

## CH-2 Reforms: Characteristic and Observation.

What were the primary subjects on which articles were written in the *Bamabodhini Patrika*?

The articles published in the *Bamabodhini Patrika* under Umesh Chandra Dutta were aimed at the development of women, their social upliftment and education. They defined the character of 'new Bengali women', the importance of women's schools, the virtues of good motherhood, the institution of marriage, position of the widows in society and widow re-marriage. Among the regular features of the journal were contemporary international events, book review etc.

Who were known as Serampore Trio?

Joshua Marshman, William Carey and William Ward together came to be known as the 'Serampore Trio'

Who formed the Calcutta School Book Society and when?

David Hare formed the Calcutta School Book Society in the year 1817

Who banned the sati burning tradition and when?

Lord William Bentinck, the first governor-general of India, banned the practice of 'sati' and declared it 'illegal and punishable by the criminal courts' by Regulation XVII in 1829.

# What did Vidyasagar do for female education?

Throughout his life Vidyasagar championed the cause of female education in our country and felt that there could not be emancipation of women, if they remained uneducated. He helped J.E.D Bethune to establish the Calcutta Female School in 1849. He also opened many schools in the districts and some of them were initially run at his own expenses and he also opened a school in his village in the name of his mother.

Name any two leaders of the Indigo revolt

The Biswas brothers of Nadia, Kader Molla of Pabna, Rafique Mondal of Malda were popular leaders of the Indigo revolt.

What is Macaulay's Minute?

Thomas Babington Macaulay, Law Member of Governor General Lord Bentinck's Council and President of the General Committee of Public

Instruction published his minute in February 1835, recommending that the amount of 1 lakh rupees should be spent for the promotion of European literature and sciences among the natives of India. The medium of instruction should be English. He advocated the 'Downward Filtration Theory' and western Education received a great impetus.

What was the role of Harish Chandra Mukhopadhyay in the Indigo Revolt?

Harish Chandra Mukhopadhyay, the editor of Hindoo Patriot was the first of his time to publicly highlight the plight of the peasants under the oppression of the indigo planters. Hindoo Patriot - a mouthpiece of the British Indian Association, a zamindaris' body did not hesitate to stand by the oppressed peasants due to the bold writings of Harish Chandra. It was due to the effort of this weekly that in 1860 the Indigo Commission was formed and the peasants got their rights.

What picture of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bengalee society is revealed in the book 'Hutom Pyanchar Naksha'?

'Hutom Pyanchar Naksha' written by Kalprasanna Singha, (published 1862) occupies a very important place in Bengali literature as a satirical prose criticising the activities of the then

urban society in a humorous manner. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several factors like conversion to Christianity, emergence of Brahmoism, sea voyages, the orthodox views of the society, social reform movements etc. caused some kind of strain within the Bengali society. In the book *Hutom*, the nocturnal creature observed the attitude of the English educated middle class babus, both rich and poor, their social and moral degradation, the orthodox, dishonest uneducated Hindus, the blind followers of English and the English educated nationals. All these factors which caused turmoil in the society found expression in the pages of the book. The book mentioned of the festivals like Charak, Durga Puja, Kite flying, Ramlila etc and threw light on the existing interpersonal behaviour, religious occasions and of various social grouping. The book also ridiculed the Europeans in Calcutta for their fear of the Revolt of 1857 and for exaggerating atrocities committed by the rebels. The book expressed with irony and humour how the old and new lived side by side in 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengal. Many scholars argued that '*Hutom Pyancha*' was the pseudonym of Kaliprasanna Singha.

Analyse the importance of the play 'Nil Darpan'

'Nil Darpan' is a Bengali play written by Dinabandhu Mitra in the background of the Indigo Revolt (1859-60). It narrated the revolt of the indigo peasants against the forcible cultivation of indigo. It showed how badly the peasantry was treated by the indigo planters along with the help of the native officers who were loyal to the Europeans. The play explicitly described the picture of torture and atrocities by the indigo planters who were mostly Europeans. It was due to this play that the Bengalee middle class for the first time came out in open support to the indigo rebels. The book also exposed the oppressive way adopted by the colonial rulers in suppressing the resistance of the natives at the local levels. The play was translated by Madhusudan Dutta in English and published by Rev. James Long. Thus the Europeans also came to know of the plight of the indigo cultivators. The play was also staged at Calcutta's Grand National Theatre. Since the play was translated into several European languages, the drama was instrumental in informing the European population about the plight of Indian poor.

