CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY OF THE WORK

AND

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH
8.0 Introduction

The researcher felt it necessary to summarize the total study, so that it gives an overview of all the perspectives from which the life and activities of Syama Prasad Mookerjee has been studied. He had many facets to his personality, some of which have been elaborately discussed. This study, put special emphasis on his educational contribution towards India, and Bengal in particular, though the researcher analysed his political career to a certain extent.

8.1 Summary of the work:

The first chapter provides a general introductory discussion of the study on Syama Prasad Mookerjee. It mainly deals with the familial situation, where he was brought up and took his first step towards a career of his own. The researcher presented an appropriate meaning of the ‘Title’ of the study very briefly. Here all the keywords were elaborately examined.

The term Educational Thoughts referred to the ideas of Syama Prasad in regard to the future development of the educational system. Then came the term ‘Practices’ - which entailed the discussion of his activities, he put into practice. Then came a brief life history of Syama Prasad, covering his political as well as educational career. Lastly, all his ideas and practices were analysed, finding out their relevance in today’s society.

The need of the study was herein mentioned, without which the study would be more or less irrelevant.

The researcher thought it necessary to study the various new things that he brought into practice, for example, the student exchange programme, teachers training scheme, celebration of University foundation day, employment exchange, etc. There was definitely a need to highlight the above things, without which the people of today would not have in their knowledge, the noble work he was engaged in.
Next comes the querry as to what are the different areas the researcher wishes to throw light on. Through these questions, there comes out a satisfactory reason to every event of Syama Prasad’s life.

In case of any research, the first and foremost important thing that needs to be outlined are the objectives of the study, without which any research study would be totally aimless. The researcher chalked out quite a few detailed objectives. With the help of these objectives, a much awaited answer has been reached. Through these objectives, the intention of the study is highlighted. The objectives reiterates the purpose of the study, for e.g. the researcher wanted to trace the growth of nationalist education during the first half of the 20th century and to provide a brief socio-political picture of India in general and of Bengal in particular, during the period 1901 to 1953.

Lastly, the statement of the study has been mentioned.

In the first chapter, the background of the total study has also been elaborately discussed. Here, a history of the background of a colonial educational system of a country was studied, which justified the factors working behind it. First of all, the British educational system was critically studied, because Sir Asutosh had started working with the University from that period. The various committees and commissions from the days of Lord Bentinck were studied, and carried on till the pre-independence period. Alongside, the above, the formative years of the Calcutta University in particular were studied from various angles. Again, the period of Renaissance was highlighted, when the contribution of leaders like Raja Rammohan Roy, David Hare, Vidyasagar, Mahatma Phule and many others, drew attention. During the years 1924-1934, the University went through huge changes in the hands of Sir Asutosh, Pramanthanath Banerjee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and quite a few other leaders. The above few fought for the changes in the Matriculation Examination, medium of instruction etc. Then came the Sadler Commission which gave quite a few valuable recommendation. Education was suggested as a discipline in M.A, B.A. and Intermediate course for the very first time. Infact, the study of the background gave the researcher various reasons which
worked towards the future development of the University at large. So, while analyzing the contribution of Syama Prasad Mookerjee, it was necessary to study the University in the above said perspective.

Chapter two deals with the review of related literature. Surprisingly, the researcher could not find any elaborate research work as such, done on Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Of course, quite a number of books have been written by various authors. In fact, the researcher had the privilege to study a couple of autobiographies as well. The ‘Diary’ of Syama Prasad have been studied elaborately.

A few biographies about the work and contribution of Syama Prasad Mookerjee have been studied as well. But, all said and done, a huge research gap has been found, while doing the study. The researcher feels that it is her duty to throw light upon the great works of Syama Prasad Mookerjee and enrich our society with the knowledge.

