

Lecture-23



Socio Religious reform Movements

The process of reawakening, sometimes, but not always follow the intended as the 'Renaissance', did not always follow the intended line and gave rise to some undesirable by-products as well, which have become as much a part daily existence in the whole of the Indian subcontinent as have the fruits of these reform movements.

Although, the majority of reformation associated with religious beliefs and therefore most of the movement of the 19th century were socio-religious character. Here, we are giving a complete overview on the Socio-Religious Reform Movements and Reformers in India that will enhance the knowledge of readers to understand, how Indian Society transformed after reform movements.

1. Raja Rammohan Roy (1772-1833)

He was the founder of **Atmiya Sabha** in Calcutta in 1815 to propagate monotheism and reform in the Hindu society. In 1828, **Atmiya Sabha** was named **Brahmo Samaj**. It believed in one universal God and prayer, meditation, reading from Upanishads was used as a medium to worship God. There was no place for temple, rituals, sacrifices, priest, etc. in the Samaj. It believed in progressive social practices. He launched a movement for the abolition of sitting through his journal **Sambad Kourmudi** (1819).

2. Debendranath Tagore

He founded **Tattvabodhini Sabha** (1839) and also published **Tattvabodhini Patrika**. **Tattvabodhini Sabha** amalgamated with the **Brahmo Samaj** in 1859. He also compiled selected passage from the Upanishads, which known as **Brahma Dharma**.

3. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

He introduced the study of Western thought in the Sanskrit College and opened its gates to non-Brahmin students. His greatest contribution lay in the field of female emancipation. Widow re-marriage was the specific social issue he devoted his entire life to.

4. DadobaPandurang

He founded **ParamhansaSabha** in 1840, was the first reform organisation of the 19th century in Maharashtra. Its main objective was to demolish all caste distinctions.

5. MahadevGobindRanade

He founded **PrarthanaSamaj** along with **Dr. AtmaramPandurang**. Two other social reformers who work with Ranade were Vishnu Shastri and DK Karue. Karue launched the Widow Remarriage Movement. PrarthanaSamaj did not reject the Vedas or Upanishads. However, it paid more emphasis on Bhakti (devotion).

6. K Sridharalu Naidu

He founded Veda Samaj in Madras, under the guidance of **Keshab Chandra Sen** in 1864. It changed into BrahmaSamaj of Southern India in 1871. It also abstains from patronising dancing girls, child marriage and polygamy.

7. Swami DayanandSaraswati

He started the **Suddhi Movement** to bring back the Hindu converted to other religions and played some role in the growth of communalism in the 20th century. It played a progressive role in the field of national awakening by attacking religious superstitions, polytheism and the supremacy of Brahmins.

He condemns idolatry, polytheism, Brahmin sponsored religious rites and superstitious practices. He advocated social equality improvement in the status of women and denounced untouchability, caste rigidities and encouraged rationality. He disregarded authority of later Hindu scriptures like Puranas.

He published his views in his famous work **Satyartha Prakash** (the true expositions in Hindi). He also wrote **Veda-BhasyaBhumika** (partly in Hindi and partly in Sanskrit) and **Veda-Bhashya** (in Sanskrit). He accepted the doctrine of karma, but rejected the **theory of Niyati** (fatalism). He was the first man to advocate the **concept of Swaraj**.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the following is not correctly matched?

- A. BrahmaSamaj - Reformist Movements
- B. PrarthanaSamaj - Reformist Movements
- C. Aligarh Movement - Reformist Movements
- D. Arya Samaj - Reformist Movements

Ans: D

2. Who among the following established the TattvabodhiniSabha in 1839 at Calcutta (Now Kolkata)?

- A. Keshab Chandra Sen
- B. DebendraNath Tagore
- C. Rammohan Roy
- D. SivanathaSasri

Ans: B

3. Which of the following is associated with the Young Bengal Movement?

- A. Derozians
- B. MitraBandhu
- C. Native marriage Act
- D. Bethune School

Ans: A

4. Who among the following was popularly known as 'Lokahitawadi'?

- A. JyotibaPhule

B. Pt. Iswar Chandra Vidhyasagar

C. GopalHariDeshmukh

D. MahadevGovindRanade

Ans: C

5. Who among the following establishes the Mukti Mission in Pune?

A. PanditaRamabai

B. Swami DayanandSaraswati

C. SavitribaiPhule

D. JyotibaPhule

Ans: A