

. BCM BASANT AVENUE DUGRI ROAD LUDHIANA

SOCIOLOGY (XII)

CHAPTER:- CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL SOCIETY

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6. :Major features of rural society in India include:

Agrarian economy: The majority of people are dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Caste-based social structure: Social divisions based on caste hierarchy remain prevalent. Traditional occupations: Farming, animal husbandry, and crafts are common occupations. Patriarchal family system: The family is largely male-dominated with clear roles for men and women.

Limited access to education and health: Rural areas often have poor infrastructure in terms of schools, hospitals, and transport. Secularisation in India has led to a gradual reduction in the influence of religion on social structures. In terms of caste, secularisation has helped challenge traditional caste-based discrimination by promoting equal rights and access to resources, as seen in the Constitution's provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In gender, secularisation has fostered greater awareness of gender equality, leading to changes in the status of women, especially in urban areas. However, in rural areas, religious norms still play a significant role in reinforcing caste and gender inequalities. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a pioneer of the social reform movement, advocating for women's rights, including the abolition of Sati (the practice of widow burning), and promoting education and rational thinking.

Jyotiba Phule focused on challenging the caste system and promoting education for lower castes, especially women. He founded the Satyashodhak Samaj to fight for social justice and worked to uplift marginalized communities.

Both played crucial roles in challenging traditional customs and promoting social reforms that led to the modernization of Indian society during colonial rule.