

Q.2 Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Aligarh Movement

Introduction:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is the one of the most prominent figures of the sub-continent. In the backdrop of fall of Muslim rule, he gave his educational philosophy. He culminated his ideas by setting up educational institutions. Furthermore, his ideology was based upon 'Trinity' of ideas. This included loyalty, devotion and aloofness as its basic pillars. The ideology has a fundamental purpose to re-define the Muslim status in India. It was further strengthened by giving it a structured shape. This was the Aligarh movement which assisted Muslims in their socio-political affairs. In short, Sir Syed was the pioneer of educational reforms in India. The Aligarh movement stood at the heart of these reforms.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan: Services for the Muslims of India.

Muslims were facing serious challenges in social, political, cultural and economic domains. The Mughal Empire has fallen down in the sub-continent. Subsequently, Muslims were living at the mercy of the British and the Hindus.

Meanwhile, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan introduced his ideology of educational reforms. He started establishing schools and other institutions. He founded a modern madrasah in Mureedabad in 1859. Sir Syed was of the view that modern and scientific knowledge could revive the conditions of Muslims in India. Thus, he applied the pattern of the Oxford and the Cambridge in setting up the educational institutions in India.

Trinity of Ideas:-

Examining the conditions of Muslims after the downfall of Muslim rule in India, he introduced his 'Trinity of Ideas'. Loyalty, devotion and aloofness were the three ideas. He gave this philosophy as a remedy for upgrading the conditions of Muslims in India.

1- Loyalty:-

This idea was meant to remain loyal to the British rulers. Being defeated in the war of independence 1857, Muslims were in extreme anger against their British rulers. They wanted to take revenge from the British government. However, they were lagging behind in every walk of life. They were facing huge challenges of social, cultural, political and economic downfall. The Britishers were far advanced in every

field. They had modern and scientific education. Moreover, they possessed the modern and advanced warfare tactics. However, Muslims were far backward in such advancements. These were the basic background realities identified by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Thus, he suggested Muslims that loyalty to the British is the need of an hour.

2. Devotion.

Another element of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's philosophy was 'devotion'. As Muslims lack scientific education, Sir Syed wanted them to devote their lives to knowledge. He was of the view that in order to compete with the British and the Hindus, Muslims had to achieve modern education. According to him, education is the only factor which may resolve the problems of Muslims. For this cause, he

Strived his best by setting up numerous institutions. Hence, technologically advancing world demanded devotion of Muslims for knowledge.

3. Aloofness.

The third factor or idea was 'aloofness'. Sir Syed wanted the Muslims should not take part in politics. According to him, Muslims lack sufficient political knowledge. They are unable to understand the modern polity and its features. Moreover, there was lack of muslim political leadership. "For Sir Syed, politics was, for the time being, an unimportant and an undesirable burden for the Muslims of India". Said Belkacem Belmekki in his book, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and the Muslim Cause in British India. Therefore, Sir Syed pertained a political philosophy of aloofness for the Indian Muslims.

Aligarh Movement.

The educational philosophy of Sir Syed was further strengthened in the shape of Aligarh movement. This movement has fundamental motives to enhance the intellectual abilities of Muslims.

This movement has its roots in basic institutions set up in early mid 19th century. Sir Syed started building schools in his lifetime. These schools were established in Muradabad and Ghazipur in 1858 and 1863 respectively.

The Scientific Society was established in 1864. Its objective was to make Muslims learn English, Science and modern politics. In short, it was meant to instill a scientific temperament into the Muslims and to make the Western know-

ledge is available to Indians.
Hence, the Aligarh movement
was serving the basic
philosophy of Sir Syed
Ahmed Khan.