

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: A Social and Educational Reformer

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Sir Syed Ahmad Khan played a multi-dimensional role for the betterment of humanity. He was a historian, a theologian, an educationist, a social activist, a journalist and a modernist. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was born in Delhi on 17 October, 1817. He came from a respected family which was known for its learning and morality. The aftermath consequences of the revolt of 1857 wreaked havoc on Muslim community. The British thought Muslims as the main conspirators behind the revolt of 1857. As a result they unleashed their terror on Muslims. The discriminatory policies of British led Muslims to live a disgraceful life. In this situation, Sir Syed was deeply hurt by seeing the pathetic condition of Muslims. He emerged as a messiah for Muslim community and saved them from further humiliation. He realized the need of modern education to empower the people of India in general and Indian Muslims in particular from the backwardness. He wanted Muslims to have a scientific temper and modern attitude towards education. He devoted his entire life for the upliftment of a community which was lagging behind in access to modern education and sciences. The paper highlights the contribution of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan for the welfare of the people of India in general and the Indian Muslims in particular. It throws light on the social and cultural reforms taken by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in the 19th Century. Finally the study discusses the relevance of Sir Syed's movement in the contemporary times.

A Social Reformer

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is considered a great social reformer of the 19th century. He worked for the spiritual and moral

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