infrastructure in India was the far beneath all right and the Britishers were accountable and gets the credit for most of our infrastructure and transportation development.

### **III. MARXISM AND THE CONCEPT OF RACISM: ECONOMY AND SOCIETY**

#### **(A) Racism: promoting capitalism**

Racism is a concept or belief among the human being that humans possibly will be separated into the separate and the exclusive genetic entities called “races”; that at hand is a contributory link between traits of personality and hereditary physical traits, morality, intellect (mind power), and other cultural, civilizing and behavioral texture or features; and that a number of races are intrinsically or naturally superior to others. The term ‘race’ is also functional to economic, political or legal institutions and systems so as to fetch connect in or bring about favoritism (discrimination) on the starting point of race or else strengthen racial inequality/ies in wealth, health care, education, civil rights, income and other areas. Such structural, institutional, or universal racism became a meticulous focus of intellectual or scholarly investigation in the 1980s with the coming out of critical pursuit theory, a subsidiary of the critical legal studies interest group. So as we all know that the concept of racism came up with the invasion of British East India Company and was the prevailing concept at the time of the Crown rule or British Raj.

The Britishers (White peoples) use to enjoy many privileges over the black peoples and even many people consider that the British were (in general) both racists and hypocrites. We can say like Hypocrisy is one thing, and racism (Racial Discrimination) is another; and the combination of both produced a particular species of moral fearfulness, trepidation, cowardice and hatred. As we all know that the British Raj was strictly based on this; needed it, desired it fostered it,

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<sup>7</sup> Thakur, Kundan Kumar. “BRITISH COLONIAL EXPLOITATION OF INDIA AND GLOBALIZATION.” Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, vol. 74, 2013, pp. 405–415.

and with it humiliated (disgraced) millions<sup>8</sup>. And as the English men had certain privileges, they prevailed over the other racial class i.e. black peoples and which helped them a lot in making the capital in the initial stage and we cannot deny the fact that money makes money, so in this way racism directly as well as indirectly promoted the capitalism nature of the society.

### **(B) Marxist Feminism: relevance during British raj**

The feeling or belief of women should also have the same or equal opportunities and privileges as men is known as feminism and the range of the political and social movements, belief and ideologies that intend to delineate and establish the personal, economic, political, and communal equality of the sexes. In the similar way,

Marxist feminism is a species of the politics and the feminist speculation that takes its notional and theoretical bearings from Marxism, especially the criticism of the capitalism as a set of incentives, institutions, practices, structures, and sensibilities that encourages the utilization of labor, the humiliation of freedom, and the hostility of living beings. For Marxist feminists, equality and empowerment for women can never be attain within the agenda of private enterprises and capitalism. Marxist feminism is unenthusiastic and subdued to take care of “women” as a stand-alone assembly with common and parallel interests, benefit and aspirations. Marxist feminism thus hereby separates itself from other modes of the feminist belief by attending methodically and decisively to some of the profitable association of the societies (Privileged peoples or white peoples during crown rule), including stratification along the length of the lines of division (Indian vs. British); by refusing to harmony(accord) the category of “women” detach or separate and special category status, without look upon to class; by its assurance to put an end to of capitalism; and by its adherence to operational-class and insolvent or blank hand women. As due to the transfer of the power from British EIC to the crown, the status of women had reached the lowest level in the society<sup>9</sup>. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, Raja Ram Mohan Ray, and an assortment (mixture) of various other social reformers of that time laid the stress on women's schooling, education, removal of polygamy, prevention and anticipation of child marriage, sati pratha and remarriage of widows. As the condition of women were very deterrent in the initial time period of Britishers and also as they very even denied of the basic rights like right to education, right to property, many assaults were done against them and many more, thus many political and social reformers focused on

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<sup>8</sup> Satgar, Vishwas. “THE ANTI-RACISM OF MARXISM: PAST AND PRESENT.” *Racism After Apartheid: Challenges for Marxism and Anti-Racism*, edited by Vishwas Satgar, Wits University Press, Johannesburg, 2019, pp. 1–28.

