

ATOMIC ENERGY CENTRAL SCHOOL ,KAKRAPAR

CLASS :VII

SUB : SOCIAL STUDIES (HISTORY)

TRIBES, NOMADS AND SETTLED COMMUNITIES

MODULEI-2

HANDOUT-2

How Nomads and Mobile People Lived

Nomadic pastoralists moved long distances with their animals . They lived on milk and other pastoral products . They exchanged wool, ghee, etc., with settled agriculturists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products . They bought and sold these goods as they moved from one place to another, transporting them on their animals . Banjaras were the most important trader nomads. The caravan was called tanda . Sultan Alauddin Khalji used the Banjaras to transport grain to the city markets . Emperor Jahangir wrote in his memoirs that the Banjaras carried grain on their bullocks from different areas and sold it in towns . They transported food grain for the Mughal army during military campaigns . With a large army, there could be 100,000 bullocks carrying grains . Pastoral tribes reared and sold animals, such as cattle and horses, to the prosperous people . Different castes of petty pedlars also travelled from village to village . They made and sold wares such as ropes, reeds, straw matting and coarse sacks . Mendicants acted as wandering merchants- were castes of entertainers who performed in different towns and villages for their livelihood.

Changing Society: New Castes and Hierarchies

As the economy and the needs of society grew, people with new skills were required. Smaller castes, or jatis, emerged within varnas. New castes appeared amongst the Brahmanas . Many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of jatis. Specialised artisans (smiths, carpenters and masons) were recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmanas . Jatis, rather than varna, became the basis for organising society . Among the Kshatriyas, new Rajput clans became powerful by the 11th and 12th centuries They belonged to different lineages, such as Hunas, Chandelas, Chalukyas and others. Many of these clans regarded as Rajputs. They gradually replaced the older rulers, especially in agricultural areas . The rise of Rajput clans to the position of rulers set an example for the tribal people to follow. With the support of the Brahmanas, many tribes became part of the caste system. Only the leading tribal families could join the ruling class. Large majority joined the lower jatis of caste society. Many dominant tribes of Punjab, Sind and the North-West Frontier had adopted Islam quite early. They continued to reject the caste system-unequal social order, prescribed by orthodox Hinduism , was not widely accepted in this areas.