

1. Critically discuss the impact of peasant movements of the years immediately after 1857 revolt. (250 Words)

**Answer:**

The peasant movements after 1857 were an **outcome of the economic and political loopholes due to foreign rule** over India. It emerged as an **expression of resentment against the arbitrary and unjust taxes, which** was excessive in character and led to increasing land alienation and indebtedness further compounded by the role of moneylenders. Peasant often rebelled only when he felt that it not possible to carry on in existing manner. Examples- Indigo revolt, Kuka revolt.

1. These **movements created an atmosphere for post- independence agrarian reforms**, for instance, ' **abolition of Zamindari**.
2. They eroded the power of the landed class, thus adding to the transformation of the agrarian structure to some extent.
3. The **peasants became an inseparable part of freedom struggle** through kisan sabhas and satyagraha later on.
4. In these movements, Indian peasants showed great courage and sacrifice, remarkable organizational abilities, and solidarity that cut across religious and caste lines.

But these movements **tried to address only the immediate causes and never aimed at overthrowing the imperial yoke**. These movements were beginning stages of awakening and lacked a broader vision for all India movement. **Most of these movements were organized by local leaders who were satisfied once their immediate grievances were addressed. They failed to see the imperial motives of a colonial government**. Many of the peasant movements turned out to be violent, hence facing severe repression and short life both in its impact and extent. Thus, the peasant movements of the 19th century could not develop in to long term political movements, was limited in its reach and lacked a positive conception.

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**Answer the following Questions**

1. Critically examine the success of Education policies of British in India.
2. Critically analyze the implications of Press policy of British in India.