



ARYA SAMAJI DALIT AND THEIR ROLE IN MARATHWADA MUKTISANGRAM

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Establishment of Arya Samaj

The Arya Samaj Started the Hyderabad Liberation Struggle. Arya Samaj Laid the foundation stone of the Hyderabad Freedom Struggle. The Hindu Society was awakened and organized due to the social and religious work of the Samaj. Swami Dayanand Saraswati established the Arya Samaj at Mumbai on 10th of April 1875. The First branch of the Arya Samaj in the Hyderabad State was established in 1880 at for Dharur¹ in Beed District in Marathwada. The contribution of following person is important for this purpose. 1) Pandit Bhagwati Prasad Kundan Prasadji 2) Gokul Prasadji 3) Mangalalji 4) Ramchandra Bhajji 5) Manik Prasadji 6) Baburaoji 7) Babu Ganeshsinhji Varrma 8) Bansilalji Tiwari Vakil² 9) Raosaheb Shrinivasrao.

The Participation of the Dalits.

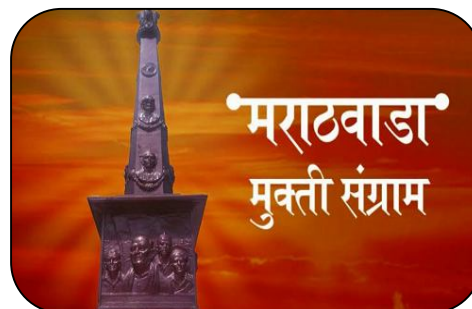
in the satyagrah of Aryasamaj (27 Oct 1938 To 9th Aug 1939) The Arya Samaj did the Pioneering work A bringing about an awakening in the Dalit in the Hyderabad State. So the Dalit become politically and Socially alert. The Hindus discriminated against the Dalits. They were treated with insult in the name of untouchability. Injustice and oppression was done. Arya Samaj Considered human race as one and undertook the work of abolition of caste system and untouchability and emancipation of the Dalit's. They encouraged finter caste marriage. Hence the Dalit society in the state was attracted to the Arya samaj also assimilated the dalits and treated them as equals. So Dalits mainly participated in the satyagrah held by the Arya Samaj on 27th of october 1938.

The Satyagrahis from Loha

There is a tehsil place by name Loha in Nanded district. This Loha tehsil was created by dividing the Kandhar Tehsil in 1992. There were many Dalit Arya samajist workers at Loha. Out of those following persons registered their participation in the satyagrah by the Arya Samaj in 1938

- 1) Vishwanath Mahadev Mahabale –
- 2) Hari Rama Mahabale
- 3) Mahadeo Sambhaji Mahabale
- 4) Vitthal Ukandji Mahabale
- 5) Sambha Namdeo Kapure
- 6) Madhav Piraji Dhutmal
- 7) Sopan Munjaji Mahabale
- 8) Gyanobarao Tukaramji Dhutmal³

These Dalits travelled on foot from village to village and spread the ideals of the Arya Samaj. Avoiding the pester of the police of the Nizam government, they went to Paithan and launched a satyagrah there against the government. So the police arrested them and when presented them before the Paithan court, the Nizamsahib court sentenced them to 3-4



months jail under section 164, 122, 126(a) of IR/ MI fasli 24.8.1348. Accordingly they were lodged in Harsul Jail. Due to the increase in the number of Aryasamaji Satyagrahis, they were shifted from Aurangabad jail to Hyderabad jail.

Satyagrahis from Nanded

The process of establishment of the branches of Arya Samaj in Hyderabad state gathered momentum since 1892. Till 1931, 30 branches were established all over the state. In 1941 there were 241 branches and the number of the Arya samaji people was about 40000. The Nanded city Branch was established by Shri Gopalrao Lathkar at his residence with the active effort of Shri Rupnarayan Dixit from Patiala. But the work of the Arya samaj in this District was going on. Gopal Shastri deo and Shyamrao Bodhankar⁴were preparing the satyagrahis from Nanded city. The residence of Shyamrao Bodhankar was the center of social and national movements. Batches of 2-4 satyagtrahis lodged their satyagrah near the tower in the Mondha area. Satyagrahis chanted the slogans of the Arya samaj. The Nizam police immediately arrested the satyagrahis. Ramrao Kulkarni,, Bhagwanrao Khandeve,Ram Shirdhonkar, Badriprasad Sharma, Nagoba Dharawar (Vasmata), Balaji Joshi (Kurunda), Vaijanath Dhondiram, Sonaji and Glopalsingh Vyankarrao Supekar⁵were the main participants in satyagrah. Many Dalits participated in this satyagrah viz \wamanrao Kerbaji Davne from Janata colony (Death 24th of August 2003) and N U Kokare alias Bapuji had participated.