Give an account of 'Grambarta Prakashika'

The head master of Kumarkhali Bangla Pathshala, 'Kangal Harinath' or 'Harinath Majumdar' edited 'Grambarta Prakashika' (1863), a periodical of exceptional importance. The main focus of the journal was to expose to the public the deplorable condition of the Indian villages and the dismal state of the villagers under the colonial rule, the oppression of the British planters and the moneylenders and pitiful conditions of peasants and their confederations with the local zamindars. 'Grambarta Prakashika' continued a sustained struggle to promote education in Bengal and fearlessly criticised the socio-economic political policies of the British government. Through his paper, Harinath Majumdar tried to build up a public opinion against the misrule of the British. Grambarta Prakashika played a vital role by publishing news about the conditions of the people during the famine of 1876 also. Apart from these, articles on literature, philosophy, science etc. were also published in Grambarta Prakashika.

2 MARKS from Chapter 2

Why is Madhusudan Gupta remembered?

Madhusudan Gupta was the first person who dissected a corpse at the Calcutta Medical College in 1836. He ignored the existing social norms and prejudices. He paid no heed to the possibility of being outcaste by the society.

Why is David Hare remembered in spreading Western education in India?

David Hare played an important role in establishing the Hindu College (1817) and the Calcutta Medical College (1835). He also set up the Pataldanga Academy (Hare School), Calcutta School Society and Calcutta School Book Society for spreading education among the Indians.

Why is the Charter Act of 1813 important?

The beginning of western education in India is to be dated from the Charter Act of 1813. The Act passed by the British Parliament provided amongst other things, a sum of rupees one lakh to be set aside a year for the promotion of learning in India. Thus the British Parliament forced the East India Company to take the responsibility of education of the Indians. This Act also gave rise to the Anglicist - Orientalist controversy.

Whom and when did Vidyasagar give his own son Narayan Chandra in marriage?

On Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> August 1870, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar gave his only son Narayan Chandra in marriage to Bhava Sundari Devi, a widowed daughter 16 years of Sambhu Chandra Mukhopadhyay of Khanukh Krishnanagar.

When was the Brahma Samaj founded?  
What was the objective behind its formation?

In 1828, the Brahma Samaj was formed with the aim of reforming Hinduism from within. It was the first organisation of religious reforms and it forbade idol worship, discarded meaningless rites and rituals like sati, child marriage, untouchability etc and inculcated a spirit of tolerance. It restrained its members from attacking any other religion.

What do you understand by the 'Filtration Theory'?

Following Macaulay's Minute the Company's government in India adopted the filtration theory in education. This meant coming down of education from the top or from the higher class of people to the lower classes or the general class. The narrow mindedness



of the English prompted them to educate a few Indians for creating a group of clerks to run their administration.

What was the name of the first newspaper to be published in India? Who was its editor? Hicky's Bengal Gazette, the English newspaper published from Kolkata India, was the first major newspaper started in 1780. James Augustus Hicky was its editor.

Which movement was Bijoy Krishna Goswami associated with?

Bijoy Krishna Goswami became deeply involved in the Brahmo Movement under the leadership of Keshab Chandra Sen in the beginning. Later he became a critic of Kesab Sen's 'Avatarism' and began his career as a spokesman of Vaishnavism.

Which picture of the rural society was portrayed by the pages of Grambartha Prakashika?

Grambartha Prakashika exposed to the public the miserable condition of villages and the distress of the villagers under the British colonial rule, the oppression of British planters and money lenders and the confrontations between the peasants and the local zamindars.

Who initiated the Young Bengal Movement?  
What was the objective of this movement?

Henry Derozio the young professor of the Hindu College initiated the Young Bengal Movement. The main objective of the movement was to bring about social reforms in the society through radical and rational thinking. It criticised the conservative and superstitious outlook of the Hindu society. It encouraged free thinking questioning all authority and advocated advanced political ideas.

Who was Lalon Fakir?

