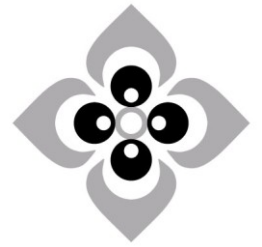


HISTORY



Subject : History
(For under graduate student)

Paper No. : Paper - II
History of India

Topic No. & Title : Topic - 10
Caste Structure In Early Medieval
India

Lecture No. & Title : Lecture - 1
Caste Structure In Early Medieval
India

Summary

The Early Medieval Period witnessed pronounced regional features in almost all aspects of life. The influence of the Epico-puranic tradition was gradually replacing the Vedic tradition.

There was a proliferation of jatis that outnumbered the four Varnas. There was even crystallization of occupational groups into jatis.

During this period much deviation is noticed in the composition of the priestly class as well as in the scope of its rights and prerogatives.

The Brahmin continued to be the superior and the most influential caste. The ideal Kshatriya Varna as given in the Dharmashastras was no longer a precondition for establishing a ruling power.

The Vaishya Varna was traditionally engaged in agriculture, cattle rearing and trade but that was fast changing. There were numerous occupational jatis involved in diverse crafts and professions.

The Shudras were a vast heterogeneous community. The notion and practice of untouchability reached its nadir during this period.