

Rammohan Roy whose contributions are many: Education and Social Reformer, A Comprehensive Discussion

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ABSTRACT

When the 18th century's green revolution and the social life of the medieval Bengal became faded, the father of the nation, Rammohan Roy, like Manishi, came down to reform the society. He searched for the source of light from the dark condition of Bengali in the form of Alokavartika.

INTRODUCTION

There is a saying in society that modernity always tramples antiquity under its feet. At least this is what happened with the Indian education system. The education system of ancient India was respected in the courts of the world since ancient times, but due to the inexorable rules of time, the middle ages, and the arrival of the Mughals made the Indian education system somewhat inactive. The efforts of the Christian missionaries in the British Raj in the subjugated India gave some impetus to the atmosphere of education. Along with this, some progress is made in the society. But still the people of India and the people living in that society were intoxicated with superstition, social conservatism, oppression of people based on caste, restrictions on women's freedom, sati-immolation, abandonment of children in the Ganga, etc. Society went into decline. A few luminaries showed the direction of light from the dark source of the society, under their leadership the society became somewhat reform free. Rammohan Roy was such a rational and modern-minded man that his contribution to the social and educational reforms of India and Bengal will never be forgotten.

Rammohan's role in sikhkha and social reform can never be denied. Protesting against the bigotry and superstitions of Hinduism caused him to fall out with his father. After that, leaving his home, he wandered in different places and engaged himself in the work of social reform. Ram Mohan has many contributions in both education and social reform. The following topics are discussed –

Rammohan Roy's Contribution to Education:

Along with religious, social and political reforms, Rammohan focused on reforming the education of the people of India. As social degradation was taking place, educational reforms became very necessary. Educating the subjugated and superstitious Indians in modern education was very necessary, so he took a positive role as a pioneer of renaissance. Rammohan's educational reforms are discussed below:-

•Improvement and spread of native education, language, culture:

Rammohan was a possessor of western thinking, so he understood how much western education was needed by uneducated Indians. Rammohan played a role in improving the country's education and culture. He brought Indian literature, language, and traditions to the world. He is still remembered as the first to bring Indian education and culture to England.

•Modern Approach in Education:

Rammohan's educational thought and thought is very acceptable with the modern era because of his reformative ideas. He realized how much a scientific approach was needed in the Indian education system. Rammohan was possessed of Agad knowledge, so he mastered languages like Sanskrit, Bengali, Arabic, Persian, etc. He believed that scientific thinking and

rational education could lead the Indian society in a new direction. Ram Mohan was the first to try to combine indigenous education with foreign education.

•Practice and development of English language:

In the modernization of the education system, Rammohan Roy said to emphasize on the practice and practice of English language. Because he understood that English education practice is very important for the development of the education system of traditional India. Rammohan realized that no country and nation can progress without science education, so learning English along with Western knowledge is essential. In 1823 Lord Amhast sought help in improving Western education. In 1822 he founded the 'Anglo Hindu School'. Western literature, science, philosophy etc. were taught here. Besides, Rammohan helped a lot in setting up Srirampur Mission, Scots Church Mission, etc. during that time.

•Development of Bengali Literature:

Rammohan was the father of modern Bengali prose literature. Ram Mohan's contribution to making Sanskrit influenced Bengali literature understandable to all was forever remembered. Between 1815 and 1830 he wrote more than 30 books. These can be divided into several categories: -

Controversial essays –

- 'Bhattacharyer sohit Bichar(1817)
- 'Utsobananda Bidyabagisher sohit Bichar(1818)
- 'Goswami Sohit Bichar(1818)
- 'Kobitakarer Sohit Bichar(1820)

Translation of scriptures –

- 'Bedanto Grontho(1815)
- 'Bedanto Sar(1815)
- 'Bedanto Chondrika(1815)
- 'Kenoposishod(1816)

Essays on co-death –

- 'Sohomoron Bisoyok probortok Nibortok Sombad(1829)
- 'Kayester sohit Middyopan Bisoyok Bichar

Basic essays

- 'Bengali Grammar in The English Language '
- 'Gouriyo byakaron'

Ram Mohan took a positive role in the development of education through newspapers and magazines. Two newspapers 'Sambad Kaumudi' and 'Bengal Herald' played a special role in this regard. Besides, Brahmo Samaj took a positive role for women to get equal right to education

Rammohan Roy's contribution to social reform The social system of India

At that time was steeped in superstition and blind faith. Because Rammohan Roy protested about sati-immolation, child abandonment in Ganga etc.

•Banning of Sati Immolation:

The biggest protest among Rammohan Roy's social reform works was to stop the cruel and inhumane practice of sati-immolation prevalent in the Hindu society at that time. After the death of the old husband, the young wife had to go to euthanasia, to die in the burning pyre. In 1829, Rammohan Roy and Benting put an end to the practice of sati-immolation. The abolition of the practice of sati immolation made Ram Mohan famous as a social reformer.

•Protection of women's rights:

Women did not have any rights in the society at that time, Rammohan Roy understood the issues very closely. In order to protect the rights of women, he engaged women in education, especially in society to give due respect to women and to give women rights in property. Rammohan Roy has been trying since long so that women are not deprived of anything in the society. Besides, he has protested many times to stop child marriage, polygamy. These were subsequently closed by Vidyasagar.

•**Dharma Sanskar:**

Another contribution of social reformer Rammohan was Dharma Sanskar. He protested against all the superstitions of Hinduism. Rammohan strongly criticized idolatry and idol worship. To protest against the superstitions of Hinduism, he formed a new society, which he named the Brahmo Samaj. He believed that in order to reform society, religion must first be reformed.

•**Opposition to superstitions and bad reforms:**

Rammohan protested against the superstitions and bad reforms prevalent in the society at that time. In particular, abandoning the child in the Ganga Sea was a horrible custom in the society at that time, conservative and superstitious people used to do it. Ram Mohan took up arms against this religion.

•**Opposition to caste system:**

The system of caste system took a severe form in the society at that time. In the society, high caste and low caste, this gradual division of people was created. The lower class people had no right to all the happiness and comforts of the society. They had to be always bribed, deprived and neglected. Ram Mohan Roy opposed this inhuman system of caste discrimination in the society.

In the dark days of the 19th century, Ram Mohan's reforming activities are to be remembered with reverence. Because Rammohan took a very positive role towards social reform as well as educational reform like enlightening the society. Rammohan was saying that Indians have learned to keep pace with western education. Rabindranath therefore called him 'Bharat Pathik'.

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