<sup>9</sup> Gimenez, Martha E. “Capitalism and the Oppression of Women: Marx Revisited.” *Science & Society*, vol. 69, no. 1, 2005, pp. 11–32.



the issues of the women and demanded for the feminism at the mid of the colonial rule and got a huge success for the new concept called feminism till the independence of the India and we can see the scenarios of now, which are far and far better than the conditions of women in today's time.

### **(C) British in India: Imperialism**

Basically, Imperialism is a concept according to which, when one country takes over its economic, political, or cultural authority over another country, region or state. And the above stated concept involves the dominant country taking over the other through political control and direct invasion or by gaining the authority over the financial system or the economy of the other country. The British imperialism of India was the period when the Britisher colonized India. The British invaded India with the hope of using our lands and agricultural products to make a good amount of the profit. In doing so, many ethical and economical conflicts arose. One example is medicine. The institution of British Empire in the eighteenth century and resulting into the westernization of Indian nation brought fundamental and essential changes of creative and imaginative taste, and an innovative form of art in addition to painting emerged.

In the eighteenth century, the traders and the merchants of the EIC provided a bulky marketplace platform for the inhabitant art, and a separate variant of canvas painting developed notoriously known as Company style. By the mid 19th century British started disregarding Indian art and established British schools to propagate western values in art education. The Bengal School of Art arose in the early 20th as a nationalist movement reacting against western academic art styles; it promoted paintings such as the Mughal miniatures<sup>10</sup>.

### **(D) British Raj: Reason for India's poverty**

Our Country India, was known as the golden sparrow in and around the whole world and the history is the evidence how British exploited the Indian economy, Indian resources, and Indian citizens as well. As globalization was at the starting face at that period of time, thus continued economic exploitation of the developing, rising and the poor countries and preserve the colonial inheritance and birthright of the plunder and loot. Though India was not a poor country but because of the continuous monarch rule it led to be the under developed country before and during the foreign countries invasion and when it was in the list of the developing country, the British people started exploiting India in all the ways possible for them.

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<sup>10</sup> Liddle, Joanna, and Rama Joshi. "Gender and Imperialism in British India." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 20, no. 43, 1985, pp. WS72–WS78.

Globalization has provided impetus and momentum to scores of multinational companies like Portugal's EIC, Dutch EIC and British EIC, which had formed backbone of trade and commerce in India. But their role in affecting local vendors is questioned like they were earning huge profits, which was many a folds more than that of the Indian peoples who use to put this much efforts and the English EIC use to exploit them, they use to give the very little profit to the Indian farmers and producer, they use you purchase goods, use to export service (servants), which they use to get at very low price and they sells them at high price.<sup>11</sup>

Globalization has been criticized just because of the colonial exploitation. Though India was looted countless or innumerable times in the past apart from that British rule succeeded in the starving the country as never before. It's also a myth among many Indian old peoples and scholars as well that British imperialism benefited one of its richest colony, India, like they developed many things like the development of railway, cities and many others, whilst in reality the British development was for they own benefit and had drained all India's wealth and resources. They never sent the Indian to school for the administrative or ruling purposes, they gave opportunities to Indians to come up and because of which Indian got into the habit of being the servant of others and consequences of which can be also seen in today's India too. And as world works on the principle of the demand and supply and no or very less Indian entrepreneurs can be seen and on the other hand there are many servants to work for the Britishers, which resulted into the exploitation of the working class from India. They also declared English as the administrative language thus the Indian were treated as oppressed class because of the language they speak.

