

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

Introduction:

The Aligarh Movement ultimate goal was to uplift the Muslims through focusing on education. However, the impacts of movement turned out to be multiple that were not only limited to education. One of the deep impact of movement was on Indian politics.

Through Aligarh Movement Muslims got certain opportunities and fulfillment of demands that include the participation and the reforms in the legislative council, the opposition towards Indian National Congress, advocacy of Two Nations Theory, along with multiple others. It can be claimed without any doubt

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doubt that despite being an educational movement Aligarh had a longlasting impact on Indian politics.

Aligarh Movement - Educational Ventures:

The Aligarh Movement prime focus was on the educational aspects of India and uplifting the Muslims. For carrying out this task, multiple educational institutions were made including the most notable Mohammadan Anglo Oriental School in 1875. Not only this but the movement also provided the platform for making different committees and council.

The scientific society was made under this movement. Moreover, Muhammadan Educational Committee was made that played a significant role not only in uplifting the

educational standards but shaping the political aspects. Most notable contribution of the Aligarh movement was undoubtedly the literary services that include the publication of various magazines.

Impacts of Aligarh Movement on the Politics of India

Muhammadan Educational Committee
First Political Setup of Muslims

Opposition of Indian National Congress

Promotion of Muslim Nationalism

Impacts of Aligarh Movement on Politics of India

Aligarh - An Arsenal of Pakistan Movement

Graduates of Aligarh - Torch Bearers of Pakistan Movement

Aloofness of Muslims from Politics

Advocacy of Two Nation Theory

Inclusion of Indians in Legislative Council

Encroachment of Muslims and Britishers

There are multiple impacts of Aligarh Movement on the Indian politics. Below are the most important ones.

(1) Aloofness of Muslims from Politics

K. K. Aziz in his book "Making of Pakistan" explained that Aligarh Movement was based upon trinity of ideas. Among them was the aloofness from politics. The movement laid emphasis as initially Muslims had no political arrangement of their own so participating in politics was not beneficial for them at that time.

(2) Opposition of Indian National Congress:

Through the Aligarh Movement the Indian National Congress was opposed. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan even called the name of party "Misnamed" as India was not a single nation. So, there could not be any unified party for both of the nations (Hindus and Muslims).

(3) Advocacy of Two Nations Theory:

Initially Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was staunch supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity. However certain events jolted him that he had to change his former views that Hindus and Muslims are two eyes of a beautiful bride.

"I am now convinced that both of these nations will not participate in anything together from their heart" — Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

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This shows that he advocates that both the nations are separate. This advocacy of Two Nations Theory later provided a platform for creation of Pakistan.

(4) Inclusion of Indians in Legislative Council:

Indians were admitted into the legislative council in 1862. This achievement also falls under the ambit of Aligarh Movement. The literary services that include "Reasons of Indian mutiny" explained that Indians were aloof from any law-making process. This alienation led towards the mutiny against the Britishers. Hence, the inclusion into legislative council was another significant political impact.

(5) Encroachment of Muslim and Britishers:

Aligarh Movement provided a platform to bridge the gap present between Muslims and Britishers. By providing the Muslims western and modern education, they were able to demand their rights from the British in much channelized way. Through the magazines (Loyal Muhammadans of India) the gap between both was tried to be minimized.

(6) - Promotion of Muslim Nationalism:

Aligarh Movement played a pivotal role in shaping of Muslim Nationalism. Muslim learnt that they are a distinctive and separate nation. This realization played one of the most important role in the creation of the separate homeland.

(7) Aligarh- An Arsenal of Pakistan Movement:

Aligarh was called as "An Arsenal of Pakistan Movement" by the founding father Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The reason for this is Aligarh provided a demand, platform to demand, and a leadership that includes the educated graduates of Aligarh.

(8) Muhammadan Educational Committee First Political Setup of Muslims:

The Muhammadan Educational Conference and Committee can be mentioned as the precursors of the All India Muslim League. It provided the platform for the Muslims to interact. This helped in shaping the future plan of action.

(9) Graduates of Aligarh-Torchbearers of Pakistan Movement:

The graduates of the Aligarh University had later become torchbearers of the Pakistan Movement. They were enlightened enough to get their rights from the British. The Aligarh became a center for the political consciousness. It was famously said

"If you want to address the people of Aligarh then go to nearest mosque but if you want to address the people of India then go to Aligarh University?"

add more arguments.

Conclusion:

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments.

Without any doubt it can be claimed that what really started as an educational movement had impacts beyond the domain. Aligarh Movement had played a pivotal role in shaping the future course of Indian politics and the road towards the independence of Pakistan.