Satyagrahis from Kandhar

1. Kandhar is a place of Tehsil Headquarters in Nanded districts. This is a historical place and was the capital during the Rashtrakut period. After Nanded, major work of the Arya samaj was done at Kandhar. Arya samaj⁶was established in the year 1937. Shamlalji Bholaprasad Wakil and his brother Bansilalji Bholaprasad had themselves come to Kandhar and established the Arya Samaj here. Ramdasrao Kolnurkar was the president of the Arya samaj here. Gururao Sakharam Vadvalkar, Shankarrao Telkikar Wakil, Balkrishna Sakharam Vadvalkar, Gopalrao Lathkar, Govindrao Ambekar, Tryambak Kesari, Ranganath Mamde, Nagnath Mamde, Rajram Mamde, Anantarao Mamde, Uddhavrao Shrinivas, Pradeep Anawade, Vyankatrao Mamde Wakil, nagorao Bhanudas Kolnurkar, Devidas Nagorao Kolnurkar, Shankar Mamde, Gangadhar Mamde, Dattopant Shankar Telkikar, Keshavrao Kulkarni Wakil and Govindrao More⁷ were the workers of the Arya Samaj. These workers spread the ideals of the Arya Samaj amongst the Dalits and initiated them into the Arya Samaj. Ramdas Kolnurkar and Gururao Wadvalkar ran library and gymnasium also. Their residence had become center of the Arya samaj movement. Dalit Arya samaji workers always visited their residence. Gururao Sakharam Wadvalkar, Ramdas Kolnurkar, Govindrao telkikar, Shankarrao Telkikar and Uddhavrao Shrinivas initiated many dalits in Kandhar and surrounding areas into Arya Samaj. These people went to Manaspuri and initiated the following Dalits⁸into the Arya Samaj

- 1) Satyawan Bhujaji Kamble.
- 2) Manikrao Bhujaji Kamble
- 3) Fakirji Sakoji Kamble
- 4) Bhikaji Tukaram Kamble
- 5) Mariji Vithoba Kamble
- 6) Gangaram Deoba Kamble
- 7) Irbaji Sambhaji Kamble
- 8) Gopal Sambhaji Kamble
- 9) Babarao Ramrao Kamble
- 10) Ramrao Tukaram Kamble
- 11) Shankar Dnyanoba kamble
- 12) Ramji Fakir Kamble
- 13) Dnyanoba Jondhale
- 14) Arjun Govindrao Jondhale

- 15) Kerba kadam
- 16) Namaji Kadam
- 17) Mariba Kamble
- 18) Ramji Gnyanoba Kadam
- 19) Govind Hausaji Kadam
- 20) Chandu Govind Kadam
- 21) Chandu Birba Kadam
- 22) Satvaji Hiranman Kadam
- 23) Jaywanta Hiranman kadam.
- 24) Mariba Hiranman Kadam
- 25) Laxman Hiranman Kadam
- 26) Bhujanga Hiranman Kadam
- 27) Shankar Laxman Kadam
- 28) Bhujang Gopal Kadam
- 29) Bhujanga Mahadu Chaware
- 30) Naru Mahadu Chavre
- 31) Maldhari Maruji Kamble
- 32) Mangaji Kamble
- 33) Govind Kamble
- 34) Manaji Bhujaji Kadam
- 35) Sambhaji Bhujaji Kadam
- 36) Govind Pochiram Kadam
- 37) Mahajan Pochiram Kadam
- 38) Nagorao Sambhaji Kadam
- 39) Babarao Mariba Kadam
- 40) Aval Dhondiba Kadam
- 41) Chandu Bhujaji Kamble
- 42) Ganpat Chandar Kadam
- 43) Vitthal Kadam
- 44) Dashrath Seriba Kadam
- 45) Narsingh Devba Kadam
- 46) Sheshrao Maneji Kadam
- 47) Manekrao Gangaji Gaikwad
- 48) Khandu Hanumanta Gore
- 49) Ramji Budhaji
- 50) Maroti Gangaram Gaikwad
- 51) Tukaram Mariba Gaikwad
- 52) Chandu Sambhaji Gaikwad
- 53) Mahajan Mariba Gaikwad