In the third chapter, the researcher tried to study in detail the life and activities of Syama Prasad Mookerjee. First of all Syama Prasad’s immediate family was introduced, then came his father’s activities, related to education in Bengal, from the time when Syamaprasad was a child. Herewith, the total lifetime, including that of his schooling, to that of his studies, were looked into. The researcher threw light on his various academic achievements, regarding studies, so that people know about the genius in him. His high class education comes to the limelight, which influenced his educational endeavour in later life. It is also known that one of the reasons behind his visiting the French and British Universities, was his ultimate wish to programme his Alma Mater, the University, with the positive features of these foreign universities. In this chapter, the researcher finds out that he had a very close relationship with Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. Regarding his joining politics, it was known that education was the main cause behind it. Once he joined politics, he held many a position in Bengal. In this capacity, Syama Prasad fought against the communal policy of the Muslim League. In fact, he tried his utmost to defend the Calcutta University from being engulfed by the League Ministry. The
researcher, while studying his life and works, realized that he had a brilliant political courage, administrative skill, enthusiasm, oratory skill and became a spokesman for the Hindus of Bengal. He was one of the pioneers in bringing about the partition of Bengal, in order to protect the Hindus and their rights. His very busy and significant political career between the period 1937-1947 projects him as a brilliant vocal opposition leader, against the divide and rule policy of the British.

Here, the researcher goes on to study his various educational activities. Syama Prasad’s training in the working of the Calcutta University had already started during the days when his father was the Vice Chancellor of the University. He himself felt that he had a great acumen in the administration of education in Bengal. The first 14 years (1924-38) of his career was strictly spend in the field of education. He was an outright nationalist and tried to serve his country through the path of education. He led great stress on the implication and usage of mother tongue. He wanted education to be secular, liberal, scientific and technical. Syama Prasad, on the other hand, contributed in many areas in the Central Government. He used the Mahasabha as his platform, from where he reacted against the communal intentions of Jinnah. Though he was initially, totally against the Partition of India, later he changed his stance following the riot of 1946. It was Syama Prasad who formed the first industrial policy of the Interim Central Government in 1946 in New Delhi. What is unique in this chapter is the fact that, Syama Prasad thought that the riots in East Bengal was intentional, as the Muslims wanted to expel the minorities of East Pakistan. Here, we also come to know that though Syama Prasad demanded an exchange of population, Nehru rejected the idea, due to personal interest. Finally, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangha alongwith Sadashiv Golwalker. Finally, he championed the cause of integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. Besides all the above, he made various other contributions, which went on to develop India in days to come. with the influence of the political upheavals of British India, on Syama Prasad’s activity as a nationalist leader. It exposes all the atrocities of Muslim League ministries mainly on the Hindu population in Bengal. It goes on to discuss, how Syama Prasad, as a minister of the Coalition Ministry, tackled various problems,
whether social or political. At this very time, Syama Prasad joined the Hindu Mahasabha, a platform to fight against the onslaught of the Leaguers. This chapter, tells us about the various riots in the country, when Syama Prasad went as a savior with huge relief. It also throws light on how the Communal Award invited the wrath of many a leaders, one of them being Syama Prasad. In his political capacity, he gave quite a few memorable speeches as a Legislator in the Assembly, of which, this chapter discusses in detail. Herein, he proved that he was never against the Muslims, but was against the government’s partial treatment of the Muslims.

On the other hand, he demanded the expansion of secular education. Syama Prasad stressed greatly on the Youth Welfare Movement.

The most important issue that has been discussed in this chapter was the agreement on the part of the Government to transfer the control of secondary education over to the new Board of Secondary Education. Last but not the least, the researcher discussed the way in which Syama Prasad tackled the issue of the Secondary Education Bill.

In the fourth chapter, the researcher tries to detail out the method followed while doing this research study. The present study follows the general method of historical research. Here, the researcher attempts to relate the arrival at certain conclusions, concerning the activities and contribution of Syama Prasad in pre-independent India. It has also been possible to predict certain subsequent trends in India, during later years. The relevance of the study is also brought out in this study.

The sources were a combination of primary and secondary sources. Many books, diaries, letters, testimonials, written by Syama Prasad himself, has been elaborately studied. Quite a few biographies of Syama Prasad, were also evaluated and examined objectively while trying to authenticate the sources, the researcher went through the process of internal as well as external criticism. The data used in this research was mainly written material.
In the fifth chapter, the researcher tries to bring out the educational thoughts of Syama Prasad, which was mostly guided by his philosophy. From the very onset, Syama Prasad stressed on Western education along with traditional line. He was a visionary of youth. He also envisaged the importance of teachers in guiding the students to go ahead in the pursuance of higher studies. He stood for student’s general welfare, national prosperity, true patriotism and for a combined strength of the youth- Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike. In supported the changing needs of the country, and hence he demanded the reorganization of the total educational system. He went for a secular education. Syama Prasad also went for the recognition of our national language, a challenge that had to be taken up by the University. It is also noticed that, Syama Prasad wanted education to be highly connected to trade, commerce and industry. Regarding language, he recommended the usage of mother tongue and regional languages, that was to be used in M.A. exams as well, besides English. He, initiated many association involving the students of the University, and the beginning of Honours courses for various subjects, etc. The roots of technical culture and scientific culture, was sown by Syama Prasad.

