PREFACE

The role of education in bringing social change in the British period is an interesting aspect of social history. The introduction of modern means of communication, commercial capitalism and above all English education resulted in the growth of nationalism and led to social change. An urban based, educated middle class emerged in the Indian sconce who shouldered responsibilities and disseminated western ideas of rationalism, scientific enquiry etc. to bring about social change and in a large perspective fought against colonialism.

Education, and its dissemination of ideas, in its wake, created conditions favourable for social change in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Apart from imparting the formal education its spin-off effects contributed to the efforts for socio-religious reform movements to ward off the dogmas and evil practices afflicting the religion and society. The spread of education and the socio-religious movements also contributed in the education and emancipation of women in society. Apart from raising their status in the society, the educated women leaders actively participated in the freedom struggle along with their righting for rights.

In Orissa, the introduction and dissemination of education created conditions conducive for social change. The emerging intelligentsia under the influence of English education, as their counterparts elsewhere in India, voiced against the dogmas afflicting the society and tried to reform it from inside. The large political struggle at the national level also included the fight against the evils that surrounded the religion and society from within. So both the political and social movements went side by side. Education and Social change in Orissa during 1850-1947 is vital to measure the growth of education and social change which had a bearing on the later resurgence and emancipation of women and national struggle.
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