

The Aligarh Movement was a pure educational venture but it had deep impacts on Indian politics. Discuss.

Introduction:

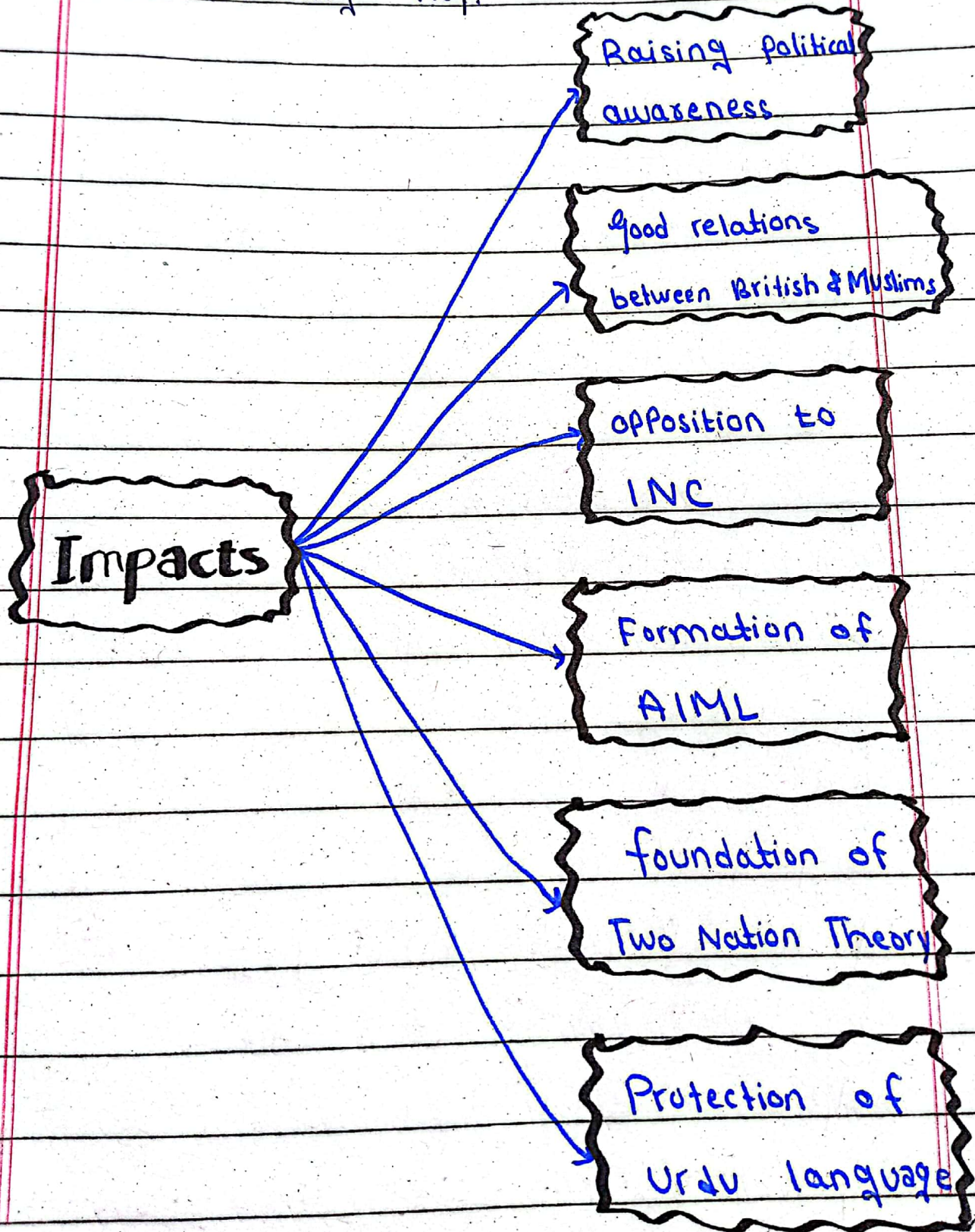
The Aligarh Movement was initiated by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan with the establishment of Scientific Society, Aligarh Institute Gazette, Tehzeeb ul Akhlay, M.A.O college and All India Muhammadan Educational Conference.

