Class 8th | SST निर्माण

Old NCERT

WOMEN, CASTE AND REFORM

Chapter 7 | Lecture 3

Next Toppers

WHO COULD ENTER TEMPLES?

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born into a Mahar family, which was treated as a Dalit community at that time.
- As a child, he faced caste discrimination:
- He was made to sit outside the classroom.
- He was not allowed to drink water from the taps used by upper-caste children.
- Later, Ambedkar went to the USA for higher studies.
- After returning to India, he wrote about the power and discrimination of upper castes.
- In 1927, he started a temple-entry movement.



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WHO COULD ENTER TEMPLES?

- Ambedkar and his Mahar followers demanded that Dalits should also be allowed to enter temples and use temple water tanks.
- Some Brahman priests strongly opposed this.
- Between 1927 and 1935, Ambedkar led three temple-entry movements.
- His main aim was to fight caste discrimination and show how deeply caste prejudice existed in society.



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THE NON-BRAHMAN MOVEMENT

- In the early 20th century, the Non-Brahman Movement started in South India.
- It was led by some non-Brahman castes who had gained education, money and influence.
- They opposed the power and dominance of Brahmans in society.
- They believed that Brahmans were descendants of Aryan groups from the north who had conquered the Dravidian people of the South.



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E.V. RAMASWAMY NAICKER (PERIYAR)

- Periyar belonged to a middle-class family and studied Sanskrit religious texts.
- He left the Congress after seeing caste discrimination.
- He started the Self-Respect Movement for equality and dignity.
- He believed untouchables were the original Dravidian people.
- He opposed caste inequality and religious beliefs that supported social divisions.



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PERIYAR'S CRITICISM OF CASTE

- Periyar strongly criticised Hindu scriptures, such as the Manusmriti.
- He said these texts were used to support Brahman power and caste inequality.
- He also said they were used to justify the domination of men over women.
- The speeches and movements of lower-caste leaders made some upper-caste leaders rethink and question caste discrimination.
- Debates about caste continued after British rule and still continue today.



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SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS





1. Brahmo Samaj

- Started in 1830.
- Opposed idol worship and sacrifices.
- Believed in the Upanishads.
- Respected and studied the good and bad points of different religions.

2. Derozio and Young Bengal

- Henry Louis Vivian Derozio taught at Hindu College, Calcutta.
- He encouraged students to question traditions and authority.
- The Young Bengal Movement supported:
  - Women's education
  - Freedom of thought and expression
  - Questioning old customs.

SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

3. Ramakrishna Mission & Swami Vivekananda

- Founded by Swami Vivekananda in memory of his guru, Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- Taught selfless service and helping others.
- Vivekananda spoke about Indian spirituality around the world.
- He wanted to remove poverty and improve the lives of ordinary people.
- He also encouraged national unity and service to the nation.