#### **IV. ECONOMICAL DISCRIMINATION: WORKING CLASS AND INDUSTRIALIST**

##### **(A) Labor and wages**

All over the British majestic phase, the workers in "unorganized," small-scale units outnumbered those in up-to-the-minute contemporary factories, railroad construction, and mines. As late as 1911, almost 95 percent of the industrial manufacturing workers were in employment in units supplementary or other as the registered factories. The level of the employment in the significant industries such as spinning and hand-loom fabricate produce no doubt was declined due to competition of the European imports and due to vanishing of the requirement and demand from pre-colonial states. But weaving, carpet making, bidi (cigarette) rolling, leather work, rice processing, and gold thread manufacture gave employment to

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<sup>11</sup> Robb, Peter. "British Rule and Indian 'Improvement.'" *The Economic History Review*, vol. 34, no. 4, 1981, pp. 507-523.

substantial records of people. Changes in the modes of employment and in the production-manufacture relations possibly will be as noteworthy in the smaller industries the same as in large factories. The merchants habitually tightened their control over the artisan producers, small workshops by means of wage labor from time to time or occasionally replaced family-based units, and employees often had to adjust to the new forms of the expertise technology. If we talk about the hand-loom industries, in the hand-loom industry, there was some extensive and the far reaching mobility of labor, as thousands of the weavers moved from miserable and deprived areas of southeastern and northern India to the more lively centers of Bombay administration<sup>12</sup>. There was also the substantial conflict between the employers and workers, though repeatedly it was articulated and expressed in the form of the human being, "everyday" acts of confrontation, such as slowing the rate of knots of work, absconding with cash advances, or embezzling yarn. There was little communal action by the working class against employers in small-scale manufacturing industries in anticipation of the 1930s and 1940s, when the several unions were customary and the strikes were announced to be done in the bidi, hand-loom, and the gold cord industries, at slightest in western India.

In the post-colonial India, working labour came up to be directly and intimately linked with the industrialized work. The agrarian-rural mode of the fabrication and creation would enclose and come to the conclusion and almost immediately to subsist replaced by the large-scale endeavor project by making, bring into the play of the up to date expertise and the technology and positioned in the urban localities. The waft goes with the flow of the labour from the scenery towards the middle- and the large-sized cities seemed to bearer of news, the forthcoming alteration towards nature of the general public, which had emerged in urbanized and residential part of world. Employment in well thought-out sector of urban cost-cutting measures in the economy, even though engrossing only a small segment of the total labor force and the workers outer surface or external agriculture, became the key meeting point of the studies on labour & worker. According to the powerfully held majority views, the excellence of labour missing or left a great deal to be preferred and this became a most important dispute in amplification of the low output in manufacturing, trade and commerce. The Indian worker entrenched in conventional structure and the civilization was held responsible for his degradation and the conception of the gender was almost practically absent with be deficient in commitment<sup>13</sup>. The augmentation of the India's manufacturing industrial working class was as a result of and the

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<sup>12</sup> Wolfe, Patrick. "Land, Labor, and Difference: Elementary Structures of Race." *The American Historical Review*, vol. 106, no. 3, 2001, pp. 866–905.

<sup>13</sup> Parthasarathi, Prasannan. "Indian Labor History." *International Labor and Working-Class History*, no. 82, 2012, pp. 127–135.

large a metropolitan observable fact. The profile of the up-and-coming labor force is discussed in the stipulations of the social group, class and their caste, employment modalities and skill formation. Trade or trader unions were influential and influentially involved in raising the wages, humanizing and humanizing the circumstances of the vocation and dignify the manufacturing work from beginning to end of the labour legislation. But again, this every single one remained the privilege of a minor sector of trade workers who fetch into being a slot or the position in the ceremonial subdivision wealth.

