

Answer the following questions.

Question#1

Sir Syed was an ardent reformer who wanted to reconcile modern scientific thought with religion and was anxious to push new education. Explain

Answer 1

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a prominent reformer whose vision was rooted in reconciling modern scientific thought with Islamic principles and promoting education as a means of empowering the Muslim community. His speeches and writings are rich with expressions of his philosophy.

Reconciliation of modern scientific thought with religion:

Rational interpretation of the Quran
relation with science:

Sir Syed emphasized that

Islam inherently supports scientific inquiry and rational thinking. Through his writings, particularly with his exegesis of the Quran (Tafseer-ul-Quran), he argued that the Quran's teachings were consistent with modern science when interpreted correctly. He said:

Truth does not change whether it is in the Quran or in the book of nature, it is the same.

Establishment of scientific society of Aligarh in 1864:

It is founded to promote scientific knowledge among Muslims. It worked as to translate published western scientific literature into Urdu, which enabled Muslims to access contemporary scientific developments.

Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq, he launched this journal to spread ideas of rationalism, modernity and social reforms.

Darwinian theory and Sir Syed Ahmed Khan: Although controversial

Sir Syed engaged with Charles Darwin's evolutionary theory. He suggested that it did not conflict with Islamic teachings, thus fostering a progressive dialogue on science and religion. Once he said

"It is the duty of every Muslim to acquire knowledge and reflect upon the universe."

Efforts of Sir Syed in promotion of modern education:-

Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental Collegeⁱⁿ 1857

He established this college in Aligarh. It aimed to combine traditional Islamic values with western education.

The college modeled on Cambridge University, adopted English as the medium of instruction and prioritized teaching science, mathematics and modern subjects alongside Islamic studies.

Sir Syed emphasis on English education:-

(Dominizing) Recognising the dominance of British colonial rule, he stressed learning English and western sciences to

to help muslims access opportunities in administration, law, business thereby improving their socio-economic status. He was very devoted towards education. once he said:

"The first requisite for the progress of a nation is the education of its people."

Efforts of Sir Syed in Bridging the muslim-British divide:-

After the 1857 war of independence, Sir Syed recognised the distance between muslims and the British government. He urged muslims to adopt a pragmatic approach by cooperating with the British and focusing on self-improvement through education. According to him muslims should learn to rise through education despite of blaming them.

"In order to live ^{with} dignity, a nation must respect knowledge and power."

He discouraged muslims to joining early nationalist movements.

Emphasis on social and cultural reforms:-

Sir Syed believed that reforming social customs was essential for progress. He criticized superstitions and rigid traditionalism that hindered intellectual growth.

He said:

“If you want to conquer the world, conquer ignorance first”

He encouraged Muslims to engage with modern ideas while preserving their cultural dignity, urging them to adopt a progressive outlook in their personal and communal lives.

Sir Syed's legacy and inspiration:

Sir Syed's saying and his initiatives generations of Muslims in the sub-continent to embrace modern education and rational thinking. His Aligarh Movement laid the foundation for intellectual awakening; ultimately influencing

the emergence of political movements like the All-India Muslim League. According to him "nations are not built by swords but by pens and books."

Conclusion:

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's vision of reconciling with modern scientific thought (that) and his tireless efforts to promote education were transformative for Indian Muslims. His saying reflect his belief in knowledge, rationality and progress as the keys to success and empowerment. By combining faith with reason and tradition with modernity, Sir Syed laid (growth) groundwork for the intellectual and socio-political revival of the muslim community in the Indian subcontinent.