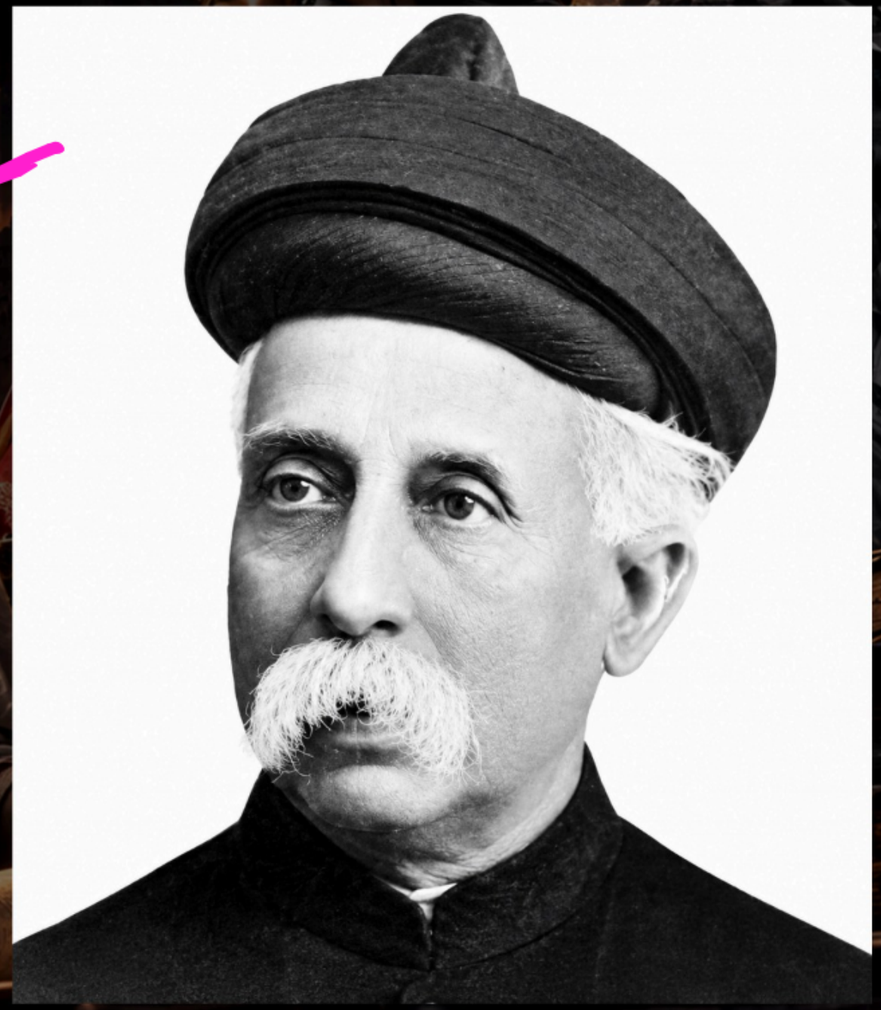




SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

4. Prarthana Samaj

- Started in Bombay in 1867.
- Worked to:
  - End caste discrimination
  - Stop child marriage
  - Promote women's education
  - Support widow remarriage



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SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

5. Veda Samaj

- Started in Madras (Chennai) in 1864.
- Believed in one God.
- Opposed caste discrimination, superstitions and unnecessary rituals.
- Supported widow remarriage and women's education.

6. Aligarh Movement

- Started by Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan.
- In 1875, he founded the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh.
- It later became Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- It promoted modern education and Western science among Muslims.



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SOCIAL AND RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS

7. Singh Sabha Movement

- Started in Amritsar (1873) and Lahore (1879).
- Worked to remove superstitions and caste discrimination from Sikh society.
- Promoted modern education along with Sikh teaching.



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QUESTION

What social ideas did the following people support.

Answer:

