

IMPACT OF CHANGING SCENARIO OF ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY OF ANCIENT INDIA IN THE 8TH CENTURY A.D

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to an impact of challenges for changing scenario and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th Century A.D with special reference to political, economic and social status. This study highlights an observation on the historical events on changing socio-economic scenario and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D. The present paper aims to assess and compare the working of the prosperous silk route trade, indo-Roman trade and inland trade also influence the existing religious set and art activities of the sub-continent and also new form of sciences, literature and architecture emerge during this period of Indian history. The present study is descriptive survey method employed. Data are collected through primary and secondary sources. The findings of the present study revealed that practically no part of India was left untouched by developments resulting from increased foreign trade. As a whole this period prepare the stage for the setting of the classical culture of the Gupta age. Finally, the paper is concluded with educational implications of the present findings.

Keywords: Changing, Scenario, Administrative, Trade, History, Ancient, Monasteries.

INTRODUCTION:

Good governance is of growing importance for the prosperity of countries. To understand this relation, we first explain in more detail the three dimensions of good governance: the rule of law, the democracy, and the institutional dimension. The next step is to look at the principles of good governance, as parts of the motor of good governance. Good governance, for ages, has been the idea of political thinkers, policy planners, decision-makers and the academics. In any society, the basic concern of the citizens is the goodness of the government and for this the systems and sub-systems of governance must be essentially efficient, effective, economical, ethical and equitable. In the same way, the governance process must also be just, reasonable, fair and citizen caring. To achieve these qualities of good governance, the machinery of governance must also be accountable and responsible. The rich heritage of ancient and eternal Indian knowledge and thought has been a guiding light for this policy. The pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and truth was always considered in Indian thought and philosophy as the highest human goal. The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world, or life beyond schooling, but for the complete realization and liberation of the self. Instilling knowledge of India and its varied social, cultural, and technological needs, its inimitable artistic, language, and knowledge traditions, and its strong ethics in India's young people is considered critical for purposes of national pride, self-confidence, self-knowledge, cooperation, and integration. The post-Mauryan era is particularly well known for the range and volume of international trade that was generated; and this trade, by both land and sea, added enormously to both urban and rural prosperity. Practically no part of India was left untouched by developments resulting from increased foreign trade and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D with special reference to political, economic and social status.

The Guild System: During the post-Mauryan centuries the guilds came to play a crucial role in the success of both domestic and international trade. Known in India as shreni, the guilds can be described as associations of professional people, merchants or artisans. They acted variously as trade unions, cooperative organizations, regulatory bodies or even banks. They existed in various crafts and trades; there were, for example, guilds of potters, goldsmiths, bead and glass makers, ivory carvers, musicians and carpenters. The rules of work, the quality control over finished goods, the fixing of prices, the recruitment of labour from a specific occupational caste for a particular trade -these were all overseen by each craft guild. Rich merchants and many ruling dynasties invested in the guilds, making them viable and

flourishing. The guilds, in turn, provided large donations to religious foundations and monasteries. The guilds of merchants, who were known as shreshthins, acted also as bankers, financiers and trustees.

Changing Scenario of Money Economy: Another aspect of the commercial infrastructure was the great increase in the minting of coins during the post-Mauryan centuries. For the numismatist, the best of the early coins of India were those struck by the Indo-Greek kings and the Kushan monarchy. Through the foreign influence of the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans, the quality of Indian coins greatly improved over the older punch-marked coins. Made from gold, silver, copper or tin, the variety of coins proved especially useful for variant trading economies in different regions; and the huge quantity of local and foreign coins also made it easier for merchants to engage in forward speculation in goods and capital and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D with special reference to political, economic and social status.

