

Q:1 Sir Syed Ahmad Khan believed in "Trinity of ideas" i.e. loyalty, devotion and aloofness". Discuss it in perspective of his reformation movement.

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1. Historical background
2. Introduction
3. Trinity of ideas
  - a) Loyalty
  - b) Devotion
  - c) Aloofness.
4. Critical Analysis

### 1. Historical background:

After the war of independence 1857, Muslims of India faced great challenges. British government considered them dissident and a reason behind 1857 revolt. Hence they were deprived of their basic rights. They were humiliated, dominated and disowned by Hindus and their new masters i.e. British. In those difficult situations, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the person who moulded circumstances for Muslims of India. Through his trinity of idea i.e. loyalty, devotion and aloofness, he awakened the Muslims and provided new ray of hope and prosperity.

## 2. Introduction:

"Our success as a nation depends on our ability to adapt to changing circumstances."

(Sir Syed Ahmad Khan)

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the most influential and devoted leader of Muslims in India. After completing his education, he devoted his life in leading and defending Muslims. Through his power of knowledge and wisdom he made Muslims aware of their identity and rights. By keeping good relations with the British government, he upgraded the status of Muslims in India. From being dominated to sitting together in councils, Sir Syed changed the perspectives of Britishers regarding Muslims. Sir Syed believed that only then Muslims will stand for their rights when they will get updated education. Hence, he opened schools and colleges for Muslims. Moreover, he was of the opinion that aloofness from politics will be better for Muslims. Implementing his trinity of ideas, he provided Muslims a path to enter in the new era of progress and prosperity.

## 3. Trinity of ideas:

Sir Syed Ahmad strongly believed in "loyalty to British, devotion to education and aloofness from politics." According to him, it was the

only way to get muslim's position back in India.

### a) Loyalty:

Loyalty with British Government was an element of faith with Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. After the war of independence 1857, British Government had developed so many doubts regarding muslims. They considered them dissident. Resultantly, it created disturbing situations for muslims. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan advised muslims that in order to make Britishers undoubtful, they had to be loyal to them. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was of the opinion that maintaining good relations with British Government is the best strategy to strengthen muslim's status in India.

### b) Devotion:

"The only way to save and strengthen our community is to give it the benefit of modern education."

(Sir Syed Ahmad Khan)

Sir Syed considered modern education as the only weapon to defend and safeguard the muslim community in India. He believed in order to progress and prosper in any field muslims have to benefit themselves with the modern education. He not only emphasized muslims to get education but also opened schools and

colleges for them. He opened M.A.O school which later on became college and also opened a scientific society in order to nurture muslims in every possible way.

### c) Aloofness:

Sir Syed Ahmad's perspective regarding aloofness from politics was just because he wanted muslims to only focus on their education. At that time muslims were not that much educated and progressed to take part in any politics. Additionally, they were in minority as compared to Hindus, hence, taking part in politics would at that times would have left them hopeless and disheartened.

### 4. Critical Analysis:

Sir Syed Ahmad's belief on Trinity of ideas i.e. loyalty, devotion and aloofness, helped muslims to get their status back in India, and made them aware of their strengths and identity. Initially he faced critique regarding the perspective of keeping muslims away from politics, however, with the passage of time, his wisdom and futuristic approach gained widespread appreciation. In this regard, Allama Iqbal said,

"I admit of this fact that the strategy adopted by Sir Syed, half a century ago, was right and, after the bitter experience of present times importance of this strategy is being felt." **Nice**