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## THE ROLE OF MISSIONARIES, CHARLES GRANT AND LORD MACAULAY IN MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM IN INDIA

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### ABSTRACT:

Modern Education System is also known as 'English' or 'Western Education'. But the name 'Modern Education' was also given to the system due to the availability of Modern Science, Technology, Indian Philosophy and the study of different languages in addition to English. Modern approach in the scientific and social field was brought about by the British.<sup>1</sup>

**KEYWORDS:** Modern Education System , Modern Science , Technology, Indian Philosophy.



### ANCIENT EDUCATION SYSTEM :

It is necessary to know about the ancient education system in India before the beginning of modern education. Ancient India had adequate education system. Not only Indians but also foreign students came to acquire the knowledge in the universities like Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila, Pataliputra etc. But due to foreign Muslim aggression and changing administration techniques, the then prevailing education system could not be sustained by the Indian rulers of the era. Even in later times, medieval rulers did not try to keep the traditional education system in order, and there was no attempt at the development of educational development.

### ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS AND EFFORTS FOR SPREADING EDUCATION :

Modern education started with the arrival of Europeans in India. Portuguese sailor Vasco-da-Gama entered the city of Calicut in 1498 A.D. The Dutch, Spanish, English, French etc. arrived in India after the Portuguese. The Portuguese priest (1542 A.D.) St. Francis Xavier opened colleges in Bandra (Mumbai), Goa etc. where Latin, Christianity, Portuguese Language and Grammar, Music, Logic etc. were taught. It is clear from the report that there were four types of schools during the Portuguese era.

#### Types of Portuguese Schools :

1. Elementary Education (Parochial Schools / attached to Church & Missionary

2. Stations)
3. Elementary Education for Indian Children (Orphanages School / Agriculture & Industrial Training)
4. Higher Education (Jesuit College)
5. Theological Seminaries for the Training of Missionaries.<sup>2</sup>

According to Indian Education Commission's Report (1882), the Portuguese priest St. Francis Xavier, who came to India, established the University of Kochin. After this Dutch, French, Dane and English established elementary schools in many places in India. The characteristics of these missionary schools were as follows.

1) The main goal of the missionary schools was to spread religion and the study of the Bible was made mandatory.

- 2) These schools ran regularly. Their curriculum, hours for each class were fixed and Sunday was considered as a holiday.
- 3) The curriculum format was comprehensive and comprised of Grammar, History and Geography.
- 4) The Missionaries published new textbooks for schools.
- 5) Different teachers taught different subjects to the students. This means that one Teacher education system was closed.
- 6) The Preference to local language was given as the medium of instruction.
- 7) Education was free of charge.
- 8) English language education was the main objective of the schools.
- 9) European children, Converted (proselyte) children, Anglo-Indian children were given the first preference in school.<sup>3</sup>

In the beginning, the only goal was to spread religion. But gradually the focus changed booklet was published that advocates against two religioners – Hindu and Muslim was published in 1808 A.D. by English missionaries carry, ward and Marshman. For ex. It is said that Hindu-Muslims believe in ignorant and imaginary lies. As a result of the riots, these three missionaries were imprisoned by the Governor General Lord Minto and banned their religious activities.<sup>4</sup>

A booklet was published in 1808 A.D. by Carrie, Ward & Marshman denouncing people following other religions like Hinduism & Islam. Eg. Hindus & Muslims were depicted as uneducated & superstitious. It was stated that they believed in imaginary & false things. As a result, riots erupted in many places. The then Governor General Lord Minto sentenced them to imprisonment & put a stop to their work of spreading religion.

#### **CHARLES GRANT : THE PIONEER OF MODERN EDUCATION :**

Charles Grant was in India for nearly 23 years while working in the East India Company. He had deeply studied the social conditions of India. After retirement, he returned to England. In 1792 he published a small book "Observation on the state of society among the Asiatic subjects of Great Britain Particularly with respect to Morals & the means of improving it." In this book, he explained the "Panchmukhi Shiksha Yojana", as follows :

- 1) Establishment of School in India.
- 2) The medium of education should be English.
- 3) Free education of science and literature through English should be given.
- 4) Western science & Technology should be promoted.
- 5) Christian religion should be widely spread. <sup>5</sup>

According to Charles Grant's, "The modern education system has come into existence to bring Indians out of the darkness of ignorance. It is also necessary to teach them English language in order to interact with Indians. Not only this, the (manpower) required by the government can be trained & made available as a result of English medium education. Indians (they) will accept the Christian religion as a result of the ideological change in them (Indians) due to English education." In this way Charles Grant played an important role in teaching English language and science to Indians in 1792 A.D.<sup>6</sup>

