ARYA SAMAJ: POLITICAL AWAKENING AND WOMEN IN PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT
19th century witnessed the Arya Samaj becoming one of the great movements not only in India but also in Punjab. The study concluded through this paper that Arya Samaj made the Punjabi Masses to feel and react the pinch of slavery, irrespective of gender. The political awakening among the women came in guise but became the fore front of their activity. It also becomes evident from the above cram that hypothesis of feminism particularly in Punjab being prearranged by Arya Samaj was of actual character. The gravitational centers of women freedom fighter’s activities were educational institutions i.e. Arya Putri Path Shalas, Arya Schools and D.A.V. Colleges. Though the freedom movement was not limited to a particular stream or group but when the women participation is studied it is traced that major flux of this leadership and participation was provided by the teachers, lecturers, Principals and students of Arya institutions.

KEY WORDS: Arya Samaj, movement, women, Punjab, awakening.