

## **The Print Revolution and its impact**

1. What is meant by print revolution? What was its impact?

Ans:

- a) The shift from hand printing to mechanical printing is known as print revolution.
- b) It was not just a development, a new way of producing books, it transformed the lives of people, changing their relationship to information and knowledge and with institutions and authorities.
- c) It influenced popular perceptions and opened up new ways of looking at things.

2. What were the side effects of the inventions of printing press?

Ans:

- a) With the printing press, a new reading public emerged
- b) Printing reduced the costs of books.
- c) The time and labour required to produce each book came down.
- d) Multiple copies could be produced with greater ease.
- e) Books flooded the market, reaching out to an ever-growing readership.
- f) A new culture of reading developed.

3. How did the common people learn about the sacred texts before the age of print?

- a) Earlier reading was restricted to the elites. Common people lived in a world of oral culture.
- b) They heard sacred texts read out, ballads recited, and folk tales narrated.
- c) Knowledge was transferred orally. People collectively heard a story or saw a performance.

4. How did the printing press bring a change in reading culture?

OR

Why were the printed books popular among the illiterate people?

Ans:

- a) Books could reach out to wider sections of people. If earlier there was a hearing public, now a reading public came into being.
- b) Printers began publishing popular ballads and folk tales, and such books would be profusely illustrated with pictures. These were then sung and recited at gatherings in villages and in taverns in towns.

- c) Oral culture thus entered print and printed material was orally transmitted. The oral and reading culture were separated now became intermingled. The hearing public and the reading public became intermingled.

5. Why did some people fear the effects of printed books?

Ans:

It was feared that if there was no control over what was printed and read then rebellious and irreligious thoughts might spread. If that happened then the authority of 'valuable' literature would be destroyed.

6. How did print technology help bring about a new intellectual atmosphere in Europe and help Martin Luther King in the reformation movement?

OR

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Ans:

- a) In 1517, the religious reformer Martin Luther wrote Ninety Five Theses criticising many of the practices and rituals of the Roman Catholic Church.
- b) A printed copy of this was posted on a church door in Wittenburg. It challenged the Church to debate his ideas.
- c) Luther's writings were immediately reproduced in vast numbers and read widely.
- d) This led to a division within the Church and to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.
- e) Luther's translation of the New Testament sold 5000 copies within a few weeks and a second edition appeared within three months.
- f) Luther said, 'Printing is the ultimate gift of God and the greatest one.'
- g) Print brought about a new intellectual atmosphere and helped spread the new ideas that led to the Reformation.

7. **Protestant Reformation** – A sixteenth century movement to reform the Catholic Church dominated by Rome. Martin Luther King was one of the main Protestant Reformers.

8. Write briefly why some people feared that the development of print could lead to the growth of dissenting ideas.

- a) Print and popular religious literature stimulated many distinctive individual interpretations of faith even among little-educated working people.
- b) The Roman Church began its inquisition to repress heretical ideas.

- c) The Roman Church troubled by the effects of popular readings and questionings of faith, imposed severe controls over publishers and booksellers and began to maintain an index of prohibited books from 1558.

9. Examine the reasons for a virtual reading mania in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Ans:

- a) By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in some parts of Europe literacy rates were as high as 60 to 80 percent.
- b) People wanted books to read and printers produced books in ever increasing numbers.
- c) By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a common conviction that books were a means of spreading progress and enlightenment. Many believed that books could change the world, liberate society from despotism and tyranny, and herald a time when reason and intellect would rule.
- d) “The printing press is the most powerful engine of progress and public opinion is the force that will sweep despotism away.
- e) Convinced of the power of print in bringing enlightenment and destroying the basis of despotism, there was virtual reading mania among Europeans in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

10. What were the new forms of popular literature that appeared in print?

Ans:

- a) There were almanacs or ritual calendars, along with ballads and folktales.
- b) In England, penny chapbooks were carried by petty pedlars known as chapmen, and sold for a penny so that even the poor could buy them.
- c) In France, were the Bibliotheque Bleu, which were low-priced small books printed on poor quality paper and bound in cheap blue colours. Then there were romances, printed on four to six pages.
- d) Newspapers and journals carried information about wars and trade, as well as news of developments in other places.

11. Many historians have argued that print culture created conditions within which French Revolution occurred. To what extent did print culture create conditions for the spread of revolutionary ideas before the French Revolution.

