

Q. Keeping in view the socio-political circumstances of subcontinent, discuss the role of shiikh Ahmed Sharindi who revived islamic ideology and established muslim identity in the sub-continent?

Role of Shiikh Ahmed Sharindi

→ Introduction:

Shiikh Ahmad Sirhindi is ranked among the greatest muslim saints who devoted their lives for the islamic value preservation. He is known as The Reformer of second Millenium. Shiikh Ahmed Sirhindi was against the Akbar's view. At that time, there was no difference between Ram and Rahim, pran and quran. Muslim's condition was delicate. In order to preserve islam, shiikh Ahmad Sirhandi brought social, political and religious reforms. He introduced the concept of Wahdat-ul-Naj. Sahud.

→ Political Reforms:

Shiikh Ahmed sharindi brought following political reforms:

1. Promoted two nation theory:

Shiekh Ahmed shairindi strongly supported two nation theory. According to him, muslims and hindus are two different nation. They have different religion, culture, tradition, so they cannot be treated as single entity.

2. Restored the lost identity of muslim:

As he believed that muslims and hindus are totally different.

At that time, Akbar removed the gap between muslim and hindus. Shiekh Ahmad shairindi formed the unbridgeable gap between muslim and hindus. So he restored the muslim identity, by providing Islam teaching. He was against the joint nationalism.

3. Re-imposed Jizya on non-muslims:

During Akbar reign, he uplifted the jizya on non-muslims. Shiekh Ahmad shairindi opposed this. He re-imposed jizya on non-muslim. This is the key factor in political reforms. As it is stated that:

"The letters of Mujadid-i-Alf-i-Thani covers a vast field ranging from technology and

metaphysics to politics and missionary activities."

Shiekh Abdur
Rashid

→ Social Reforms:

The following social reform were brought by shiekh Ahmad Shirndi:

1. Restored Islamic Rituals:

During Akbar's reign, muslims do not have authentic sources for islamic rituals. This was due to intermingling of muslim and hindu society. He introduced the basic concepts of islam. So the supremacy of islam was restored. He protected muslim society from evils.

2. Prohibited Inter-Religious marriages:

Shiekh Ahmed Shirndi prohibited the inter-religious marriages. Muslims should marry muslims. If a person wants to marry non-muslim, she/he must be converted into muslim. So, this also promoted islamic values.

→ Religious Reforms:

The following religious reforms were brought by Shiekh Ahmed Shirindi:

1. Encouraged Wahdat-ul-Shahud:

Akbar introduced the concept of wahdat-ul-wajud. Which means that no difference between creator and creature. But Shiekh Ahmad Shirindi introduced the concept of Wahdat-ul-Shahud. This means that Allah Almighty is our creator and he is superior. Muslim should worship Allah Almighty.

2. Denounced the Din-e-Elahi:

Akbar considered himself Din-e-Elahi which means that he is the superior. So everyone should bow down before him. Shiekh Ahmed Shirindi denied that. According to him, we should pray before Allah. Allah created us. We should bow down before him.

3. Letters to Scholars:

Shiekh Ahmed Shirindi wrote letters to muslim scholars. He want to bring muslim scholars on

same point, so they can bring reforms. He also preached by teaching his disciple. They spread his teaching in muslim society for islam revival.

4. Books:

Ahmed Shirandi wrote number of books to initiate this movement. His famous book is Ittiba-al-Nubuwwah. The crux of this book was need of islamic values. He also tried to justify the need of prophethood. He also preserved the original teachings of islam.

6. Ittiba-i-Sunnah:

Shiakh Ahmad Shirandi wants to reform society by Ittiba-i-Sunnah. This explains the sunnah of Holy prophet (PBUH). He worked day and night to restore the teaching of islam based on tawheed and sunnah.

→ Effects of Shiakh Ahmad's teaching:

Shiakh Ahmad's teachings proved fruitful. His efforts attained the shape of big movement which virtually changed the history.

1. Countering the Wahdat-ul-Wajud doctrine.

He successfully countered the Wahdat-ul-Wajud concept. He implemented the concept of Wahdat-ul-Shahud. This brings the change in society. People especially Muslims become familiar with the Islamic teaching.

2. Two-nation theory:

Shiakh Ahmed Shirndi successfully introduced the concept of two nation theory. Muslims and Hindus are two different nations by culture, tradition and religion.

→ Critical Analysis:

Akbar's activities led the Muslims towards destruction. His Wahdat-ul-Wajud concept was countered by Wahdat-ul-Shahud concept. Shiakh Ahmed Shirndi restored the glory of Islam. His initiative of supremacy was further followed by his sons and disciples.

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Conclusion:

Shiekh Ahmed Shirndi restored the glory of Islam. At the time of Akbar, muslims lost their identities. Shiekh - Ahmeel Shirandi purified the socio-political communities of india. Due to his efforts, further path was headed towards Pakistan.
