

## **Study material M.A. Education**

### **Paper title – History of Education in West Bengal**

#### **Paper Code : DSE – 1.1**

### **Unit : II – Educational History during colonial period of Bengal**

#### **\* Education in Bengal during colonial period**

During colonial period, Bengal became the centre of political changes and cultural upliftment. During colonial period English Education was introduced by the British Govt. As a result a group of Indians received English education and started to serve in British administration. On the other hand a group of educated Indians received Western education and took part in the social, educational and cultural development of the country. A third group of Indians continued to receive Indian education and showed faith on traditional Indian and vernacular education.

#### **\*Bengal Renaissance**

Renaissance was a socio cultural movement of India in 19<sup>th</sup> century and Bengal was the birth place of this great movement. This movement wanted to break-up the traditionalism and orthodox ideas of medieval period and developed the concept of modernization in Indian life. Raja Rammohan Roy was the pioneer of this movement in Bengal who spread the message of modern and logical thinking among people. Many Bengali elites took part in this cultural upliftment and also spread the message of modern India among common people.

#### **\*Missionary activities in education**

Missionary activities started in India in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when different groups of missionaries like Dutch, French, Portuguese started coming to India and settled in different parts of the

country. Maximum missionary settlement was seen in Bengal, in places like Calcutta, Sreerampore, Chinsurah, Chandannagar, etc. But ultimately English missionaries came to the country and started their missionary activities. In this connection the names of many Lady missionaries need special mention. Missionaries started the activity of conversion specially with suppressed classes of the society and spread education mainly among such people. This non-privileged people joined hands with the missionaries with the hope of a better life. As a result many missionary schools and ultimately colleges were opened in Bengal and other parts of the country. Such missionary activities are still in existence in Bengal and also in the entire country.