

Ch.5 Alternative Ideas and Initiatives

1) What were the effects of the development of printing press in Bengal?

The development of printing press in Bengal created free thinkers who used this medium to express their thoughts and a number of periodicals, newspapers were published that brought the common men in contact with the printing industry. It also led to the growth and spread of education as books then became cheap and easily available. The Indian press also contributed largely in the development of Indian nationalism.

2) Why was Hicky's newspaper subjected to persecution by the British government?

The first English weekly newspaper, 'Bengal Gazette' of Hicky was published in 1780. The paper explicitly described the condition of the society of Bengal at that time and openly exposed the scandals of the period. This agitated the British government and several prosecutions were instituted against him and his newspaper.

3) Who were called the 'Serampore Trio' during the printing revolution of Bengal and why?

William Carey, William Ward and JC Marshman were called the 'Serampore Trio' during the printing revolution of Bengal. It was in 1800 Serampore Mission Press was established by William Carey with the help of Marshman and Ward. It was

from Serampore Press the first monthly Bengali periodical 'Digdarsan' and a Bengali weekly 'Samachar Darpan' were published by Marshman in 1818.

4) How did the Fort William College contribute to the growth of the printing press in Bengal?

In 1800, Lord Wellesley founded an academy and learning centre of Oriental studies for the newly recruited young civilians in India, known as the Fort William College. In order to make these officials work efficiently they had to learn the Indian languages and law as well as the European literature and philosophy. Thousands of books were needed for this purpose and Serampore Mission Press, Sanskrit Press, Hindustani Press received huge orders to meet this demand and thus contributed to the growth of the printing press in Bengal.

5) Name two reactionary ~~laws~~ laws executed by Lord Lytton

Lord Lytton implemented the Dramatic Performance Act in 1876 to police seditious Indian theatre, a regressive measure against Bengali creativity and public opinion. Another reactionary law was the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 that barred the vernacular newspapers from criticising the colonial government.

6) Why is Charles Wilkins famous?

The owner of the first printing press in Bengal John Andrews was helped in making letter blocks by Charles Wilkins. He was assisted in his work by a Bengali named Panchanan Karmakar. It was with the help of the movable Bengali type or letters founded by Charles Wilkins, that Hethed wrote 'A Grammar of Bengali Language' and Wilkins is aptly regarded as the 'Gutenberg of Bengal'.

7) Why is Panchanan Karmakar famous?

OR

What was the role of Panchanan Karmakar in development of the printing press in Bengal?

Panchanan Karmakar was the only only Bengali member in the team of Charles Wilkins who founded the movable Bengali type or letters. Panchanan was a resident of Hooghli and it was with the help of this movable Bengali type or letters, Hethed published his book 'A Grammar of the Bengali Language'.

8) Why is Ganga Kishore Bhattacharya famous?

In his early life, Ganga Kishore Bhattacharya started his career as a compositor of the Serampore Mission Press. Later he resigned from his service and founded the Bengal Gazette Press and published the newspaper 'Bangla Gazette' in 1818.

9) How did the printed books help in the spread of education?

In Bengal before the advent of the printing press knowledge was acquired through hand written books or manuscripts or through memorisation and as a result, knowledge remained limited to a few. With the evolution of the printing press there was a massive growth in the spread of knowledge since books of education became cheap and easily available.

10) What is the importance of the Battala publication in the history of the Bengali printing press?

From 1840 to 1870 a new trend in the publication of the Bengali books existed known as the Battala literature and the most prominent publishers of this trend were Bisweshwar Deb and Shabarnicharan Bandjopadhyay. These books not only quenched the thirst of the newly educated youths, they also threw light on the existing society. The books dealt with various topics like the ancient historical and social events religious matters etc. and greatly inspired and attracted the contemporary readers.

11) Why is Baboo Ram remembered?

Baboo Ram was a Hindu pandit who established a printing machine for the first time in 1806-07 in Devnagari type at Kidderpore, Calcutta for publishing Sanskrit books. Baboo Ram is also remembered for establishing the Sanskrit Press in 1807. He taught Sanskrit language and literature in the Fort William College, established by Lord Wellesley.

12) Who fought against Adam's Press Regulations (1823) and why?

It was Raja Ram Mohan Roy who fought against Adam's Press Regulation (1823). He did so because through this Regulation the government re-imposed control over the press. A clear distinction was made between the Anglo-Indian and Indian presses and while various restrictions were imposed on the Indian Press, no restrictions were there on the Anglo-Indian Press. In protest he stopped publication of 'Mirat-ul-Akhbar' the Persian newspaper.

