

Q) Though people were oppressed through the British rule, and their policies which were not always wrong, British also took steps to ameliorate women's position in India.

Disadv

Ans) British took a lot of oppressive policies which created unrest among the people of India. Some of the policies were

1) Heavy taxation for the peasants

2) one way trade destroyed the Indian merchants and trades

3) Taking away the land from Zamindars

4) "Subsidiary alliance" and "Doctrine of Lapse" led to the annexation of the provinces

↑ Lapse from Brit here are few social religious measures taken by the British which added to the grievances of the people but indirectly it ameliorated the position of women in India. Some of them were

a) Abolition of Sati - Raja Ram Mohan Roy led the abolition of sati and government was forced to declare the practice of sati punishable and ~~illegal~~ ^{illegal} by the Act of 1829 in Bengal and later similar thing was done in Bombay and Madras in 1830.

(b) Preventing Female Infanticide - The Bengal regulations of 1795 and 1804 declared the infanticide illegal and equivalent to murder. Later an Act was passed so that every family should register the birth of child.

(c) Widow remarriage - This was initiated by Ishwar Chandra Vidya sagar and later an Act was passed by the Britishers in 1856 where it legalised the marriage of

widows and such marriage as legitimate

(d) Controlling child marriage - The marriage Act of 1872 signified legislative action against child marriage. The Act of 1891 (Age consent Act) prohibited the age of the marriage of girls below 12. and later the Sarda Act (1930) pushed the age to 14 and 18 for boys and girls respectively. All this acts were from the pressure created by the educated Indians

(e) Women Education - Various educational institute was opened for women education. One of them was the Bethune College opened in Bengal. Ishwar chandra vidya sasan also took a great role in the education for the women

All this reforms were seen as an oppression by the common masses among the Indians. But this actually helped to increase the status and the participation of the women in the later part of the Indian freedom struggle. They actively participated in the trade, Kisan movement, in the swadeshi movement. Women also started becoming the president of the INC. Aware and self confident women came up because of this policies which led them to form women's movement in struggle for independence.

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Nice Answer
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words