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PAKISTAN AFFAIRS - 1st QUARTER

Question # 1:-

Evaluate the reformist movements like "Shaikh-Ahmad Sarhindi", "Shah Waliullah", and 'The Aligarh Movement' in shaping the ideology of Pakistan. How did these movements influence the identity of Muslims in the subcontinent?

Answer:

1) Introduction:

Reformist movements played an important role in shaping the ideology of Pakistan and to dignify the Muslims in the subcontinent. They helped people in their religious matters, educational difficulties and even in political matters.

(2) Historical background:

During the sixteenth century and seventeenth century mughal empire and their rule was at the peak. They lived a luxury lifestyle and to stay longer in power and enjoy those liberties, they added many things that were against the Islamic principles, like alcohol, gambling, marriage to hindu family etc. They bridge the gap between hindu and muslims and treat hindus in a respectful way more than muslims. Hence, all these reasons later became the causes for their downfall and muslims had to face a tough time by Britishers and hindus. For the betterment and prosperity of muslim nation different reformist movements emerged, who became a source

of guidance for muslims.

(3) Reformist movements

(3.1) Sheikh Ahmad Saabandi

Sheikh Ahmad Saabandi, also known as Mujaddid Alfani was born in 1564 in Sirhind. He got his education in islamic institutes, where he studied Quran, Hadith and Tafseer. He also got knowledge of philosophy. He is considered as the important character in history because of his work.

(3.1.1) Islamic teaching:

He gain knowledge of Islam and as a reformist, his aim was to abolish the misdeeds and misconsumption from the muslim ummah through his teachings. He delivered speeches, sermons and even wrote books and letters who helped muslims to differ

between the real and mixed
Islamic culture.

(3.1.2) A critique of Deen-e-Ilahi:

Akbar in his time, introduced
the concept of "Deen-e-Ilahi" in
which he considered hindus
and muslims as a same nation
and even their worship places
were combined. Sheikh Ahmad strongly
criticizes his this act and
emphasizes that muslims have a
separate identity and they can
never be same with hindus.

"To consider Ram and
Rehman together is to
be a stupidity. God can
never be one with
its creation"

(3.1.3) Islamic laws and advice to muslims:

He wanted the rulers
to follow the shariah laws

and to be just with their decisions. They should prohibit the un-islamic cultures, traditions and norms. Instead they should work for the betterment of the people. For muslims, he advised not to participate in hindu traditions and to remain aside from them. ^{otherwise,} This will damage their spiritual connection with god.

For his teachings and islamic deeds, he was jailed during the Jahangir's time but after two years, Jahangir was impressed by him and started taking advice from him in his court. Furthermore, he made his son, Shah Jahan, Sheikh Ahmed's disciple. In fact, he had a great impact on the people as well as on the leaders of their time.

(3.2) Shah Waliullah

Shah Waliullah was born in 1703 near Delhi in India. He got his education from medrasah where he got good knowledge of Islam through Quran and Hadith books. He also translated the Holy Quran in Persian. Later on, his sons translated the Quran into Urdu for the local Muslims of sub continent to understand the real meaning of Islam.

(3.2.1) Educational reforms:

Through his speeches, debates and writings he glorified the minds of people with the real sense of Islam. During his time, Muslims were divided into different sects and were causing harm to one another, however he also highlighted the importance of unity of

muslims through his teachings.

(3.2.2) Jihad movement:

Muslims at that time were suppressed by the different nations especially from the sikhs at in the sub-continent. He highlighted the importance of jihad among muslims to fight for their well being. He also wrote letters to the Ahmed Shah Abdali to fight for them against the attacks of mahotas. He inspired the jihad movement in which he killed more than 2000 sikhs but unfortunately due to the betrayal of his own companions he lost his life.

(3.2.3) Unification of muslims:

In eighteenth century, muslims were divided into different sects and groups and everyone

was fighting for their own reason. Shah Waliullah, strictly advised them not to be divided and to be united as one nation to fight for the religious cause and to stand against their suppression.

(3.3) Aligarh Movement

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder and the most influential person was born in 1817. His family had a great tie with both Britishers and the Mughals. He, himself served as a senior clerk in East India Company and then as a sub-judge. He was a rational person, who understood the main reasons behind Muslims' suffering after the war of 1857. To uphold the Muslims and their identity he introduced a number of reforms, especially

educational institutes.