Emergence New Trade Routes: The links by road and river between the various main cities and trading towns were an essential element in the general infrastructure facilitating the volume of trade as a whole. The starting with the northwest, in the centre of the Kushan territories was Taxila, a city where the merchants of central and south Asia exchanged their goods and the intellectuals their ideas. Taxila was joined to Pataliputra by a major highway; en route was Mathura, which in turn was linked to Ujjain in the Malwa region, controlled by the western Shakas. Mathura and Ujjain linked the western Ganga valley and the lands of central India. A number of market towns were also developed in the Satavahana kingdom of the Deccan. Centers such as Nasik and Karad in Maharashtra and Nagarjunakonda in the Andhra region were all important trading centers where the farmers, pastoralists and hunter-gatherers from the hinterland congregated to sell their commodities and wares. The routes linking these places sometimes had to follow the gaps and breaks in mountains or the river valleys. All the major routes led to the five main international ports of that period, namely Barbaricum in the Indus delta, Barygaza on the Gujarat coast, Muziris on the Kerala coast, Arikamedu on the Coromandel Coast and Tamralipti in the Ganges delta. These ports handled the bulk of the sea trade of India with Arabia, the Levant, the Roman Empire and Southeast Asia.

Brisk Indo-Roman Trade: With the founding of the Roman Empire in 31 B.C, India and Rome began a highly successful trading relationship that lasted for more than two centuries. As the captains of such ships did not normally sail to the east coast ports of India, both import and export goods were loaded on to much smaller Indian ships that continually plied between the two coasts. Generally speaking, the overall balance of trade between India and Rome was in the favour of India, and the Romans had to pay for the deficits in the form of bullion and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D.

Origin of the Present Study:

The present study was conducted to explore the impact of political, social, changing economic scenario and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D, with the decline and fall of the imperial Guptas came the demise of the imperial idea. Our historical knowledge of this period is dependent on a variety of interlocking interpretations drawn by historians, linguists, archaeologists and anthropologists from their respective type of sources. Based on the information retrieved from various sources, in this paper, we shall survey the socio-cultural changes noticed during the post Gupta period of Indian history that marked the transition to early medieval India. The ancestry and early history of the Gupta family are little known, and have naturally given rise to various speculations. The origin of the present study is foreign invasion and rules such as Indo-Bactrian, impact and significance of foreign intrusion into India. It is important as it can affect the social power and influence or lack thereof one has general review of the period 8th century A.D. Economic condition contact with other world, monetization of economy. To understand the changing social condition of India in post Gupta phase; examine the notion of caste and Jati in India society; describe the status of women in India under the period of discussion; assess the cultural development witnessed in India during Post-Gupta period. Good governance is the process of measuring how public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption and with due regard for the rule of law. Despite a huge empire, administration was controlled and highly effective in

ancient India. Since there were many kingdoms and many systems of governance in ancient India, it is difficult to analyse each one of them. However, the Chandalas and the Shvapachas remained the most conspicuous of them. The miserable life of these people seldom failed to attract the attention of shocked foreign observers. The paper throws lights on the changing socio-economic scenario of India on the history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D. To understand the changing political and socio-economic condition of India in post Gupta phase, examine the notion of land grants and feudalism in India during early medieval time, describe the status of peasant under the feudal setup in India under the period of discussion, assess the impact of land grant and other feudal aspects on trade and trade during post-Gupta period. Land grant, rise of self sufficient village economy hamper the trade and commerce of this period which in result led to urban decay in India during this period and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D with special reference to political, economic and social status.

Review of Related Studies:

Reviews of related studies is of immense importance in research and assure the investigator that his problems do not exist in a vacuum and that considerable work has already been done on problems related directly or indirectly to the present one. As the Humanist Manifesto II (1973) proclaims, Humanism advocates the spirit of cosmopolitanism, international friendship and of the essential brotherhood of man. Mukerjee (2007) in Indian scriptures good governance is called Raj Dharma, i.e. righteous duty of the king. It means those who are involved in governance must adhere to righteousness and do justice to public. Absence of good governance is root cause of many societal deficiencies. Good governance includes rule of law, participatory decision-making structure, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, equity and inclusiveness. Dwivedi & Mishra (2007) state that good governance stresses responsibility of the king to protect dharma, the public well, so that all citizens get equal opportunity and weak are not exploited and harassed by strong. The king must be compassionate, looking after welfare of all people. An ancient guidebook for mariners, or the works of Roman historians or the Sangam literature of south India, or studies the ground with archaeological skills, the subject of the international trading connections of India assumes utmost importance for our understanding of the period under review here.

Statement of the Problem:

Precisely stated the problem under study is, "Impact of Changing Scenario of Administrative History of Ancient India 8th Century A.D".