### **(B) Labor in Large-Scale Industry**

The thing which most distinguished the "organized" sector was in reality was not even its degree of organization or, in all belongings, its technology or expertise, but the size of the pools of manual labor it required. It hit the highest point of their activity, cotton textile production in Mumbai (Bombay), railway building, coal mining in eastern India, and the jute manufacture in Kolkata (Calcutta), each gave employment to hundreds of thousands of the employees, while industries such as the cotton mills of Kanpur and Ahmadabad, the gold mines of Mysore, and the steel mills of Jamshedpur, used tens of thousands. For the reason that of the small add up to of such industrial and business enclaves, service in registered industries and factories was never been more than 1 percent of the Indian inhabitants. Nevertheless, each production industries needed to pull towards the sizable statistics of human workforce to determined surroundings, by means of the major industries recruiting employment on or after a great distance, for the reason that of continuously unpredictable changes in economic state of affairs, numerous industrialists were unenthusiastic to offer considerable prediction for long-term service employment to a large portion of their human workforce, often hiring them as a substitute on a untailed daily starting point and the subsequently discarding them at what time the employees and workers were no longer considered necessary. In many a cases, migrants to manufacturing industrial workplaces came from the "manual labor catchment areas," the rural areas where the trivial and considered insignificant farmers often had to struggle for continuation on small, diminutive, and miniature plots of land<sup>14</sup>. Orissa, Bihar, and parts of United Provinces in the eastern India, Tamil- and Telugu-speaking districts in the presidency of the madras, and the Deccan and Konkan regions in the presidency of Bombay were all areas manifested by the momentous and significant outflows of human workforce and the labor. In the textile fabric industries of Calcutta and Bombay, ex-artisans provided a significant part of the skilled and capable workforce. Workers were often recruited by the go-

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<sup>14</sup> Madheswaran, S., and Paul Attewell. "Caste Discrimination in the Indian Urban Labour Market: Evidence from the National Sample Survey." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 42, no. 41, 2007, pp. 4146–4153.

between mediator, jobbers and contractors either in the villages or, more universally, among people who had by now moved to the cities<sup>15</sup>. These peacekeeping troops frequently took little expenses from the workers in the return for the employment jobs they provided. Migrants looking for the employment also use to be relied on relatives, friends, known ones and the fellow villagers whom they had followed to the manufacturing industrial centers. Workers had often retained the rural connections to their home regions, in part due to the kin ties and the cultural attachments, in part since maintaining landholdings provided some indemnity aligned with the reservations of manufacturing industrial employment.

Conditions of the work by workers in large-scale industry were generally quite easier said than done. Workforce labored as extensive as fifteen hours on a daily basis, for the illustration, in the Bombay mills, after electrical energy was came to be in knowledge in the 1880s and before legislation well-known recognized a upper limit workday of twelve hours in 1911. Jobbers often tyrannized employees and the other workforce, and the sexual annoyance, harassment, nuisance of women appears to be widely spread. Health, wellbeing, security and safety values remained the low. Work rules repeatedly gave to employers' unlimited and arbitrary authority to penalize workers by removal from office or the docking of reimbursements. Simultaneously the capability of employers to impress tight regulation in carry out perform was restricted by be their in possession of internal divisions, their reluctance to develop a permanent workforce, and their reliance on disinterested party. Workers' resistances, whether in the outward appearance of collective accomplishment or of individual personality methods of on a daily basis struggle, could affect employers' capability to commence new technology, to speed up production or to homogenize wages. In intimidate production managers erudite that they desired to offer the significant and noteworthy cash advances before they could hire workforce. In short, employers often had to make the arrangements of the accommodation to workers' societal structures, potential and expectations.

### **(C) Women in Industry**

Women's role in the modern industry was more and more marginalized and is considered to be useless over the time. Though women constituted 37 % of excavation, colliery and mine workers in the east of the India in 1920 but only 11% in 1938; they tranquil and composed the 25% of the labor force in the Bombay mills in 1896 but only 12 % in 1944; their magnitude in the jute manufacturing industries fell from 21% in 1901 to little more than 12% by 1950. This trend seems to have been caused by a meeting of several factors: the intensification of the

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<sup>15</sup> Sen, Sunanda. "Indentured Labour from India in the Age of Empire." *Social Scientist*, vol. 44, no. 1/2, 2016, pp. 35-74.

norms of social uprightness gloomy daunting women's work out of the household British grand colonial legislation that constrained the working hours for the women; and the position of jobbers, employees and the other middlemen in hiring<sup>16</sup>.

