

Role of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in uplifting Muslims

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Introduction:

The man of towering and epoch-making personalities, who uplifted the Indian Muslims from the deep darkness and let them shine all over the sub-continent, that great personality was of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. He was endowed with qualities of head and heart, mind and pen.

He was not only a great Muslim but also a great leader, scholar, social, religious and political reformer of Muslim Society.

2. Early life:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was born on 17-Oct-1817 in a prestigious family. He ^{spent his} childhood in and out of Mughal Court. He studied Persian and Arabic language. He did not receive religious education. His personality was more akin to a government official than to Ulema. He was much inspired of Shah Waliullah (1703-1762). He read many of Shah Waliullah's books. He believed the future of Islam ^{was} connected with the fortunes of Muslims. He himself started to attract people through his writing and ideas. He not only wrote many books and Risalas but he also founded the base of many educational institutions (MAO school, Madrasah Gazi pur etc) and some societies (ie M.A.O conference, scientific society). He also inaugurated Aligarh movement not to degrade British and Indian Hindus but to promote educated, honest, public spirited leaders to make them able to work with British.

3. Challenges After war of 1857:-

The war of independence had serious and negative impact over Muslims. British blamed Muslims for revolution and

Then they started to enfeeble Muslims in such a way that they would never rise again. As Nehru said:

"The heavy hand of British fell more heavily upon Muslims than Hindus"

The greatness of personality shown when it observed that how that personality behaved in case of difficulty. Sir Syed was the man of firm belief. He never disappointed or never stepped back from such an emerging situation.

Khalid Bin Saeed in his book 'Formative Phase of Pakistan' wrote:

"Muslims were not only defeated in their outlook but also sulky"

4- Sir Syed's Strategy:

Sir Syed ~~retreated~~ realized that British came to India to rule over South Asia so it was impossible to defeat them with illiteracy. He focussed ^{more} on education and also told the Muslims to refrain from politics.

Biographer Graham wrote:

Sir Syed's motto was Educate, Educate and Educate"

5- Objectives of Strategy:

Sir Syed wanted to bring happy relations b/w British and Muslims. So his main objective of strategy of education was:

- ▲ To promote literate, well-educated society.
- ▲ To remove misunderstanding b/w Muslims and British.
- ▲ To get favour from British in comparison to Hindus.
- ▲ To protect the rights of Muslims.

6- Role of Sir Syed's in uplifting Muslims:

Sir Syed played very significant role in uplifting Muslims. He rendered many services so that the Muslims get out of the darkness of lives. After 1857 war, not only British but also Hindus brutally wretched the Muslims. Even Hindu demands jobs on merit basis at that time when Muslims were much away of education.

6.1 : Educational Role:

Sir Syed believed that if Muslims did not get modern education then they will lag behind the British and Hindus. At first, Sir Syed was not satisfied with foreign education then after sometimes he agreed the philosophy that Muslims will not progress if they get vernacular education.

He founded many educational institutions:-

- ▲ Madrassah Muradabad (1859)
- ▲ Madrassah Ghazi pur (1862)
- ▲ Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental School (1875)
- ▲ MAO college (1877)
- ▲ Muhammadan Educational Conference (1886)
- ▲ Scientific Society.

6.2: Political Role:

The most important service rendered by Sir Syed Ahmad was the reapproachment between Muslims and British. He never ^{wanted} British to blame Muslims for 'Revolution' as 'War of Independence 1857'. So he wrote "Risala Asbab-e-bagawat-e-Hind" in Urdu. and He got published 509 copies of this 'Cause of Indian Revolt' and gave it to the House of Commons and British Parliament.

He advised Muslims not to interfere into the political agitations. He opposed Central Muhammadin Association of Sir Syed Amir Ali.

He established political platform named 'Muhammadin Educational Conference' and 'Scientific Society' just to solve the issues of Muslims of India. He asked them not to take part in politics and if there arose any issue then consult with these platforms.

Moreover he was the 1st to support Two Nations Theory. It was that theory upon which Quaid and Iqbal built the foundation of separate homeland.

6.3: Social Role.

According to M.S. Jain:

'Sir Syed transformed Muslims into a nation'. Sir Syed was the saviour of Urdu. 'Urdu-Hindi Conflict' arose in 1867 but Sir Syed remained stagnant before this conflict. He created scientific

Society that translated more than 500 books of different subjects into Urdu

He wrote 'Risala Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlaj' to differentiate between culture and civilization. He was also against superstitions, conservatism, dogmatism.

6.4: Religious Role:

He wanted to opt the 'rationalism' in religious approach. He attempted to synthesize relation between science and religion. He believed that there was no contradiction between ~~contradictory~~ work of God and word of God ... (word of God means Quran and work of God means application of Quran in universe)

7- Impacts of Sir Syed's Services:

7.1: Educational impact:

~~Form~~ Formational of institutions served as a vehicle for the development of Muslims. Almost 68% of Muslim students get education in higher education that were the colleges & universities of Aligarh.

Moreover, there emerged an educated class that compete with Hindu's elite class in all walks of Indian life

7.2: Political Impact:

First and foremost benefit to Muslims was that the gulf between British and

Muslims was cleared. Khalid Bin Saeed opined:

"What point of time and when the British Muslim relation revived, but it was between 1870 - 1880 that British attitude changes towards Muslims"

Aligarh college became the nursery for many great leaders i.e. Mohsin-ul-Mulk, Muhammad Ali, Nawab Zaid-ul-Raqat Ali Khan, Abdul-Rab-Nishtar. --

Stanley Woolpert said:

"Aligarh cricket field and common rooms served as ground for Muslim League's foundation"

Quaid ~~said~~ ~~about~~ described Aligarh as:

"Artillery of Pakistan movement"

7.3: Social Impact:

Syed Ahmed's services played significant role in modernizing the society. He criticized dogmatism, conservatism, prejudicim and superstitionism. He wrote "Risala Tehzib-ul-Akmal" to groom up the society. He gave modern education to Muslim to make them socially modern. He transformed the social outlook of Muslim society.

7.4: Religious impact:

The rationalist approach of Sir Syed about religion made the restoration of Muslim society toward modernism along with religion to fulfil the modern requirement. His stress on ijtehad also had a great impact.

7.5 : Cultural impact:

Sir Syed wanted to develop and advance a society that was morally and culturally backward. He wrote some books where he stressed on the modernization of culture just to focus on progress and prosperity.

8- critical analysis:

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan rendered invaluable services in social, religious, cultural, political and educational departments. He was the first one who favoured Two Nation Theory. He was ~~the~~ that person who disagreed with the Indian proposal of appointment of job on merit basis just because of illiteracy of Muslims. He did much in educational department that no one can deny its importance. He was the only one that founded the basis of national homeland by providing two nations theory.

9- Conclusion:

The Muslim's socio-political movement of Aligarh was led by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. His role, in the uplifting of Muslims at the time of crisis, was much more significant than no other person had rendered such services in the history. He proved to be a glorious gem for

Muslims. He considered as "savior of Urdu". If he would not save the Urdu language it will be rare uptill now. But he performed many important task through his writings and also through his efforts.