

**Lesson 1 (Great Men of India) Notes**

**I) ANSWER IN BRIEF**

1. Name three awards that Baba Amte received.  
**Ans)** Baba Amte received the Padma Vibhushan award, Magsaysay award and the Gandhi Peace Prize award.
2. What is Anandwan and where is it located?  
**Ans)** Anandwan is a community near Nagpur, Maharashtra.
3. What is the purpose of this community?  
**Ans)** The Purpose of the community is to help leprosy patients and other poor and downtrodden people of Indian society to find a home and lead productive lives.
4. Why were Baba Amte's relatives shocked?  
**Ans)** Baba Amte's relatives were shocked because he allowed the Harijans to draw Water from the well.
5. Whom did Baba Amte start caring for?  
**Ans)** Baba Amte started caring for the less fortunate than him. He started serving the Leprosy patients, needy the lonely the last, the least and the lost.
6. Who inspired Baba Amte?  
**Ans)** Baba Amte was inspired by the courage shown by the differently abled people.
7. When and where did Baba Amte pass away?  
**Ans)** Baba Amte passed away in 2008 at Anandwan, Nagpur, Maharashtra.
8. How has the community established in 1951 grown today?  
**Ans)** The community established in 1951 has grown remarkably and today there are more than 5000 inmates who manages the farms, small-scale industrial units, man-made lakes full of fish, hospitals and a school for the blind.

9. How is the work started by Baba Amte being carried on?  
**Ans)** The work started by Baba Amte is being carried on by his two sons - Dr. Vikas and Dr. Prakash and their wives and children.
10. Who was Dr. Ambedkar?  
**Ans)** Dr. Ambedkar was an untouchable who fought against injustice and casteism.
11. Who are Harijans?  
**Ans)** Harijans (untouchables) were the low caste people divided (segregated) in Hamlets outside the town or village boundary.
12. What did Dr. Ambedkar realize when he reached Baroda?  
**Ans)** When Dr. Ambedkar reached Baroda he realized that in the years that he had studied abroad his social and family background had not mattered at all but in India it still did.
13. What was the turning point in his life?  
**Ans)** The turning point in Dr. Ambedkar's life was whenever he recalled the harassment metted towards him by his high caste colleagues, it would bring tears in his eyes.
14. Why did Dr. Ambedkar's efforts end in despair?  
**Ans)** Dr. Ambedkar's efforts ended in despair when 'untouchability' continued among The Hindus.

## **ii) ANSWER IN DETAIL**

1. What kind of life did Baba Amte lead before he received his true calling?

**Ans)** Baba Amte was born into a wealthy Brahmin family. He led a carefree and privileged life as a young man. He later became a lawyer. His practice flourished. He drove a sports car and loved to watch Hollywood films.

2. *'His life changed completely'*. Explain.

**Ans)** Baba Amte saw a man on the road suffering from leprosy. Ignored and uncared for. He was so repulsed by this sight that he ran away but came back and took the man home. He and his wife looked after the man till his death. This incident changed his life completely.

3. What was Baba Amte's answer when asked how he could do such Dirty work?

**Ans)** Baba Amte's work with sick, disfigured and dying people often raised questions about he could do such dirty work. His answer to that was - if people could find beauty in and appreciate historical ruins. How could they not see beauty in the ruined body of leprosy patient?

4. How was Dr. Ambedkar treated by his colleagues?

**Ans)** In 1917 Dr. Ambedkar was appointed military secretary to the Maharaja of Baroda. When he reached Baroda, there was no one at the station to receive him. His colleagues at work belonged to higher castes and they harassed him regularly. His superiors never told him what to do while his subordinates were rude. They humiliated him, flung files on his table to avoid going near him, and did not even give him drinking water.

5. What happened in Mahad?

**Ans)** Harijans (also called Dalits) started this fight for justice in Mahad, a town in Maharashtra. They drank water from a tank that was only used by upper caste Hindus. This led to a riot in which Harijans were attacked. They wanted to strike back with violence but were calmed down by Dr. Ambedkar.

6. Why did Dr. Ambedkar become a Buddhist?

**Ans) Dr.** Ambedkar's efforts to put an end to casteism ended in despair because The high caste Hindus continued to discriminate against the Dalits. So he renounced Hinduism and embraced Buddhism because there is no caste system in this religion and all men are considered equal.

\*\*\*\*\*