There is some substantiation of decline in women's manufacturing industrial role even in unceremonious industry. Spinning of the cotton yarn dwindled into the effective monetary irrelevance, and the use of apparatus displaced women in the professions such as the warping of yarn and the rice husking. A few occupations concerning women, such as the rolling bidis (Indian Cigarettes), did get bigger, but the in general trend in the direction of "de-industrialization" for women seems to be clear.

#### **(D) Wages and Earnings**

Reimbursement for the industrial work was uneven and generally not of level or poor, when male workers could discover the jobs, these positions more often than not paid better than uneducated, uneducated and unskilled agricultural work or employment as hand-loom weavers for manufacturing the clothes. There was no solitary drift for the wages in India as a intact. Available and accessible statistics seem to recommend that at the same time as real wages in the cotton textile industry of the Ahmadabad and the Bombay rose after the World War I, wages in the jute manufacturing industries were sluggish until late 1930s, and then greater than before only to a small and negligible extent. But these wide-ranging trends mask substantial inner instability and variations. Most of workers received less compensation than they needed to support their families<sup>17</sup>. This sometimes necessitated labor by all family members, including children. Women were paid less for the same work as men when they could get it, but more commonly they were confined to less prestigious forms of employment deemed "supplementary," where payments were predominantly less or poor.

Evidences on the wages for workforce of workers in small-scale industry is especially very little and insufficient, but the unpublished researches suggests that the actual earnings of the hand-loom weavers in a number of cases fell over the track course of the nineteenth century to the levels little advanced than those established by unskilled, untrained and inexperienced agricultural laborers. The other forms of artisan wage service employment, such as brick masonry and carpentry, may have set aside better pace with the going up prices.

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<sup>16</sup> Ghosh, Durba. "Gender and Colonialism: Expansion or Marginalization?" *The Historical Journal*, vol. 47, no. 3, 2004, pp. 737–755.

<sup>17</sup> DAS, PANCHANAN. "Wage Inequality in India: Decomposition by Sector, Gender and Activity Status." *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 47, no. 50, 2012, pp. 58–64.

## **V. STRIKES, TRADE UNIONS, AND WORKERS' CONSCIOUSNESS**

### **(A) Formation of Trade Union**

#### **1. Pre-1918: origin of labour movement in India**

After the scenery of jute and textile mills came into picture, together with the laying of railway lines in 1850s, the slaughter of workers or the worker atrocities started to come to the light. Though the starting point of the labour movements was traced to 1860s, 1st labour campaigning in times gone by the India occurred in the Bombay, 1875. It was well thought-out beneath the headship and guidance of the S.S Bengalee. It intended on the dilemma, plight, and troubles of the workers, particularly children and women. This led to the rendezvous engagement of first Factory commission, 1875. As a result, the first factories act was conceded in 1881. In 1890, M.N Lokhande led the foundation stone of the Bombay Mill Hands Association. This was the first prearranged amalgamation of labour union in India. And following this, different organizations were time-honored across India. The movements in this time period primarily focused on the welfare of the workforce rather than asserting on their rights. Though they were organized, but there be no pan India being there. A strong scholar agenda or foundation was missing. They use to put the keen stress of their on the issues like that of children and women workers.

#### **2. 1918-1924: The early trade union phase**

This time period has been marked as period of the birth of true trade association movements within India. It was prearranged along lines of the unions in manufacturing-the human race. The pathetic conditions of the human being caused by the World War-I and the introduction with the outside world resulted in finely tuned class perception in the midst of the workers. This provided productive ground to the enlargement of the pressure group. This period is known as the near the beginning trade union period. Ahmedabad Textile Labour Association (1917), Madras Labour Union, RMS Association, All India Postal and many others were some of the important and famous trade union of that time period. AITUC was the oldest trade union federation in India and which was settled in 1920. Joseph Baptista, Lala Lajpat Rai, Diwan Chaman Lall, and N.M Joshi are the persons who get the credit of the foundation of the AITUC. Lajpat Rai was elected the first president of AITUC.

