

## Question

No Aligarh Movement, No independence - No Pakistan, give argument in favour or against the common belief?

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan is the pioneer of the two nation theory and the founder of Aligarh movement. He felt aggrieved over the deplorable condition of the Muslims of the subcontinent who were at the joint mercy of Hindus and the British forces. One of the main reasons of Muslim's terrible condition was their reluctance to western education. To persuade them and enrich them with western knowledge so that the Muslims could compete with Hindus and acquire their status in the society, Sir Syed initiated an educational movement in Aligarh which is called Aligarh movement.

6) Before the War of Independence the Muslim behaviour towards western education: Aligarh movement was

primarily an educational venture. It was based on the concept that in education lay the solution of all problems that Muslims faced. Before a discussion to circumstances which led the Sir Syed Ahmad to launch his movement, it is essential to examine the Muslims' behaviour towards western education especially during the decades of preceding war of independence.

a) Circumstances under which the movement was initiated

General Gerard Lake, British Commander in Chief, entered in Delhi in 1803. The Company came into closer contact with the elite of Muslim society. This contact made imperative for the Muslims to learn western education and science. The political pragmatist could easily realize the far-reaching and far-seeing consequences

of growing English language in Subcontinent. The religious section of society were reluctant to adopt English language. But leading divine of the day, Abdul Aziz declare it lawful for the muslims to learn English language and western Science. Nevertheless, Muslim continued to show loath again western education, on the other hand, Hindus welcomed its introduction under the guidance of Raja Ram Mohan Ray.

#### \*) Missionaries in India:

The muslims reluctance against the western education spurred by the fact that the motive of missionaries was to spread Christianity. Although they were very good teachers, but they were involved in promoting Christianity by English language. The effort of missionaries was to create a westernised social class

in India who support their rule and added up its strength. During the war of independence the educated people were unreservedly aligned itself on the side of law and opposing the raising in unambiguous term.

c) Missionaries: Public Disputation Centre

When they realized that it was difficult to conquer the Muslims through institution, they started a direct weapon.

Missionaries started public disputation centre. The main centre of disputation were Delhi and Agra, but the echoes of worldly battles reached at distant of subcontinent. The immediate result of these polemic was that it (created) <sup>made</sup> a gulf between Muslim and British. This distance further accentuate in the war of independence with the result

that muslims became the victim  
of British retaliation.

## 2) Muslim Status in India after war of independence

After the war of independence the cream of muslim society were wiped out who were remaining became the victim of british distrust and thrown into oblivion.

They were removed from government post and their property were confiscated. Having been deprived from political right they left to face the terror of starvation and unemployment.

## 3) Sir Syed and plight of Muslims

Sir Syed was overwhelmed at the plight of the Muslims that he decide to make an effort for the muslim to save them from total ruination of the British. He identified that only in western education laid (foundation) salvation of the muslims.

"Acquisition of knowledge of science and technology is the only solution of all problems." (SIR SYED)

a) The Cause of the Revolt  
From 1857 to 1870 he was concentrated on the explaining to the govt the cause of "Mutiny". He felt that muslims had badly effected at the hands of British and it is vital to restore them and provides them patronage of their ruler. For this purpose he wrote "The cause of the Revolt."

According to his opinion the main cause of "Mutiny" was that indian were not associated with the process of legislation and therefore they were failed to comprehend the right concentration of the writ of the Government. The activities of missionaries, he thought, proved catalyst in igniting the simmering into blazing conglomeration

During the reign of terror, violence, he accused the British government for exacerbating the situation, He without giving any thought to his personal safety. He published 500 copies of his book and sent all, but two copies to members of parliament. On coming to know his intention his friend Roy Shanker Das, advised him to put all his book to save his life, but he replied,

"I consider it as a service for my nation, country and government, to make all my view public, if any harm befall me during doing anything which is beneficial for nation and government is acceptable to me."

The explanation of this event provide him an opportunity to enter into limelight of his nation as a Spoke spokesman.

b) Tabyyan - al - kalam

To promote inter-religious harmony between Muslims and British he pointed out similarity between Islam and Christianity. For this purpose he wrote Tabyan-ul-kalam in 1860.

c) The loyal of Muhammadan of India British considered only the Muslims were responsible for the war of independence. By writing the "Loyal of Muhammadan of India" he proved that Hindus were also responsible for these revolt. In spite of that he also mentioned the name of those Muslims who saved the life of English families during the war.

c) Establishment of Madrasah at Muradabad:

The first practical taken by Sir Syed was the establishment of Farsi madrasah at Muradabad in 1859. He advised the government to impart education in English language in this college.

d) Scientific Society.