Objectives in the Present Study:

- i) To assess administrative history of ancient India.
- ii) To find out discuss the political history of the north-western India on the eve of post Mauryan age.
- iii) To assess the cultural development witnessed in India during Post-Gupta period.
- iv) To study the impact on administrative history of ancient India of the period 8th century A.D.
- v) On the basis of the study findings make suitable recommendations for enhancing the 8th century A.D and its remedies.

Limitation of the Study:

The present study has been carried out some limitations as following:

- i) The present study has been confined to the social, economic and administrative history of ancient India only.
- ii) The study has been confined to the history of a 8th century A.D only.
- iii) The study was cover in Ancient India only.

Methodology:

The present study was conducted through the descriptive survey method of research used. The methods of collecting primary and secondary data are to be originally collected.

Major Conclusions:

The present study revealed the analysis and major findings and conclusions as follows:

In this paper, has been studied how the lives of people in early India were being transformed in several significant ways over the two hundred odd years. Our concern was with identifying the dynamics of change rather than providing a detailed description of economy, polity, society, and culture. For instance, no attempt has been made to give an account of the numerous works of literature that were produced during these centuries. The purpose has been to discuss change, not narrate details. You must not imagine, however, that the changes occurred in a uniform fashion all over the subcontinent. The transition to the medieval era occurred at different points of time in different spheres and regions, and the pace at which change occurred also varied. Moreover, historical change seldom occurs in a sweeping, wholesale fashion and administrative history of ancient India in the 8th century A.D with special reference to political, economic and social status.

As per the findings, summarize in more detail the political scene in India from the decline of the Guptas until the rise of Harsha was bewildering. Large scale displacement of peoples continued for some time. Small kingdoms vied with each other for the heritage of Guptas. The five centuries which passed between the decline of the first great Indian empire of the Mauryas and the emergence of the great empire of the Guptas has often been described as a dark period in Indian history when foreign dynasties fought each other for short-lived and ephemeral supremacy over northern India. This period witnessed the rule of the Indo-Greek, the Parthians and the Sakas Kshatrapa. But this period was a period of intensive economic and cultural contact among the various parts of the Eurasian continent.

Governments and policy makers have found that socio-economic problems and health problems are a significant problem of human migration, and especially social, economic and administrative history of ancient India. This research paper discusses what kind of problems faced by administrative history of ancient India of 8th century A.D.

India played a very active role in stimulating these contacts. This study highlights an observation on the historical events on cultural development witnessed in India during Post-Gupta period. Impact on administrative history of ancient India of the period in the 8th century A.D, which had been fostered by Indian rulers since the days of Ashoka, was greatly aided by the international connections of the Indo-Greeks and the Kushanas and thus rose to prominence in central Asia in this period. A number of important social changes have been identified in the post Gupta period. These changes are best approached through the composition, character and scope of the caste system, and the status of women within it.

Given the above discussion of various indicators, it is clear that gender inequality is a very complex phenomenon in indigenous communities. Religious legitimating was of greater importance to these foreign rulers than to other Indian kings. In Brahminical religion new popular cults arose around gods like Shiva, Krishna and Vishnu, Vasudeva who had played only a marginal role in an earlier age. During this period also literature witnessed overall growth compilation of the authoritative Hindu law was carried out during this period as well as Sanskrit language flourished. As a whole this period prepare the stage for the setting of the classical culture of the Gupta age.

In short, we can conclude that commercial decline is indicated by the paucity of coins of common use. The two and a half centuries of Indian history covered in this chapter were characterized by two crucial developments that led to profound consequences for the succeeding years of history. Firstly, India became increasingly regionalized. Between the mid-eighth century and the end of the tenth century we see the growth of a number of regional kingdoms, of which some demonstrated unique features of state formation. Secondly, the regionalized society became highly feudal. Feudalism would long remain a persistent factor in the shaping of Indian society and its mindset, although its characteristics would undergo much transformation in succeeding centuries.

At last but not the least, the political economy of the kingdoms was substantially feudal; and, despite various dissenting views among historians, the inscriptions provide strong evidence of the way feudalism linked the state and its economy. Increased knowledge led to or facilitated a deeper understanding and, with it, a finer appreciation of cultures quite different from one's own. The

development does not start with goods; it starts with people and their knowledge, skills and abilities. Without these three, all resources remain latent, untapped and potential.

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