

Pak Affairs (SSS 2010)

Q) Aligarh and Deoband movements had great contrast in their views and mission and their leaders were at daggers drawn with each other. Discuss

The Aligarh and Deoband movements are viewed as the most influential educational movements in the history of the subcontinent. These movements spearheaded the Islamic renaissance in India and arose as the foundations of the Pakistance movement later on. Albeit, both Aligarh and Deoband movements tried to empower Indian Muslims through educational enlightenment, there is a stark difference between their views and mission. For instance, the Aligarh movement upheld a modernist ~~stance~~ and pro-British stance, while the Deoband movement was mainly orthodox and anti-British. Similarly, the Aligarh had a reformist plan, focused on ~~p~~ creating socio-economic opportunities for Muslims, whereas Deoband was fixated on the revivalism of Islamic spirit and principles. Nonetheless, ~~in spi~~ in spite of the ideological clashes, both movements worked for the shared objective of national awakening and integrity, and their contributions cannot be overlooked. The answer will explain how Aligarh and Deoband movements vary in their views and mission,

including their objectives, nature, instructional methods, agendas, political directives, and foreign policies.

Development of Educational Institutions in India

After the 1857 War of Independence, the Indian Muslims were a wretched lot. They were denied of their social, economic and political freedoms, and treated experienced patronizing attitudes due to their educational ineptitude. In addition, the Christian missionaries were a threat to Muslim beliefs. Thus, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan took upon the task of improving the socio-economic situation of Muslims. However, his endeavors were criticized by some orthodox sects as lacking religious zeal. Thus, Deoband arose as the reactionary movement against Aligarh, which worked towards reforming the Muslim community and safeguarding the Muslim culture from the impact of modernism and Westernisation.

Differences between the Aligarh and Deoband Movement

Aims and objectives

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan started the Aligarh movement as a reformist undertaking with the main objective of

reforming the existent socio-political standpoint of the oppressed ^{Indian} Muslims. He concentrated on the restoration of cordial relations between the Muslims and the British Raj, alongside convincing Muslims to embrace Western education in order to effectively compete with Hindus. On the other hand, Maulana Qasim Nanautavi's Deoband was a conservative movement focused on the revivalism of the Islamic spirit. To accomplish this, the foundation aimed at reducing religious degeneration and safeguarding the Islamic culture from westernisation.

Ideological Perspectives

The Aligarh movement was liberal and modernist, with its entire thrust on Western-style education. Sir Syed condemned blind traditionalism in the name of religion. Instead, he supported the re-interpretation of Muslim ideology and established a structure ~~of~~ for conciliation between modern science and Islam. Thus, the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College (MAO) became a centre of scientific and Oriental education in India. Conversely, the Deoband establishment strongly opposed Sir Syed's ideologies. It regarded modern education as the cause of un-Islamic attitude among the Muslims. Hence,

Deoband embraced an orthodox and conservative approach, following traditional Islamic learning and promoting Islamic Islamic values and practices.

Instructional Methods and Teaching Strategies

The MAO college adopted a rational approach towards instructional methodologies corresponding to contemporary educational requirements.

Extracurricular activities were also given importance along with English education and social sciences. For Instance, Sir Syed established the 'Siddons Union', a debating club modelled after the 'Cambridge Union Society'. It not only improved the critical thinking and public speaking skills of students, but also developed Muslim intelligence. Contrarily, the Deoband focused on ^{religious-based} theoretical education as the exclusive form of curriculum. Maulana Qasim presented 'Dars-e-Nizami' as the official syllabus, which was greatly inspired by the teachings of 'Madrassa-e-Rahimiya'. It focused on Quranic studies, Hadith, Tafseer, Ijtihad, Fiqh, Sart-o-Nahv, Shariah, Arabic and Urdu literature.

Dispositions of Agenda

Albeit, the Aligarh movement's aim was the educational enlightenment of Muslims, it began to increasingly tilt towards a worldly agenda after some time. § The pro-British stance of Sir Syed and his endeavors at reconciliation created socio-economic opportunities for Muslims. They were assigned respectable posts in the government sector, and took part in trade and commerce policies, which brought about economic prosperity for the Muslims. Conversely, the Deoband solely centered on its spiritual agenda ~~on its~~ and conservation of the Jihadi spirit against the British rulers. The revivalism of Islamic spirit undoubtedly protected the Muslims from falling into an abyss of religious degeneration. However, it ~~remained~~ was unable to give Muslims any economic assistance on a wider scale.

Political Directives

The Aligarh movement inculcated the policy of political aloofness and detachment from the Indian National Congress (INC).

Sir Syed believed that Muslims at the time lacked the capabilities for competitive political

participation, thus, they need to work on their intellectual strength before participating in politics. Conversely, the Deoband supported active political engagement of Muslims, believing politics to be the key factor in maintaining the 'Jihad spirit' against Britishers. The institution supported the INC's ^{development} formation and issued a fatwa against Britishers. Aligarh's organisations like the 'Indian Patriotic Association' and the 'MAO Defense Association'. The anti-Aligarh sentiments drove some Deoband veterans, like Kitayabullah Dehlawi, Abdul Halim Siddiqui, and A. B. Firangi, to form 'Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind', a nationalist political party, against the Pakistan cause.

Foreign policies

The Aligarh movement is eminent famous for its pro-British stance and cooperation strategy. 'Risala-e-Asbab-Bhagawat-e-Hind' and 'Loyal Mohammdens of India' ^{promoted} developed friendly relations between Muslims and the British Raj. Consequently, the Aligarh movement was put down by every political group in India. To delineate, the Uttar Pradesh government at that time gave the MAO a

monthly payment of ~~₹~~ ₹ 360. Likewise, Benares' Raja Shambhu donated ~~₹~~ ₹ 60,000, and the Nizam of Hyderabad contributed ₹ 5,00,000. ~~Covers~~ Conversely, ^{the} Deoband movement remained anti-British, as evident in its nationalist frameworks like 'Tehreek-e-Reshmi Rumal'. Consequently Therefore, ~~the~~ Deoband did not get ^{any} funds from the British government; it only received a trivial sum, that too from the Muslim lot.

Critical Analysis

Albeit, both the Aligarh and Deoband movements were the ~~the~~ reason ^{that} Indian Muslims progressed, they remained enemies of one another. The Deoband criticised Aligarh for strongly advocating modern education and blamed it for trampling traditional Islamic norms. In a letter to a friend of his and Sir Syed's, Maulana Qasim expressed, "No doubt, I greatly admire Syed Sahab's courage and concern for the Muslims; ~~however~~ however, upon hearing about his Fasid beliefs, I have deep complaints and sorrow for him." On the other, Aligarh ~~could~~ refused to accept Deoband's conservatism viewed Deoband's conservatism and dislike for change as an

obstacle to improvement and modernisation. In short, only if Aligarh and Deoband were not at daggers drawn with each other, their unity would force the collective progress of Indian Muslims.

Conclusion

In conclusion, both movements have been at the ~~forefront~~ forefront of ~~the~~ strengthening Indian Muslims. The Aligarh movement was more liberal and modernist and planned to bring social change in Muslim India without weakening Islamic allegiance. Conversely, Deoband movement was traditionalist and orthodox. It aimed to ^{maintain and} reinforce Islamic customs and principles, which were being undermined by the corrupted notions of Westernization. Both establishments shared contrasts in views of administrative strategies, political directives, foreign policies and so on. Nonetheless, they effectively accomplished their objective of Muslim liberation in British India. These institutions, even in current times, have carried on their educational legacies by advocating the development of Islamic idea and practice in the modern world.