

Meaning of humanism

Humanism is very old philosophy. It emerges in ancient Greece. The essence of his philosophy is that man is at centre and other social institutions are secondary to man. Humanism is not humanitarianism. Humanitarianism denotes welfare activities for human beings.

Radical humanism of M. N. Roy

Radical humanism is based on concept of sovereignty of man. It means man is important than nation or class. It is humanism because it aims at preserving the integrity of individual. It is radical because it penetrates through all abstractions to reach at the root of society i.e. individual human beings. It studies man in its originality.

Objective of philosophy

The objective of philosophy is to co-ordinate the philosophy of nature and social order in monastic system.

Objective of Radical humanism

Objective of radical humanism is to ensure freedom of individual. Today mankind is facing moral crisis and it requires reassertion of humanist values. The great issue of politics today is neither capitalism, communism or fascism between human freedom.

Sources of his ideas

M. N. Roy formed a league of radical congress within Indian National Congress as a distinct block. In 1937, he started his weekly named "Independent India". He changed name of weekly "Radical humanist". In 1946 he held the meeting of radical democratic party and outlined philosophy of radical humanism for 1st time.

- 1) His philosophy is reconstruction of Marxism rather than negation of Marxism.
- 2) Society should be based on real individual rather than obstructions like nation or class.
- 3) Communism is no longer road to freedom. Communist party has controlled every aspect of human life in USSR, China and Mexico.

- 4) Germany has shown the weakness of parliamentary democracy because it has led to fascism.
- 5) Different path to human freedom is required. Revolutionary philosophy will be judged from amongst of freedom it gives to individuals.
- 6) Decentralisation forms the basis of radical democracy.

M. N. Roys views on radical humanism are found in his works like "Beyond Communism", "Reason Romanticism and Revolution", "Politics, Power and Parties".

Sources of influence on M. N. Roy

- 1) Cortesian philosophy: Reason comes from nature
- 2) Scientific materialism of Hobbes
- 3) Utilitarianism of Bentham
- 4) Secularism of law
- 5) Utopianism of Thomas Moore
- 6) Humanism of Erasmus
- 7) Ethics of Spinoza

Radical Humanism

Radical humanism has three components:

Freedom

Freedom of man is the ultimate objective of radical humanism. He is influenced by views of con..... andTurbot. They ... held that science emancipates man and increase the sphere of human freedom. Freedom emerges out of man's struggle for self survival, self protection and reproduction. Thus freedom is not spiritual as Aurobindo Ghosh or Tagore believes. Freedom is materialistic. Spiritualism reduces the scope of human action.

Reason

When the struggle for survival is continued at the level thinking or cognition it is reason. It means rationality of man is materialistic and not metaphysical. Thus M.

N. Rôy gives materialistic metaphysics which is in harmony with philosophy of nature. Universe is rational so man is rational.

Ethics

When reason is applied in social life it becomes ethics. Thus ethics have materialistic origin hence materialism is not vulgar it is natural. Bentham thinks that man has natural instinct to satisfy his desire. Freedom is conditions of self realisation.

Other features of radical humanism

- (i) It is a cosmopolitan philosophy. It is against both nationalism and internationalism. Radical humanism creates commonwealth of men and women and it will be a type of world government.
- (ii) Freed Reason provides dynamism freedom gives direction. Two combine to give co-operative spirit of mankind so his individualism is co-operative individualism.
- (iii) State curtails freedom hence and decentralism is necessary for freedom. It is an essence of radical democracy.
- (iv) Radical democracy requires economic democracy without economic security. Freedom loses his value.
- (v) Revolution will come not through class struggle but through education.
- (vi) Radical humanism is based on concept of moral man and humanist politics. Humanist politics means politics with ethics.
- (vii) One can't be revolutionary without scientific knowledge hence education is a means of revolution.