

Vol 7 Issue 2 Nov 2017

ISSN No : 2249-894X

*Monthly Multidisciplinary
Research Journal*

*Review Of
Research Journal*

Chief Editors

Ashok Yakkaldevi
A R Burla College, India

Ecaterina Patrascu
Spiru Haret University, Bucharest

Kamani Perera
Regional Centre For Strategic Studies,
Sri Lanka

Welcome to Review Of Research

RNI MAHMUL/2011/38595

ISSN No.2249-894X

Review Of Research Journal is a multidisciplinary research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi & Marathi Language. All research papers submitted to the journal will be double - blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial Board readers will include investigator in universities, research institutes government and industry with research interest in the general subjects.

Regional Editor

Dr. T. Manichander

Sanjeev Kumar Mishra

Advisory Board

Kamani Perera Regional Centre For Strategic Studies, Sri Lanka	Delia Serbescu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania	Mabel Miao Center for China and Globalization, China
Ecaterina Patrascu Spiru Haret University, Bucharest	Xiaohua Yang University of San Francisco, San Francisco	Ruth Wolf University Walla, Israel
Fabricio Moraes de Almeida Federal University of Rondonia, Brazil	Karina Xavier Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA	Jie Hao University of Sydney, Australia
Anna Maria Constantinovici AL. I. Cuza University, Romania	May Hongmei Gao Kennesaw State University, USA	Pei-Shan Kao Andrea University of Essex, United Kingdom
Romona Mihaila Spiru Haret University, Romania	Marc Fetscherin Rollins College, USA	Loredana Bosca Spiru Haret University, Romania
	Liu Chen Beijing Foreign Studies University, China	Ilie Pinte Spiru Haret University, Romania
Mahdi Moharrampour Islamic Azad University buinzahra Branch, Qazvin, Iran	Nimita Khanna Director, Isara Institute of Management, New Delhi	Govind P. Shinde Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Distance Education Center, Navi Mumbai
Titus Pop PhD, Partium Christian University, Oradea, Romania	Salve R. N. Department of Sociology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur	Sonal Singh Vikram University, Ujjain
J. K. VIJAYAKUMAR King Abdullah University of Science & Technology, Saudi Arabia.	P. Malyadri Government Degree College, Tandur, A.P.	Jayashree Patil-Dake MBA Department of Badruka College Commerce and Arts Post Graduate Centre (BCCAPGC), Kachiguda, Hyderabad
George - Calin SERITAN Postdoctoral Researcher Faculty of Philosophy and Socio-Political Sciences Al. I. Cuza University, Iasi	S. D. Sindkhedkar PSGVP Mandal's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada [M.S.]	Maj. Dr. S. Bakhtiar Choudhary Director, Hyderabad AP India.
REZA KAFIPOUR Shiraz University of Medical Sciences Shiraz, Iran	Anurag Misra DBS College, Kanpur	AR. SARAVANAKUMAR LAGAPPA UNIVERSITY, KARAIKUDI, TN
Rajendra Shendge Director, B.C.U.D. Solapur University, Solapur	C. D. Balaji Panimalar Engineering College, Chennai	V. MAHALAKSHMI Dean, Panimalar Engineering College
Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya	Bhavana vivek patole PhD, Elphinstone college mumbai-32	S. KANNAN Ph.D , Annamalai University
	Awadhesh Kumar Shirotriya Secretary, Play India Play (Trust), Meerut (U.P.)	Kanwar Dinesh Singh Dept. English, Government Postgraduate College , solan

More.....

Address:-Ashok Yakkaldevi 258/34, Raviwar Peth, Solapur - 413 005 Maharashtra, India
Cell : 9595 359 435, Ph No: 02172372010 Email: ayisrj@yahoo.in Website: www.oldror.lbp.world



THE STUDENTS ROLE IN THE HOME RULE MOVEMENT IN TAMIL NADU, 1916-17



ABSTRACT:-

Home Rule Movement launched by Annie Besant was aimed at ending the repressive behaviour of the British Government in India and to gear up the Indian masses to struggle for self-government for India. Besant started Home Rule League in September 1916, which marked with the commencement of a political movement involving different heterogeneous social groups. The involvement of the student community of Tamilnadu in the Movement was spontaneous and intensive. This paper tries to explore the contribution of students towards the spread and growth of the Home Rule Movement in Tamil Nadu. This research paper is constructed availing primary archival data collected at Tamil Nadu Archives, Chennai and the primary, this data was supplemented by secondary literature.

