

Rural life and Society

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INTRODUCTION

- ★ In the older days in India, land was held for life. Farmers cultivated a piece of land for generations. Nobody could evict them so long as they paid a part of their produce as tax.
- ★ During the rule of Sher Shah Suri, land was measured and pattas were given for the first time. Revenue was charged depending on the fertility of the soil.

THE LAND REVENUE POLICY UNDER BRITISH

- ★ The British East India Company started to take land revenue and they demanded a fixed amount in cash. To pay the amount farmers had to cultivate cash crops like cotton, poppy, indigo which brought in more money than food crops like wheat and rice. Now the Indian villages were no longer self-sufficient.
- ★ In an effort to streamline the process the British started 3 forms of revenue collection in India:-
 - Permanent settlement of Bengal
 - Ryotwari system
 - Mahalwari system
- ★ The new revenue collectors were zamindars.