Factors that prejudiced the growth of the movements by the formed trade unions: The mass entrenchment of workers and the spiraling prices during War followed it led to low source of revenue standards. Also, the heartbroken working circumstances added to their woes. Hence, they wanted accommodating bargaining power through the unionization. Enlargement of

Home Rule, the socio-political conditions, the emergence of the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, led to the nationalist management control captivating awareness in the worker's predicament. Workforce, in turn, was looking for the proficient guidance and leadership. The Russian revolution and other worldwide developments (like the setting up of International Labour Organization) also boosted the morale of them.

### **3. 1925-1934: Period of left-wing trade unionism**

This era was manifest as the increasing revolutionary and a militancy loom. It had also seen multiple split-ups in the societal movement. Leaders like V.V Giri and N.M Joshi was playing the active role in moderating the interest group movement and further supplementary integrating it with the pro-independence nationalist conventional mainstream. AITUC split up and doing multiple times paving and concrete way for the formation and arrangement of organizations like All India Red Trade Union Congress (AIRTUC) and National Trade Union Federation (NTUF). However, the need for the harmony and integrity was felt and they all amalgamated with AITUC in next phase<sup>18</sup>. The administration was also approachable or friend able to the trade union association. Legislations like the Trade Disputes Act, 1929 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926 gave a fillip for and till its expansion. It bestowed many privileges, human civil and constitutional rights to the unions as the compensation or in return for certain obligations. This period was marked by supremacy of left. Hence, it may be referred to as the phase of the left-wing trade unionism.

### **4. 1935-1938: The Congress interregnum**

This phase was manifest as the phase for the bigger unity flanked by different unions. Indian National Congress was in supremacy and authoritative power in most of the regions by 1937. This led to the emergence of more and supplementary unions and getting drawn in with the nationalist association movement. In 1935, AITUC merged with AIRTUC. Different legislations were also passed by the provincial governments that gave extra additional power, recognition and appreciation to all the trade unions. The come within reach of Congress ministries was so as to of promoting worker benefits and welfare while shielding the industrial peace. Reconciliation and the squaring off of the labour with wealth and assets was seen as intend, with ministries working for the securing better living conditions and also better reimbursement. However, many of the ministries treated strikes as the law and order or rules and regulations issues. They used the colonial apparatus to hold back or suppress it. This led to considerable antipathy and betterment from the unions.

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<sup>18</sup> Hobsbawm, E. J. "Trade Union History." *The Economic History Review*, vol. 20, no. 2, 1967, pp. 358–364.



## **5. 1939-1946: Period of labour activism**

The World War-II lowered the standard of livelihood for the workforce further and this resulted into the intensification of the interest group movement. The question of the war effort formed a rift between the Congress and the Communists. This, united with other issues, led to additional split in the association. However, the association as a whole got stronger due to the compounding issues. This also counts the massive price rise and the mass entrenchment post-war that accompanied in it. Legislations like Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1946 and the manufacturing Industrial Employment Act, 1946 contributed to intensification the trade union movements. In general, the activities of the movement got more verbal and caught up in the national movements.

### **(B) Working and Functions of the Trade Union**

The significant basic functions of the unions as listed by the ‘National Commission on labour’ were like, to shelter the fair wages to the staff workers, to enlarge opportunities for promotion and training, to safeguard the safety of the tenure and to improve the circumstances of the service, to provide meant for the educational, to cultural & recreational facilities, to improve the working and the livelihood conditions, to promote the creature and the cooperative benefits, to co-operate in and facilitate the technological forward by expansion and enlargement of understanding of the workers on its fundamental issues, to offer the approachable collaboration in improving the levels of the efficiency and the production, rules and regulation, the high values of quality and to encourage and endorse the identity of interests of the workers with their industry.

