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A Critical Analysis of Regeneration of the Society: Raja Rammohan Roy's Approach and its Effects

Abstract

When the British started their rule in Bengal, the society was heaped under ignorance. All the higher education was confined to study of classical Sanskrit, Arabic, and Persian. The traditions had given birth to number of vices and abuses. Raja Rammohan Roy heralded a new position for the society based on the introduction of education on the lines of West. This stirred the people and roused them from the slumber of ages. A critical view on past and new aspirations for the future marked this awakening. Reason and judgment took the place of faith and belief. Since modern education was introduced in India to meet the needs of Britain and to supply the English knowing personnel to the British apparatus, mass education had been neglected throughout. Its progress had been seriously restricted for the Indians. The approach, Roy tried to adopt, was however criticized by Nationalists as portraying the British as civilizers of India and glorifying them.

Keywords: Modern, Democracy, Liberty, Regeneration, Progressive, Masses, Ignorance

Introduction

In the Pre-British period, the people of India were heaped under all sorts of evils of superstitions and abuses. The major chunk of population belonged to Hindu community which was a caste-stratified society. As the lot of masses was deplorable, society needed a man with a firm conviction capable to remove all darkness hovering over it. The Modern India saw in Rammohan Roy all such attributes. He saw the vision of New India.

As the people in India were ignorant and unaware and therefore the only recourse left to undo this was Education. The introduction of liberal education on modern lines was one of the main factors that caused the Indian awakening. Roy's emphasis was on liberal education of western type. Further this awakening required the acceleration from rational thoughts presented by Press free from any restrictions. This approach was to go a long way in rousing the masses from slumber, rapid transformation, and regeneration of the society.

Aim of the Study

The Research paper aims at drawing upon the factors that led to the decadence of the society and the solution thereof. The solution however was fraught with numerous pitfalls. The paper discusses at length the merits of these solutions as also the challenges it offered in the colonial regime. There have been efforts to utilize the state of society to suit the vested interest. The present paper is a humble attempt to give an insight of this. It will be an attempt to reflect the state of affairs of the society which forced it to entrench in status quo.

Research Methodology

The proposed study draws heavily from both primary and secondary sources. For the purpose of analyzing the data critical method has been employed. The study was done on the basis of synthesis of the data. The methodology encapsulates those aspects which require chronological analysis of the events. The information so collected of the secondary source was further tested and verified with the contemporary and original writings.

Review of Literature

V.D. Mahajan in Modern Indian History, S. Chand Publication, New Delhi, 1993 gives the glimpses of various reform movements that were undertaken in the country. The work mentions the efforts of these



Sanjay Barolia

Assistant Professor,
Deptt. of History,
Dr. Harisingh Gour Central
University,
Sagar, M.P.