

Forest Society and colonialism

Date: / /

- Forest provide us many products which are great importance for human being.
- It supports a large variety of flora and fauna such as in Amazon Forest or in the Western Ghats.

→ Deforestation: The disappearance of forest is referred to as deforestation.

cause of Deforestation in India

(1) Land to be improved:

- Forests were unproductive, therefore British brought them under cultivation so that they could increase the Income of the State.

(2) Building ships:

- By the 1830s, In India Trees were cut down and exported to England for building royal ships.

(3) Railway Tracks:

- Wood was needed for railways as:
 - Fuel for Trains.
 - Railway lines Sleepers which were

Essential to hold the Tracks Together.

(4) Plantations:

- Large areas of natural Forests were also cleared for tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.

→ The Rise of commercial Forestry:

- British made a German expert, Dietrich Brandis, the first Inspector General of forest in India.
- Brandis set up Indian Forest Service in 1864 and helped formulate the Indian Forest Act of 1865.
- The Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up in Dehradun in 1906.
 - Scientific forestry was taught there
 - In the scientific forestry system, forests with different kinds of trees were replaced by plantations.
 - Forest management plans were made by forest officials. They planned how much of the forest had to be cut and how much had to be replanted.
- The Forest Acts divided forest into:

→ Protected Forests ÷ villagers can enter these forest but with permission.

→ Reserved Forests ÷ These were the best forests. villagers could not enter these forests.

→ village Forests ÷ The villagers were dissatisfied with the Forest act. They were now forced to steal wood from the forests. if they were caught they were punished.

→ How Forest affects life of people?

What is Shifting cultivation?

- The area is cleared for cultivation for a period of time after that it left uncultivated so it could gain fertility.
- The colonial foresters did not favour this system as it made it difficult for the government to calculate taxes. There is a danger of fire and also that no trees could grow on this kind of land.

→ consequences of banning Shifting cultivation

- Some people changed occupation.

- some people Resisted through large and small Rebellions.

→ Who could Hunt?

- The Forest Laws Forbade the villagers from hunting in the Forests but encouraged hunting as a big Sport.
- They Felt that the Wild animals were Savage wild and primitive, just like the Indians Society and that it was their duty to civilize them.

→ New Trades, New Employment and New Services:

- Forest communities Rebelled against the changes imposed upon them.

→ The people of Bastar:

- Bastar is in the South of chhattisgarh.
- The initiative was taken by the Dhuxwas of the Kanger Forest where reservation first took place.
- The new law Reserved Two-Third of the Forest in 2005.
- The British Send Troops to suppress the

rebellion.

- It took them three month to regain control.
- A victory of the people of Bastar was that the work on Reservation was suspended and the area was reduced to half of that planned before 1910.

→ Change in Java ÷

The Kalangs ÷

- They rose in rebellion against the Dutch in 1770 but their uprising was suppressed.

→ Scientific Forestry in Java ÷

- Forest laws were enacted in Java.
- The villagers resisted these laws.
- Forest timber was used for ships and railways sleepers.
- Dutch government used the 'balandongdiensten' system for extracting free labour from the villagers.

→ Samin's Movement ÷

- Around 1890, Samin of Randublatung villages (a teak Forest village) questioned the state ownership of forest.
- A widespread movement spread.
- They protested by lying on the ground when the Dutch came to survey it and refusing to pay taxes and perform labour.

→ World Wars and Deforestation ÷

- The world war had a major impact on forest.
- The Forest department cut freely to meet the British Demand.
- In Indonesia, the Dutch destroyed sawmills and burnt huge piles of teak logs.
- The Japanese after occupying Indonesia exploited the forests recklessly for their war needs.