13) Why did Mahendralal Sircar set up Indian Association for Cultivation of Science?

Mahendralal Sircar, who was a doctor by profession, was instrumental in setting up India's first non-government scientific research institution, the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS).

The scientific ~~research~~ movement or development of the country was initiated by IACS. It provided facilities to conduct original investigation in science and two of the most famous teachers of the institution were A.J.C Bose and C.V. Raman.

14) When and why was the National Council of Education formed?

OR

What was the main objective of the National Council of Education?

OR

Write a short note on National Council of Education.

The National Council of Education was set up in 1906 in order to provide education to the Indian masses on 'national lines and under national control'. Its aim was to put an end to the control of the British government on the education system and wanted to promote literary and scientific education along with technical training. The important personalities who were associated with National Council of Education were Rabindranath Tagore, Rashbehari Ghosh, Satish Chandra Mukherjee, Subodh Chandra Mallick, Sityendranath Tagore, Aurobindo Ghosh etc.

15) When was the Visva Bharati founded? State the objective behind its formation in one or two sentences.

OR

Why did Rabindranath Tagore set up the Viswa Bharati?

OR

What was the objective of founding Visva Bharati?

Rabindranath Tagore formed the Viswa Bharati in 1921 with Pandit Brajendranath Siva as its first Chancellor and Bidhusekhar Bhattacharya as the first Principal of the college. Viswa Bharati aimed at imparting the combined knowledge of the whole world and welcomed students from all over the world to study there and make it their home. The learned personalities from all over the world would gather at Viswa Bharati and reside and discuss and evaluate their knowledge. It was at Viswa Bharati that the ideals of Rabindranath Tagore and the whole world would merge together and work in unison.

1) Explain the relation between printed books and the spread of education.

The establishment of the printing press in the late 18th century had a major role in the development of education in Bengal. The modernised printing press produced large number of books which were highly largely available in the market at a cheap price and helped in the dissemination of knowledge. Many books in the Bengali language were written and published, like Pearson's 'Bakya-bali', Lawson's 'Pashwabali', Radhakanta Deb's Bengali Spelling Book etc. Academic books on literature, history, science, geography, mathematics were also published and became popular among the students both in cities and in the villages of Bengal. Elementary Bengali text books like 'Barnaparichay' by Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Ram Sundar Basak's 'Balyasiksha', Madanmohan Tarlankar's 'Sishu Siksha' also played an important role in the growth of education. Besides, translation of the Bible, 'The Ramayana', 'The Mahabharata' and other ancient books also reached the common people with the advancement of the printing press in Bengal. Several newspapers that came into being as a result of the establishment of the printing press like Bengal Gazette, The Calcutta Gazette etc not only provided daily news to its readers they also provided information on various topics through different articles. Research papers of the scholars were also published and helped

development of education. The first William College, the Serampore Baptist Mission, the Calcutta School Book Society also contributed greatly in the printing and publishing of books and helped in the development of education in Bengal.

2) Discuss the growth and development of printing press in Bengal under Upendrakishore Roychoudhury and U. Ray and Sons.

Upendrakishore Roychoudhury was the writer, painter, composer and entrepreneur who revolutionised the printing industry by introducing 'half-tone block' making techniques for using photographs in books. He reformed the 'European Engraving Printing Method' and developed different processes namely, 'Sixty Degree Screen', 'Diafram method', 'Diotype', 'Tint process' etc. to print colour pictures. With the help of the modern equipments, colour and chemical purchased from England he brought about a great change in the printing industry. He went to England and learnt the art of printing with modern blocks and started his business of making modern printing blocks. His writings on modern printing blocks was published in 'Penrose Annual Volume X' which earned him both award and fame. He also earned admiration in India and abroad for his method of printing both colour and black and white photographs with expertise.

In 1913 he started his own publishing house 'U. Ray and sons' from where the first Children's Magazine of Bengal 'Sandesh' was published. Many other creations of both Upendrakishore Raychaudhury and his son Sukumar Ray, were also published from 'U. Ray and Sons'.

Write a note on Indian Association for Cultivation of Science.

