



Great Struggle of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to Uplifting the Muslims in the field of Education after 1857 Revolt

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Abstract- Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, the founder of Aligarh Movement, put all his efforts on the Indian Muslims to get education. He was the only educationist who seen the pictorial view of Indian Muslims after the First War of Independence (1857) when the British empire took over the reins of the entire India. Due to his visionary capability, he diverted the Indian Muslims towards the modern English medium which came with Britain to understand the psychology of White men, and to acquire knowledge about science. No doubt, he was the person who played a bridge role between the Indian Muslims & Britishers. Sir Syed's first and last objective was to encourage the Muslims from education point of view by opening different institutes. He made endeavors for Indian Muslims to stand on strong footings till to the last breathe. In the educational domain, Sir Syed's role was always to support the cause of Muslims to enhance their education. To this end, this research paper analyzes the untiring services of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in the field of education for Muslims, and imparting literary guidelines to the Muslim community of the whole world.

Key Words: Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Aligarh Movement, British, Scientific Education, 1857 Revolt.

I. INTRODUCTION

The War of Independence 1857 was the dark period & shriveled leaf of the history of subcontinent, where the white skin people who far away from the culture of Indians, took over the charge of whole of India and called British India. The Mughal dynasty / Muslim's rule were under the British imperialists and colonial period started their journey. The Muslims were considered as the cause of Revolt of 1857 and place as the prime target. They had never forget the previously rule of Muslims throughout the sub-continent even they passed their time from 1600 as British East India Company. The Muslims were brutally victimized by the policies and negative attitudes of the colonial rule. The condition of Muslims were very depressive, miserable & extremely hopeless socially, politically as well as educationally.

In the history of sub-continent, the land gave the birth of different prominent scholars, philosophers, intellectuals and leaders, one of them Sir Syed Ahmed Khan achieved the highest rank among the Muslim community. He was the owner of a number of qualities. At the same time, he was the scholar, interpreter, reformer, thinker, educationist etc. Sir Syed owned the versatile character for promoting and imparting the modern method of education, consciousness, progressiveness and tolerance among the Muslims. His ideas and practices to restructure the fortunate of entire India especially.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan open their eyes in the house of Mir Muttaqi on 17 October, 1817 at Delhi. His father Mir Mutaqi was advisor at the court of Mughal Dynasty Alamgir II. Sir Syed's formative years spend with his mother Aziz-un-Nissa, who imparted him religious education, raising him with rigid him with strong discipline and made a good character personality. His maternal grandfather, Khawaja Farid-ud-Din gave him early education. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan acquired knowledge in subjects of Persian Urdu, religious orthodox and Arabic, under the supervision of Lord Wellesley. He was also received the education of Mathematics, Islamic Jurisprudence and Astronomy. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan actively participated in the cultural activities of Mughal Court's.

As a young, energetic and owner of good character, Sir Syed involved himself in all sorts of pleasures. When Sir Syed was approached at the age of 18, he took keen interest over the practical material of education and attending different literary meetings in the city. In 1838, his father was left the eternal world and whole burden of family on the shoulders of young personality of Sir Syed. In a one year, Sir Syed joined commissioner's office as a *Sarestedar* where he managed the court affairs and maintained the official records at Agra. After spending some time, he aroused as *NaibMunshi* in 1840. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan continued his struggle and appointed as Sub-Judge at Bijnour and U.P in 1841. In 1858, Sir Syed was appointed as the *Sadar-Us-Sadar* at Muradabad and he wrote many literary workings. When the revolt of 1857 occurred on 10th May, he was posted to Bijnour as Chief Assessment Officer in court affairs.

Arrival of British to War

Indians and British were different from each other by their blood, customs, traditions and religion from any definition. So that's why, the Indians not welcomed British with the core of hearts and expected the favourable results. 17th Century was witnessed for the permission of Europeans entry in the sub-continent by Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb Alamgir. Through this entry, British didn't miss their opportunity and they launch their policy by the establishment of British East India Company and expand their business as the part of their strategy. During their inception, British business covered the purchasing of silk, salt, cotton and other raw material. But with the passage of time, their involvement emerged in politics and expanded their self military for their protection. The British Company adopted different methods to control government which will be cause of 1857 revolt:

1. British East India Company started their business to purchase like silk, indigo, salt, opium, tea, spices, cotton and others. These things boost up the economics of British.
2. When British felt to establish their control on the side of business, they started involvement in affairs of geography and politics. In other words, they wanted to cover the side agriculture and collected land revenues.
3. For their protection and faced different wars in future, they decided to recruit the Indians and make their rule strong in terms of military against the dynasties.
4. With development of their military, British established different factories of ammunitions and manufacture the weapons to further strong their position.
5. Due to implementation of unaccepted policies such as childless King was not adopted son for their throne as heir and state was annexed by British through the policy of Doctrine of Lapse.
6. British launched another strategy to create disunity and hatred among two larger majorities Hindus and Muslims of the sub-continent, Divide and Rule.
7. British started to propagate the Christianity for converting the Indians by their priests and Christian missionaries.

