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## **SOCIO RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS IN MODERN INDIA**

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**Abstract:** *From the late 19th century, a number of European and Indian scholars started the study of ancient India's history, philosophy, science, beliefs and literature. This increasing information of India's past glory providing to the Indian people a sense of pride in their development. It also helped the improvers in their work of religious and social reform for their fight against all type of inhuman practices, superstitions etc. Later they had become related with religious beliefs; therefore, most of the movements of social reform were of a religious appeal.*

**Keywords:** *History, Philosophy, Science, Beliefs and Literature, Social Reform*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Social and religious reform movements arose among all communities of the Indian society. They attacked bigotry, superstition and the hold of the religious class. They worked for elimination of castes and untouchability, *purdah* system, *sati*, child marriage, social inequities and illiteracy. Some reformers were supported directly or ultimately by the British officials and some of the reformers also supported reformative steps and regulations enclosed by the British Government.

### **DISCUSSION**

Men and women enjoy positive rights and freedom currently. But do you know that they were given to us by the determined efforts made by certain activists. Among the great reformers of this period, Raja Rammohan Roy deserves special reference. He obtainable a fine combination of East and the West. A man of great literary talent and well versed in Indian culture, he also made special effort to study Christianity and Islam so that he could deal with them with understanding. He felt great disgust for many practices prevailing in India that enjoyed religious support. His main pre-occupation was how to rid the Hindu religion of together image worship, sacrificial rites and other worthless rituals. He condemned the priestly class for encouraging these performs. He opined that all the major ancient texts of the Hindus

preached monotheism or worship of one God. His greatest attainment in the field of religious reform was a setting up in 1828 of the Brahmo Samaj.

## **IMPACT OF THE REFORM MOVEMENT**

Raja Rammohan Roy can be stated as the central figure of India is awakening for defending the spread of modern education, science and technology and for his relentless fight against many social evils.

1. R.G Bhandarkar and M.G. Ranade supported out their work of religious reforms in Maharashtra through the Prarthana Samaj by spreading inter-caste marriages, freedom from priestly supremacy and improvement of the lot of women.

2. Swami Dayananda Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj and pleaded for the right of persons to interpret Vedas and free themselves from the tyranny of priests. Also all this, the organisation fought against untouchability and caste inflexibility as well as worked for promoting modern education.

3. Swami Vivekananda, a great humanist, through his Ramakrishna Mission fated religious narrow mindedness, advocated free thinking and emphasised on service for the poor.

- The Theosophical Society, under the guidance of Annie Besant, promoted studies of ancient Indian religions, philosophies and doctrines.

- Religious reforms among the Muslims were carried out by Sayyad Ahmad Khan who encouraged Muslims to adopt modern education; denounced polygamy, purdah system and spoke against religious prejudice, ignorance and irrationalism.

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