



Duties of Raja:

- ❖ He protected his lands from different clans.
- ❖ He conducted religious duties according to the advice of the Prohita.
- ❖ He protected his people from poverty war & enmity.
- ❖ During the war he led the people & fought with the enemies.
- ❖ Justice & Punishments were given after trial.
- ❖ He extended & strengthened the kingdom.

3.1.2 Rig Vedic Polity:

- ❖ The Rig Vedic Polity was normally Monarchical and the succession was hereditary.
- ❖ The King was assisted by Purohita (or) Priest and Senai (or) Commander of the army in his administration.
- ❖ There were two popular bodies called the Sabha & Samiti.
- ❖ Sabha seems to have been a Council of Elders.
- ❖ Samiti seems to have been a General Assembly of the entire people.

3.1.3 Social life:

- ❖ The Rig Vedic society was patriarchal. The basic unit of society was family or graham.
- ❖ The head of family was known as Grahapathi.
- ❖ The wife took care of the household & participated in all major ceremonies.

Marriage System:

- ❖ Monogamy was generally practiced while Polygamy was prevalent among the Royal & Noble families.

Women Status:

- ❖ Women were given equal opportunities as men for their spiritual & intellectual development.
- ❖ There were poets like Apala, Viswavara, Ghosa & Lopamudra during the Vedic period.
- ❖ Women could even attend the popular assemblies.
- ❖ There was no child marriage & the practice of sati was absent.

Dresses & Ornaments:

- ❖ Men wore dhoti & shawl
- ❖ Women wore Upper and Lower garments made of cotton & wool.

- ❖ A variety of ornaments were used by both men & women.
- ❖ They wore earrings, necklaces, bangles, anklets & wore bands on their forehands.

Food & Drinks:

- ❖ Wheat & Barley, Milk & its products like Curd and Ghee, Vegetables & Fruits were the chief articles of food.
- ❖ The eating of Cow's Meat was prohibited since it was a sacred animal. 'Cow was called Aghnya'
- ❖ They drank intoxicating drinks like 'Soma' & 'Sura'.

Entertainments - Chariot racing, Horse racing, Dicing, Music & Dance were the favourite past times.

Caste system - The social divisions were not rigid during the Rig Vedic period, as it was in the Later Vedic Period.

3.1.4 Economic Condition:

Occupation:

Cattle rearing: The Rig Vedic Aryans were pastoral people & their main occupation was cattle rearing.

Agriculture:

- ❖ When they permanently settled in North India they began to practice agriculture.
- ❖ With the knowledge and use of iron they were able to clear forests & bring more lands under – cultivation.
- ❖ They cultivate, wheat, barley, fruits & vegetables.

Carpentry:

- ❖ Carpentry was another important profession and the availability of wood from the forests cleared made the profession profitable.
- ❖ Carpenters produced chariots & ploughs.
- ❖ Workers in metal made a variety of articles with copper, iron.

Metals Known;

Gold – Hirayana, Iron – Shyama (Krishna Ayas) Copper – Ayas.

Weavers - Spinning was another important occupation and cotton & woollen fabrics were made.

Goldsmiths - Goldsmiths were active in making ornaments.

Potters - The potters made various kinds of vessels for domestic use.

**Trade:**

- ❖ Trade was another important activity & Rivers served as important means of transport.
- ❖ Trade was conducted on Barter System.
- ❖ In the later times, gold coins called Nishka were used as media of exchange in large transactions.

3.1.5 Science:

In the Vedic period, astronomy was well developed. They knew the movement of heavenly bodies and calculated their positions at different times. It helped them in accurately preparing their calendars & predicting the time of Solar & Lunar Eclipses. They also knew that the Earth moved on its own axis and around the Sun. The Moon moved around the Earth.

3.1.6 Religion:

- ❖ Rig Vedic people worshipped many gods representing forces of nature.
- ❖ Such as Fire, Sun, Wind, Sky & Trees.
- ❖ The important Rig Vedic gods were Prithvi (Earth), Agni (fire),

Vayu (wind); Varuna (Rain) and Indra (Thunder).

- ❖ Indra was the most popular among them during the early vedic period.
- ❖ Next in importance to Indra was Agni who was regarded as an intermediary between gods & people.
- ❖ Varuna was supposed to be the upholder of the natural order.

Female Gods:

- ❖ There were also female gods like Aditi & Ushas.

No Idol Worship:

- ❖ There were no Temples & no Idol worship during the Early Vedic period.

Offerings to gods:

- ❖ Prayers were offered to the gods in the expectation of rewards.
- ❖ Ghee, Milk & Grain were given as offerings.
- ❖ Elaborate rituals were followed during the worship.