The clash between Indians and British arose due to the bitter policies, hard levies, bad treatment and social reforms.

The sparking issue which led to the final confrontation between Indians and British on the greased cartridges, recently introduced in the shape of Enfield gun. Before loading it into the gun, the cartridge was first bite by sepoy from their mouth. The rumor spread as twinkling of the eye in whole India that the cartridges were made up of grease of pig and cow which prohibited for both Islam- Muslims and Hinduism- Hindus. Unwanted news was first received by the Sepoys and launched war against the foreign rule. This point triggered towards a massive event of the history of sub-continent.

Conditions of Muslims After 1857 Revolt

It will be observed that one nation under control of another powerful nation, that the last nation becomes enslaved. The life style according to their desire is snatched and word freedom will be for away. The nation was supervised by the eagle eyes and before doing anything they demanded permission first.

After the dissolution of Delhi, Mughal Dynasty was fully captured by Imperialists. The East India Company was disintegrated and entire India was came into the hands of British Crown. Queen Victoria became declared as the Empress of India.

The Muslims of India suffered from all the sections, when the new imperialism rule was started. A series of problem faced by the Muslims after the establishment of new foreign rule. The Britishers mainly considered that only Muslims were responsible and main rivals for the Mutiny. Therefore, the Britain launched a series of policies to undermine the hold of Muslims. They cut off all the political powers from root. After the revolt of 1857, the crown dismantled all the activities of the Muslims at every nook and corner of India. All the villages and towns were brutally under the fire, after 1857 revolt. If anybody who raise their voice against British, their dead body was hanged at the branches of the trees. That's why the voice of Muslims were suppressed through power. The properties and fields were snatched forcefully and supervised by the British rule.

Although, both Hindus and Muslims were equally participated in the 1857 revolt, British believed that Muslims were only their enemies. No doubt, as compare to Hindus, the Muslims were against the British on different grounds such as historical and religious perspective.

Diversion of Sir Syed's Thoughts

First War of Independence 1857 was the darkest event of history of sub-continent, where the colonial rule started. The Muslims were put the target as the real enemies. British rule considered that, the Muslims were the responsible of the 1857 event and actual enemies and very dangerous rivals. That's why, the British adopted different unaccepted policies towards Muslims and victimized beyond the imagine. His foremost and topmost target was to away the Muslims from political power.

Sir Syed Views about Education

Sir Syed expressed their views about education on different aspects such as the development and progress of the Human's personality. He believed that education is very important for a man and without education man is incomplete. He highlighted that *"The Human soul without education is like a rough piece of marble, and unless the sculptor works on it and remove its roughness.....The same is the condition of human soul..... unless he is educated, all sorts of good qualities and graces that are latent in him can not emerge without assistance of education"* He also emphasized that without education the personality of man is incomplete. He said that education is everything where the progress based and particularly for Indians, the Muslims should acquire the treasure of knowledge in all fields. Sir Syed also expressed about his thoughts that British is developed because of educations and it was very complex for Muslims of India to achieved their set target. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was not only to spread the western type education but also to introduce the social reforms which was the ultimate need of Muslims. But it was rejected by the masses on the religious grounds. He understands that the social predators were the root cause of the failure of the Muslim community.

Aligarh Movement

Before discussing the Aligarh Movement, it is very important to highlight the social and political conditions of 18th century and 19th century. The 18th century gave the birth Delhi theologian, Shah Waliullah. He was the man who deeply observed the deprived conditions of Muslims and seen the dissolution of Mughal throne. Due to his extraordinary skills, he tried best to change the fortunate of Muslims by social and religious reforms. Shah Waliullah served their entire life to uplift the Muslims and saved their life from evils that were introduced by different predators. His endeavours in the discipline of society and religion gave the birth of new ideas among the Muslims.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was impressed and believed from attempts of Shah Waliullah's. Sir Syed always followed the methodology of Shah Waliullah in religion and social as well. The revolt of 1857 was another event that were influenced him deeply. The total structure of the Indian Muslims were disintegrated. He tried to find out the reasons of behind the collapse structure of Muslims educationally, socially, as well as politically. Sir Syed decided to change the destiny of Muslims through Modern type of Education, which was introduced through the commencement of British Rule in India. His life clearly showoff that he worked over two missions one was to revive the Muslim community through modern education system and to promote the real picture of Islam in good manner. The mission launched by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan to promote education and remove the bad evils from the Muslims society and reproduce their actual path basically known as the Aligarh Movement.

