



# Influence of the Industrial Revolution on Victorian Age and Upper Class

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## 1. Introduction

Queen Victorian became ruler or reign of the country England so that name was given 'Victorian age'. The time of Victorian age was 1837 to 1901, and before that, it was known as 'Georgian age' and after the Victorian age the time was called 'Edwardian age'. In the Victorian age, there were many changes occurred in every field in the history of Britain. There was a time, lot of rapid changed in economical, social, industrial, political, literary, science, religion and technology. Each and every field had vast changed. The impact of this changed, was seen in the upper class of society or whole country.

It was time of peace, development, prosperity and sensibility. It was the time when populations of the country Britain increased, because the people migrated to the London from rural. It was a time of industrial revolution. It left good impression of human being. Before the Victorian age, most of the children died because of the epidemics like cholera, diarrhea and TB. But development of science and invention in medicine such epidemics became curable and saved the life of the people. That was also responsible for the increased of population.

## 2. Reasons of Increasing Population

The main reasons of increasing the population, there were industrial revolution, demographic transition and agricultural development. People came to urban area for earning money and settled their life from hardship. Industrial revolutions had put good impact on human being. It had also improved the living standards of the people due to earning enough money.

Fertility played the greatest role in increasing of the population. The people who had adopted technology in their life were able to improve their living standards. On account of financial good condition most of youngster got marriage at early age. They had given more birth to babies. It was time; women became capable to give more birth to children. And upbringing of the child was improved and decreased rate of the child death. That was not possible in the previous time but it was possible. The attitude of people was changed, because of no famine or epidemic in the country. Environment and health was rose in the whole Victorian age. A lot of previous issues which were not found solution but here have seen the sign of solution. Like that child labour, dirt and unhygienic condition and illiteracy etc.

## 3. Influence on Social Status

Industrialization brought with it a burgeoning or middle class whose increase in numbers had a significant effect on the social strata itself: cultural norms, lifestyle, values and morality. Identifiable characteristics came to define, in particular, the middle class home. Previously, in town and city, residential space was adjacent to or incorporated into the work site, virtually occupying the same geographical space. The difference between private life and commerce was a fluid one distinguished by an informal demarcation of function.

In the Victorian era, English family life increasingly became compartmentalized, the home a self-contained structure housing a nuclear family extended according to need and circumstance to include blood relations. The concept of privacy became a hallmark of the middle class life. The English home closed up and darkened over the decade (1850s), the cult of domesticity matched by a cult of privacy. Bourgeois existence was a world of interior space, heavily curtained off and wary of intrusion, and opened only by invitation for viewing on occasions such as parties or teas. "The essential, unknowability of each individual, and society's collaboration in the maintenance of a facade behind which lurked innumerable mysteries, were the themes which preoccupied many mid century novelists.

#### **4. Effect on human manner**

The reputation of the Victorian age in England has undergone many vicissitudes, but it is now higher than ever. In this important study, Richard D. Altick moves us toward an understanding of the social, intellectual, and theological crises that Carlyle and Dickens, Tennyson and Arnold were daily struggling to solve. And the issues were many: the revolution in class structure and class attitudes; the rise of utilitarianism and the evangelical spirit; the crisis in religion, including the Oxford movement and Darwinism; the democratization of culture; the place of art and the artist in an industrial, bourgeois society; the effects of industrialism, especially on the way people live. Altick brings to the conclusion of these complicated questions the lively and sensitive intelligence that his many readers have come to expect. The year 1830 is generally placed at the beginning of this period, but its limits are very indefinite. In general we may think of it as covering the reign of Victoria (1837-1901). Historically the age is remarkable for the growth of democracy following the Reform Bill of 1832; for the spread of education among all classes; for the rapid development of the arts and sciences; for important mechanical inventions; and for the enormous extension of the bounds of human knowledge by the discoveries of science.

#### **5. Domestic Life**

The family was the most important part of the society. Most of the family had five or six children. Except very poor family, upper or middle class people keep servants for household chores. They lived in big places and each family member had their own room. Children had their separated study place. Both, mother and father knew their responsibility toward of upbringing toward of their children. Father was the head of the family; children obeyed them and paid attention on study. They had taught them respect and good manner about social life. But their mother spent most of her time on planning of tea and dinner party of her friends.

Most of the mothers did not do the work like washing clothes and other house work. They did their jobs and paid their attention on dressmaker and calling friends for parties. If child roughly reacted sometimes they also punished them. Because they firmly believed, that they must learn: what is and what is right? Most of the middle or upper class children didn't see their parent entire day. Because most of their time, they passed in nursery and study. With a view to studying they could only see them at evening. Middle or upper class children were bought up by their ayah. Ayah played a very vital role in Victorian upper and middle class families. Ayah had taken care of children, took them outside, taught good manners and behavior. Such works had been done by Ayah. Some times their mother taught them read and write and sometimes their father did it. When the children grew old, boys did their jobs but daughter stayed at home with their mother and waited for their marriage as possible as early. This was the social system and tradition of the Victorian era. That showed the servant was the important part of family. At that time, upper class people's house work was done by very poor people. They (cook and butlers) did this work only for to earn their livelihood. They did work like cooking; washing clothes etc. There was no family without a servant. If they did the house work they would be split up dressed in uniform and has their hair cut short. This could happen to a family, if father was taken ill and unable to

work. Lots of children in poor families died of diseases like scarlet fever, measles, polio and TB which are curable today. These were spread by foul drinking water, open drains and lack of proper toilets. In overcrowded rooms if one person caught a disease it spread quickly through the rest.

## 6. Political Affair

Political affair was a great role in the Victorian era: two especially important figures in this period of British history are the prime ministers Gladstone and Disraeli, whose contrasting views changed the course of history. Disraeli, favored by the queen, was a gregarious Tory. Gladstone, his rival distrusted by the Queen, a Liberal, served more terms and oversaw much of the overall law-making of the era. Victorian era covered up each and every field for something new and changed. It has also covered musical Brass bands and it became popular in the Victorian era. The band stand was a simple construction that not only created an ornamental focal point, but also served acoustic requirements whilst providing shelter from the changeable British weather. It was common to hear the sound of a brass band whilst strolling through parklands. At this time musical recording was still very much a novelty. In Victorian times people often booked formal funeral photographers when they could afford it. The memorial photograph of the deceased was taken to create the last visual remembrance of the person. It would usually be displayed in the drawing room afterward. Occasionally the photographer took pictures of the family at the funeral as well, as this was one of the few times that people would all be together.

## 7. Conclusion

We can see many changes in the cultural, social tradition, fashion, manners and also see the people's attitude towards marriage. Generally they believed that marriage means burden and end of freedom and starting the responsibility. Upper class of the society always tried to acquire high social and political status. Most of upper class women felt or thought that extra married affair with other man was sign of being to the royal society. They also believed that if we made more affairs so our fame will shine in the society. It was our right because we belong to the royal society. That was their motto, manner and fashion of life. In short we can find both aspects in the Victorian era, positive and negative. But after the study we can say much good side of the Victorian age. Over all any age, there are two sides positive or negative but which is too heavy it is important. After the study of Victorian age, we can conclude that "all that glitter is not gold" but positive is heavier than negative it may good overall. But here so many things are good and sufficient that is why the Victorian era has good effect on human being. There were many positive aspects like technology, invention, industrialization etc. but it also left negative effect on the life of Victorian ear.

## References

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