

### Raja Rammohan Roy's Contribution to women education

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first Indian who founded a reformist movement in India. He wanted to modernize India as early as possible; therefore, he was called the 'representative of the modern age'. In fact, Raja Ram Mohan Roy played a significant role in the progress and development of social and religious movements. He was a great reformer, politician, editor, theologian and a literary person. He played a prominent role in the modernization of India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a learned and educated person, so he made development of education and literature the aim of his life. Hence he opened schools and colleges at several places, Vedanta College, the English School and City College of Calcutta were the results of his efforts. All these educational institutions so really contributed towards the modernization of India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy made the newspapers and his books, a medium to propagate his ideals. He also made a tremendous contribution in the development of Bengal. Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Sanskrit and English language and literature and wrote books in all these languages. He made his newspapers 'Sainvad Kaumudi' and 'Miratul Akhbari' vehicles to carry his thoughts to the people. He was also in favour of making all education and literature free from any restrictions.

**Women Education:** Equally able was the Raja's advocacy of the education of Women. Although the concept had already been put forward by missionaries, it was the Raja who helped to popularize it among the Hindus. He said that the women of India were highly educated and that the education of women was in keeping with ancient religious traditions and beliefs. The Brahma Samaj did great service in removing the popular prejudices against the education of women that were prevalent in the Hindu society and the credit for this goes mostly to Ram Mohan.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy may rightly be called the precursor of the modern system of education in India. His moral earnestness and untiring energy, his boldness of imagination and firm grasp of first principles mark out Raja Ram Mohan Roy not merely as a great educational reformer but as a nation builder. (Hampton, H.V., 1947) It is for these and other valuable services that Raja is rightly called as "the maker of modern India". He not only brought to the notice of the people the problems pertaining to religion and society but also suggested the constructive method of solving these problems and roused them from their lethargy. Roy's ideas on the empowerment of women were still praiseworthy. Roy's advocacy of religious universalism is of great relevance even today as a social and religious counterpart of political secularism. He was equally and strongly against such other social evils as child-marriage, casteism, polygamy and exploitation of women. He was appalled to see the miserable condition of Hindu widows many of whom were young ladies.