**Question: Write about the concept of New Humanism as propounded by M.N Roy. (2015)**

**Or**

**Critically discuss M. N Roy’s concept of ‘New Humanism’. (2016)**

**Or**

**Explain M.N Roy’s concept of ‘New Humanism’. (2018)**

**Introduction**

Roy was a born revolutionary. He was influenced by Marxists when stayed in USA. He was one of the learned people of Marxist in world. Later on, some differences arose between Roy and Stalin and Roy was criticized as a revisionist .With time, Roy became critic of Marxist. In later years, he transformed his philosophy from Marxism to radical humanism which was called new humanism.

**Meaning**

The term humanism has been derived from the Latin word 'Humanus' meaning a system of thought primarily concerned with human being and with human affairs in general. M N. Roy's New Humanism is a great contribution to the history of political philosophy. His New Humanism is also called Radical or Scientific humanism. M.N. Roy realized that the modern crisis requires a new orientation of human thinking, particularly in politics. New Humanism tried to solve the problems of ethics. Roy wanted to synthesize the humanist, the materialist. New Humanism re-asserts the sovereignty of man. It accepts the worth of moral and spiritual freedom, reason and ethics. It looks beyond nationalism. It is cosmopolitan in its outlook. It pleads for a cooperative fellowship of man. It enunciates the supremacy of the eternal urge of freedom. His integral radical new humanism was a moral restatement of Marxism,

**Basic Features of** **New Humanism**

1. **Human is not Driven by any Natural or Super Natural Power:** Roy believed that human being is not driven by any natural and supernatural elements. The common faith of society is that the activities of human kind are run by God, nature, soul, religion etc. These elements drive the humanism in society. Roy believes that the development of humanism is biological process. There is no control or dominance of any natural elements on human being.
2. **Roy's New Humanism is cosmopolitan**: Roy's New Humanism is cosmopolitan in its viewpoint. New Humanism is promised to the idea of a commonwealth and fraternity of freeman. He supported a world federation. A cosmopolitan in the sense that there would not be limited by the boundaries of national states- capitalist, fascist, socialist, communist or any other kind which will gradually disappear under the impact of the twentieth century renaissance of man.
3. **Man is the Root of Mankind:** It is human being which drives the human life. The natural elements can influence the nature of human being but they cannot control the fate of human being. That means in which direction the human being manage themselves is not determined by any natural elements but by themselves. Again human is rational being, he can change his own fate. Class, caste, groups, states religion etc. cannot be the determinants or the basis human rationalism.
4. **Education and Awareness is basis of New Humanism:**  The earlier concept humanism was dominated by religion, God or the super power. The concept of Roy’s New Human has separated all these elements from the human being and he considers that all these elements are inferior to human being. According to him it is education and social awareness which can redress human being from the social superstition, from narrow feelings of caste, creed color, and religion.
5. **New Humanism is the way to eradicate social conflict:** The existences of different institutions like marriage, family, state, caste, religion are the reasons of conflict in society. For these reasons the human beings has to lose their own liberty and are suffering a lot in their social life. Therefore, Roy believes that on the basis of New Human is the society which should re-construct. It will reform society and eradicate social conflict and liberate human being from conflicting situation.
6. **Ethics is Subordinate to Rationalism:** According to Roy man is rational animal. It is his rationalism for which he is superior and for which he can develop himself. The rationalism determines the ethics and therefore no social institution has the right to determine ethics of man. Therefore, he said that the ethics is subordinate to rationalism.
7. **Individual Liberty:** It is human struggle that lead them towards individual liberty. They entered into the society so that they can preserve and maintain the individual liberty. Therefore, Roy said that it is the duty of the state to safe guard the human liberty.

1. **Individual is the End and state is the Mean:**. Roy stated that individual was an end itself and society was simply a mean to an end. Roy believed that man created society for certain objects. It means that all social relations, political, economic, social, ethical must be adjusted to the fundamental requirement of promoting the freedom and liberty.
2. **Primacy of values and eternal freedom:** New Humanism of Roy aims at instilling a sense of primacy of values and the urge for eternal freedom. He strongly believed in the greatest good of the greatest number that can be accomplished only when members of the government are responsible in the first place to their respective morality. Roy has moved far beyond Marxism and he has articulated some fundamental philosophies on which his Humanism stands.

**Criticism**

1. The challengers of Roy’s New Humanism argued that he had failed to give logical and adequate reasons as to how the living bodies are created through evolutionary process.
2. He developed his theory on assumption that man is essentially a ration being. But man is not always rational.
3. Roy was also criticized for religious as a hindrance in the development of freedom. Antagonists argued that religion played an important role in our cultural and intellectual development.
4. Another presumption of Roy was that physical and social beings are governed by the same laws but such an analogy is not viewed as correct by other thinkers.
5. Roy separated ethic and rationalism. According to him rationalism is superior to ethic. But he did say anything that what is ethics and what is rationalism. In actual practice it is hardly find any distinction between the two terms.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion it can be said that New Humanism is totally different from that of contemporary concept of humanism. In his concept of New Humanism there is no place of super natural elements or the importance of social institutions. It human is being which the central point of his New Humanism is. Again unlike other philosophers he is more materialistic. He linked the ethics of human being with the rationality. Further, his New Humanism is not narrow concept; it is cosmopolitan in its nature.