

Welcome students, my name is Yogita Gauns and I am from Vidya Prabodhini college. Today I'll be teaching a history subject, for S.Y class Semester II. The name of our paper is History of India from earliest time to eight century CEE.

The name of our model is Buddhism - rise doctrine and its main sect. In this module we are going to study about the foundation of Buddhism, the factors that were responsible for the rise of Buddhism, life of Gautam Buddha, the teaching of Buddhism and the different sects of Buddhism.

After learning this module, Students will be able to understand and analyze the factors that were responsible for the rise of Buddhism in India. They will be able to acquire knowledge about the life and teaching of Gautam Buddha. They will be able to understand the causes for the split of Buddhism into two group.

Buddhism is one of the ancient religion in the world and it emerged as a prominent religion in 6th century BC. It gave a greatest blow to brahmanical Hinduism. It was founded by Gautam Buddha, the philosophy of Buddhism not only attracted the Indians but it spread even to Southeast Asia and other parts of the world.

Various factors were responsible for the rise of Buddhism in India.

Social cause - Caste system which existed in India was very rigid and created inequalities in the society. Buddhism rejected caste system. It treated everyone equally.

Second cause was the supremacy of the brahmins. The priests began to dominate the Indian society. They acted as an intermediators between the god and the common people. They were the one who interpreted the religious texts. The ritual religious unrest, complex rituals, and ceremonies were very, very expensive and elaborative and common people found it difficult to follow such practices. Dominate practices of worship, blind faith and superstitious beliefs also confused people.

The economic causes,-the growth of trade and commerce was also responsible for rise of Buddhism, for example. the Vaishyas were not allowed to cross the sea, if they crossed the sea then they would lose their caste.

Let's have a look at the life of Gautam Buddha

Gautam Buddha was born as Siddharth to Shubodhan and Maya Devi in 566 B.C at Lumbini.

He belonged to Sakya clan. He was married to to Yasodhara. They had a son who they named as Rahul. At the age of 29 he left his family and Kingdom and went out in search of true knowledge. This incident is called as great renunciation.He first became the disciple of new teachers.

Their names were Alara and Udraka. After six years of striving, at the age of 35 he achieved the highest knowledge or 'Bodhi' at Bodh Gaya. Gautama thus became the Buddha.

"The Enlightened one." After being enlightened he started preaching the Gospel of Buddhism.He delivered his first sermon at Deer Park in Sarnath and this incident was was called as "Dharma Chakra Pravartana". He spent the rest of his life spreading the teachings of Buddhism, He attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar in 487 BC at the age of 80.

The teachings of Gautam Buddha.

Gautam Buddha believed in four Noble truths. According to Gautam Buddha, world is full of sorrow, and the main cause of this sorrow is desire. One can eliminate this sorrow. To eliminate this sorrow one should follow the Eightfold Path, which he called as, ashtangika marg. It included right views, right intentions, right speech, right action, right living, right efforts, right mindfulness and right concentration.

Gautam Buddha also believed in the theory of karma. He always remained silence about the existence of God. He rejected caste system, rituals, sacrifices and Idol worships. According to him, the highest goal of an individual to achieve Nirvana.

There are three jewels of Buddhism. First is Gautam Buddha, the Second the Dharma or the teachings of Buddhism and third is Sangha.

During the lifetime of Gautam Buddha, he traveled to various parts of the world and converted many people.

Buddha had two kinds of disciples- Monks bhikkhus or Shranmanas and lay worshippers or Upasakas. Buddhist Sangha's played an important role in propagation of Buddhism. They acted as a center of learning, exchange of ideas and talks. The membership of Sangha was open to all anyone who had attended 15 years of age and was free from leprosy and other infectious diseases for free to join the Buddhist. The life of the monks and the nuns were strictly governed by the laws in the 10 Commandments.

This this 10 Commandments were to refrain from harming living beings,taking what is not given, committing adultery, false speech, alcoholic drink, and intoxicants. Taking food at forbidden time, dancing, usinging, music and dramatic performance.Using garlands, perfumes or any other ornaments, sleeping in luxurious beds and receiving gold or silver.

After about 100 years of Buddha death differences creeped into Buddhism and two great schools came into existence -The Sthaviravada and Mahasanghika. In the time of Kanishka in the first century A.D, Mahasanghikas paved the way for the emergence of a new sect Mahayanna. Thus, Buddhism was divided into two sects- Hinayana and Mahayana.

Thus Buddhism was divided into two sects in Hinayana and Mahayana.,

Hinayana basically refers to lesser vehicle and Mahayana means a greater vehicle. The followers of Hanacek they consider Buddha is an ordinary human being whereas for Mahayana Buddha is a God.

They believe in the incarnations of Gautam Buddha. Hinayana followed the original teachings of Buddha, where as Mahayana's had interpreted the teachings of Gautam Buddha. They are quite liberal.Hinayana do not practice Idol worship. For them individual salvation is an ultimate goal. Mahayana worship idol of Gautam Buddha and Buddhithava. Bodhisattva basically means one is in the process of attaining salvation.For them,liberating all the living being is an ultimate goal. All the Hinayana scriptures are written in Pali language but Myanna scriptures texts are written in Pali as well as in Sanskrit language.

To conclude,Buddhism provided a glorious heritage to India.It gave a simple religion which rejected caste system, sacrifices,rituals, the Buddhist viharas stupas or their education institutions contributed immensely towards Indian culture,education and literature.

Thank you.