The education system of British government was not welcomed by the Muslims through their inner part. The Muslims thought that it was totally irrelevant from the religion. Therefore, the Ulema started to propagate against the British government and preached Muslims to away from the education system of foreign. On the other side, the different other communities of sub-continent accepted the new education system introduced by government. This challenging situation created more confidence to Sir Syed and he took many ways, strategies and policies to make the Aligarh Movement successful. He believed that the improvement among the Muslim community is not possible except the support of British Rule. For this cause, he adopted the policy to shake hand and co-operation with British government.

To eliminate the misconceptions of British towards Muslims, he started to write a series of books and articles and addresses many lectures for creating a friendship between British and Muslims. In 1859, Sir Syed wrote a booklet *"Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind"* (The Causes of Indian Revolt), in which he highlighted that British were the equal responsible as Hindus and Muslims. He also mentioned that the policies of British government that were the main cause to uprising revolt of 1857. Without waste of time, Sir Syed sent to it for publishing. Within a couple of weeks, Sir Syed received 500 copies and sent British parliament without any hesitation. The booklet was translated by the British Government officially and finished by Col: G.F.I Graham. Then, he wrote the *"Loyal Mohammadans of India"* to change the negative attitude and hostile mind towards Muslims by British government. In which he also described the 22 Loyal Mohammadans, who sacrificed their life to save the lives of British during the 1857 revolt.

The fact was that the Muslims were only aware about the religious knowledge but the demand of the time was the modern education that were more useful and to counter the allegations of British Rule. There was severe need of all kinds of knowledge such as science, medicine, history, geography, philosophy and literature for the Muslims of India. Allama Shaquib highlighted the four different points that were the cause of downfall of Muslims like moral degradation, illiteracy, lack of scholarship, and the decline of Muslim rulers and Ulema.

In 1859, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established a *Madrassah* at Muradabad. This was the first religious school where scientific education imparting among the Muslim community. In 1863, he started modern type

school at Ghazipur to establish the system for Muslims. After a year, he was posted to Aligarh in 1864, he continued their contribution in the discipline of education. In the same year, Sir Syed created translation society known as Scientific Society at Ghazipur. The main objective the formation of scientific society was to translate the science books of English into Urdu and Hindi medium. After three months, the headquarter of translation society was shifted to Aligarh. Sir Syed voluntarily called the Muslims scholars from random parts of India for promoting the modern education, western science type knowledge for the Muslims of India. The society regularly published a journal on scientific subjects in Urdu and English. A journal "Aligarh Institute Gazette" started by scientific society in 1866. It covered both English and Urdu language to make easier for the Muslims of India. The main aim of journal was to create the friendship towards British for the Muslims and exaggerate the sentiments of goodwill.

In 1869, Sir Syed's son was awarded scholarship by British Government, he accompanied with Syed Mehmood and visited England. He observed the living style, culture and civilization of English. He also perceived the habits, values and customs of British from top to bottom. Sir Syed visited a number of reputed places, museums, educational institutes, engineering departments, and others for the progress and development of India. Finally, he understood that these were all the results of better education system.

The most important time of Sir Syed's visit of University of Cambridge. Where he objectively view the architecture, structure, system, construction and curriculum that was supported to plan in India.

After returned to India, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan decided to establish another school for the betterment of Muslims where he promoted western style education. He established *Anjuman-e-Taraqi-e-Musalman-e-Hind*, with this aim to establish the foundation of school for Muslims. On 24 May, 1875, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan started Mohammandan Anglo Oriental (MAO) school at Aligarh. Sir John Strachy, Governor of Aligarh, who granted some piece of land for school. Henry Siddons was the first man who appointed as the headmaster of MAO school. He was an oxford graduate and took Four Hundred Rupees monthly salary. The school was affiliated from the Calcutta University. During its inception, MAO school launched a number of courses such as Arabic, English, Mathematics, History, Persian and Geography. MAO school was welcomed by notable families of that time and many of them who donated financial support. The Government U.P sanctioned an amount of Three Hundred and Fifty rupees on montly basis for the school. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan tried hard to upgrade the school with untiring struggle. Behind the success of MAO school, the hardworking of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Resultantly, after the six months, Sir William Muir paid a visit to school.

With the great inception of school, after two years, the MAO school was upgraded as college. Governor General of India, Lord Lytton, inaugurated the college on 8 January, 1877. This achievement of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was the milestone struggle for Muslims and by that work his name name was also remembered amongst the top of the Muslim leaders.