The sixth chapter deals with the educational contribution of Syama Prasad related to the Calcutta University in particular. As the Calcutta University was Syama Prasad’s soul and love, all his activities, whether contribution or suggestion, were in relation to his Alma Mater. The chapter exposes, as to how the University became the source of dissemination of truth and knowledge. It shows how the University was enhanced in various ways, with the attention of Syama Prasad. He looked at the University from various angles, be it academic, sports or welfare of the students. The chapter also discloses his various objectives, may it be remodeling of the syllabus, examination, language selection, etc. The researcher also comes out with the fact that science subjects were introduced for the very first time, by him. Education of girls were also taken care of, with providing special subjects for them. Alongside this, the age-bar at the Matriculation level was withdrawn. Another contribution of Syama Prasad was the initiation of vacation courses for the teachers. Student Exchange Programme ran successfully under the
Summary…

banner of the University. Lastly, one of the outstanding contribution of his was the establishment of the Department of Educational Research. He took great initiative in activities, related to the Calcutta University, from various angles. For eg, the arrangement of a University playground, the setting up of University Training Corps, an Alumnus Fund, etc. He tried his utmost to wash out illiteracy and ignorance, and substitute it with education related to heritage and culture of India. He also supported the implication of University Unions. One unique contribution of Syama Prasad was the tie between industrialization and education. Lastly, Syama Prasad enlightened many with his very brilliant Convocation Addresses at the Calcutta University as well as other Universities of India. Through these addresses, he put forward his vision, recommendations, regarding the education of India as a whole, which he thought would be completely free from politics. So, in this chapter, it becomes evident that Syama Prasad wanted education to be multifaceted and life oriented.

In the seventh chapter, the researcher tries to prove how far Syama Prasad’s work has been relevant in the present day without which, the study will be incomplete. As we see today, the mother tongue is widely used in many academic pursuits in India. It was the dream come true of Sir Asutosh and later, Syama Prasad.

One of the outstanding reform of his, was the permission to do research work in the mother tongue. It was because of him, that the reorientation of the total educational system was possible. He, worked for so many causes, like, teachers training, inclusion of science in Secondary education stage, practical classes, students exchange program, technical institutions, etc, mainly to uphold India and its advancements. All his contributions are still working successfully, and herein lies his far-sightedness. The concept of autonomy of colleges and Universities were actually thought of by Syama Prasad for the first time in the history of education in India. His idealism, his philosophy and his action, has taken the country way ahead, and which is still taking India to great heights. As regards, Calcutta University, Syama Prasad was one of the very few, who thought of revising the curricular activities to life needs, instead of the colonial education that was full of demerits.
As is so very important today, was the very first one to think of depoliticising education. He set up many academic and sports institutions which are still running strong. He took up several challenges that have hundred percent relevance till day.

The researcher at the end of the study observed that Syama Prasad was out and out a nationalist. The very first thing he did was nationalizing education. Whatever he did in his various capacities, he did from the educational perspective. He was highly courageous in confronting the alien government, whenever there was an onslaught against the interest of his brethren.

The **eighth** chapter brings a summary of all the total research work.

In the **ninth** chapter the concluding observations were given.

A **Bibliography** has been added in the end to acknowledge the authors of various source materials.

**Annexures** contains various pictures related to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

### 8.2 Suggestions for further research

The researcher suggests that those who wish to carry out further study on Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, can dwell upon the following areas:

- A study on Calcutta University and Dr. Mookerjee: A critical analysis.
- Syama Prasad as a nationalist educator: A study
- A critical enquiry into educational ideas of Dr. Mookerjee in the contemporary Indian society
- Influence of Rabindranath Tagore on Dr. Mookerjee

### 8.3 Conclusion

The researcher tries to bring out the greatness of this outstanding personality in the history of India, both in the educational and the political field.
“Freedom first, freedom second, and freedom always.”

- Sir Asutosh Mookerjee