Ans:

- a) Print popularised the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers. Collectively, their writings provided a critical commentary on tradition, superstition and despotism.
- b) They attacked the sacred authority of the Church and the despotic power of the state. The writings of Voltaire and Rousseau were read widely. And inspired the revolutionaries with the ideas of freedom and equality.
- c) Print created a new culture of dialogue and debate. All values, norms and institutions were re-evaluated and discussed by a public that had become aware of the power of reason. Within this public culture, new ideas of social revolution came into being.
- d) By the 1870's, there was an outpouring of literature that mocked the royalty and criticised their morality. In the process, it raised questions about the existing social order. This literature circulated underground and led to the growth of hostile sentiments against the monarchy.
- e) There can be no doubt that print helps the spread of ideas. Print did not directly shape their minds, but it did open up the possibility of thinking differently.

11. When was the first children's printing press set up? What were its effects?

Ans:

- a) A children's press devoted to literature alone was set up in France in 1857. This press published new works as well as old fairy tales and folk tales.
- b) The Grimm Brothers in Germany spent years compiling traditional folk tales gathered from peasants. What they collected was edited before the stories were published in a collection in 1812.
- c) Anything that was considered unsuitable for children or would appear vulgar to the elites, was not included in the published version.
- d) Rural folktales thus acquired a new form.

12. Women writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century – Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters, George Eliot.

13. What role did lending libraries play in educating the common people?

Ans:

- a) In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lending libraries in England became instruments for educating white-collar workers, artisans and lower middle-class people.

- b) Sometimes self-educated working class people wrote for themselves.
- c) They wrote political tracts and autobiographies in large numbers.

14. Examine the various inventions in print technology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Ans:

- a) By the mid-nineteenth century, Richard M. Hoe of New York had perfected the power-driven cylindrical press. This was capable of printing 8000 sheets per hour. This press was particularly useful for printing newspapers.
- b) In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the offset press was developed which print upto six colours at a time.
- c) From the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, electrically operated presses accelerated printing operations.
- d) Methods of feeding paper improved, the quality of plates became better, automatic paper reels and photoelectric controls of the colour register were introduced.

15. Mention the methods adopted by the printers and publishers to sell their books?

Ans:

- a) Printers and publishers continuously developed new strategies to sell their product.
- b) 19<sup>th</sup> century periodicals serialised important novels, which gave birth to a particular way of writing novels.
- c) In the 1920's in England, popular works were sold in cheap series, called the Shilling Series. The dust cover or the book jacket is also a 20<sup>th</sup> century innovation.

16. How did the ancient Indians copy and preserve manuscripts?

Ans:

- a) Handwritten manuscripts – in Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian, as well as in various vernacular languages.
- b) Manuscripts were copied on palm leaves or on handmade paper. Pages were sometimes beautifully illustrated.
- c) They would be either pressed between wooden covers or sewn together to ensure preservation.

17. Why were the manuscripts not widely used in daily life?

Ans: Manuscripts were highly expensive and fragile. They had to be handled carefully and they could not be read easily as the script was

written in different styles. So manuscripts were not widely used in everyday life.

18. By whom and in which part of India was the first printing press set up?

OR

The role of missionaries in the growth of press in India.

Ans:

- a) The printing press first came to Goa with Portuguese missionaries in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Jesuit priests learnt Konkani and printed several tracts.
- b) Catholic priests printed the first Tamil book in 1579 at Cochin and in 1713 the first Malayalam book.
- c) From 1870, James Augustus Hickey began to edit the Bengal Gazette, a weekly magazine that described itself as ‘a commercial paper open to all, not influenced by none.’
- d) The first to appear was the weekly Bengal Gazette, brought out by Gangadhar Bhattacharya, who was close to Rammohun Roy.

19. How did the religious texts encourage religious debates and discussions?

Ans:

- a) Different groups confronted the changes happening within colonial society in different ways, and offered a variety of new interpretations of the beliefs of different religions.
- b) Some criticised existing practices and campaigned for reform, while others countered the arguments of reformers.
- c) Printed tracts and newspapers not only spread the new ideas, but they shaped the nature of the debate. New ideas emerged through these clashes of opinions.
- d) Among Hindus, too, print encouraged the reading of religious texts, especially in the vernacular languages.
- e) Religious texts therefore reached a very wide circle of people, encouraging discussions, debates and controversies within and among different religions.
- f) It conveyed news from one place to another, creating pan-Indian identities.

20. Mention the publication of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and through which did the Hindu orthodoxy oppose Raja Ram Mohan Roy?

Ans:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy published the **Sambad Kaumudi**. The Hindu orthodoxy commissioned the **Samachar Chandrika** to oppose his opinions.