KEYWORDS: heterogeneous social groups , secondary literature , youngmen students .

INTRODUCTION

Annie Besant was of the opinion that youngmen students could not be expected to make the sacrifice unless they were inspired by a passionate love for their motherland. She also said that their very reasonable demand was obtain Home Rule.¹ In the New India dated 15 March 1918, she stated, nothing will save

K. Kalaiarasi

**Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full Time),
Department of History ,
Annamalai University , Annamalai Nagar.**

India but the Indian valour and English should know that was India a tremendous reservoir of manpower, for greater than any other countries.²

She the following pamphlets authored by her were used as means of propaganda amongst the students:

1. India: A Nation
2. India and the Empire
3. Self-Government for India
4. The political outlook
5. Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions
6. The Future of Young India
7. East and West in India
8. The India Council
9. Under the Congress Flag
10. Home Rule

In, December 1916 a Home Rule League Branch was founded at Adyar, Madras. More than 200 students of the city enrolled in the League. Under the auspicious of the league of the political meeting was held on 16 December, 1916.³ It took necessary measures to enroll the students as members of the Home Role League. The members were provided Home Rule badges with Red and Green stripes and inscribed Home Rule at the centre.⁴

In January, 1917 the students of Trichinoploy colleges paraded the main streets of the town explaining home rule principles.⁵ A meeting of college and school students was held at Kumbakonam on 16 February, 1917 when, a resolution was passed rejecting the Government order of prohibiting students from attending political meetings.⁶ In a meeting held at Madras on 2 March, 1917 a student speaker said that

the Government neither regarded that the students were the sons of Indians nor gave any importance to the opinions of their parents and teachers.⁷ Such a student meeting was held at Madurai also.⁸

Annie Besant, in a meeting at Madras, questioned that why young men should not read politics, and why discussion of political problems should be bad. She severely warned that their adventurous spirit and injured feelings and curbed Freedom would lead them to do in secret what they were disallowed to do openly. Depriving them of their rights to study and discuss constitutional politics was tantamount to driving them into dangerous channels of anarchical crimes.⁹ She while addressing the students of Theosophical College, Adyar said that if the home rule propaganda does the harm of making our young men more patriotic, more courageous, more frank and less docile, less timid and less emasculated, then all Indians will agree that the more such 'harm' come to the young the better.¹⁰ In a meeting held at Coimbatore on 2 April, 1917 a student speaker opposed the attempt of spying students by pro-British people including some teachers and officials.¹¹

The Government of Madras Presidency considered that Home Rule propaganda by Mrs. Besant and other home rulers would aggravate anti-British feeling among the minds of the youths. It considered that the young required to be protected from falling a prey to the flattery of the agitators who called them patriots and saviours of the motherland and thereby sowed the seeds of indiscipline and anarchy among them.¹² The Government felt that the students should be prevented from attending meetings in pursuance of the Home Rule campaign and also that the powers available under the Defense India Act should be invoked against those who tried to delude their judgment and unbalance their unformed mind.¹³ It also tried to delink students from associating with Mrs. Besant in the face of her increasing popularity among students. It issued orders to heads of educational institutions and police department as a measure for curbing the students' activities. Absenteeism in the case of students should be considered as punishable default. Such defaulted students may be expelled or debarred from appearing for their examinations.¹⁴ Annie Besant was enraged at this and she expressed: That repression would not check the rising tide of Indian struggle for liberty. Youngmen driven out of the constitutional arena of politics, which they had the right and duty to study and discuss, would turn to anarchical methods.¹⁵

In the wake of the Home Rule Movement, which involved the students in political agitation, the Home Department issued a circular on 20 April, 1917, prohibiting their attendance at political meetings and held that the powers available under the defence of India act should be used to control the persons who tried to influence the young. Following this circular, the local Governments issued new orders stiffening the order of 1917, bringing in a special reference to the Home Rule agitation. Madras was the first in implementing the circular.¹⁶

