Class: 10th
Board: Karnataka
Subject: Social

Social and Religious Reform Movements

Meaning of Indian Renaissance (19th Century)

- 19th century = "Indian Renaissance"
- Contact with Western education → rational thinking
- End of superstitions, caste evils, social reforms
- Leaders: Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Phule, Vivekananda, Periyar, etc

Brahmo Samaj (Raja Ram Mohan Roy)

- Founded in 1828 in Calcutta
- Promoted **monotheism (belief in one God)**
- Opposed caste system, idol worship and rituals
- Encouraged **women's education and widow remarriage**
- Helped foundation of modern Indian journalism
- Influenced later reformers like Keshab Chandra Sen and Debendranath Tagore
- Inspired modern Indian nationalism and rational thinking

Young Bengal Movement (Derozio)

- Members were called "Derozians"
- Promoted **free thinking and scientific attitude**
- Encouraged debate on social issues in colleges
- Strong criticism of superstition and blind faith
- Supported **freedom of press and expression**
- Movement weakened after Derozio's early death

Arya Samaj (Dayananda Saraswati)

- Emphasized "**Back to the Vedas**"
- Promoted **Shuddhi movement (re-conversion to Hinduism)**
- Established DAV schools and colleges later
- Supported national pride and self-rule ideas
- Opposed child marriage and untouchability
- Promoted women's rights and education

Prarthana Samaj

- Influenced by Brahmo Samaj
- Reformers: M.G. Ranade, G.V. Joshi, G.H. Deshmukh
- Focus on **social reform before political reform**
- Promoted intercaste dining and marriage
- Opposed purdah system strongly
- Linked to spread of modern education in Maharashtra

Satyashodhak Samaj (Jyotiba Phule)

- Meaning: "Truth-Seeking Society"
- Strongly opposed **Brahmin domination**
- Focus on education for Shudras and Dalits
- Promoted **self-respect among lower castes**
- Advocated women's rights and equality
- Savitribai Phule played major role in girls' education
- Inspired later movements of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

Aligarh Movement (Sir Syed Ahmed Khan)

- Promoted modern education among Muslims
- Founded Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College
- Encouraged **scientific and rational education**
- Tried to remove religious orthodoxy
- Initially supported British rule for progress
- Focused on social upliftment through education

Theosophical Society

- Belief in universal brotherhood of humanity
- Promoted study of ancient religions and philosophy
- Supported revival of Indian cultural pride
- Annie Besant started Home Rule Movement from here
- Spread idea of spiritual unity of all religions
- Encouraged education and women empowerment

Ramakrishna Mission (Swami Vivekananda)

- Service to humanity = service to God
- Combined **spirituality with social service**
- Opened schools, hospitals, relief centres
- Promoted national unity and self-confidence
- Emphasized "Arise, Awake and Stop not till goal is reached"
- Promoted harmony among religions

Narayana Guru Movement

- Famous reform: "One caste, one religion, one God"
- Aruvippuram temple consecration broke caste barriers
- Opposed untouchability strongly
- Promoted education as main tool of upliftment
- Supported temple entry rights for backward classes
- Inspired Kerala social reform movements

Periyar (Self-Respect Movement)

- Opposed caste system and Brahmin dominance
- Promoted **rationalism and atheism ideas**
- Encouraged "self-respect marriages" without rituals
- Supported equality for women and lower castes
- Criticized Hindi imposition and social inequality
- Founded Dravidar Kazhagam
- Focused on social justice over religion



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