21. Mention the two Persian newspapers which were published in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Ans:

**Jam-I-Jahan Nama and Shamsul Akbar.**

22. Why were the ulamas deeply anxious about the collapse of the Muslim dynasties?

Ans:

- a) The ulama were deeply anxious about the collapse of the Muslim dynasties. They feared that colonial rulers would encourage conversion and change the Muslim personal laws.
- b) To counter this, they used cheap lithographic presses, published Persian and Urdu translations of holy scriptures, and printed religious newspapers and tracts.

23. Mention the first printed edition of the Hindu religious text.

Ans:

The first printed edition of the Hindu religious text was the **Ramcharitmanas of Tulsidas.**

24. Mention the two printing press that published religious texts in vernacular(regional) languages.

Ans:

Naval Kishore Press at Lucknow and the Shri Vankateshwar Press in Bombay published numerous religious texts in vernacular.

25. Mention the different forms of publication that developed in India.

Ans:

Lyrics, short stories, essays about political matters, caricatures and cartoons published in journals and newspapers.

By the end of the nineteenth century, a new visual culture was taking shape. With the setting up of an increasing number of printing presses, visual images could be easily reproduced in multiple copies. Painters like Raja Ravi Varma produced images for mass circulation. These prints began shaping popular ideas about modernity and tradition, religion and politics, and society and culture.

26. **What did the spread of print culture in the nineteenth century India mean to:**

a) **Women**

i) Lives and feelings of women began to be written in particularly vivid and intense ways.

Women's reading therefore increased enormously in middle class homes.

Liberal husbands and fathers began educating their womenfolk at home and sent them to schools.

ii) Many journals began carrying writings by women and explained why women should be educated.

iii) Not all families were liberal. Conservative Hindus believed that a literate girl would be widowed and Muslims feared that educated women would be corrupted by reading Urdu romances.

Sometimes rebel women defied such prohibitions.

iv) eg: From the 1860's a few Bangali women like Kailashbashini Debi wrote books highlighting the experiences of women.

In the 1880's in present day Maharashtra, Tarabai Shinde and Pandita Ramabai wrote with passionate anger about the miserable lives of upper-caste Hindu women.

v) In the early twentieth century, journals, journals written for and sometimes edited by women, became extremely popular. They discussed issues like women's education, widowhood, widow remarriage.

In Punjab, folk literature was widely printed from the early twentieth century.

In Bengal, an entire area in central Calcutta – the Battala – was developed to the printing of popular books.

Pedlars took the Battala publications to homes, enabling women to read them in their leisure time.

b) **The poor**

i) Very cheap and small books were brought to markets in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Madras towns and sold at crossroads, allowing poor people travelling to markets to buy them.

ii) Public libraries were set up from the early twentieth century, expanding the access to books. These libraries located mostly in cities and towns, and at times in prosperous villages.

iii) Jyotiba Phule, the Maratha pioneer of low caste protest movements, wrote about the injustices of the caste system in his Gulamgiri.

B.R Ambedkar in Maharashtra and E.V Ramaswamy Naicker in Madras, better known as Periyar, wrote powerfully on caste and their writings were read by people all over India.

iv) Workers in factories were too overworked and lacked the education. But Kashibaba, a Kanpur millworker, wrote and published Chhote aur Bade Ka Sawal which links between caste and class exploitation.

The poems of Sundarshan Chakr were brought together and published in a collection called Sacchi Kavitayan.

27. Mention the governer generals of India who passed the laws to give freedom of press India.

Governer General Bentinck agreed to revise press laws. Thomas Macaulay, a liberal colonial official, formulated new rules that restored the earlier freedoms.

328. Why did the British government in India decide to clamp on press?

Ans:

- a) After the revolt of 1857, the attitude to freedom of the press changed. Enraged, Englishmen demanded a clamp down on the 'native' press.
- b) In 1878, the Vernacular Press Act was passed modelled on the Irish Press Laws. It provided the government with extensive rights to censor reports and editorials in the vernacular press.
- c) The government kept regular track of the vernaculars the newspapers published in different provinces. When a report was judged as seditious, the newspaper was warned and if the warning was ignored, the press was seized and the printing machinery confiscated.

29. How did the print culture assist the nationalist movement in India.

Ans:

Despite repressive measures, nationalist newspapers grew in numbers in all parts of India. They reported on colonial misrule and encouraged nationalist activities.

Attempted to throttle nationalist criticism provoked militant protest.

Balgangadhar Tilak wrote great sympathy about them in his Kesari. This led to his imprisonment 1908, provoking in turn widespread protests all over India.