Dr Mahendralal Sircar 'the father of the study of Modern Science', established the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science in 1876, following the footsteps of Royal Institute of London and British Association for the Advancement of Science. IACS was the first and the oldest centre for scientific development established under the initiatives of the Indians and concentrated on the development and progress of basic sciences. Accordingly different departments like Physics, Chemistry, Biology Spectroscopy etc. were established. It was the aim of the institution to make progress of scientific knowledge without government aid, encourage scholars to carry on researches on different fields of science and provide a better and comfortable living condition for the people of the country through scientific advancement. Dr. Mahendralal Sircar himself was the secretary of IACS and Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar was one of its trustees and along with them there was a group of highly qualified teachers like A.J.C. Bose, K.S. Krishnan, Meghnad Saha etc who served the Institution. Lectures and

demonstration on science were regularly organised at IACS in order to popularise science.

wrote a note on National Council of Education.

The University Act of 1904 by Lord Curzon encroached upon the autonomy of the University of Calcutta which created great resentment among the educated people of Bengal and the nationalists of the time thought of establishing the NCE in order to oppose the British control over education. The partition of Bengal (1905) led to the Swadeshi Movement and this spirit of nationalism gave birth to the development of the idea of national education and as a result, the National Council of Education was formed in 1906. The NCE proposed to provide education to the masses on 'national line and national control. The curriculum for 3 years primary, 7 years secondary and 4 years collegiate course was decided upon by the Council. It also arranged for literary, scientific and some amount of technical education. The Bengal National College and the Bengal Technical Institute were set up and the National School which constituted 25 high schools and 300 primary schools were also established. However it was due to inadequate fund, the various repressive measures of the British government that the NCE was unable to work successfully. Many students returned to the colonial system of education and the teachers also left due to the financial constraints of the Council. Besides the activities of the NCE was limited to Calcutta only and it failed to reach at the districts or the village level and there was no scope for higher studies.

What were the contributions of the 'Bengal Technical Institute' in spreading the technical education
OR

What was the role of Bengal Technical Institute in the development of technical education in Bengal?

The NCE formed in 1906 was soon divided into two groups on matters relating to the method of instructions, while the majority favoured a literary-scientific and technical method, the minority advocated for technical education with a touch of scientific teaching. As a result, a split occurred and the minority group formed a separate institute named Society for Promotion of Technical Education in Bengal (SPTIE) in the house of Sir Taraknath Palit and it was SPTIE that founded the 'Bengal Technical Institute' in July 1906, with the objective of developing technical education among the youths of Bengal. Accordingly a three year Intermediate course and a four year secondary or Madhyamik system of education was started by the institute, where the students of the intermediate class learnt Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, English along with Carpentry, dyeing, soap-making, tanning etc. and the students at secondary level learnt mechanical engineering, technical engineering etc. By 1910, the Bengal Technical Institute was again brought under the NCE and Bengal Technical Institute merged with Bengal National College and formed the Bengal

National College and Technical School which was renamed College of Engineering and Technology in (CET) 1928. The institution provided for studies on various subjects like physics, chemical technology, industrial technology and helped the students of the college to publish a journal named 'Tech'. It was by the enactment of the Jadavpur University Act of 1955, the NCE was converted to Jadavpur University with complete autonomy.

What do you know about Rabindranath and his ashramic school at Shantiniketan?

Rabindranath Tagore was a critique of the colonial system of education and himself started

'Brahmacharyasram' in 1901 in Shantiniketan as an alternative institution engaged in the work of promoting education to the children.

To him the schools set up by the colonial government were like factories providing education to the children (tools) and the teachers were a mere part of that factory. According to him the European kind of education did not allow the development of the child for the colonial education imparted through foreign language was completely alien to the students attending classes at the primary and the secondary levels. Children should actually learn following the traditional method in the mother tongue and acquire knowledge of their own cultural heritage. Rabindranath urged the teachers to develop the power of imagination and inquisitiveness in the minds of the children. He

emphasised on the importance of freedom, creative expression and development of a bond between man, nature and God. He promoted the concept of ancient 'ashramic' system of education in India and tried to develop a close relationship between the teacher and the student. The students of his school at Shantiniketan were given enough freedom to enjoy learning. The system of teaching was not confined within the limits of a classroom, classes were taken under the open sky in the midst of nature and this enabled the students of Shantiniketan to develop their creativity.

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X below did Anandamath help the spread of nationalism?

