

Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Experience Of Gender Based Violence And Human Dignity

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Abstract

Raja Ram Mohan Roy Was Hailed As The Father Of Indian Renaissance. India Witnessed A Remarkable Transformation In The History Of India. Age Old 'SATI SYSTEM', I.E., Burning Of Widow In Her Dead Husband's Funeral Pyre Which Existed In India Was Abolished Due To The Effort Of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

Keywords- Experience Of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Sati System, Women's Right, Personal And Political Freedom, Human Dignity.

Introduction

India made tremendous progress both religious and political field in the 19th century. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was hailed as the father of Indian renaissance. He was so dedicated not only for his freedom but for universal freedom also.

Raja Sahib's argument for press freedom that freedom of newspaper is necessary and useful for both the rulers and the ruled. The ruler gets to know about his policies from the reaction of the public as a mention for dissemination of knowledge and development.

He was stout champion of women's right. He condemned the subjugation of women and opposed the prevailing idea that women were inferior to men in intellect or in a moral sense. He attacked polygamy, caste rigidity and child marriage.

To raise the status of women he demanded that they must be given the right of inheritance and property.

Contribution - It believed in the brotherhood of man and treated all men as equal. It started a magazine entitled Samvad Kaumudi, to teach people love of mankind.

It supported widow remarriage and the education of girls. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first to agitate for getting women their rightful place.

Abolition Of Sati System(The Practice Of Burning Widows)-

In Hindu mythology, sati was the wife of Lord Shiva consumed herself in the holy pyre.

She did this in response to her father's refusal to invite Shiva to the assembly of the Gods.

She was so mortified that she invoked a yogic fire and was reduced to ashes.

Self sacrifice like that of the original sati, become a " Divine example of wifely devotion."

The act of sati probated the belief that if a widow gives up her life for her husband, she will be honoured.

In 1811 Roy witnessed his brother's widow being burned alive on her husband's funeral pyre. To witnessed his beloved sister in law's death on the funeral pyre. This personal experience thus termed as a fuel.

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