Lalon was a great Bengali philosopher, saint, song writer and social reformer born in Kumar Khali, Kushtia in 1774. He championed the idea of religious tolerance and drew inspirations from every religion. He established an ~~at~~ 'Akhra' for the bauls at Murshidabad and wrote more than thousand songs.

How was the teachings of Sree Ramkrishna Paramahansa different from others?

Sree Ramakrishna Dev. uttered his famous doctrine, 'Jata mata, tata patha' and

indulged in divergent religious practices. He created a synthesis between rationalism and orthodox interpretation of religion and emphasized that there were many roads to God and salvation. Thus he brought about a revolution in the spiritual world which no other saints had done before.

What were the limitations of the Bengal Renaissance?

The Bengal Renaissance was limited within the social and religious reform movements of Hinduism. It had its impact only on the urban educated intellectuals and accordingly it was the urban elites who were enriched through this Renaissance. The peasants and the people in general had no connection with the Bengal Renaissance.

Analyse the role of Raja Radhakanta Deb in promoting women's education in Bengal.

Raja Radhakanta Deb played an important role in the spread of female education in India and established the Calcutta Female Juvenile Society in 1819. He requested Gourmohan Vidyabharati to write a Treatise on women's education in 1922 JEP Bethune regarded him as a great enthusiast or supporter of women's education in Bengal.

What was the role of Harish Chandra Mukhopadhyay in the Indigo Revolt?

Harish Chandra Mukhopadhyay, the editor of Hindoo Patriot, addressed the contemporary issues of the time and vividly narrated how the indigo peasants were tortured by the Indigo Planters through the columns of his paper. Not only did he protest against the oppressive Indigo planters, he also mentioned that the Indigo Revolt of 1860 was in reaction to the Indigo Tax imposed on the poor farmers along with the oppression of the British landlords.

Why was there a rift in the Brahma Samaj in India?

In 1843 the Brahma Samaj was first reorganised by Debendra Nath Tagore. Later Keshab Chandra Sen another great follower of the Samaj who was inclined towards Christianity had differences of opinion with the old conservative group of the Brahma Samaj which resulted in its split and the old group led by Debendra Nath Tagore came to be known as Adi Brahma Samaj.

In 1868, Keshab Chandra Sen founded the Brahma Samaj of India and in 1878, the Sadharan Brahma Samaj was formed by

Ananda Mohan Bose, Sivanath Sastri etc as a protest against violation of Native Marriage Act by Keshab Chandra Sen.

Analyse the role of Raja Rammohan Roy to the spread of western education in Bengal.

Raja Rammohan Roy played a pioneering role in exposing the society to the modern world. Moved by the western system of education and development of science, he played a special role in the establishment of the Hindu College in 1817.

He was the founder of the Anglo-Hindu School in 1822, where western science, philosophy and literature were taught. He protested against the setting up of Sanskrit College in Calcutta and sent a memorial to Lord Amherst in 1823, advocating strongly for the introduction of western education in India. Rammohan Roy welcomed the Christian Missionaries to promote education and he personally requested the Church of Scotland Assembly to send competent teachers to this effect. He helped Alexander Duff to set up 'General Assembly's Institution' in 1830 and David Hare to establish 'Hare School' in 1818. Rabindranath Tagore had called Raja Rammohan Roy, 'the pioneer of modern India'

What were the contribution of the Christian Missionaries in the spread of western education in colonial India?

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Christian missionaries played a significant role in the spread of western education in Bengal. In 1793, Baptist Missionary William Carey opened a mission in Serampore together with the editor of 'Digdarshan' and 'Samachar Darpan', J.J. Marshman and William Ward, the three of them established the Serampore Baptist Mission. The Mission was able to publish Bible in 27 Indian languages other than Bengali and established 126 schools to impart western education, catering to almost 10,000 Indian students. Robert May of the London Missionary Society had established nearly 36 schools, Belgium's Jesuit Missionaries had set up the Loreto House College and the St. Xavier's College. In 1830 Alexander Duff established the General Assembly's Institution which is now known as the Scottish Church College. The other establishments set up by the Missionaries were the Bishops College Shibpur, Christian College Haldia, Wilson College. The Christian Missionaries never entered into any controversies on their mission of spreading western education in India with the East India Company.

Discuss the conflict between Anglicists and Orientalists in the spread of western education in India.

