PARMAR SSC

Socio religious reform movement



Socio religious reform movement

Introduction and Causes

Why did Reform Movements start in India?

- The 19th century witnessed a surge in reform movements due to two main factors:

1. **Social Evils:** The society was plagued by **untouchability**, **superstition**, **polygamy** (multiple marriages), the **Purdah system**, and **Polytheism** (worship of multiple gods).
2. **Deterioration of Women's Position:** The status of women had declined significantly due to practices like **Polygamy**, the **Sati system**, and the **prohibition of widow remarriage**.



- **Reformist:** Movements that sought to change society through reason and rational thinking (e.g., Brahmo Samaj).
- **Revivalist:** Movements that sought to revive ancient traditions and purity (e.g., Arya Samaj, Deoband).
- **Rationalism:** The core philosophy behind these reforms was "Rational thinking".

Steps Taken to Ameliorate Women's Position

1. Abolition of Sati

- 1829: **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** (tireless efforts) and **Lord William Bentinck** (Governor-General who passed the Act).
- The earliest epigraphic **evidence** of **Sati** is found in the **Eran Inscription** (510 AD) of **Bhanugupta**.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy's original name was **Ram Mohan Rai**. The title "**Raja**" was conferred upon him by the Mughal emperor **Akbar II**







2. Widow Remarriage





- **Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856:** Passed due to the efforts of **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**.
- The act was drafted during Lord **Dalhousie's tenure** but passed under **Lord Canning**.
- **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:** He was the Principal of Sanskrit College and a strong opponent of child marriage.

Associations formed for Widow Remarriage:

- **1853**: Vidhava Vivaha Uttejaka Mandal formed by Vishnu Shastri Pandit.
- **1861**: Widow Remarriage Association formed by M.G. Ranade.
- Satya prakash was a Gujarati language weekly founded by social reformer and journalist Karsondas Mulji with an intention of social reform.



3. Child Marriage Restraint



- **Age of Consent Act, 1891:** Passed due to the efforts of **B.M. Malabari**. It prohibited the marriage of girls under 12 years of age.
- **Sarda Act, 1929:** Also known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act. It set the minimum marriage age at:
  - 14 years for girls.
  - 18 years for boys.

4. Education Reforms

- **Macaulay's Minute (1835): Presented by Thomas Babington Macaulay under Lord William Bentinck (Father of English Education in India).**
- William Bentinck was the Governor-General of India during this time.
- **Objective:** To promote English education.
- **Theory:** Proposed the **"Downward Filtration Theory"** (educate the rich/upper class, and knowledge will filter down to the masses).



Wood's Dispatch (1854):

- Known as the "**Magna Carta of Indian Education.**"
- It **rejected** the **Downward Filtration Theory**.

Language Policy:

- Primary Education: **Vernacular (local language).**
- Secondary Education: **Anglo-Vernacular.**
- Higher Education: **English.**

5. Women's Organizations

- **Bharat Stree Mahamandal (1910):** Founded by **Sarla Devi Chaudhurani.**
- **Ladies Social Conference (1904):** Founded by **Ramabai Ranade.**
- **All India Women's Conference (1927):** Founded by **Margaret Cousins.**
- **Arya Mahila Samaj (1882):** Founded by **Pandita Ramabai Saraswati.**

Cornelia Sorabji was the first woman barrister of India

First Women's University: SNDT University (Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey) was established by **Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve** in 1916.

Caste and Anti-Exploitation Movements

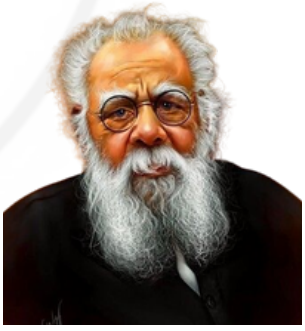
Struggle against the Chaturvarna system (Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra) and caste-based exploitation.

1. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Initiatives



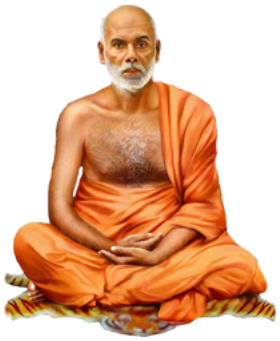
- **Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha (1924):** It was established by B. R. Ambedkar at Bombay.
- **Mahad Satyagraha (1927):** Led by Ambedkar to assert the rights of Dalits to use water from the public tank.
- **Manusmriti Dahan:** He publicly burnt the Manusmriti (ancient text upholding caste laws).

