**Evaluate Raja Ram Mohan Roy as a feminist (2014)**

**Answer:**

1. **Abolition of Sati:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy raised his voice against the Sati system. In the funeral pyre of the deceased husband, his wife was mercilessly thrown if she did not enter into the flame voluntarily. She was termed as Sati. The Brahmins and other higher castes in the society encouraged it. Ram Mohan protested it vehemently. Even he went to England to give witness before the Privy Council against this cruel practice where the orthodox Indians had appealed hot to repeal his system. His efforts bore fruits and this practice was stopped by an Act passed in 1829 during Lord William Bentinck. Thus, a long prevailing ugly practice of the Hindus was uprooted.
2. **Opposed discrimination against women:** In 1822, he had published “Modern Encroachments on the Ancient Rights of Females according to the Hindu law of Inheritance.” In this pamphlet, on the authority of the ancient Smriti writers, he opposed all discriminations and evil practices against women. He opposed polygamy, Kulinism and Sati and came out in support of the inheritance of property by daughters. He was also a relentless crusader against child marriage and the rigidity of the caste system, which he described as undemocratic and inhuman.  He stood for the freedom of widows to remarry and equal rights of men and women.
3. **Women Education:**  Equally able was the Raja`s advocacy of the education of Women. Although the concept had already been put forward by missionaries, it was the Raja who helped to popularize it among the Hindus. He said that the women of India were highly educated and that the education of women was in keeping with ancient religious traditions and beliefs. The Brahma Samaj did great service in removing the popular prejudices against the education of women that were the prevalent in the Hindu society and the credit for this goes mostly to Ram Mohan.
4. **Champion of Women Liberty:** Raja Ram Mohan Roy advocated the liberty of Women. He was determined to give women her proper place in the society. Besides abolishing Sati, he advocated in favor of widow remarriage. He also told that like the sons, daughters have also their right over parental property. He also influenced the British government to bring necessary modification in the existing law. He raised voice against child-marriage and polygamy. He was the advocate of women education. Thus, he advocated women’s liberty out and out and awakened them.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion it can be said that raja ram Mohan Roy was a pioneer, forerunner and founder of Indian renaissance movement. He tried his best to abolish the social evils practiced in Hindu society. as a feminist raja ram Mohan Roy took a leading role to emancipate the Indian Hindu woman from the clutch of superstition and social evils done against them. Among them the abolition of sati custom, child marriage, regeneration of women and women education were important.