All India Mohammadan Educational Conference

A step forward, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan established All Mohammadan Educational congress in 1886. Later on changed its name as conference. The first meeting of AIMEC was held at MAO school on 27 December, 1886. Initially, 161 delegates participated from Agra, Avadh, Punjab and Central India in the first meeting. Through this forum, to spread the awareness among the Muslims about education. AIMEC adopted different aims and objectives as below:

1. It would be find out the ways to arrange the higher education for Muslims.
2. It would be promoted the religious educations in the English medium and tried to improve it.
3. It would be to spread the knowledge of Islamiyat and to help the *Ulema* to carry their mission their religious field.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan continuously carried the mission of AIMEC as its secretary for ten years. This platform gave the opportunity to Muslims to highlight their qualities with zeal and zeast.

Urdu-Hindi Controversy

The province of U.P (United Province) currently known as Utter Pardesh was entered into the controversy of Language in 1867. The language issue was erupted to introduction of the Hindi language as the official language and replaced Urdu. Madan Mohan Malaviya and Babu Shiva Parsad of Benaras led the movement to growth and gave back to official status to Devanagri script. In 1837, the British Government introduced the local languages as official of different government institutes and lower courts and replaced Persian. On the other side, Urdu was introduced on Urdu script on the replacement of Persian rather than Hindi on Devanagri script. In a broad way, the Hindus deemed that Urdu was the language of Muslims because it was emerged in the Mughal Period. They were religiously Muslims. The British Government was encouraged the use of Urdu and Hindi as the medium of schools. This British Policy upgrade the conflict among the students who are known about the Urdu or Hindi for the competition of jobs, which ultimately birth of the dispute in the form of Language.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was champion and leading role of Muslims opposing the replacement of Hindi as the second official language after English. Urdu was used and promoted by Sir Syed in their writings as a medium. Under the supervision of Sir Syed, the Scientific Society translated the western science books in Urdu language, that Muslims can easily understand the research about world. No doubt, the mostly schools that were opened by Sir Syed, who imparted knowledge in Urdu Medium. The Hindi movement was successfully united the Hindus that were promoted Sir Syed to further support Urdu as the representation Muslim culture and heritage and as the language of all Muslims of India. Before the Urdu-Hindi controversy, Sir Syed urged to create a friendly environment in the sense of Hindu-Muslim unity. He said that the *"Two nations are like two eyes of the beautiful bride, India"*. Furthermore he declared that *"I Look to both Hindus and Muslims with the same eyes & consider them as a two eyes of bride. By the word nation I only mean Hindus and Muslims and nothing else. We Hindus and Muslims live together on the same soil under the same government..."*

But after this movement he changed their opinion and launched the theory of Two Nation. He discussed with the Governor of Benaras Mr. Shakespeare after language arson and said that

"I am now convinced that the Hindus and Muslims could never become one nation as their religion and way of life was quite distinct from one another"

Two Nation Theory

The Two Nation Theory was religious ideology which ultimately grow the seeds of separation of hundred years company at the same soil be the second larger community in the subcontinent towards independence from the British India. This theory defines the Muslims and Hindus are two different nations. Their performances, practices, values, customs, traditions, rituals, religion etc are totally different on the ground of religion and social.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was the pioneer of Two Nation Theory. In 1866, at Meerut, he delivered some facts about the post-colonial phase and also explained about the Muslims and Hindus that these were two nations by any definition. He was also considered as architect of Muslim Nationalism which influenced to partition of British India. Urdu-Hindi Controversy was the turning point of Sir Syed's views about the Muslims as separate nation of British India. Furthermore, Sir Syed described their views at Patna, in 1883, that

"Friends, in India there live two prominent nations which are distinguished by the names of Hindus and Musalmans. Just as aman has some principal organs, similarly these two nations are like the principal limbs of India"

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan started to publish *Tehzib-ul-Akhlaq* on 24 December, 1970. The main objective was to transform awareness and modern subjects knowledge and promote reforms in the Muslim society.

II. CONCLUSION

The writings and works of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan are always with us. He spend their life for the betterment of Muslims in the field of education. Today the Muslim world was covered by numerous problems, we need to improve and learn from the wrtings of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. A single person faced a verity of challenges from English man at his time show their excellency, dedication, clear vision, and hard work to change the fortunate of Muslims. He was a thinker who gave the confidence to Muslims of Sub-Continent, which were brutally hit by the policies of British Rule. Without any hesitation, it can be clearly said that Muslims of Sub-Continent reproduce their life after lapsing in educational backwardness. His reform in education described the sense of national pride as well as created the identity.

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