Study of the literary works of great literators of 19th century Bengal reveals nationalist feelings embedded in them. In this context Anandamath of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee may be discussed. Anandamath of Bankim Chandra bears historic worth in the narrative of nationalism in modern India. Written in the background of ^{the memory of} Sanyasi rebellion, the novel centers around organization of the Santans (a children of mother India). Now the mother is in the chains of foreigners our children row to tear the ash under the bondage. (1) The novel narrates how children of the mother take up arms against the rule and domination of the foreigners. It is in Anandamath that the Indian people get the famous song, Vande Mataram (2) The opening stanza of the song is full of appreciation for the natural positions, that adorn the mother. (3) In the song the sacredness of the land had been raised to a religious level. The song combines patriotism, with "fervour". (4) Anandamath was bible for the sacred revolutionaries. In fact the modeled these societies on the organization founded by Satyananda, the hero of the novel. Thus Anandamath helped in the spread of Indian nationalism.

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How did the novel Anandamath by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee helped in the development of nationalism?

→ The novel 'Anandamath' written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee published in 1882 played a significant role in the development of patriotism and nationalist feelings among the Indians. It was written on the background of the great famine of Bengal 1870 and the Sanyasi revolt. The song Vande Mataram written in 1875 which became the maulidi for the revolutionary was incorporated in the novel and Vande Mataram also gave birth to the concept of ~~Mataram~~ mother India. The novel provided the concept of armed uprising or militant nationalism among the Indians and the idea of Swadesi. Bankim Chandra explained that our country is our mother, patriotism is our religion and serving the country means worshipping our mother. The author also tried to draw a parallel between Hinduism and nationalism. He urged his countrymen to be united against British despotism. As the novel had played an active role in awakening patriotism among the Indians it was banned by the British gov.

Briefly discuss the activities of the Indians Association.

→ The Indians Association or Bharat Sabha was established in 1876 by Surendranath Banerjee and had also set up a branch in diff part of India like Lucknow, Meerut, Lahore etc.

From its very beginning Bharat Sabha or Indians Association ~~carried out~~ several activities. Firstly it demanded the Indians Civil Service examination must be held at the India and London and also protested against the act that reduced the age of the candidate for Indian Civil Service examination from 21 year to 19 year. IA also opposed acts like Vernacular Press act, arms act, dramatic performance act etc. and mobilized public opinion to this effect. It also put forward the demand for local self govt and the rights of the prisoners. When the court bill was introduced by Lord Ripon which gave Indians judges the right to try the Europeans, the European community protested greatly against the act. India A the ^{and} leadership

of Swendranath Banerjee launched a no. of mov in support of the act. The journal 'the Bengali' by Swendranath Banerjee also inculcated the spirit of nationalism among the Indians.

Though the move of the Indian association ended in a failure, it created the basis of pan-Indian mov in future

Alternative Ideas and Initiatives

Long question answer.

Write about Tagore's idea of education in Santiniketan and Viswa bharti?

→ Introduction - Rabindranath himself was against the existing system of colonial education. In his childhood he had no interest in such education system. He has criticized this education policy in many of his articles and literary work. He was always in search of a substitute education policy. He criticized the education policy as the factory to produce and supply clerks for British administrators.

Substitute education policy - Rabindranath Tagore established a school named Brahmacharya Ashram at Santiniketan. Here in this school he introduced a new policy and this policy is called 'Santiniketan Bhavana'. It was practically a reintroduction of ancient 'gurukul system'.

Features - (i) It was a residential school.
(ii) Relation between teachers and student was very sweet and teachers were student friendly.
(iii) Education system was based on sweet relation between human and nature.

Establishment of Viswabharti - Rabindranath established Viswa bharti on 23rd December 1918. But actually work started in 18th July 1929.

Rabindranath was inspired by Anne Besant who set up an university in Madras. Charles Frear Andrews helped him in the establishment of Viswa Bharti. Pandit Brojendranath Saha was the cancellor of Viswobharti and Vidhu Sekhar Bhattacharya was the principal of the university.

Features - (i) The whole world's knowledge and wisdom were studied with respect here.

(ii) Student from all over the world were allowed to come here to study.

(iii) It was completely a residential educational institution.

(iv) All the honest ideals of the world were merged here at Viswa bharti.

(v) Rabindranath here had connected west with east. That's why the teachers from various countries had come here to teach students there best.

(vi) Rabindranath gave much value to nature. So he arranged to give education to the students in an atmosphere very close to nature or under the trees and under the barren sky.