When the Charter Act was published in 1813, it was attached with a new proposal. It was mentioned that the English missionaries should be given free access to India. Only after the implementation of this, the missionaries fundamentally laid the foundation of Modern Education in India. The educational work done by the missionaries in our country after that is very important. "It was mainly due to the efforts of the missionaries that the early years of the nineteenth century witnessed the emergence of a new system of Education in this country." <sup>7</sup>

- Dr. A. N. Basu

The British Government paid millions of rupees for the education expenditure every year. The doors of modern education were opened for Indians. The pioneer of Modern Education in India Charles Grant confidently says about the success of 'Panchmukhi Yojana' in the following words :

"There is nothing wanting to the success of this plan, but the hearty patronage of Government. If they wish it to succeed, it can and most succeed." <sup>8</sup>

Due to the efforts of Charles of Charles Grant, the Charter Act of 1813, was recognized as a 'Chartered Act'. According to section 43, the responsibility of Indian education was entrusted to the company. It was said that every year the company had to spend Rs. 1 lakh. The Act expressed, "It will be legal for the Governor General in Council to coordinate that – a total at least one lakh of rupees in every year will be separate and connected to the recovery and improvement of writing and support of the educated locals in India and for the presentation and advancement of an information of the sciences among the occupants of the British domains in India." <sup>9</sup>

### Lord Macaulay's Contribution to the education sector :

Lord Macaulay came to India on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1834. He had come as a Legal Advisor of General Executive Council. He was a Lawyer, a writer and a great speaker. On February 2, 1935, he released a statement.<sup>10</sup> Not only that, while explaining the defining literature, he says, (that) "literature not only means a Sanskrit and Arabic literature but also English literature."<sup>11</sup> There was a great debate about medium of instructions whether it be English or native languages. Ruler Bentik says about it that the vehicle of guidance ought to be English on the grounds that "A solitary rack of a decent European Library merited the entire local writing of India and Arabia." Considering Macaulay's thoughts in a nutshell, it is reasonable to say that he was lowered the importance of Indian languages and given higher positions to English language and literature.<sup>12</sup>

Macaulay's recommendations were accepted by Lord Bentik in 1835 and he has expressed his views thus.

1. His lordship in gathering is of conclusion that the extraordinary object of the British Government should be the advancement of European Literature and science, among the locals of India, and that every one of the assets appropriated with the end goal of Education would be best utilized on English Education alone.
2. But it isn't goal and his lordship in chamber to annul any school or school of local learning while the local populace will have all the earmarks of being slanted to profit themselves of the favorable circumstances which it bears, that all the current educators and understudies at all the foundations under the Superintendence of the board of trustees will keep on accepting their stipends.
3. It has gone to the information of the Governor General in Council that a huge aggregate has been exhausted by the board in the Printing of Oriental works. His lordship in committee coordinates that no segment of the assets will from this point forward be so utilized.
4. His lordship in chamber coordinates that every one of the assets which there changes will leave at the transfer of the advisory group be from this time forward utilized in bestowing to the local populace a learning of English writing and science through the Medium of the English Language. <sup>13</sup>

In this way, Lord Bentik explained the educational policy, the medium of instruction, the meaning of education and objectives by this manifesto. Lord Bentik himself was an English educationist. He got the opportunity to bring forth his thoughts through Macaulay's letter he also felt that the development of education would lead to the elimination of bad traditions in Indian society.

### CONCLUSION :

The ancient Indian system of education suffered due to the interference in and attack from the outsiders. The memories of the ancient golden age of education and culture have been forgotten. The world famous centers of education like Nalanda and Takshashila have gone to ruins. Gradually education or knowledge is limited to keeping account of daily calculations.

The foundation of today's modern Education system was first laid by Christian Missionary. Along with this, legislators like Charles Grant and Lord Macaulay added fuel to the fire. They started the

modern education system in India. Their goal of propagating and promoting education had religious reasons. This education system has reached every strata of society by adopting a universal format. The British created the interest of knowledge in Indian (mind). Through this education, Indians have sacrificed many evil practices and traditions. By creating this feeling of secularism, the feeling of nationalism has increased. Despite this, there are many flaws in this educational system. It will be no exaggeration to say that we can develop the universal, ubiquitous and useful learning system by removing the defects.

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