The students opposed the decision of the Government. They started to disobey the Government order. In Trichinopoly about 200 students decided to disobey the order. Every student questioned on the point, expressed similar attitude of defiance. Heads of some of the institutions in Tamil Nadu also opposed the circular but a few favoured it. Principal Statham of the Kumbakonam College set up a good precedent, who, knowing that his students had followed a procession, admonished them not to do so and refrained from punishing them for the first mistake. The principal of the Hindu College demanded an unconditional apology from the students, who gathered on 8 April, 1917 at the residence of C.V. Venkatraman Iyengar, to pray for the repeal of the circular.¹⁷

Teachers' Associations in Tamil Nadu came to the forefront to support Mrs. Besant. The Madras Teachers' Association staged a demonstration to support the students against the suppressive measures of the government. On 10 April 1917 a mass procession was organized at Triplicane, Madras when Home Rulers numbering including a large number of students paraded the main streets in Triplicane displaying placards and depicting anti-British slogans. The Madras Students' Convention brought out a monthly magazine, *The New Student*. This journal was started as the organ of the Madras Students' Convention on 22 April, 1917. This journal had a circulation of about 250 copies per month. It reproduced the articles published in *New India* and *Commonweal*.¹⁸

A Jeffery, Professor of History, Madras Christian college was the Managing Editor of the journal, K. Swaminatha Iyer, a law student, was the working editor. Most of contributors were law students from Madras. The journal revealed the Home Rule philosophies. Mrs. Besant felt that learning the philosophies by the students themselves will be considered as students' involvement in politics. The students of Madras organized a meeting when the student speaker delivered that home rule would settle all the problems in India. Madras Students' Convention held at Trichinopoly on 24 April 1917 and K.V. Srinivasa Iyengar, the Chairman of the reception committee, said that Europeans were an alien race who had no business to be delivered before a student

audience.¹⁹

Not minding the authoritative behaviour of the Government Mrs. Besant took initiative to form 'National Board of Education' to spread the ideals of a good society. The main aim of the Board was to give religious instruction to the students and make them respect their mother tongue and enable them to have greater knowledge of their motherland and train them as patriotic citizens. On 24 May, 1917 she invited seventy-four persons who had distinguished themselves in different fields to join the Governing Body of the Board to frame curriculum, appoint examiners, conduct examinations and to issue diploma to those who completed their course in the national schools. Further, it was also decided to establish such schools throughout the country to save the unfortunate youths of Government schools and colleges from becoming either slaves or rebels. Arundale was selected as the honorary Registrar, Sir Rash Behari Gosh was elected as the President, Saiyid Hasan Imam and Madava Rao were vice-presidents. Annie Besant, Justice Sadasiva Iyer, C.P.Ramaswamy Iyer, Kasturiranga Iyengar and others were elected as executive members of the Board.²⁰

G.S. Arundale also promoted the cause of national education in Tamil Nadu. He was an educationist in favour of the teaching of civics and of the spirit of patriotism in schools and colleges. He considered that the schools and colleges should be miniatures of India. He contrasted the destructive effects of the prevalent irreligious and anti-national system of education with the system under which he worked and elaborated in the Central Hindu College, Benares. He constituted a team of teachers and educated friends of him with the aim of importing some instruction among the rural youths/students on the importance of health, education, general hygiene etc. Pandit S.Muthusami of Padalam; Kesava Murthi of Kanchipuram; Uppiiyappan of Kumbakonam; Seshadri Iyengar, Chennai were among the members of the team.²¹

In June, 1917, 'National Education Week' was celebrated to popularize the concept of national education among the students and parents. These National Schools attracted the attention of the students. In Tamil Nadu alone several such schools were started which taught the spirit of nationalism and patriotism of young students.²² In western countries patriotism and nationalism were taught to students through Boys Scout and other such agencies. So Mrs. Besant and her League urged the Government to extend to Indian students the benefits of the Boy Scout Movement. New India points out that the only way of meeting high spirit of the present generation of Indian youth is to treat boys and young men as they are treated in England. Discipline is preserved, but no attempt is made to crush the lads' spirit and to treat them as contemptible. But the Government rejected the plea. It pointed out that the conditions were so different in India and explained the difficulties in introducing the Boys Scout on account of climate, habits, caste system etc. But in reality the Government did not want to create martial spirit among the students.²³

