

Q: Evaluate the impacts of the services rendered by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan towards the regeneration of the Muslims. Was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Pro-British? Explain.

### Introduction:

After annihilation of Muslims in 1857, crisis of Muslim identity arose. Muslims paid the huge price of a loss of Muslim rulers. The Political, economic and social destruction of Muslims reached the Zenith. Under those circumstances, a man with high acumen, vision and reformist mindset stood against these odds. He was Sir Syed Ahmad Khan who born in Delhi. He started his career as civil servant. The revolt of 1857 proved to be a turning point in the life of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. He felt that only modern education along with religion education bridged a gap between Muslims and British. He wrote number of books, laid down foundation of schools, college and university. He also laid down the foundation of two nation theory. Aligarh University proved to be a forerunner of the establishment of All India Muslim League. All these efforts to uplift Muslims of subcontinent proved that he was not a Pro-British.



## Educational Services of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

He established first school at Muradabad in 1859. Muslims were facilitated in both Persian and English language. In 1860, he transferred to Ghazipur where another school was formed in 1863 which was milestone for Muslims. In 1864, he laid the foundation of Scientific Society. The main objective of this society was to translate English into Persian and Urdu. During his stay at Aligarh, he issued a weekly Gazette called Aligarh Institute Gazette. The Gazette imparted information on history, ancient and modern science of agriculture, natural and advanced mathematics. Formation of MAO college proved to be a cradle of knowledge for Muslims. In 1877, MAO college was inaugurated by Viceroy of India. Then, Aligarh University generated productive mindsets and leaders in the subcontinent.

### Impact of Educational Services.

Educational Services of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan ignited a ray of hope among Muslims in the subcontinent. The alumni of Aligarh University were providing their services to uplift Muslims from chaos. MAO college and Aligarh University proved to be productive institute in form of great leaders like Nawab Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Nawab Wajid-ul-Mulk and



molone khali - These leaders are fore-runners of the formation of All India Muslim League. Later on, these ideologies paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.  
Sir Syed's motto was educate, educate, educate (Groom).

### Political Services of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Sir Syed had perceived that if the confusion and mistrust between Hindus and British continued, Hindus would get advantage of it. To alleviate this confusion, he wrote a pamphlet entitled: Essay on the causes of Indian revolt. In it he proved that Muslims were not responsible for the revolt of 1857. In the loyal Muhammadans of India, he described the sincere services of the Muslims of India to the British Government. He also established a political platform for Muslims: All India Mohomedan Education Conference (AIMEC). He strictly prohibited Muslims from joining political forums until they get modern education of science and technology. Sir Syed advised the Muslims not to join Indian National Congress as it was altogether a Hindu political organisation.

### Impact of Political Services:

Before the Urdu-Hindi controversy, Sir Syed was of opinion that "Muslims



and Hindus are two beautiful eyes of a bride. But, Later on his opinion changed as he saw hostility of Hindus. He emphasized the separation of Muslims and Hindus. He laid the foundation of "Two nation theory". When the Muslims of South Asia realised that their future in a "democratic India" dominated by Hindu majority was not safe, they put forward their demand for a separate state. All political leaders played their active role in movements of freedom.

### Impact of Social Services of Sir Syed

He provided religious and social services to the Muslims of subcontinent. He wrote "Khutbat-e-Ahmadia" against the criticism of William Muir. His extraordinary work on "Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlag" and the purpose of this magazine was to motivate Muslims to acquire civilization to its perfection to neutralize the hatred and adopted a new way of life. In 1867, the Hindus began to oppose Urdu language. The Hindus demanded that Urdu should be replaced by Hindi in public offices. He opposed the demand of Hindus. The magazines written by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan played an important role in improving the morality of the Indian Muslims.



Dr Allama Iqbal said about Sirsyed Ahmad Khan:

"The real greatness of the man (Sirsyed) consist in the fact that he was the 1st Indian muslim who felt the need of a fresh orientation of Islam and worked for it."

"This great visionary and reformer Sirsyed Ahmad Khan, will always remain alive in our memory, inspiring the right Islamic thinking to make progress in this world and regain intellectual leadership that was the part of muslim heritage-

### Conclusion

In a nutshell, Sirsyed Ahmad Khan was a person who proved to be a dynamic force in educating the muslims of the subcontinent. In the form of the vibrant Aligarh movement, he stimulated the muslim's spirit of renaissance lost after the war of independence 1857, against British. The creation of Scientific Society and publication of the ethical magazine Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq, served as a new guiding light for the dormant muslims. Therefore, Sirsyed Ahmad Khan's services ignited a ray of freedom and hope in the eyes of muslims of subcontinent. All his services and their everlasting impact on muslims clearly proved that he was not a Pro-British.