The Charter Act of 1813 passed by the British Parliament directed the East India Company to spend yearly a sum of rupees one lac towards spread of education in India. But the officials failed to decide as to the type of education to be introduced. The Anglicists like W.W. Bird, Saunders favoured the introduction of western learning while the Orientalists like H.T. Prinsep, Sutherland etc advocated oriental learning. This was the Anglicist - Orientalist Controversy which came to an end in 1835 by the initiative of Lord William Bentinck, the then governor general of India. Lord Macaulay, the law member of the governor general's council was also in favour of introducing western education in India. On the strength of the recommendations in Macaulay's Minute (1835), Lord Bentinck declared through a resolution that the Company's government would devote the stipulated amount of one lac rupees to promote European literature and sciences among the natives of India. It was also mentioned that the medium of instruction would be in English language only and it was from that time onwards the General Committee of Public Instruction (1823) proceeded to spread English education in India.

Discuss the role of David Hare in the growth of western education.

David Hare, a Scottish gentleman, who had set up a profitable clock trade, gave up everything for promoting Western education in India. He felt the need for free thinking, secularism and idealism. David Hare was one of the founders of the Hindu College in 1817, a landmark institution in the history of the growth of western education. In the same year he helped in establishing the School Book Society which printed and published text books both in English and Bengali. He was also attached to the Ladies Society for Native Female Education. He founded the 'Calcutta School Society' in 1818 for the purpose of improving the standards of teaching learning, curriculum, development of western education. He also established the Hare School. Hailing from Scotland, David Hare's love for India and his contributions in spreading western education in India are indeed significant.

What was the role of Vidyasagar in promoting widow - remarriage?

Iswarachandra Vidyasagar is remembered by his countrymen for his contributions towards the upliftment of India's downtrodden women. He waged a long struggle in favour of widow-remarriage.



and in 1855, raised his powerful voice, quoting verses from Parasara Samhita and other traditional texts, in favour of widow re-marriage. In 1855, a large number of petitions from Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Nagpur and other cities of India were presented to the Company's Government asking it to pass an act legalising the re-marriage of widows. For advocating the cause of widow re-marriage, Vidyasagar had to face the opposition of the orthodox Hindus and at times his life was also threatened. But he fearlessly carried on his fight and ultimately a law was enacted by Lord Canning legalising widow re-marriage ~~took place~~ bet (July 1856) The first widow re-marriage took place between Srish Chandra Bidyaratna and Kalimati Devi on December 7<sup>th</sup> 1856. Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar also got his son married to a widow.

Discuss the Young Bengal Movement in short

A radical ideology developed among the Bengal intellectuals during the late 1820's - 1830's under the teachings and leadership of the Young Anglo-Indian teachers of the Hindu College. Henry Louis Vivian Derozio - His students who were collectively known as the Young Bengal, studied the Western literature and were inspired to think rationally and freely. They questioned all authorities

and loved the high ideals of liberty, equality and freedom and worshipped the value of truth. The Deozoians were fiery patriots and attacked the old, narrow and superstitious Hindu customs, rites and traditions. They published journals in which topics of national interest, condition of Indian women were highlighted. They also carried on public agitation on questions such as the revision of the Company's Charter, the freedom press etc. The Deozoians were not successful because of the incongenial social condition, their radicalism and their distance from the people in general. Yet, they were the pioneers of the modern civilization of Bengal. Krishna Mohan Banerjee, Rashik Krishna Mallick, Radhanath Sirdar were some of the important Deozoians.

Explain Swami Vivekananda's ideal of religious reform.

Swami Vivekananda was the able disciple of Sri Ramakrishna, who truly championed the twin ideologies of patriotism and self-confidence. He popularised the religious view of his Guru of 'Neo Vedanta' and gave it a form that

appealed the minds and needs of the contemporary Indian people. He believed that right action and knowledge must be used in coalition and upheld the concept of oneness of all religions. He condemned narrowness in religious views and spoke highly of the superior Indian traditions and philosophy. He criticised the stagnation that was prevalent among the contemporary people and their lack of contact with the outside world. He was against casteism, and all social evils and repeatedly urged the Indians to acquire the spirit of equality, liberty and free thinking. He felt that a new India could be created through the development of her downtrodden population - the poor, the illiterate and the senseless. In 1897, he founded the Ramkrishna Mission to execute his social and humanitarian works.