When the demand for Boys Scout became more vocal the Government relented and decided to start Boys Scout Movement in Madras. Arundale who expressed his reservation over the nature of the Boy Scouts proposed by the Government said that the movement should be made thoroughly Indian in aspiration. However, under the auspices of the Home Rule League, an Indian Boys Scout Movement was inaugurated in Madras in early, 1917. The scouts were trained by Pearce, the vice-principal of Mahindra College, Galle and Scout Commissioner for Ceylon who was invited specially for this purpose. Scoutmaster T.P.Sinha gave training in drill. The headquarters of Boys Scout Movement was established in a building adjacent to the office of the Madras branch of the home rule league. Arundale instructed the boys in flag signaling and Kamath another instructor taught them dumbbell exercises. Mrs. Besant advised the student volunteers to paint a large map of India on one of the walls of the home rule office, with the word, "Bande Mataram" and "Be Prepared" written in Sanskrit in the centre. The Boys Scout Movement attracted the attention of the student population and created patriotic feeling among them. The total enrolment till December, 1917 was 1400 in Madras Presidency. It is evident from the fact that after the formation of the Boy Scout the students' participation in Home Rule Movement increased considerably.²⁴ The Boys Volunteer Corps tried their grievances of the poor students. They were supplied with reading and study material. For that they succumbed to collect money from the philanthropists.²⁵

The school and college students were in general influenced by Home Rule advocacy. Hence, they themselves identified with home rule agitations. The students of St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly and the Government College, Coimbatore pasted posters on the compound walls of the college which read, "Kill the English" and "worship Mrs. Annie Besant".²⁶ In Madurai the students of American Mission College struck work on 2

June, 1917 and the Principal of that College held Mrs. Besant responsible for the student unrest. In Madras city the students of the Pachaiyappa's College organized a procession on 17 June, 1917 and entered the railway station and damaged the railway property.²⁷

In July, 1917 a students' convention was held at Madras under the chairmanship of S. Subramania Iyer, the Honorary President of the Home Rule League. He exhorted the student audience numbering more than 500 to take part in the movement and save their mother land. The above information highlighted the fact that the students were the backbone of the Home Rule Movement in Tamil Nadu.²⁸

The Government which viewed these developments with concern decided to take steps to keep the students away from the political movement. With this intention, the Government passed an order which prevented the students from taking part in political movements. The Government order stated in categorical terms that "no under-graduate student in any college and no pupil in any school shall be permitted to take part in public, political discussion, to attend political meetings, to join any political association or to take part in any movement". The Government sent the order to all of the educational institutions in the Presidency and the heads of colleges and schools were instructed to enforce the directions strictly.

Mrs. Besant was highly critical of the Government policy which banned the students from attending political meetings. She pointed out that one of the baneful effects of the order would be the emergence of student revolutionary organizations similar to those which existed in Bengal. She further wrote that "no Government can prevent students from being moved by the wave of political life which is now passing over India. They (students) are Indians living in Indian Homes and the Government cannot isolate them".²⁹

New India which criticized the Government Order by pointing out that in England, students were encouraged to discuss and study political problems. It also cited an example from the history of England to substantiate this point. During the suffrage agitations in Great Britain and Ireland girl students along with their teachers took an active part in it. It further said that "it is infamous that Indian boys should be treated worse than the British girls". The Government order did not alter the situation. The students of Tamil Nadu continued to show keen interest in the movement.³⁰ On 2 July, 1917, the home rulers organized a workshop at Madurai.³¹

Political meetings were organized in Trichinopoly to popularize the Home Rule ideologies jointly by the Congress Committee and the Home Rule League students' wing. One such meeting was held in the Town Hall, Trichinopoly on 4 July 1917.³² The meeting was presided over by K.S. Sambasiva Iyer, a High Court Advocate. There a resolution was passed purging the Secretary of State and the Viceroy to abolish cruel system of indentured labour. Another Home Rule meeting was held in the Town Hall on 9 July 1917 with T.G. Sankaranarayana Iyer in the chair. The speakers of the meeting made an appeal to the youth of Trichinopoly- to participate in the movement.³³

On the same day Gokhale Memorial Day was celebrated by the Madras Students' Association at the Saraswathi Hall, Trichinopoly under the presidentship of K.S. Ramaswamy Sastri. By July 1917, Arundale and Besant attended meetings and conferences organized by the branches of the Theosophical Society at Karur, Lalgudi and Trichinopoly.³⁴