(3.3.1) Educational aspect of Aligarh movement:

After 1857, Britishers considered Muslims as their sole enemy and took a number of steps to punish them. These steps include; banning of Islamic institutes, discharging them from higher services, their land was taken over and most importantly they convert the whole educational system in English. Muslims on the other hand, thought English as an evil language and show no interest in getting education. However, Sir Syed highlighted the importance of education and English, specially to make the Muslim people able to get good jobs and to bridge the gap of mistrust between British and Muslim people.

(3.3.2) Major achievements and results of educational reforms.

Luckily, Sir Syed was able to gather some loyal friends and companions, who assisted him in achieving his goal. The major educational institutes formed under the Aligarh movement are as following:

(1) In 1859, built Gulshan School in Muradabab.

(2) 1863, he set up Victoria School in Ghazipur.

(3) 1864, set up Scientific Society.

(4) 1867, Urdu Hindi controversy, he strongly supported Urdu language.

(5) 1870, formed committee striving for the educational progress of Muslims.

(6) 1875, started Muhammedan Anglo-Oriental School (M.A.O) on English pattern which was converted into college in 1877 and later on it was changed into university in 1920.

(3.3.3) Political and Social aspect of Aligarh movement:

Aligarh movement was a gamechanger for the muslims of sub-continent. It provided muslims, the true sense of western education to stand on their own and to compete with hindus. Most importantly, many scholars and key figures who later joined the Pakistan movement were belonged to Sir Syed school of thought. Hence, Sir Syed served the muslim at the time of need. As a result he earned the title "Prophet of Education".

2 → How these movements influence the identity of muslims in the subcontinent?

Muslims in subcontinental were living in a miserable condition, especially after the 'War

of Independence' 1857. These movements not only help them to become unite but also helped them to live their lives according to the way they wanted. People took guidance from the Quran and from the people who were the scholars and philosophers of that time. They do not only raise the sense of their religion but also helped them to stand against the brutal policies and acts of the British. Both, religion and the modern education helped the muslims to understand the world around them, and later on the reflections of these movements were seen in the form of Pakistan movement.

(4) Conclusion :

These movements played an important role from seventeenth

century till the independence of Pakistan. Under the influence of their educational reforms people gain sight of their rights and stand against the British and Hindus and as a result, after so many sacrifices they became successful in acquiring a separate homeland for Muslims where they can live according to Islamic principles.

Question # 2:-

Discuss how Pakistan's geography and natural resources have impacted its socio-economic development. Highlight the challenges faced by its agriculture, industry, and educational sector.

Answer:-

(1) Introduction

Pakistan is situated in South-

Asia, sharing its borders with India in the east, China in north east, Afghanistan in north west and west and Iran in the south-west. It is blessed with all four seasons and holds mountains, deserts, plains, green agrarian land and it is also linked with the Arabian Sea in the south.

It is rich in resources such as coal, gas, petroleum, copper and gold, and many other re-newable energy sources.

Its geography provides it a special status in the Asia. Both its geography and natural resources have a deep impact on its socio-economic development.

(2) Historical perspective

Pakistan has been gifted many natural resources from the nature. Since from its advent, it has been an important player in the region. Many central

Asian countries and even China relies on Pakistan due to its geographic importance. God has also blessed Pakistan with coal, ^{mines,} gold mines, silver, coal mines, salt mines and many other renowned resources which also contributes to its socio-economic development.

(3) Importance of Pakistan's geography

Pakistan holds significance in the world but specially in Asia. Pakistan is a gateway for many landlocked countries to connect them with the sea.

Moreover, the trade of these countries with other gulf countries is also held through Pakistan.

From the recent decade, China's BRI project is influenced by Pakistan's geography and China is investing billions of dollars for the development of infrastructure which could help him

with trading other countries. Namely, it took China to transport their material in European and Gulf states in 42^{hrs}. But with the help of CPEC it will take only 09-11 days to transport China's goods in the other market.

