

Besant describing the middle class of the 19th century wrote " In the first place it was for more a class apart. "In no sense did it belong to society. Men in professions of any kind (except in the Army and Navy) could only belong to society by right of birth and family connections; men in trade—bankers were still accounted tradesmen—could not possibly belong to society. That is to say, if they went to live in the country they were not called upon by the county families and in the town they were not admitted by the men into their clubs, or by ladies into their houses... The middle class knew its own place, respected itself, made its own society for itself, and cheerfully accorded to rank the deference due."

Since then, however, the life of the middle classes had undergone great changes as their numbers had swelled and their influence had increased.

Their already well –developed consciousness of their own importance had deepened. More critical than they had been in the past of certain aspects of aristocratic life, they were also more concerned with the plight of the poor and the importance of their own values of society, thrift, hand work, piety and respectability. Thrift, hand work, piety and respectability as examples of ideal behavior for the guidance of the lower orders. Above all they were respectable. There were divergences of opinion as to what exactly was respectable and what was not. There were, nevertheless, certain conventions, which were universally recognized: wild and drunker behaviors were certainly not respectable, nor were godlessness or avert promiscuity, not an ill-ordered home life, unconventional manners, self-indulgence or flamboyant clothes and personal adornments.

Precis

Title : Plight of Middle Class

"With the exception of those whose belonged to Army and Navy", said Besant, "all other people of middle class were not considered as part of society." As they were devoid of social interactions, so they recognized themselves as separate society. respectable society. Then, their number and influence was enhanced. This was through self-consciousness. While considering the plight the poor they idealized themselves with their values of piety, thrift, hand work and respectability to be followed by the former. There was no universal definition of respectability but wild behaviour, unconventional manner, godlessness and personal adornments were considered not respectable.

No. of words in the given passage : 281
No. of words required : 97
No. of words in neat passage : 97