(vii) Rabindranath gave importance on agriculture and technical education in his education policy.

(viii) Rabindranath's another main object was to highlight Indian art and culture. This is why he set up different divisions in Viswa Bharti.

Conclusion - Rabindranath disliked the education confined in walls. He in his purpose gave the stress on such an education system which will maintain relation between nature and human being.

How did national council of education emerge?

→ Introduction - Lord Curzon announced partition of Bengal in the year 1905. His main purpose was divide and rule. He wanted to weaken the political movement against the British government. To protest against partition of Bengal nationalist leader called for 'boycott' movement. During this turmoil period nationalist leader thought about National education policy. In this context National Council of education was established.

Partition of Bengal - Undivided Bengal was very much politically aggressive against British government. Lord Curzon was the then governor of Bengal. He planned to divide Bengal on communal ground. His main purpose was to make Bengal weak.

Swadeshi and Boycott movement - To protest against the partition of Bengal Nationalist leader organised Swadeshi and Boycott movement. Swadeshi movement decided that all the necessary things would have to be produced in the country. Boycott movement decided that all the foreign goods particularly goods produced in England must be boycotted. Moreover people will boycott governmental institution including educational institutions.

Idea of national education - Instead of governmental education national leaders thought of national education policy. They looked at the government educational institution as 'Goldigger Golamkhana'.

Formation - National Council of Education was formed in the year 1906 with 92 members. Satendranath Tagore was the president and Rasbihari Ghosh was the secretary.

Monetary arrangement - The fund for national council of education was formed mainly from donation by several rich families of Kolkata. Most remarkable were Brajendrakishore Roychoudhury with donation of 5 lakh rupees, Subodh Chandra Mallick with donation of 1 lakh rupees, Suryakanta Acharya Choudhury with donation of 2.5 lakh and many other people contributed to the cause.

Purpose - Main purpose of National Council of Education was to educate students in arts, literature, science, technology on the basis of Indian morality, Indian philosophy and patriotism.

Achievements - NCE set up 25 high schools, 300 primary schools, Bengal national school and college and the Bengal technical institute. Arobindo Ghosh was the principal of Bengal national schools and college. Satish Chandra Mukhopadhyaya was the superintendent and Radhakumudh Mukhopadhyaya, Binay Sarkar were the teachers and professor.

Failure - NCE was an important part of national education movement. It was an urgent need for the country but it failed. There are some reasons behind it.

(i) NCE was formed with the fund from

the donations. There was no government help. Such a big initiative can't run only by donations.

(ii) NCE was an anti-government organisation. So certificate issued by NCE was not recognised by government. It was the problem for employment.

(iii) Activities of NCE were confined in Kolkata and in some other ^{big} cities. So its impact was little.

Conclusion - NCE was a movement against government in education ~~system~~ sector. Though it was not a mass movement but history can't refuse its impact. Even post independence education policy was formed on the basis of NCE guidelines.

What was the idea rebellion of Baraman Bharat of Vivekananda?

→ Baraman Bharat is a monograph by Swami Vivekananda. It contains deep feeling of national, cultural and political issues.

(a) The Baraman Bharat policy amplifies and elaborates the ideas of society. It is stated that human society in turn is governed by the four caste - The priest, soldiers, traders and labourers.

(b) The priestly role is exclusive on hereditary grounds; the military was cruel. The commercial is curching and blood sucking. But the traders go everywhere and they are good disseminator of ideas. The role of the labourers has the advantage of distributing physical comforts. But it has the disadvantage of lowering culture.

(c) In the Bartaman Bharat Vivekananda predicts forming a state in which the knowledge of the priest period, the culture of the military, the distributary spirit of the commercial and ideal of equality of the last (labourers) are brought into harmony.

(d) Bartaman Bharat ends with the calling for giving up imitating the western lifestyle in dress and manners. There should be cherished feeling of self respect and sense of pride in being Indian.

(e) The closing para of Bartaman Bharat is titled by Vivekananda as Svadesh Mantra, an incantation for the homeland. It is addressed to every Indian. It is call to arise and awake to the national ideal of identify with the Indian heritage. The Indian people, even if they are the poorest and the lowest should take pride in having being born as an Indian.

(f) Patriotism and nationalism for Vivekananda was never a matter of political strategy, rather it had to do with spiritual belonging to ones culture and history. Religion and nationalism became interchangeable for Vivekananda.