From Muradabad he was transferred to Ghazipur in 1862. Two year later he laid the foundation of Scientific Society in Ghazipur. The main purpose of this society was translating the books into Urdu. He got translated western classics, work of great historian, western achievement in science and arts, their laws and form of governance, their virtues and vices into Urdu.

### e) Aligarh institute Ghazette:-

From Ghazipur, he was transferred to Aligarh. He took the office of newly founded society along with him. Here he was able to devote considerable attention to its activities. He started publishing Aligarh institute Gazette, It was published in two language Urdu and English — two fold objective, to promote mutual understanding between British and Indians; In Hindi words, it promoted "Indian ideas clothed in English garments".

Its column was open to article on social, cultural, literacy, political and other useful topic. It is reality that the loyalty of British was its essence. But it also played an important role in raising the political consciousness among muslims, which was so essential for constitution struggle for freedom.

#### 4) Visit to England:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan visit to England may also regarded as an important event. Because this visit provide him an opportunity to observe westran education. (He studies, westran) He visited educational institution to visit study their working, organization and method of teaching. He also visited cambridge university. Being inspite of unlettered to english language he visited all the departments of universities, and he was able to form an idea of

consulting <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ son and friends,  
that for materialization of for this  
project was needed.

- a) To eradicate from the mind of muslims the prejudice against western education
- b) collect fund for proposed college
- c) ~~to~~ make the muslim politically conscious and educate them in the teaching of Islam along with the western science.
- d) bring the children of muslim family together from the different part of the subcontinent to a place where they could live and develop feeling of mutual sympathy.

## **Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq:**

From returning to England in 1870, he initiated his project.

He started to publish a journal Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq. He wanted to promote his ideas among the muslim. Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq became the one of the pillar of Aligarh

movement. Those who contributed in Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq included Nawab waqar-ul-Malik, Nawab Mohsin-ul-Malik, Molvi Chiragh, and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Most of the articles were written by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.

Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq on its peculiar way was endeavoured to dispel the doubts about Islam created by western writers. It tried to make the Muslim conscious of social ~~welfare~~ misdeeds like splitting every where, backbitting and jealousy etc. This magazine could also claim <sup>credit</sup> for popularising words like 'nation', 'national interest', 'national sympathy' and at the same time creating the feeling of brotherhood in the Muslims. Sir Syed also drew the attention of Muslims toward the western education through this magazine.

## 5) MoA

### School.

On May 24, 1875, MoA School inaugurated. It was coincided with the birthday of Queen Victoria. In the beginning the school offered the course in Arabic, English, Persian, Mathematics, Geography, and History.

## 6) MoA College

Two year later after the inception of school, (college) it was upgraded into college. Lord Lytten laid the foundation <sup>stone</sup> of college in 1877.

## 7) Fatwa against Sir Syed

Sir Syed's effort of reformation and his writing on social and political religious matter <sup>had</sup> created controversy and his motive were suspected in the eyes of conservative section of society. Some theologian declaring Sir Syed as a atheist and apostate. Due to this opposition the number of student in school was 100 against 43 non-muslim.

The condition was also disappointed in college. In 1881, the number of student ~~is~~ was 29 only. But this opposition began to decrease ~~is~~ after the first decade and the institution produced leaders which later on spearhead the muslim struggle against british imperialism.

"With the passage of time, Moa college, Aligarh became the centre for whole muslim nation from where national feeling originated and spread throughout the subcontinent."

(Tufail Ahmad Manglori)

## Importance of the College:

The importance of college did not depend on number of students. Beside being pivot of socio-political movement it had certain features that distinct it from other institutions of the subcontinent. The student of Aligarh ~~is~~ made remarkable progress in games and sports.

The boarding and loading facilities in the college brought together youngmen from different part of the country and afforded them opportunities of widening their outlook on life. In 1920, college became university, that shows that Aligarh capable of training of all leaders in every walk of life.

Mr. Jinnah and Moduvi Abdul Haq describe the importance of Aligarh college and university in these words:-

Aligarh muslim university is the arsenal of muslim india.  
(Jinnah)

people say Sir Syed setup a college, nay, he made a nation.

(M. Haq)

**Conclusion:-**

Aligarh movement played an important role in the history of pakistan. This move

By this movement, muslims were educated. They were able to get modern education. This modern education arose political consciousness among muslim community which were essential for political struggle. From this platform Muslim League were created and this party led to creation of Pakistan. So we can say that No Aligarh movement - No independence - No Pakistan.