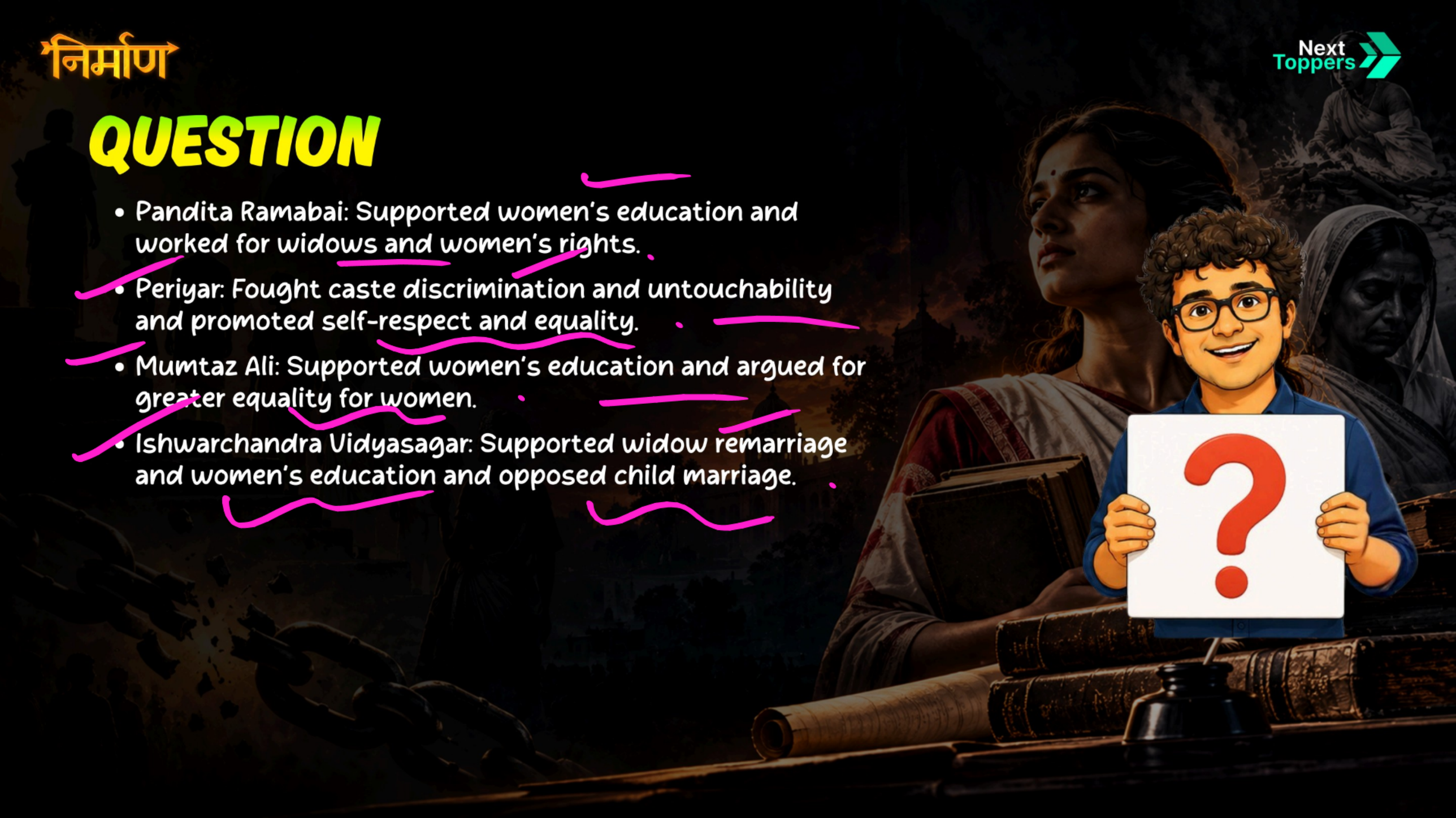
- Rammohun Roy: Opposed sati and supported women's education and widow remarriage.
- Dayanand Saraswati: Opposed idol worship and caste discrimination and supported women's education.
- Veerasalingam Pantulu: Supported widow remarriage and women's education and opposed child marriage.
- Jyotirao Phule: Fought caste discrimination and supported education for girls and lower castes.



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QUESTION

- Pandita Ramabai: Supported women's education and worked for widows and women's rights.
- Periyar: Fought caste discrimination and untouchability and promoted self-respect and equality.
- Mumtaz Ali: Supported women's education and argued for greater equality for women.
- Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar: Supported widow remarriage and women's education and opposed child marriage.



QUESTION

State whether true or false:

(a) When the British captured Bengal, they framed many new laws to regulate the rules regarding marriage, adoption, inheritance of property, etc. → TRUE.

(b) Social reformers had to discard the ancient texts in order to argue for reform in social practices. → FALSE.

(c) Reformers got full support from all sections of the people of the country. → FALSE.

(d) The Child Marriage Restraint Act was passed in 1829. → FALSE.



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QUESTION

How did the knowledge of ancient texts help the reformers promote new laws?

Answer:

- Ancient texts helped reformers show that some harmful social practices were not supported by old religious teachings.
- They used these texts to challenge wrong customs like sati and child marriage.
- This helped them convince people and the British government to make new laws.



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QUESTION

What were the different reasons people had for not sending girls to school?

Answer:

- They believed girls should stay at home and learn household work.
- They feared that educated girls would not follow traditional customs.
- They believed girls' education was unnecessary.
- Some people feared that girls might be influenced by Western ideas.



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QUESTION

Why were Christian missionaries attacked by many people in the country? Would some people have supported them too? If so, for what reasons?