2. Self-Respect Movement (South India)



- **Founder:** **E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker** (popularly known as Periyar) in Tamil Nadu.
- **Objective:** Rejection of Brahminical dominance and rituals.

Same movement started by:



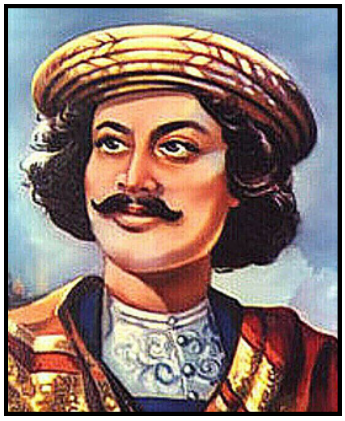
Narayan Guru in Kerala



Jyotiba Phule in Maharashtra

Major Socio-Religious Organizations

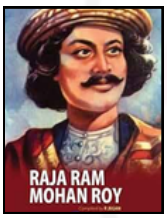
Raja Ram Mohan Roy & Brahmo Samaj

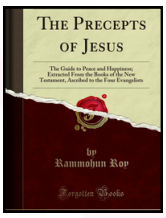


- Known as the "**Father of Indian Renaissance.**"
- Title of 'Raja' given by Akbar II.
- **Institutions:**
  - 1814: Atmiya Sabha (Calcutta) - Forerunner to Brahmo Samaj.
  - 1817: Hindu College (Calcutta) - With the help of David Hare.
  - 1825: Vedanta College.
  - 1828: Brahmo Sabha (later Brahmo Samaj).
- **Philosophy:** Monotheism (One God), anti-idol worship, anti-polytheism, anti-child marriage.
- **Literary Works:**
  - Translated Vedas into Bengali
  - Gift to Monotheists (Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin).
  - The Precepts of Jesus.
  - Sambad Kaumudi (Bengali).
  - Mirat-ul-Akhbar (Persian).



1791
First Sanskrit College in Banaras was founded by Jonathan Duncan.

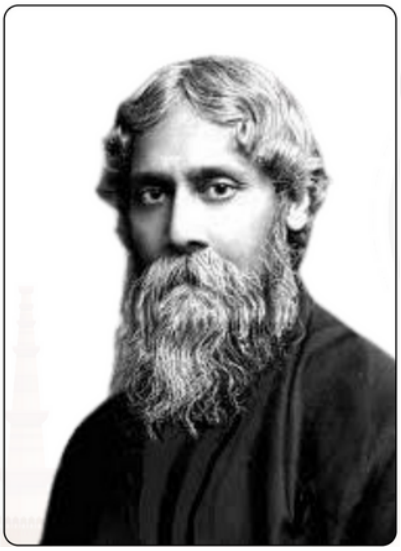








Debendranath Tagore & Evolution of Brahmo Samaj



- **1839**: He started **Tattvabodhini Sabha** along with its organ Tattvabodhini Patrika in Bengali in Calcutta.
- **1858**: He invited **Keshab Chandra** Sen to join the Brahmo Samaj.
- Due to difference in philosophical thinking, **Brahmo Samaj split into two in 1866**, namely Brahmo Samaj of India (led by Keshab Chandra Sen) and Adi Brahmo Samaj (led by Debendranath Tagore).
- Later Adi Brahmo Samaj also got divided and **Sadharan Brahmo Samaj** was founded by Ananda Mohan Bose in 1878.

Veda Samaj (1864):



- Formed in Madras by **Keshab Chandra Sen** and **K. Sridharalu Naidu**.
- It is also known as the Brahmo Samaj of South India.

Young Bengal Movement (Late 1820s - Early 1830s):



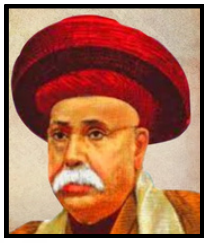
- **Started by: Henry Vivian Derozio.**
- He was a teacher at the Hindu College.

Dharma Sabha (1830):



- Nature: **Revivalist Movement**.
- Started by: **Radhakanta Deb**.
- Radhakanta Deb was against the idea of Brahmo Samaj.

Paramhansa Mandali (1849):



- Formed by **Dadoba Pandurang** and **Durgaram Mehtaji** in Maharashtra.

Prarthana Samaj (1867):



- Formed by **Atmaram Pandurang** in Maharashtra.
- M.G. Ranade joined it in 1870. R.G. Bhandarkar was also a member.