What was the role of Calcutta Medical College in the development of modern medical services? Calcutta Medical College of Bengal was founded in 1835 by Lord William Bentinck and it was through the establishment of this college the British first adopted a public health policy in India. The capable young boys within the age group of 14 to 20 yrs was imparted

scientific medical training for a period of four to six years and after completion of their studies they were called Native Doctors and sent for general public service. The college imparted knowledge on anatomy, chemistry, human physiology, medicines to the students. Initially the medical students were taught in English language, later however vernacular medium of instruction was introduced. An outdoor medical unit and a proper hospital with provisions for hundred patients were started at Calcutta Medical College. Following the suggestion of Dr. Bramley, the superintendent of the college, some of its students like Bholanath Basu, Swiya Kumar Chakrabarty, Dwarka Nath Bose and Gopal Chandra Seal were sent to England for acquiring higher medical knowledge. Kadambini Ganguly was the first woman to take admission in this college. The foundation of the Calcutta Medical College, the second medical college established by the Europeans in Asia, marked the end of colonial patronage to indigenous medical learning.

Discuss the role of Raja Ram Mohan Roy as a social and religious reformer.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was deeply moved by the stagnation and corruption of the contemporary Indian society and worked hard for the social, religious, intellectual and political regeneration of his countrymen. He had great respect for the traditional Indian philosophy yet, he believed that modern culture alone would help in regeneration of Indian society. He urged his countrymen to follow the rational and scientific approach of the west and accept the principle of human dignity and social equality of all men and women. He represented a synthesis of the thought of the East and West. He referred to the ancient texts of the Hindus which preached monotheism and translated the Vedas and five of the Upanishads to prove his point. He also wrote series of tracts and pamphlets to propagate monotheism. To this effect he set up the Atmiya Sabha in 1815. In 1828, he founded a new religious society, the Brahmo Sabha, later known as the Brahmo Samaj, whose purpose was to purify Hinduism from within. He preached in the belief of one god. The Brahmo Samaj put importance on human dignity, opposed idolatry and condemned social evils like practice of Sati. Rammohan organised agitation to arouse public opinion against the evil custom of Sati in 1818. When the orthodox Hindus petitioned to the parliament to withhold its approval of abolition of Sati,

he organised a counter petition of enlightened Hindus in favour of William Bentinck's action.

Ram Mohan condemned the subjugation of women, rigidities of the caste system, attacked polygamy and demanded that women must be given the right of inheritance and property. Ram Mohan wanted to unite the divergent groups of the Indian society on basis of the teachings of Vedanta. Ram Mohan, the pioneer of Indian journalism, brought out journals in Bengali, Persian, Hindi and English to spread scientific, literary and political knowledge among the people, to develop public opinion on current matters and to put forward the popular demands and grievances before the British government. Ram Mohan was in favour of introducing the study of English language and Western sciences in India to cure the society from superstitions, blind faith etc. It was mostly due to his active help that Lord William Bentinck decided in favour of English as the medium of instruction.

Ram Mohan had many distinguished associates and followers like Alexander Duff, Debendranath Tagore, Keshab Chandra Sen etc. He is truly considered as the first modern man of India due to his pioneering reform work in the diverse fields of religion, education and society.

Through *Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidin* he redefined some tenets of Islam too and he was the first person to defend Islam from onslaught of the

christian missionaries.

Assess the contribution of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar as a social and educational reformer.

Pandit Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, the great scholar and reformer dedicated his life for the cause of social and educational reforms of his country. Throughout his life he had taken interest for promoting the cause of the downtrodden women of India. He felt the sufferings of the Hindu widows and waged a long struggle in favour of widow remarriage. In 1855 he raised his powerful voice and quoted the verses from Parasara Samhita in favour of widow remarriage. In 1855, a large no. of petitions were presented to the British government asking it to pass an act legalizing the remarriage of Hindu widows. The agitation led by Vidyasagar was successful and Widow re-marriage Act was enacted by Lord Canning in 1856. Vidyasagar had to face terrible oppositions from the orthodox Hindus for advocating widow remarriage and even his life was threatened. Through his efforts 25 widow re-marriages, including that of his own son Narayan Chandra's were performed between 1856-1860. He also protested against child marriage and polygamy.