Answer:

- Many people opposed Christian missionaries because they feared that missionaries would convert.
- Indians to Christianity and interfere with their religious traditions.
- Some people supported them because missionaries opened schools, hospitals and promoted education, especially for girls and poor people.



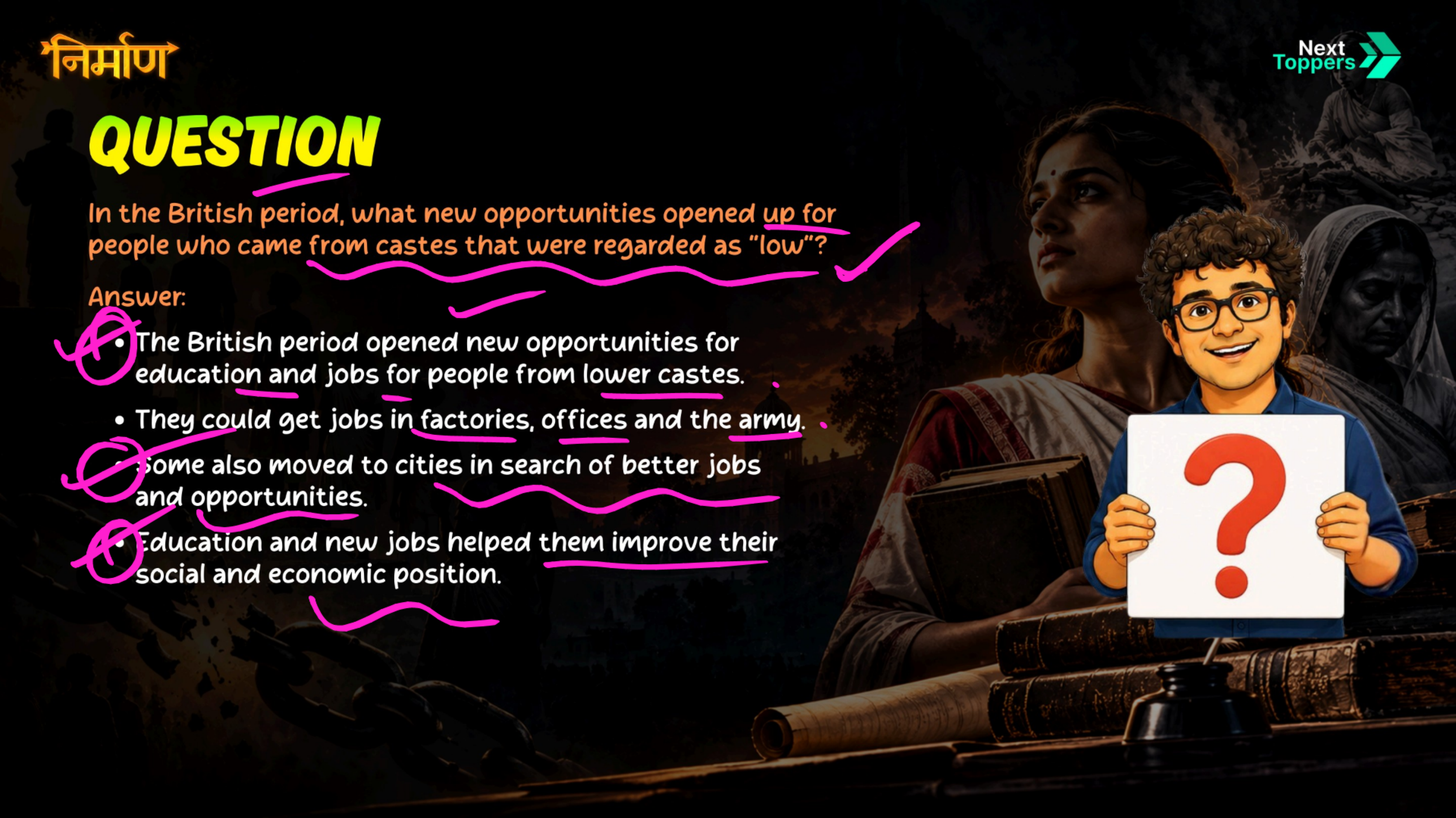
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QUESTION

In the British period, what new opportunities opened up for people who came from castes that were regarded as "low"?