Singh Sabha Movement (1870):



- It Started in Amritsar.
- It aimed to revive Sikh faith and bring back those who had converted to other religions.

Satyasodhak Samaj (1873):

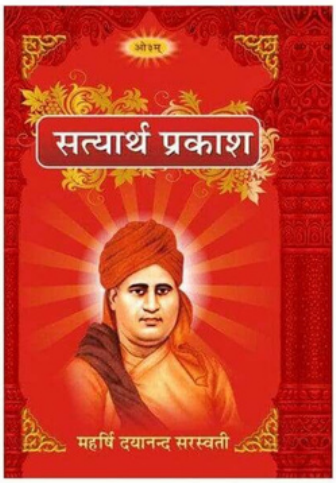


- It was formed by **Jyotiba Phule** (he was from **Mali/Gardener community**) in Maharashtra against caste discrimination.
- **In 1848**, Jyotiba Phule along with his wife **Savitri Phule** (first female teacher of India) started the first school for girls in Pune.
- **Books written** by Jyotiba Phule: Gulamgiri, Sarvajanik Satyadharma (both in Marathi).

Arya Samaj (1875)



- **Founder**: **Swami Dayanand Saraswati** (Original name: Mool Shankar).
- **Location**: Established in Bombay, later shifted HQ to Lahore.
- **Slogans**: "Go Back to Vedas" and "India for Indians".
- **Ideology**:
  - Advocated for a casteless and classless society.
  - Considered Vedas infallible but criticized Puranas.
  - Believed in Karma & Reincarnation.
  - Supported Chaturvarna (caste system) based on work, not birth.
  - Opposed Idol Worship.



- **Shuddhi Movement**: Started by Arya Samaj to reconvert people back to Hinduism.
- **Book**: **Satyarth Prakash**.
- **Education (DAV)**: Dayanand Anglo-Vedic College (Lahore, 1886) founded by Mahatma Hansraj.
- **Split (1893)**: Divided over diet (meat vs vegetarian) and education.
  - "**Mahatma**" group (Vegetarian) vs "**Cultured Party**" (Meat eaters).

Swami Vivekananda



- He started the **Ramkrishna Movement**.
- **Original Name**: Narendranath Dutta.
- **His birth**: 12 Jan 1863 is celebrated as "National Youth Day".
- **Died on**: 4 July 1902.
- He believed in idol worship.
- **1893**: Swami Vivekananda gave a **speech in Chicago** (USA) in a conference.
- He advocated for a balance between Materialism and Spiritualism.
- **Swami Vivekananda Rock Memorial** is in Tamil Nadu (Kanyakumari).
- **Books written**: Raja Yoga, Karma Yoga.

Ramkrishna Mission / Ramkrishna Movement (1897)



- It was **started by Swami Vivekananda on 1st may 1897** in the memory of his Guru
- Ramkrishna Paramhansa (Priest of Kali Mandir in Calcutta)
- Original name: Gadadhar Chattopadhyay.
- HQ: Belur Math; Howrah (West Bengal).
- According to him "Service to man is service to God".

Dev Samaj (1887)



- **Founder:** Shiv Narayan Agnihotri at Lahore.

Balshashtri Jambhekar



- **He started two Newspapers:** Darpan and Digdarshan.
- He is remembered as the "Father of Marathi Journalism".

Gopal Hari Deshmukh



- Pen name: Lokhitwadi.
- He started weekly newspapers: Prabhakar and Hitechu.

Gopal Ganesh Agarkar



- He started a weekly: Sudharak.

Servants of India Society (1905)



- Founder: Gopal Krishna Gokhale.
- He was political Guru of Gandhi and Jinnah

Seva Sadan (1908)



- Founder: B. M. Malabari.
- He worked against child marriage and for widow remarriage.

Social Service League (1911)



- Founder: Narayana Malhar Joshi at Bombay.
- He also started All India Trade Union Congress in 1920.

Islamic Reform Movements

Wahabi Movement



- **Founder:** Syed Ahmad Barelvi, Titu Mir (associated leaders)
- **From Dar-ul-Harb to Dar-ul-Islam (Transformation):** Syed Ahmad Barelvi and his followers worked to transform India from Dar-ul-Harb (land of non-Islamic rule) into Dar-ul-Islam (land governed by Islamic principles).
- **Nature of the Movement:** The Wahabi Movement in India was actually a Muslim revivalist movement, popularly known as Tariqa-e-Muhammadiya.
- **Objective:** To spread the teachings of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab.
- **Leadership and Continuation:** The Wahabi Movement was initially started by Shah Waliullah. Later, it was carried forward by Syed Ahmad, and after him, Shah Abdul Aziz continued the movement.