Although, this movement was pure educational venture but it had deep impacts on Indian politics. Including:

Raising political awareness, Opposition to Indian National Congress, Raising voice for the protection of Urdu language, formation of All India Muslim League (AIML), Laying foundation of Two Nation Theory. Ultimately, it helped the Indian Muslim to gain separate homeland for them.

Impact of Aligarh Movement on Indian politics:

The movement impacted the Indian politics in the following way:



i) Raising Political Awareness:

After the rebellion of 1857, the Muslims were subject of continuous torture by the British. Sir Syed felt immense pain on this miserable position of Muslims. He decided to change this plight of Muslims through western education. He established **Scientific Society** in 1864. The basic purpose of this society was to translate foreign books. Also find Asian authors who had written on the rise and fall of nations. Through these efforts Muslims not only realized the importance of modern education but also realized their strength as a nation. They became aware of their political rights and were learning how to secure these rights through the political platform not from mutiny.

ii) Maintaining good relations with Britishers:

The Hindus successfully assured the Britishers that only Muslims were behind the mutiny of 1857. Sir Syed realized the importance of good relations with Britishers and advised Muslims to remain loyal with them. He initiated **Aligarh Institute Gazette** in 1866 to inform Britishers about the miseries of Muslims. Also to educate Muslims about the British government system and their way of living. He also initiated **Tehzeb-ul-Akhlaq**, with the purpose of :

"Muslim should become a civilization to its best to neutralize the hatred of civilized nations towards them."

Source : Trek to Pakistan by Ahmad Saeed

These initiatives helped to achieved better relations with British government.

3) Opposition to Indian National Congress (INC):

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and other leaders of that time opposed the formation of INC. Sir Syed said that:

"Can the different race, creed, and culture living in India become a nation? Can their goals and interest be similar? In my opinion it is not possible. So if it is not possible then how it is national congress?"

Source: Trek to Pakistan by Ahmad Saeed.

Sir Syed also wrote columns in Aligarh Institute Gazette (AIG) and called for Muslims to hold meetings all over India to oppose the demands of INC that reduce the age of civil service examination from 21 to 19 and the elections of legislative councils.

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iv) Formation of All India Muslim League;

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan established All India Muhammadan Educational Conference (AIMEC) with the purpose of providing a platform to discuss issues faced by Muslims.

This platform further helped in the establishment of AIML.

"All India Muslim League used AIMEC as launching pad."

Source: Trek to Pakistan by Ahmad Saad

Using this platform Sir Syed opposed the demands of Congress that was the election of legislative council. He was not in favor of these elections because Hindus were four times than Muslims in population. This opposition ultimately result into the formation of AIML the only political representation of Muslims of subcontinent.

v) Protection of Urdu language:

Initially sir syed was the supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity but the Urdu-Hindi conflict in 1867 changed his perspective and he started thinking about the interests of the Muslims. Hindus convinced the Britishers to impose Hindi as official language in place of Urdu. Aligarh Institute Gazette (AIG) took the responsibility to launch counter offensive in protection of Urdu language and to reveal evil motives of Hindus behind this move. This conflict created a sense of Nationalism among Muslims and they tried their best to protect their language.

vi) Foundation of Two Nation Theory:

After the Urdu-Hindi conflict sir syed realized that these two

nations will never coexist peacefully. In his letter to his friend Shakespere he said that it is futile to think that these two nations will ever become convinced on a single spot. He laid the foundation of **Two-Nation Theory** and became a strong supporter of it. All these struggles enabled Muslims to achieve a separate homeland in the form of Pakistan for them.

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion it is clear that although the Aligarh Movement was a pure educational venture but it impacted Indian politics. It paved the way for the Muslims to represent them politically and achieve their separate homeland.