Answer:

- The British period opened new opportunities for education and jobs for people from lower castes.
- They could get jobs in factories, offices and the army.
- Some also moved to cities in search of better jobs and opportunities.
- Education and new jobs helped them improve their social and economic position.



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QUESTION

How did Jyotirao, and other reformer justify their criticism of caste inequality in society?

Answer:

- Jyotirao Phule said that lower castes had been exploited by Brahmans for a long time.
- He argued that all people were equal and no caste was naturally superior or inferior.
- Reformers used ancient religious texts and historical arguments to challenge caste discrimination.
- They demanded education, equality and dignity for lower castes.



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QUESTION

Why did Phule dedicate his book Gulamgiri to the American movement to free slaves?

Answer:

- Jyotirao Phule compared the condition of lower castes in India with the slavery of Black people in America.
- He believed both groups suffered from oppression and discrimination.
- He dedicated Gulamgiri (Slavery) to the American anti-slavery movement to honour their fight for freedom and equality.



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QUESTION

What did Ambedkar want to achieve through the temple entry movement?

Answer:

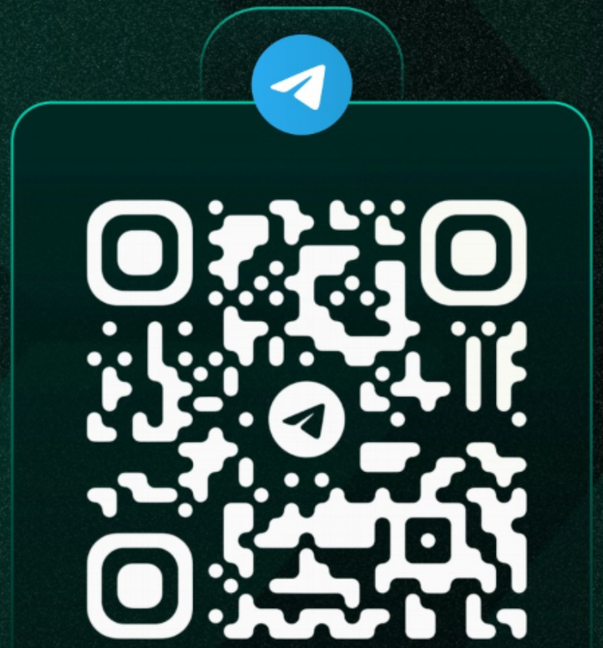
- Ambedkar wanted Dalits to have the right to enter temples and use temple facilities like water tanks.
- He wanted to fight caste discrimination and untouchability.
- He wanted to challenge the idea that some castes were superior to others.
- He wanted society to understand the unfairness of caste-based restrictions.
- His aim was to ensure equality, respect and dignity for Dalits.



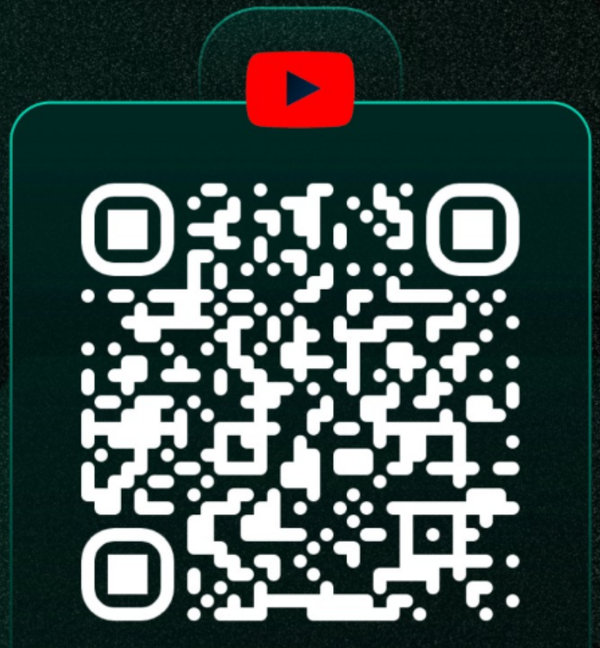
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