

Colonial Advent to India in Eighteenth Century and Its Impact on Indian Society

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ABSTRACT: *British East India Company came to India gradually entered Indian politics, started divide and rule policy and grab the power. Gradually subjugated whole subcontinent the great Robert Clive founder of British Empire in India laid the foundation for colonial rule in India through the Allahabad treaty in 1765. In this colonial rule India experienced both negative and positive impact on Indian society. Colonial rule perished Indian economy, polity and handicraft. They also made intellectual slavery through their research on ancient Indian history and culture. At the same time India experienced positive impact on education, western thought, social reforms, health and transport.*

I. INRODUCTION

The Father of economics Adam Smith says 'exploration of India and America greatest invention in the world history'. The most of the navigation from Europe were directed and concentrated mainly towards India and Fareast for the great spices, cotton silk, gold, forest products etc. Portuguese, Dutch, and Spanish voyages to India reached Indian coastal bought valuable spices, cotton, silk and other forest products to cheap rate and returned to Europe. After a century English took great concentration towards India and Indian valuable goods when English pirate Drakes sacked Spanish voyages who derived spices, valuable from Spanish, and Portuguese. Aftermath of these incident English merchants and enterprisers through joint stock company met at London got permission 'Charter' from queen for voyage to India, came and settled at 1600ad in Indian coastal region St. Fort George in Madras and Fort William in Calcutta. English east India company basically merchant company it gradually interfered in Indian politics and they started doing divide and rule principle and conquered the whole India step by step. Firstly English started throwing out other European powers like Portuguese and French and became master of India. Second and third decades of 18 century when India lost central power British actively involved in Indian politics. In 1740s it fought Carnatic wars with French, 1750s Plassey and Boxur in Bengal, war with Maratha, war with Tippu of Mysore, totally British subjugate whole India. British made India their colony and introduced colonial system, colonial set up and administration which means India got taste of colonial experience in middle 18th century also India was gradually colonial advent and experienced several positive and negative impact from these colonial advent.

The 18th century saw the advent of colonial rule in India. Colonialism means establishment of rule by one foreign human race over another local human race and keep latter suppressed. It is the systematised policy of oppression of local people by foreigners. There is a vested interest behind this people of one country will have to accept servitude of the foreign rule to forster the colonialism and capitalism of the foreign country . The foreign country uses all its strength and efforts to force its political policy up on the colonial country. It takes control of the administration, Government and makes use of all human and natural resources for its benefit and welfare. It sucks all additional resources of the country under suppression, it keeps under its control all productive process for the benefit and use of the people of its own country. It tries to break up the society of the colony into groups and class. The best example is what the British did in India since middle 18th century till middle 20th century. Colonial administration in India started since Allahabad treaty in 1765 by Robert Clive, who introduced 'Dual government' through the Diwani rights (Revenue collection) and Nizamat rights (military rights) from Mughal Shah Allm II. From these colonial administration Indian society, economy, and administration experienced two kinds of impact one negative impact and another one positive impact.

Firstly India experiences negative impact in the field of social, economic and administrative field. The colonial rule introduced by the British in India had greater impact on the administrative control system. It was a blend of Indian economy, society and philosophy, the entire India under slavery of colonialism and its capitalism since middle 18th century to middle 20th century in Indian society they abolished the production process that was prevalent in India before the advent of capitalism in India. Lord Corn Wallise introduced new system of land tenancy with the assistance of Grant and Shore in 1793 Zamindari system in Bengal, Rytwori system in Madras, Mahalwari system in North India.

Through these systems Colonial government sucked the blood of farmers. They destroyed farmer friendly atmosphere that was prevalent before the advent of British rule. A new class called 'Zamindars' came into existence. This class joined hands with British thus India was forcibly brought under Colonial rule and these colonial structures cost the Indian society, economy and polity. The main feature of colonialism in India was monopoly and revenue collection, the colonial rulers didn't allow accumulation of capital in their colonies as they wished to transfer them to their mother country. Therefore they made use of official power to destroy all the handicraft and works of skill that produced wealth, also the British in India diverted all sources of income towards unproductive expenditure like wars, victories, expansion of territories etc.

Henry Poulwars says 'British cabinet decides any kind of decision which were in the negative interest of India but they must obey' these kinds of colonial thinking made India downgraded under colonial grip. British introduced judiciary system in India like supreme court, diwani adalat, court of collectors, these were all lengthy, delayed, expenditure and partial towards Indians and also it kept out India from justice for example in Nandha kumar incident in Bengal Robbinson criticised the system of English judiciary and behaviour of colonial justice towards Indians. During first stage of colonial rule in India, British didn't take up any programme for the progress and welfare of the people. They didn't pay any attention to the progress in the field of agriculture, industry, judiciary, education, and social reforms, instead of this British concentrated India was a colony and use only their interest. During Colonial rule the British for the purpose of carrying on Colonial rule continuously and without hurdles, introduced some additional supporting reforms. During these stage those who formulated administrative policies and rationalists presented before the eyes of the colonial people a clear and fruitful picture of the schemes they were launching for the welfare and progress of the Colonial people. They published very good programmes pertaining to health, education and social welfare. This is what happened in India. A number of social, economic, and administrative reforms were introduced. The reason for this was quite different. It was the intention of the British that India should progress on the lines of their mother land at all. But primarily there was vested self interest in this, viz. consolidation of their rule. Lord Carnwallis, Dalhousie, Wellesley, and Curzon ruled with anti Indian sentiments and like reactionaries they eternally tried Indians out from the higher post they preferred Indians to low rank scale service in colonial government. Wellesley introduced Fort William College for civil service in English. Colonial rulers introduced civil service exam at the age of 22, 1859 age again degrees 21 years, 1878 again 19 years from 29 they were all to stop Indians to high positions in government. They were making great negative impacts to Indian youths and educated.