Amidst police repression Trichinopoly celebrated the Home Rule Day on 16 July, 1917. Two meetings were conducted to celebrate the Home Rule Day one at the Home Rule League Office, Trichinopoly and the other at the Town Hall. The first meeting was presided over by S. Balakrishnan. The president of the meeting also opened a small nucleus of swadeshi store with some Indian made requisites. Cosmetics and shirting's were collected and displayed for sale. The proceeds of the sale were added to the 'Besant Fund'. In the Town Hall meeting also a Swadeshi Warehouse was set up on a co-operative basis. The meeting was attended by a gala of prominent Congress leaders like Rajaji, E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker, Dr. Varatharajulu Naidu, Thiru. V. Kalyanasundaranar and others. To suppress students' activities, Madras Presidency banning students' organizations. However, amidst the police harassment and repressive measures the students continued to demonstrate against the Government.³⁵

Finding the Home Rule Movement gaining momentum, the government told Mrs. Besant to call-off her agitation. This warning of the government went unheeded by the Home Rule leaders. The government then passed an internment order on 17 July, 1917 which prohibited Mrs. Besant, Arundale and B.P. Wadia from taking part directly or indirectly with any organization which mobilized the support of the students for the movement. In July, 1917 Mrs. Besant, Arundale and Wadia were arrested. This move of the Government created strong resentment among the supporters of the Home Rule Movement.³⁶

To sum up the students of Tamilnadu stood up as a fulcrum to the Home Rule Movement in Tamil Nadu 1916-17 and consequently they guaranteed for its success. Because of the students' political activities' the educational institutions both schools and colleges become the epicenter of political activities. As Mrs. Besant accelerated the patriotic spirit fervour among the young students, who were in turn reciprocated with supporting the political activities of Annie Besant. Likewise now the student community need capable leaders and they hope that their dream would come true.

ENDNOTES:

1. Annie Besant, Home Rule for India, Pamphlet, Sep, 1915.
2. New India, 15 March, 1915.
3. V.Sankaran Nair, Role of Students in Freedom Movement (With a Special Reference to Madras Presidency), (Delhi: Konark Publishers, 1900), Pp.62-63.
4. The Hindu, December, 1916.
5. Fortnightly Report, First Half of January, 1912.
6. Ibid.
7. The Hindu, 14 February, 1917.
8. Swadeshmitran, 14 March, 1917.
9. New India, 18 March, 1917.
10. The Hindu, 6 April, 1917.
11. Under Secretary's Secret Safe File, No. 547, 1917.
12. V.Sankaran Nair, the Op. cit., Pp. 62-66.
13. Ibid.
14. New India, 2 May, 1917.
15. Sankaran Nair, Op. cit., Pp. 62-66.
16. Under Secretary's Secret Safe File, No. 67, Madras, 1917.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
19. Swadeshmitran, 26 April, 1917.
20. New India, 12 June, 1917.
21. Ibid.
22. The Hindu, 16 June, 1917.
23. The Hindu, 21 June, 1917.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. The Hindu, 15 June, 1917.
27. Under Secretary's Secret Safe File, No. 572, 19 June, 1917.
28. V.Sankaran Nair, Op. cit.,
29. Ibid.
30. Swadeshmitran, 6 July, 1917.
31. Navasakthi, 5 July, 1917.
32. Ibid.
33. Swadeshmitran, 6 July, 1917.
34. Under Secretary's Secret Safe File, No. 578, July 1917.
35. The Hindu, 12 July, 1917.
36. Ibid.



K. Kalaiarasi

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full Time), Department of History , Annamalai University , Annamalai Nagar.

Publish Research Article

International Level Multidisciplinary Research Journal For All Subjects

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Books Review for publication, you will be pleased to know that our journals are

Associated and Indexed, India

- ★ Directory Of Research Journal Indexing
- ★ International Scientific Journal Consortium Scientific
- ★ OPEN J-GATE

Associated and Indexed, USA

- DOAJ
- EBSCO
- Crossref DOI
- Index Copernicus
- Publication Index
- Academic Journal Database
- Contemporary Research Index
- Academic Paper Database
- Digital Journals Database
- Current Index to Scholarly Journals
- Elite Scientific Journal Archive
- Directory Of Academic Resources
- Scholar Journal Index
- Recent Science Index
- Scientific Resources Database

Review Of Research Journal
258/34 Raviwar Peth Solapur-
413005, Maharashtra
Contact-9595359435

E-Mail-ayisrj@yahoo.in/ayisrj2011@gmail.com