

Work, Life and Leisure

Long Answer Type Questions - Work Life and Leisure

1) 103 How far was underground railway able to solve transport problems as well as housing crisis in London in nineteenth century? [Delhi 2008]

Answer:

(a) The London underground railway partially solved housing crisis by carrying large masses of people to and from London.

(b) People who wanted to live in garden suburbs and still work in the city could use underground railway. Thus underground railway besides providing means of transport to thousands of people also solved the housing problem to some extent.

2) What were the changes in the kind of work available to women in London between the nineteenth and twentieth century? Explain the factors which led to this change.

Answer:

Pattern of employment of women in 18th-19th century London. In late 18th and 19th century, a large number of women were employed in factories. With technological developments, women gradually lost their industrial jobs and were forced to work within households. According to 1861 census about one-fourth of a million women worked as domestic servants in London? most of them were from migrant families. Many women increased their family income by taking lodgers or paying guests or earned through tailoring, washing or matchbox making. However there was a change after the First World War started. When women got employment in wartime industries and offices, many of them withdrew from domestic service. The factors which brought these changes: Factories employed large number of women in late 18th and 19th century with technological developments, women gradually lost their jobs and were forced to work within households. The women took up jobs as domestic servants. Some women took up lodgers to increase income. They took up other activities such as tailoring, washing, match box making, etc. There was a great change in 20th century. As the First World War started women got employment in wartime industries and offices. They gradually withdrew from domestic services.

3) "London was a powerful magnet for largest population." Explain.

Answer:

London attracted large number of migrant people though earlier industrial cities like Manchester and Leeds also had a large migrant population. 19th century London had a large population consisting of clerks, shopkeepers, artisans, soldiers, casual labours, street sellers, beggars, etc. With the growth of population as well as industries, people from all parts began to pour in London. Apart from London dockyards, five major types of industries employed large numbers of people; most of whom came from suburbs. In 19th century, London's population multiplied four fold in 70 years between 1810-1880, increasing from 1 million to 4 million.

4) How were the women employed in London beyond 19th century? How did the situation change after 20th century?

Answer:

Refer to Ans. 2 (4 Marks).

5) What were the reasons for concern behind providing housing for poor in London?

Answer:

Increase in the growth of population and continuous migration of people from village to cities aggravated the problem of housing for the poor in big cities like London. Factory or workshop owners did not provide housing for migrant workers. Though private landowners put up cheap and unsafe one room apartments or tenements on rent for homeless workers, these were unhealthy for the inmates. Gradually thoughtful people began to recognise the need for housing for the poor. The report of the survey conducted in 1887 also concluded that London needed the rebuilding of at least 4,00,000 rooms to house the poorest

citizens. The main reasons of this concern was not wholly 'philanthropic'. The authorities realised that the vast mass of one room houses occupied by the poor were serious threat to public health, they were overcrowded, badly ventilated and lacked sanitation. There was a widespread fear that poor housing may be a cause for fire hazards because of use of firewood or coal in every room. Some people even thought that with the spread of socialistic ideas (after Russian Revolution) workers unrest against poor housing might had to social tension.

6) What were Chartist Movement and Ten Hour Movement?

Answer:

By 19th century, the urban population, both men and women, encouraged individual freedom. In spite of this new spirit of individualism however men and women did not enjoy equal rights. As women lost their industrial jobs, women were forced to withdraw into domestic jobs. The male population dominated the workplace. Some political movements of 19th century such as Chartist Movement and 10 hour movements mobilised large number of men to demand their rights. Chartism demanded voting rights for all males above 21 and 10 hour movement limited hours of work in factory to 10 hours. Women were still left out of equal status. Only gradually did the women come to participate in such political movements.