Vidyasagar contributed greatly to the making of modern India. He developed a new method of teaching Sanskrit and wrote a Bengali primer which is

used till this day. His writings helped in the growth of a modern style in Bengali writing. By 1851, he became the Principal of the Sanskrit college and opened its gates to non-Brahmin students and introduced there study of western thoughts. He also founded a new college in 1849. He helped J. E. D. Bethune to set up the Calcutta female school for girls. As the government inspector of schools, he was instrumental in setting up thirty five girls' schools, many of which he ran at his own cost. He also opened a school in his mother's name in his native village at Medinipur. Apart from these one hundred Bengali schools in different regions of Bengal were opened by him.

Discuss the impact of the development of Western education in 19<sup>th</sup> century India.

The spread of Western education in India was not solely the work of the British government, the Christian missionaries and a large no. of enlightened Indians like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Henry. Vivian Louis Desozis and others also played an important part. On the basis of Macaulay's Minute of 1835, the government of India took quick decision particularly in Bengal to spread



western education. English was made the medium of instruction in schools and colleges and few English schools were set up. Following Wood's Despatch universities were started in 1857 at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Coming in contact with the Western system of education the youths in Bengal began to look at their own society through new concepts of reason, utility, progress and justice. Science now became the sign of modernity and progress. Acharya J.C. Bose was an outcome of this period. The exposure to scientific and philosophical studies made the educated Indians aware of rigid and regressive social traditions and customs and this manifested itself through the social reforms carried out by the people like Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Reform movements like the Brahmo Samaj, the Prarthana Samaj, the Arya Samaj, and such others also started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The newly educated middle class could now identify the demerits of the colonial rule. The western education helped the Indians to understand the rationalist and democratic thoughts of the west and this ultimately paved the path for rise of nationalism. Vernacular literature, particularly, Bengali got a thrust in this period and a search for a superior national culture could be traced in the development of patriotic literature.

As a result the spread of western education, the traditional Indian system of education suffered largely, due to lack of governmental initiatives and support. This system largely neglected mass education as well as female education. Many pathshalas and maktabas had to be closed down. The Company's administration also neglected scientific and mechanical education. By 1857 there were only three medical colleges in the country at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and one good engineering college at Roorkee for the Europeans and Eurasians. The government emphasised on the creation of English-educated clerks for carrying out their administrative work.

Discuss the characteristics of Bengal Renaissance. Write a note on the debate related to the use of the concept of Renaissance.

OR

Discuss the nature of Renaissance. Write a note on the historiographical debate on the idea of Renaissance.

The introduction of Western education and the social reforms carried out in its wake during the 19th century brought about profound changes in the cultural outlook of the native people. Calcutta as the colonial capital became instrumental in experimenting with new ideas that found their reflections in new forms of prose, poetry, drama, press and in public opinions. Emphasis on eradicating of social evils & like

sati, widow-re-marriage, casteism, improvement of the condition of women were upheld by social reformers and organisations. This created an upheaval in the society that led many to dub this period as Bengal Renaissance.

The word 'Renaissance' which literally means rebirth is a concept borrowed from Europe, where the fall of Constantinople in 1453 opened the way to rediscovery of classical learning. There is an inclination to find in the 'Renaissance' a synthesis of liberalism and conservatism. A synthesis is a fusion or blend of two opposites into a third higher entity which according to Dr. Susobhan Sarkar, was absent in case of Bengal Renaissance. The contradiction in 'Renaissance' is still going on. Scholars like Sumit Sarkar, Barun Deo, Amalesh Tripathi refute that there was any rediscovery of the past in case of Bengal because the period preceding the imposition of British rule was not a 'Dark Age' and classical studies had never actually been stopped in India.

The European or Italian Renaissance had a wider scope and resulted in geographical discoveries, growth of humanism etc which were totally absent in case of Bengal. Actually the so-called Bengal Renaissance was a limited affair promoted to further the cause of British imperialism and was projected as a

justification of the necessity of the British to  
civilize the Indians. Bengal Renaissance was an  
elitist phenomenon that affected only the  
receivers of Western educated elites of Calcutta,  
and never reached the masses.