Colonial rule also impact on Indian agriculture and their goods. British stopped Indian crops gave importance to commercial crops which were important and essential to English industry and military, destroyed Indian home industry, handicrafts, cotton weaving other valuable goods. Robertson croose explained and criticized Indian goods which were dominated in England. These kinds of measures perished the Indian economy and used English intensify. For example in 1770-71 1.5 million pounds valuable wealth were transferred to England by Colonial rule. The economic policy of colonial rulers made Indian goods like indigo, cotton, silk, tea and other valuable goods export value in 1797-98 5.8 million pounds. In same goods with jute sugar, forest products goods value in 1856 4300000 pounds and the Indian opium export to china 1856 to 69 the total value of these exports were 90 crore. The total value of Indian goods worth of 200 crores a year drained Indian wealth to England. So the Dadabhai Navroji revealed these drain of wealth and R C Datt, who was great economist analysed and explained in his book "Economic history of India". The drain of wealth to England, these are great menace to Indian and Indian society which was made India poor and poverty.

During the second half of 19th century and first half of 20th century a number of research studies have been made in the field of ancient Indian culture and civilization. This trend which began under the British rule in India had great influence not only on the historical thinking of contemporary British historians but also on historical research and writing technology. The British who came to India to establish their rule took interest in the study of the region of India coming under their rule. In this regard also there was mainly the self interest of British. They planned to study the geographical features and source of wealth of India and thereby to establish their political supremacy and imperialism on the people. Even though the British were not acquainted with the life style and culture completely, they had to rule vast regions. Has such it became essential for them to conduct various kinds of survey, inspection and field work for the purpose of collection of necessary information regarding details of local revenue administration, military system, administrative system and population. As a result of these works undertaken archaeological survey reports, geological and geographical survey reports and gazetteers were edited and published. In consequence for purpose of various reasons in India they had to lay an ideological foundation. For this purpose they took up the task of rewriting Indian history. The main aim of British was to constitutionalise and legalise their rule in India.

On the whole the main purpose of taking up research and writing of Indian history was not that British were interested in giving a true picture of ancient history of India. The real purpose was only to confirm and incorporate establishment of colonialism, memories the Indian people and that it was first and reasonable to strengthen British rule and make it permanent. Their main aim was to create legal obligation by providing facts and events far from being true through the historical works of Alexander dove, James mill, v a smith, mark wilks and others. Their further aim was to create an impression in the minds of the Indian people and make them believe that the British rule in India was the best when compared to the rule of kings of the past. The British created pictures and images just to provide a moral foundation to their rule in India and at the same time make it acceptable to new social class that was coming into existence as if their administrative reforms were rational and pro Indian subjects. Thus they made use of colonial subjugation and colonial hegemony ideological tool.

In same time several positive impact on India, pro Indian attitude rulers like William Bentinck, Rippon, J Adams and other try to introduce several positive administrative measures which were directly and indirectly helped Indians. Colonial rule by the British in India made indirect advantage for the Indians regarding research on ancient Indian history. Thus these historical researches taken up by British created a feeling of pride among the Indian people about their ancient history, tradition and culture. It also played a prominent role in making the spirit of nationalism among the Indians. One cannot forget a large number of historical documents and records have come to light. This is the result of untiring and sincere works of Burgess, Hultsch, William Johns, James Princep, Elliot, Dickenson, B I Rice, Fleet, Kittel etc. Through the survey inspection and field work taken up by them to also several vernacular region works also done. With their works several memorable and precious impacts happened on Indian society specially education development took place. Education first time in India was introduced for common people. Charles grant, Byle forth, Bentinck did help the Indians to educate. Raja Ram Mohan Roy who did a great agitation and struggle for education to common people and woman. His fruitful fight helped to Indians with these enactment forced to eradicate social evils like sathi system, widow re marriage etc, these things impact to Indians and also transport system helped India to move from one place to another place. English became the language of “Lingua Franca”. Eternal contact wide open with west specially England and Indian society got western thought, education, science and technology, democratic ideology, socialism, communism, Industrial development, health etc.

So India during Colonial rule in mid 18th century to 20th century Colonial period had experienced negatively and positively both but we must agree Colonial rule did us slavery and drained our wealth and in same time Indian society got several fruitful social and intellectual gain to Indian society.

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