

The wealthiest people in India belonged to higher 'castes' (groups in society which were organised by religious committees).

The higher castes had better jobs, more money and more freedom.

If a married woman became a widow, she was not allowed to remarry.

She would live with either her brother's family or her husband's family, and have to do whatever she was told.

British people in India were mostly there to work in government and help run the country.

They made important decisions which they did not allow Indian officials to make for themselves.

There were no elections held in India during Queen Victoria's reign as 'Empress of India'.

Indian people were not allowed to vote for their own politicians or leaders.

Many poorer children had to work from an early age.

Unless everyone in a poor family who was able to, worked, there was not enough money to live.

Many poorer women worked in their own family home, weaving cloth, making clothing or carpets, or baking.

Everyone in poor families had to help earn money.

British people living in India adopted many aspects of Indian life.

Some wore Indian clothing like those worn by wealthy Indian people.

Some could speak and write in Urdu.

Women had very little say in family matters.

Virtually all decisions were made for women by the older men in the family.

Men were in charge of all family matters.

The oldest man in a household would make all decisions. Women, children and younger men had to obey the senior male.

Boys and girls were not allowed to talk or play together.

Some went to school, but separately.

Although the government was run by wealthy Indian people, they could not make any important decisions or changes to laws.

All important decisions were made by British officials.

Some women from wealthier families had jobs in government.

Girls had no choice in who, or when, they married.

Typically, the senior man in the family would arrange a girl's marriage when she was very young – often before she was twelve years old.

Poor Indian families often did not have enough food.

Although there was a lot of farm land, much of it was used to grow 'cash crops' (such as cotton or tobacco) rather than food. These cash crops were sold for a profit back in Britain.

The family of a boy or young man who was getting married had to pay a large amount of money, called a *bride price*, to the family of the bride.

Girls would usually be married before they became adults.

They had virtually no rights after marriage – their husband made all decisions for them.

Virtually all British people living and working in India were very wealthy.

They had larger homes with more servants than people with the same amount of money living in Britain.

Life was made harder for poor people when the British officials regularly raised taxes.

On the other hand, wealthy families and nobles often became even richer; the British would bribe them, so they could make better business deals.