

(5)

Students Movement:

⊗ What was the reason behind the student movement in 1960? Explain.

⇒ In 1959, Ayub Khan, the military dictator formed a commission led by education ~~secretary~~ secretary SM Sharif to draft a national education policy.

The aim of the policy was to deprioritize education for all. Popularly known as SM Sharif Education policy, was published in 1962. The recommendation of this policy was so obviously discriminatory that it sparked a student movement in the former East Pakistan.

The Sharif commission report recommended that—

i) Urdu should be made the language

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of the people of Pakistan

ii) There^{English} should be made ~~an~~ as compulsory from fourth grade.

iii) Education should not be offered at a cheaper rate.

iv) There are Investments in the business and education sectors should be seen equally for several reasons.

The commission was built on few assumptions that the concept of free primary education is unrealistic and education was considered as a site of investment.

Students from the then east Pakistan intensely opposed the policy and demanded that it be cancelled.

Committee to protest and organise public meetings against the policy was formed in colleges and in universities.

On September 17, 1962, thousands of students took to the streets protesting at the discriminatory education policy of Ayub Khan's military regime. In demand of equal access to education, students took bullets. At least 3 people including a student were killed. Since then, September 17 is observed as the Education Day by progressive student organisations.