There were many reasons of membership in the formations of the trade union like to search out a common raised area to display—to appearance one’s views, ideas, aims & and feelings and get hold of the recognition and the status among fellow personnel, Make use of “principle of unity” for the reason being of the securing good operational, functional, and working conditions, enhanced career vocation fore-cast prediction and wellbeing requirements, and the high trade and industry compensations<sup>19</sup>. Meeting the affiliation and companionship necessitates and improves one’s control with the management, Security of the pay and protection adjacent to the calamity of the accident, safe and sound communal security, and death cover after the retirement, and Restrict organizational and administrative proceedings and actions which are adjacent to the interest of the workers.

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<sup>19</sup> Cooper, Rae, and Greg Patmore. “Trade Union Organising and Labour History.” *Labour History*, no. 83, 2002, pp. 3–18.

**(C) Workers Consciousness**

Discussions about workers' consciousness are among the most contentious issues in the labor history of India. Certainly contemporary scholars no longer accept the notion that work experiences in factories and mines led automatically to the formation of broad solidarities among workers. Divisions among the working class were widespread. Often these resulted from ethnic identities that were developing in Indian cities, differential skills and earnings in workplaces, and competing social networks in working class residential areas. Indian workers could be drawn to nationalist, caste-based, and communalist activity as strongly as action on the basis of class. Workers' solidarities often shifted over time as the larger political environment changed. Consciousness of exploitation in the workplace could just as easily give expression to caste- as to class-based assertions of equality. Even nationalist and communalist politics among the urban poor, however, were often colored by uniquely working class perspectives grounded in the experience of deprivation and subordination. As discussion of these issues continues, labor history, once thought to be virtually moribund, now appears to be undergoing a significant revival.

**(D) Changing composition of Economic Policy**

The monetary policies followed by the white men led to the rapid alteration of India's economy into the royally colonial economy whose structure and nature were determined by needs of British wealth and the financial system. India's foreign trade in the latter half of the 19 century was benefitted by a few factors, the opening of the Suez Canal, and the introduction of steel made steamships and the construction of railways inside the country. The nature of exports and imports also changed. Instead of the finished products of industry India now exported jute, wheat, cotton, oilseeds, tea, etc. whereas the imported the goods of European manufacture. In the twentieth century the Indian trade increased with other countries, like Germany, the United States of America and Japan. In nature, the proportion of manufactured goods gradually increased and their import declined. In trade with other countries, India import maintained a favorable balance. But this balance was used for paying off various kinds of 'dues' charged on India by Britain. The dues were collectively called 'Home Charges' and them drained a huge amount of money every year from India to Britain.

**VI. CONCLUSION**

The Researcher concludes his effort and comes to the conclusion that the there was the serious discrimination among the Indians during the British raj. As he compared the colonial era with the pre-colonial era in various sectors like agriculture, Industrial, foreign trade, occupational

structure, economical, hierarchy and infrastructure, through which we can easily come to the conclusion that the Indian natural resources are overexploited, though there was some short of the development in the above listed sectors but they had exploited the Indian and gave a go to the development, just for the sake of their own profits, which indirectly resulted into the little development of the country. Researcher had mainly looked upon demographic India through the Marxian lens, he researched upon the racial discrimination in British raj, in almost all the sectors of hierarchy this kind of discrimination prevailed and was on the peak at that period of time. Condition of women were also very deterrent throughout the colonial period and from the between some activists started coming up with the demand of women rights. British imperialism also resulted in many serious problems. Due to the self-benefit nature of the British government the condition of the Indians, illiteracy, and the poverty prevails in India now too. Mainly worker force consisted of the Indian workers, Britishers uses to over exploit them and took advantages of them. And on the other hand they never they shared the profit nor paid proper amount which must be paid to the workers according to the efforts and time they are giving. Because of the unemployment, the supply of the labour was very high then the need or the demand, thus taking the advantage of the same the wages paid was very less. While wages paid for women were comparatively very less than the men. As the wages and the earning of Indians workers were very less so couldn't develop much and been moved round and round in the vicious circle of the debt. Thus some activist came up and which resulted into the formation of the trade and labour unions. And these workers consciousness played a very important role in giving the rights to the workers working and they key manifesto uses to be the fair wages and good working condition.

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