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The evolution stages of industrial development can be classified into various stages. They are:

- > Primitive Stage
- > Agrarian Economy Stage
- > Serfdom Stage
- ➤ Handicrafts Stage
- > Cottage or Putting-out Stage
- > Factory or Industrial Capitalism Stage

3.1.1 The Primitive Stage

Under the Primitive Stage, the necessities of life were simple and few, mostly provided by hunting, fishing, collecting and pastoral activities, with the help of crude implements. Members of the families used to work side by side with very little specification of work except that required by the physical differences. The production was just sufficient for consumption and therefore, were no savings and hence, no accumulation of wealth and no exchange of products.

The authorities were exercised by the elderly people – the family head (the patriarch or the matriarch) and the authority structure varied with a generally high regard for age and experiences, and was acceptable to the members of the group. Since, group was a small unit; communication among the members of the group was face to face. Members used to work throughout their active lives.

In the mean time, some groups started keeping the animals rather than killing them. Animals were considered as a form of wealth and could be exchanged for other products required. This laid to the foundation of the barter economy. In the barter economy, one commodity could be exchanged for another commodity. This form of economy was developed because of the increase in the human needs and the inability of the group to produce all the things required. Anyone could exchange his or her exchange was restricted to the goods in which some families or groups were surplus and others were deficient.

1.2 The Agrarian Economy Stage

In the Agrarian Economy Stage, agriculture became the primary source of maintenance. Many tribes settled down permanently at some place and started sowing seeds and rearing cattle. These tribes were self sufficient as they could produce everything they required for their living.

3.

The Agrarian Economy Stage developed during the Middle Ages and brought about a collective asset of the groups, but now, it was considered to be the personal asset of the landlord. This led to the development of a class of propertied individuals along with a class of property less individuals. Under this system, the employees were treated as slaves and as the property of their masters who have either purchased them or have conquered them in some war. The employer-employee relationship was that of the master-slave type. The slaves used to do all types of manual or specialized work for their master and in return, were paid no wages except for the food, old clothes and a small place to live. The slaves used to live under the absolute authority of their masters throughout their lives. The Government did not wield any power over the employment relationships. Also, political organizations supported the authority of the masters. Consequently, some masters achieved dominant positions while others became subordinates.

During this stage, major differences between the social strata were also noticed. Agricultural societies provided the basis for the establishment of economic institution and money became the medium of exchange. The need of the maintenance of records of transactions, crops, harvest, taxations, government rules and regulations was also felt. Religion became a separate institution with elaborated rituals and traditions.

3.1.3 The Serfdom Stage

Serfdom developed under the feudal society (comprising of princes, lords and the land owning class). The Serfdom Stage also developed during the Middle Ages. The position of serfs was no better than that of the slaves. They had to work hard for their lord on the land and were given a small hut to live. Their duties and obligations were defined in terms of the quantities of the produce they had to give to their master and of possible military assistance. Serfs were considered to be unfortunates who were born to serve. They had limited intellect and were without personal ethics and hence subject to complete direction and domination. In the words of Burke, the serfs were 'swinish herd'. The authority was exercised by the master and his family because he was assumed to have inborn superiority and was the owner of vast property.

3.1.4 The Handicrafts Stage

The Handicrafts System was developed as a result of the growth of town and cities, an increase in trade and commerce and a decline in the power of feudal lords. This system was an important innovation in the situation of workers since they could now actually move from the rank of workers/employees to those of employers. The workers or the craftsmen now owned the factors of production, worked with their own tools and had support from their family members. They used to sell their products directly to the customers and there was no middleman. Separate craftsmen existed for separate works. There were also found some type of specialization of works like shoe-making, blacksmith, carpentry, pottery, cloth weaving etc.

Sometimes, the master craftsman used to teach his craft to young men. These artisans began their careers as apprentices and were bound to work for the master craftsman for a specified time during which they could learn the craft. They got no wages except the boarding and lodging facilities from their master craftsman. After this apprenticeship was over, these artisans could settle as independent journeymen. The master craftsman and the apprentice worked side by side and the master craftsman held the highest status because he had both the skill and the ownership. Apprentice occupied a low status, though it was superior to that of the slave or serf.

The cottage workers of the master craftsman developed a new institution known as the crafts guilds. These regulated economic and employment conditions of the members, regulated the quality of materials and workmanship, set prices and determined wages. Some of these guilds also provided various fraternal benefits like death, disability and unemployment benefits to their members.

The Cottage or Putting-out Stage

With the advancement of economic system, some individuals became employees in the new industrial units, which developed as a result of technological changes and the expansion of the markets. During this stage, the intermediary between the producers and consumers of goods came to play an important role. Other master craftsmen or travelling traders undertook to buy raw materials and supply these as well as finances to the craftsmen or who worked in their homes/workshops. They also hired the craftsmen to process the raw materials, and collected and sold the finished goods. This system was known as the 'Cottage or Putting Out System'. Under this arrangement, the craftsmen worked with the members of their family, in their own home, and were paid on a piece-work basis for the work. They had to deliver their products to the financiers who supplied them with the necessary finance.

The Factory or Industrial Capitalism Stage

During this stage, with the gaining of experience, the trader capitalist realized that economies in production can be achieved from newly perfected machines. Now, instead of giving the production to numerous small cottage workers, he himself installed machinery, provided power tools and equipment and offered employment in the newly built workshops or factories. These factories employed a large number of workers. This system made it possible to supervise the workers more closely.