

Lesson 18

CHANGES IN MODERN INDIA

Summary

After the establishment of British rule in India many changes were witnessed in different areas. There were rise of middle class, growth of newspapers, semi political unification of the country, rise of western education etc. All these led the questioning of various customs, traditions and rituals in India. The Britishers also tried to understand Indian tradition and culture in their own way. Some of the enlightened Indians tried to address different social issues. People like Raja Ram Mohan Roy etc. took the lead and set in motion the process of social reforms which continued for a very long time.

BRITISH CULTURAL POLICIES IN INDIA

Orientalists

Warren Hastings,
William
Jones and Jonathan
Duncan

Calcutta Madrassa
founded by Warren
Hastings (1781)

**the Asiatic Society
of Bengal** founded by
William Jones (1784)

**Sanskrit College at
Benaras** founded by
Jonathan Duncan
(1794)

SOCIO-RELIGIOUS REFORMS

In the first half of 19th century the society was backward due

- lack of education and
- Subordination of women.

Many reformers came up during this period who contributed to religious and social awakening helped in transforming the society for betterment.

BENGAL RENAISSANCE

Historical rediscovery

Socio-religious reform

Linguistic and literary modernization

BRAHMO SAMAJ

- Rammohan Roy was the founder of Brahma Samaj
- Started movement against practice of Sati
- In 1829, the custom of sati was formally abolished.
- Also condemned polygamy and many other forms of subjugation of women.
- Roy was also an advocate of modern education.
- Vedanta college (1825).
- After Roy's death in 1833, the Brahma Samaj started getting disorganized.
- Keshab Chandra Sen (1838–84) who joined the Samaj in 1858
- Attacked caste system,
 - Divided into Adi Brahma Samaj and the Brahma Samaj of India (

ISHWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR



RAMAKRISHNA MISSION



REFORM MOVEMENTS IN WESTERN INDIA

- KT Telang, VN Mandalik and RG Bhandarkar
- Karsondas Mulji and Dadoba Pandurang
- Manav Dharma Sabha & Paramhansa Mandali
- Prathana Samaj denounced idolatry, priestly domination, caste rigidities and preferred monotheism

ARYA SAMAJ



REFORM MOVEMENTS AMONG MUSLIMS

- The movement of the Farazis. Founding leader of the Farazis, Shariat Ullah (1781–1839)
- Tariqah-i-Muhammadiyah
- Delhi School of Islamic Thought
- Aligarh Movement by Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817–98)
- Founding of Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875.

Impact of reform movements

- National liberation movement
- Growth of a modern middle class
- Women played a prominent role

RISE OF WESTERN EDUCATION IN INDIA

- English education was first introduced in India in 18th century in charity schools of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay for educating European and Anglo-Indian children
- Although the East India Company supported these schools in various ways but it did not take any responsibility for teaching English to the Indian population.
- Charter Act of 1813 allowed missionaries to travel to India.
- These missionaries were always keen to spread western literature and teachings of Christianity through English medium.

DEBATE ON MEDIUM OF EDUCATION AND ROLE OF MACAULAY

- Very soon a debate arose about the choice to be made with regard to the medium of education in India on which the company's government was to spend.
- Macaulay was an advocate of English education.
- Supporters of English based education or Anglicists, led by
- Macaulay issued his minutes on Indian education on February 2, 1835.
- This message became the guiding principle for introduction of English education in India.

WOOD'S DISPATCH

- Guidelines prepared by Charles Wood, the Secretary of State, in 1854, popularly known as the Wood's Dispatch.
- This comprehensive scheme dominated education policy in the second half of the 19th century.
- It firmly put the European model on the map of Indian education.
- During the 19th century, a large number of newspapers in local languages also started.
- Most serious restriction on the growth of Indian language newspapers was Lord Lytton's Vernacular Press Act of 1878.
- A highly biased and racial measure, this Act attempted to stifle any opposition to the government voiced in the local languages of the country.
- This Act was repealed in 1882 by Lord Ripon who was a very popular Viceroy among Indians for his liberal views and measures

HUNTER COMMISSION

- A commission was set up in 1882 under W.W. Hunter to review the progress the field of education following Wood's Dispatch.
- It was confined mostly to secondary and primary education.
- The Hunter Commission made a large number of recommendations.

GROWTH OF PRESS IN INDIA

- The newspapers began getting published in English language in the late 18th century.

Evaluate Yourself

Q. List the essential features of Wood's Dispatch.

Q. Write a note on the growth of press in India.

Q. Write note on the contribution of Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar and Sir Sayyid Ahmad Khan.