(4) Natural resources in Pakistan

Pakistan is rich in resources. From its soil till the mountains, all contributes in its resources. Pakistan holds almost 62% agricultural land, making it the 7th largest producer of wheat. It has the fourth largest copper mine in the world along with gold mines. Pakistan has the second largest salt mine in Khewra. It is also the fifth largest producer of coal. Furthermore the irrigation system in Pakistan holds its own significance. The canal water system is used

for about forty-nine percent agricultural purposes. Similarly, the hydel and solar energy sources fulfill the demands of the domestic and industrial energy consumption. Beside this, Pakistan is also producing a vast amount of cotton, which is used by the industrial sector specially textile mill. These industries exports around 66% and generates a good revenue for the country.

(5) Impact of geography and natural resources on socio-economic development:

(5.1) Agriculture:

Being an agricultural economy, the agriculture holds almost 44% of the GDP and is responsible for the earning of 38% people including farmers, traders and suppliers. The four season system helps that sector to grow the economy. Pakistani wheat, rice, some vegetables and fruits

are also exported to the other countries which makes this sector an important one. According to the latest report, Pakistan's agriculture production has been increased by nearly 2% annually.

(5.2) Industrial sector:

After agriculture, industries play an important role in the development. According to Times Magazine, Pakistan has nearly 104,000 small and large industries. These industries have employed over 40% people. Moreover, they are contributing nearly 50% in the GDP of Pakistan.

Major industries in Pakistan include textiles, sports and apparels. They export almost 60% of their production to the other countries. However, this sector has shown almost no rise in the production due to the economic, political and energy crises.

(5.3) Small businesses and labour

force:

Other small business includes local shops, retailers and transport services. About 8% of the total population is linked with these small businesses and they are earning their livelihood. Moreover, a number of labour force is also working in various fields such as construction projects and minings. People specially in Balochistan are linked with these tasks. These projects can be both governmental and private.

(5.4) I.T industry:

I.T is most booming industry in the world and it is also the most profitable industry for a country. But in Pakistan it is still under consideration. In the year 2022-2023, Pakistan got nearly 788 million USD

through its IT services.

(6) Challenges faced by Agriculture, industries and educational sector.

(6.1) Issues in agricultural sector:

Due to old and traditional methods of agriculture, the land is losing its fertility and even a large amount of water is wasted because of the old irrigation system including traditional tube wells. Furthermore, lack of technical advancements, awareness of farmers and using the improper seeds and pesticides also makes this sector affected.

Using hybrid seeds, digital machines for harvesting and the spray irrigation system can help farmers to overcome this issue. Moreover, introducing solar tubewells and renewable energy sources can also be

beneficial for the agricultural sector. These will not only increase the production of food but also, it will help the farmers to earn a small amount.

(6.2) Issues in Industrial sector:

First and foremost issue faced by this sector is the energy downfall. A number of industries have been shut down and some large industries have left the country. Moreover, the increase in tax rates has also affected the industrialists. With the downfall of industrial units, this sector has started facing serious problems in exports and to generate a good profit. According to DAWN, in recent years around 20,000 people who were working in industries had lost their jobs. This has put a great stress on the economy

as well as on the lives of people.

However, this issue can also be solved by introducing new reforms that could help this sector to grow. These reforms must include the power supply through solar and wind energy, reduction in taxes and to decrease the export duties.

(6.3) Issues in educational sector:

Educational sector in Pakistan is facing very critical problems. There are around 25.3 million out of school children. Out of them, 79% have never been to schools and 21% are drop out due to various economic and social issues. Similarly, the education level in Pakistan is not up-to-date. The education focuses more on traditional methods and topologies while showing little

interest in skill development.

According to the United Nation Development program (UNDP), the educational condition in Pakistan is alarming.

This problem can also be overcome through proper planning and through the policies of government. Education should be provided provided freely to the children specially upto 18 years. Different scholarships and stipends should be distributed so they can not be forced to skip their education. Most importantly, they should be taught modern education including computers sciences and other technical knowledge. This will help them to earn a good living after their education and this will also effect the overall condition

of the nation.

(7) Conclusion

Pakistan has been blessed ably by the God in the form of resources but their utilization has made the condition of the nation worst. If the geography and resources of Pakistan could be used wisely, no power can stop Pakistan to prosper and to change the socio-economic condition of the people.
