

VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

MIDNAPORE . WEST BENGAL . PIN - 721102

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN STUDIES

M.Phil . SEMESTER - II

DR. SHAMITA SARKAR

PAPER – V [WOMEN IN INDIAN HISTORY]

**PPT PRESENTATION
ON
GROWTH OF SOCIAL REFORM
MOVEMENTS IN COLONIAL INDIA**

PAPER – V . UNIT - III

DR. SHAMITA SARKAR

Religious and Social Reform Movements

- Social Evils in India
 - Discrimination against women such as Sati, Purdah system, Ban on Widow Remarriage
 - Attempts to kill female Infants
 - Idolatry and Polytheism
 - Untouchability
- Western Impact
 - British Culture was superior to Indian Culture due to spirit of Scientific enquiry and Reform
 - Introduced Rationalism, Humanism and progressive Ideas
 - Impact on Indians
 - English Educated Indians started blindly aping western Culture
 - Reformists – Synthesis of Indian and Western Culture
 - Revivalists – Against western Culture and believed in superiority of India's past Culture and called for its revival

Fight for Betterment of Women

- Abolition of Sati (1829)
- Widow Remarriage Act (1856)
- Ban on Female infanticide through 1795 and 1804 regulations
- Regulation to compulsorily register births in 1870
- Ban on Child Marriage
 - Native Marriage Act (1872)
 - Forbid the marriage of girls below the age of 14
 - Was applicable only to Inter Caste Marriages
 - Age of Consent Act (1891)
 - Efforts of B M Malabari
 - Prohibited marriage of girls below the age of 12
 - Sharda Act (1930)
 - Marriageable age for girls increased to 14 and for boys to 18
- Vishnu Shastra Pandit Founded Widow Remarriage Association
- Karsondas Mulji Started Satya Prakash in Gujarati to promote Widow Remarriage
- D.K Karve
 - Opened Widow's Home in Poona
 - Married a Widow and was secretary of Widow Remarriage Association
 - Started Indian Women's University at Bombay
- Veersalingam Pantalu
 - " Ishwarchandra VidyaSagar of South"
 - Founder of Madras Hindu Association
 - Advocated Widow Remarriage in Madras

Brahmo Samaj (1828)

- Reform Movement Initiated by Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- Main Agenda:
 - Preached Monotheism
 - Campaign against Idolatry, Polytheism, meaningless rituals and customs
 - Against Sati
 - Criticized Caste System
 - Campaign against Polygamy, Degraded state of widows
 - Demanded right of inheritance for women
 - Challenged the authority of Vedas
 - Belief in principles of Rationalism
- Contribution of Raja Ram Mohan Roy
 - *Gift to Monotheists*
 - Translated vedas and Upanishads to prove that Sacred Hindu texts support Monotheism
 - *Precepts of Jesus*
 - Newspaper : *Mirat-ul- Akbar*
 - Believed that Vedanta is based on reason and if reason demands, departure from vedas is justified
 - In 1825, he set up Vedanta College where Indian and Western subjects were taught
 - In 1817, he helped David Hare to set up Hindu College

Continued...

- Debendranath Tagore
 - Joined Brahma Samaj in 1842
 - Earlier associated with Tatvabodhini Sabha
- Keshub Chandra Sen
 - Joined Braho samaj in 1858
 - Differences of Opinion with Debendranath tagore which led to split in Brahmo Samaj
 - Founded Brahmo samaj of India
 - Brahmo Samaj under Debendranath Tagore came to be known as Adi Brahmo Samaj
- Further split in Brahmo Samaj of India in 1878
- Ananda Mohan Bose Bose and Shivnath Shastri founded sadharan Brahmo Samaj

Other important Movements

- Ramakrishna Movement (1897)
 - Founded by Vivekanand based on teachings of Ramakrishna Pramhansa, a priest at Dakshineswar temple near Calcutta
 - Agenda :
 - Reform of Indian Society
 - Doctrine of Service of Mankind
 - Recognizes the utility and value of image worship
 - Believed in Fundamental oneness of all religions
- Arya Samaj (1875)
 - Revivalist Movement started by Swami Dayanand Saraswati
 - Agenda :
 - Casteless and Classless Society
 - United India
 - India free from Foreign rule
 - Aryan religion common to all people
 - " Back to Vedas" (Search for the answers to reform the Indian society in the Vedas)
 - Discarded scriptures after vedas since they perpetuated social evils such as Idolotary, polytheism, superstitions etc
 - Dayanand Saraswati
 - Received Eduaction on Vedanta from a blind teacher, Swami Virajananda in Mathura
 - Published *Satya Prakash*
 - Organised *Gaurakshini Sabhas* and *Shuddhi Movement*

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- Aligarh Movement
 - Muslim reform movement Started by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan
 - Harmonize teachings of Islam with western Education
 - Opened Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College at Aligarh
 - Agenda:
 - Promotion of Western Education among Indian Muslims
 - Put an end to Social evils in the Muslim Community
 - Called upon the Muslims to be pro-government to win favors
 - Newspaper : Tahdid-ul-Akhlaq
- Deoband Movement
 - Muslim revival movement started by Mohd Qasim Nanotavi and Rashid Ahmed Gangohi
 - Issued a fatwa against Aligarh Movement for adoption of western Education
- Theosophical Society
 - Started by Madame Blavatsky and Colonel Olcott in US to study Indian vedas and Culture
 - In India, it was headed by Annie Besant

Continued...

- Parsi Reform Movements
 - Rahnumai Mazdayasnam Sabha (Religious Reform Association)
 - Naoroji Furdonji, Dada Bhai Naoroji, SS Bengalee
 - Newspaper : Rast Goftar
- Satyashodak Samaj
 - Started by Jyotiba Phule
 - Published Sarvajanik Satyadharma and Gulamgin
 - Organised the depressed classes against Brahmanical Domination