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Ram Mohun's Tools of Rationality: Education and Press

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Indian society found itself smeared in abuses and corruption in pre- eighteenth century period. These practices became more glaring during the domination of Muslim regime in India. Finding no way out, these state of affairs perpetuated for many centuries. This called a man with a vision to pull out India from prevailing state. Ram Mohun Roy tried to check this deplorable condition by intellectually using the tools of Education and Press. He made a passionate appeal to the British government to use western education in the curriculum of Schools and Colleges. Further he made everlasting impression by propagating his ideas fearlessly through the means of impartial Press. The whole idea was to revolutionize the minds of the people for a better India.

Rationale for it :

He believed education to be an effective tool for social transformation. He declared that perpetuation of the old system of education in India would only perpetuate superstition and authority.¹ With this end in view he tirelessly made efforts for the promotion of modern education in India, though being a great Sanskrit and Persian scholar.²

He considered that :

1. Only the western education could help to remove the darkness of ignorance and help in the progress of society. As the society was heaped in the practices of superstition and all sorts of abuses, western education was the only resort which could rationalize the minds of Indians.
2. The English Education alone could enable the Indians to take part in the administration of the country and public activities for the benefit of the people.

His Efforts :

1. Founding of Hindu College: He, with the assistance of his friend David Hare founded Hindu College in 1816 for imparting education in the Science and Literature of Europe.³ The College was opened in 1817.
2. He started an English School, known as Anglo-Hindu School where Western Science, Philosophy, and Literature were taught. From 1839, the school was renamed the Indian Academy led by Purna Chandra Mittra.⁴