

**Women's status:**

- ❖ In the family, the power of the Father increased during the Later Vedic period.
- ❖ There was no improvement in the status of Women.
- ❖ They were still considered inferior & subordinate to Men.
- ❖ Women also lost their political rights of attending assemblies.
- ❖ According to the Aitreya Brahmana, a daughter has been described as a source of misery.
- ❖ However, the women in the royal household enjoyed certain privileges.

**3.2.5 Education:**

- ❖ According to the Aryan Dharma, the Brahmin students stayed in the Gurukul (house of the teacher) and learnt.
- ❖ There were highly educated women like Gargi & Maitreyi.

**Gurukul:**

- ❖ They learnt philosophy, logic, religion, grammar, astrology, medicine, discipline, mathematics, Vedas, & Upanishads.

**Dhanur Veda** - The royal children alone were taught Dhanur Veda (Military strategy).

**Science:**

- ❖ Vedas, Brahmanas & Upanishads give enough idea about sciences during this period.

**Mathematics:**

- ❖ Mathematics has been called by the general name Ganita which includes Arithmetic (anker ganita), Geometry (rekha ganita), Algebra (bijaganita).
- ❖ Astronomy & Astrology (Jyotisha)
- ❖ Vedic people knew the methods of making squares equal in area to triangles (or) circles.
- ❖ Calculate the sums & differences of squares.
- ❖ Cubes, cube roots, square roots and under roots were also known and used.
- ❖ The decimal system was also used.

### 3.2.6 Religion:

***Gods of the Early vedic period like Indira & Agni lost their importance.***

- ❖ Prajapathi (the creator)
- ❖ Vishnu (the protector)
- ❖ Rudra (the destroyer). Became prominent during the Later vedic period.
- ❖ Sacrifices were still important and the rituals connected with them became more elaborate.
- ❖ The important of prayers declined and that of sacrifices increased.
- ❖ Priesthood became a profession & a hereditary one.
- ❖ The formulae for sacrifices were invented and elaborated by the priestly class.
- ❖ Therefore, towards the end of this period there was strong reaction against priestly domination and against sacrifices & rituals.

- ❖ The Rise of Buddhism & Jainism was the direct result of these elaborate sacrifices.
- ❖ Also, the authors of the Upanishads, which is the essence of Hindu philosophy, turned away from the useless rituals & insisted on true knowledge for peace & salvation.