

‘Sir Syed as a Visionary Educationist’

I am going to present on ‘Sir Syed as a Visionary Educationist’ . This is the part of Third Year Programm of Indian Political Thinkers. Sir Syed as a Visionary Educationist is the theme of my presentation. I am Dr Badruddin, Professor in Political Science, PES’s RSN College of Arts & Science, Farmagudi, Ponda, Goa. In this particular presentation, I have three major outlines: Sir Syed as great Visionary Educationist’, the first man of Modern Indian Education. Second, I am going to discuss as how Mohammedan Anglo Oriental College, established in 1879, became a source of inspiration and finally modern education as source of knowledge. At the end, the students will be able be learn how Sir Syed is academically relevant today.

Education is the academic platform in context of Aligarh Muslim University as the true centre of higher learning. Education has been the horizon of knowledge, and how the western model of Oxford and Cambridge Universities are important for Aligarh Muslim University and other academic bodies of India in context of Sir Syed’s legacy.

Let me briefly explain about the background of Sir Syed. Some people believe that Sir Syed was the first teacher after he was awarded LLD Degree from Edinburgh University, UK in 1888. Thereafter, Sir Syed came to India and started his academic mission. He was a great visionary and futuristic, and was associated with large number of academic bodies in India who promoted Muslim Education. Sir Syed believed that Muslim are backward and as such only limited communities belong to higher education, and whereas the middle class are fairly educated and lower class are least educated. In order to promote the status of Muslim in India, Sir Syed led many movements. He was multidimensional scholar of mathematics, Islamic jurisprudence, astronomy, history and philosophy. Sir Syed was highly inspired by large number of contemporaries like Subhai, Rumi and Ghalib. The academic influencer of Sir Syed like Abu Talib, Imam Murtaza, Imam Zafar, Syed Abdullah, & Ahmad Bin Musa and their ideas played greater role in contemporary educational personality to mould the personality of Sir Syed and thereafter, large number of his prospective supporters became

the great devotees of Sir Syed. The prominent ones include: Maulana Mohammed Ali, Maulana Shauket Ali, Abdul Haq, Liaqat Ali, Khwaja Nazimuddin, Dr Zakir Hussein, Shaikh Abdullah, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Hamid Ansari. There is no doubt that Sir Syed got inspiration from large number of his contemporaries that played greater role to make Sir Syed a unique personality of India.

Now let me briefly explain some selected reforms during Sir Syed. He was a man of vision born in a royal family and studied in UK and adopted the British Model under Indian Education System when Aligarh Muslim University became an ideal example. MAO known as Mohammedan Oriental College, established 1887, was the gift of Queen Victoria, on 24th May 1819. Therefore, Sir Syed became the first Indian in true sense who started a college on Indian pattern. Thereafter, large number of supports of Sir Syed gave due consideration to his ideas.

Now let me briefly explain some educational reforms under Sir Syed. Some examples are Madarsa al- Uloom Aligarh & Translation Society Ghazipur (1875), Anglo Oriental College (1877), Mohammedan Education Conference (1880), Civil Service Fund, Association (1883), All India Muhammedan Educational Society (1886). Thereafter, Sir Syed is also important in establish in schools in college in India. The prominent ones include: Victoria School (Ghazipur), Gulshan School & Anjuman Progressive Urdu School (Moradabad), Scientific Society (Aligarh) and thereafter Sir Syed also promoted some other academic bodies. Some of these proved inspired to education system. Based on the ideas of Sir Syed, large number of institutes and academic bodies opened in different parts of India. The prominent ones include: Malappuram (Kerala), Murshidabad (West Bengal), Kishaganj (Bihar) and Sir Syed Heritage Foundation (USA). Sir Syed done large number of academic works. Let me briefly give some of these: The first one is *Causes of Indian Revolt* that earned wide popularity and sources of incitement among the Indians. These include: *Tehzeeb-ul-Ikhlaq* (Social Reformer). Apart from these, Sir Syed did lots of voluminous works. The prominent ones include: *Great Monuments* (1842), *Hind Commentary on Bible*

(1862), *Letters from England* (1869), *Fikr-o- Nazr*, *Monuments of the Great, Muhammadan Social Reformer*, *Aligarh Institute Gazette*, and *Proceedings of the Muhammadans Educational Conference*. Apart from these, there are large number of works documented on Sir Syed. The prominent ones include: *Khutut-i-Sir Syed*, *Majuma Lecture*, *Stress on Holy Quran*, and *Reformation of Faith*. Besides, Sir Syed was concerned with large number of academic bodies. Some of these include: Committee for the Diffusion and Advancement of Learning, MAO Association-Ghazipur, Scientific Society (Aligarh), Annual Report (Darul Uloom). These are not enough about Sir Syed. How far Sir Syed has been an inspiration to develop large number of academic bodies in India. It is widely believed that Sir Syed in true sense was the Father of English Reforms in India. In true sense, he was the first Indian to start MAO College on Indian pattern and that college was an open platform for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and other communities of India. Besides, Sir Syed Model is also very important. Some academic bodies like Sir Syed College, Sir Syed College, Sir Syed Schools, Sir Syed Day, Sir Syed Scholarships & Sir Syed Library are also the source of inspiration. Therefore, Sir Syed's role as a greater reformer and most importantly the 100 years of history of Aligarh Muslim University is a unique example. Large number of Alumni meets, exhibitions, research projects, Seminars, Conferences, Contact Programmes, awareness rallies, distribution of brochures, release of pamphlets, etc. are also important. So Aligarh Muslim University remains the largest residential university in Asia and has been famous for culture apart from academics. In memory of Sir Syed, there are large number of museums, NGOs and Academic Bodies working in India. Some of them include: Sir Syed House (Aligarh), All India Islamic Foundation, Sadaq Trust, South India Education Trust, Muslim Educational Association of Southern India, Ambur Muslim Educational Society, Vaniyambadi Muslim Educational Society and most important has been the grand Dinner in Memory of Sir Syed with some 25000 students in Aligarh, India and across the world starts dinner at the same time. It is also mentioned in Guianese Book of World Record and therefore Sir Syed is a unique example. Sir Syed Nagar, Aligarh is the hub of education. Today, the example of Oxford and Cambridge Model is a unique case of Aligarh. Therefore, the contributions of Sir Syed remains debated on various issues. Despite odds and challenges, Sir Syed's memories

and ideas of Sir Syed remain an example for modern education. Therefore, Sir Syed remains a source of education for modern Indian Political Thought. Apart from these, I have mentioned large number of glossaries like Aligarh Muslim University, Cambridge University, MAO College, Oxford Model, Sir Syed, and more references to make presentation more meaningful.

Thank you very much !