

11) What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society?

Vedic society & religion can be divided into Rig Vedic & later Vedic period [1500 BCE - 500 CE]. The period is extensive and many of its features are still prevalent in Indian society. Some of them, are the following:

Indian society

- 1) Patriarchal: Vedic society was patriarchal & is the Indian society, where the patriarch is the father & almost always barring few exceptions like wife, it goes to the male family members.
- 2) Untouchability: In the later Vedic period of untouchability came. Although, it is now banned in Indian constitution, unfortunately, one finds its mention here & there.
- 3) Varna ashram: It came during later Vedic period, espousing differentiation based on occupation but later on became solidified as birth based occupation. It has now transformed into caste system due to several splinter groups.
- 4) Women position: During later Vedic period, women started becoming restricted to their private spaces. In today's times efforts are being made to bring them into accounted economy but women participation still remain at abysmal 15-20% of society.
- 5) Prostitution: It came during later Vedic period & is still prevalent in India. Laws have been made to call them sex workers & provide them with more protection & rights.

Indian religion:

- 1) Vedic religion along with Puranic religion came to be comprised as Hinduism. Vedic texts remains revered in Hindu religion.
- 2) Importance to Animism remain still prevalent. As cow is most revered in Hindu religion.
- 3) Plants like peepal & tulsi remains still important & in Hindu religion.
- 4) Naama ashram has metamorphosed into Caste system which in turn found its way into Sikhism, Islam & Christianity as well.
- 5) Gods like Indra, Agni, Varuna, even though less prominent but still remain prevalent.
- 6) Concept of Yagna also remains intact.

Thus, it can be said that there are elements of Vedic period with respect to society & religion which remains ingrained within Indian society.