Faraizi Movement (1818)



- Started by: Haji Shariatullah

Aligarh Movement (1875)



- Started by: **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan.**
- He established a **Muhammadan Anglo Oriental College** in 1875 which was later called **Aligarh Muslim University** in 1920.
- He also founded Indian Patriotic Association in 1888.
- Magazine : Tahdhib-ul-Akhlaq

Deoband Movement (1866)



- **Started by:** Muhammad Qasim Nanautavi and Rashid Ahmad Gangohi.
- **Launched in:** Saharanpur district in Uttar Pradesh.

SOCIO RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH INDIA

Satnami Movement



- It started in 1820s in Chhatisgarh region by Guru Ghasidas who belonged to Satnami sect.
- He worked with the leatherworker community to improve their social status.

Indian National Social Conference (1887)



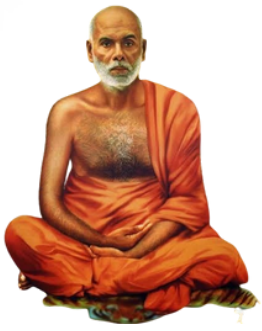
- **Founders**: M. G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao.
- Pledge Movement was started by them against child marriage.

Theosophical Society (1875)



- It was started in **New York (USA) by HP Blavatsky** and **HS Olcott**.
- The society's HO was **shifted to Adyar Madras from New York** in 1882.
- Later **Annie Besant** took its membership.
- This society was highly influenced by Hindu belief system.

Shree Narayana Guru Dharam Paripalana (SNDP) Movement



- **Started by**: Shree Narayan Guru Swami for the upliftment of **Ezhavas Community of Kerala**.
- Important slogan: "**Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam**" (One Caste, One Religion, One God for All).

Justice Movement (1917)

- **Started by**: C. N. Mudaliar, T. M. Nair and P. Tyagaraja Chetty.

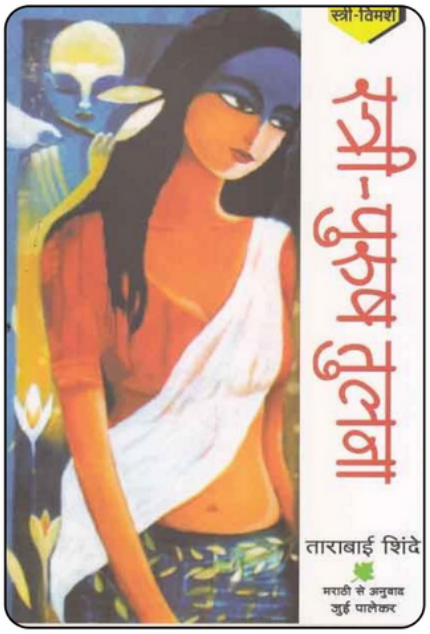


Temple Entry Movement



- For the entry of **Dalits in temple**
- In North India (1930), it was started by **B. R. Ambedkar.**
- In South India (1924), it was started by **T. K. Madhavan.**
- Vaikom Satyagraha (1924), it was started by **K. P. Kesava Menon.**

Civil Disobedience Movement in Kerala was led by **K. Kelappan.**



Stri Purush Tulna was written by: Tarabai Shinde.



Kalaram Temple, Nashik

B.R Ambedkar Started Temple Entry Movement in 1930 here for the entry of Dalits in the Temple



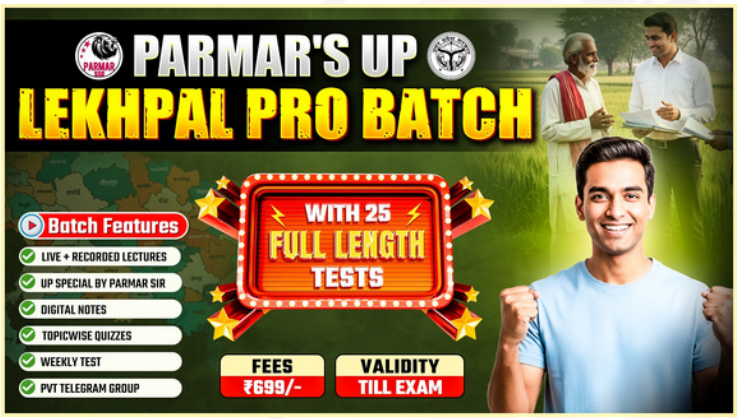


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