

Chapter-8 Civilising the "Native", Educating the Nation

- Important Dates:-

- i. *A madarsa was set up in Calcutta in 1781 to promote the study of Arabic, Persian and Islamic languages.*
- ii. *The Hindu College was established in Banaras in 1791 to encourage the study of ancient Sanskrit texts that would be useful for the administration of the country.*
- iii. *In 1854, the court of Directors of the East India Company in London sent an educational despatch to the Governor-General in India.*
- iv. *A printing press was set up in 1800 and a college established in 1818.*
- v. *In the 1830s, William Adam, a Scottish missionary, toured the districts of Bengal and Bihar*

- Question & Answer

1. *Why did William Jones feel the need to study Indian history, philosophy and law?*

William Jones felt the need to study the Indian history, philosophy and law as he felt that the Indian civilization has attained its glory in the ancient past, but had subsequently declined. To understand India it was necessary to discover the works of the ancient period. He also thought that it would not only help the British learn from Indian culture, but also help the Indians rediscover their own heritage. In the process he thought that the British would become the guardians of the Indian culture as well as its master.

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2. *Why did James Mill and Thomas Macaulay think that European education was essential in India?*

James mill and Thomas Macaulay thought that European education was essential in India as according to them, the knowledge of the East was full of errors and unscientific thoughts and that Eastern literature was non-serious as well as light hearted. Macaulay saw India as uncivilised country that need to be civilised thus said that the aim of education should be on what was useful and practical. So that Indians could be made familiar with the scientific and technology advances that the West had made.

3. Why did Mahatma Gandhi want to teach children handicrafts?

Gandhiji wanted to teach children handicraft because he felt that Western education focused on reading and writing rather than oral knowledge and valued textbooks more than lived experience and practical knowledge. He thought that literacy by itself did not count to education, but people had to work with hand and learn a craft, so that they would know how different things operated.

4. Why did Mahatma Gandhi think that English education had enslaved Indians?

Mahatma Gandhi thought that English education had enslaved Indians as it created a sense of inferiority in the minds of the Indians, and made them see Western civilisation as superior and destroyed their own pride. Also Indians educated in these system admired British rule. Education in English crippled Indians, and distanced them from their own surroundings, making them strangers in their own land.