PREFACE

The advent of great Raja Rammohan Roy was recognized as an epoch in the history of India. He had a patriotic and humane heart and a nationalist mind. He was the inaugurator of new and enlightened ideas and ideals both in the field of society and education. He initiated the progressive movements in every sphere of life. He started his movement from rational analysis of religion as religion is the root of social reformation. Towards society and education, he made immense contributions by bridging the gap between superstition and Science. The main guiding principle of his reformatory movements was public good and for this, all of his activities were directed from orientalism of the past, through western culture, towards a larger and nobler civilization, neither western nor eastern.

Today there is a sea change in the concept of education. Education and society are interrelated. We need to redefine the aims of education for democratic India. We need to solve our present problems of society with a modern and scientific attitude and approach. In this context the study of Raja Rammohan Roy’s life, his reformatory activities, his vision of new ideals and ideas—all are highly relevant.

In all spheres of life various evils still exist. Towards social problems, Raja Rammohan Roy displayed an uncompromising and unforgettable rational attitude. Reformation from within was his style. Inner consciousness and awareness were the main philosophies of his movement. So, in accordance with the present scenario prevalent in our society there has again arisen a need for Raja Rammohan Roy’s philosophies.

The great contribution which was made by Raja Rammohan Roy to the Renaissance in Bengal is really praiseworthy. Bengal owes much to Raja Rammohan Roy for his great contributions to the society and education. However, many times his contributions have not been duly acknowledged and remembered. Keeping in view with the present problems and corruption, it is a high time to follow and apply his significant multifaceted ideals, views and philosophies.

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Committee, Department of Education, University of Calcutta. The researcher expresses her deep and heartfelt respect and gratitude to Dr. Banerjee for her motivation and expertise in various aspects of education. She has always inspired the researcher with patience and sincerity in every aspect of her research work with her excellent command over various aspects. In moments of difficulty she had always guided and helped the researcher by means of which it has been possible for the researcher to move ahead with confidence in her project. Prof. Dr. Banerjee has provided her valuable suggestions and illuminating observations to the researcher to complete her work within an agreed time frame.

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Any omissions are unintended.

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