The Bravery of Rama Mang

Rama Mang, a gentleman from Tavshi Tehsil Lohara (Payga) was initiated in the Arya Samaj. In 1932 it was decided to demolish the temple and build a masjid. So angry Arya Samaj workers demolished the platform of the Masjid. The Razakars in Tavshi went around the surrounding villages and brought two trucks full of armed pathans and Arabs. They came shouting "Now who dares to oppose us" to demolish the temple. All the Hindus were fear struck seeing the armed Pathans and Arabs and stood quietly. "I am there to fight with you. Even if you touch any stone of the temple, I will kill everybody" roared a voice. He was Rama mang. Alone but well built. No sooner Rama came forward one Pathan fired at him. It pierced into his lap. He attacked the gang of the Arabs and Pathans even in that condition. Four Pathans and one Arab

fell down in one stroke. He snatched the gun in Pathan's hand and hit four-five pathans and Arabs on their head. He snatched tamancha with one Pathan. Seeing his daring, the Pathans and the Arabs ran away. The people admitted him in Tuljapur Dispensary and from there to Usmanabad. He had become unconscious and was bleeding due to bullet pierced in his lap. He breathed his last in the Usmanabad dispensary⁹. Rama Mang became martyr whilst fighting with the Razakars Arabs and pathans.

Tulshiram Dashrath Kamble – Udgir

Udgir in Latur was active and main center of the Arya Samaj movement in the Latur district. Bhai Shamlalji Bholaprasad and Bhai Bansilalji Bholaprasad were main workers of the Arya samaj not only in Marathwada, but Hyderabad state as well

Tulshiram Kamble was in the Arya Samaj since the beginning. The Arya Samaj started Satyagrah in 1938¹⁰. At that time he was at Solapur. He and other Arya samaj leaders had decided to hold a conference there. Accordingly, Aryan conference was organized under the presidentship of Shri Madhav shrihari alias Bapuji Ane in 1938. V D Sawarkar, Bhai Parmanand, Swami Narayan and Ghanshyamdas Gupta from Uttar pradesh (President of the International Aryan League) attended the conference. It was decided to launch a satyagrah in this conference. Accordingly satyagrah started. 25 volunteers were appointed there at the time of conference. Tulshiram Kamble was working there as a volunteer¹¹. In 1939 the satyagrah movement gained momentum.

Tulshiram Kamble¹² went to Hyderabad and participated in the satyagrah. So the Nizam police arrested him and lodged him in jail. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment. Every satyagrahi was treated as a traitor. Tulshiram Kamble was treated as a traitor and was sentenced to one year imprisonment. He was bound by handcuffs.

Later on he was sent to Warangal¹³. He was treated as a life imprisonment inmate and was given polluted water to drink. At that time, Halis¹⁴ was heading the Home department. When he saw handcuffed Tulshiram Jadhav. He said that satyagrahis are not handcuffed. Then his handcuffs were removed. Subsequently he was sentenced to one year imprisonment and was released from the jail in 1939.

Khadiwale Vitthalrao Bapurao – Udgir

The second satyagrahi of the Arya Samaj from Udgir was Khadiwale Vitthalrao Bapurao (Matang). At present he resides at Church Road Udgir. He is about 80 years old. He got attracted to the Arya Samaj due to the thoughts and work of Bansilalji Bholaprasad and Shamlalji Bholaprasad. In addition, the workers of the Arya samaj had undertaken the task of emancipation of the Dalits. Khadiwale dedicated himself to the work of the Arya Samaj and performed the following work

- 1) Spreading the ideals of the Arya Samaj
- 2) Spreading about the satyagrah of the Arya Samaj
- 3) To make preparations for the satyagrah
- 4) To collect confidential information and to hand it over to the workers of the Arya Samaj¹⁵.

The satyagrah of the Arya samaj took place at Udgir in 1938. Khadiwale Bapurao Vitthalrao also participated in this satyagrah. The Nizam police arrested the satyagrahis. Many satyagrahis were arrested. But Khadiwale escaped from the clutches of the police. Hence he was not arrested nor sentenced. After that he worked remaining underground.¹⁶

Gaikwad Apparao Pundalik – Udgir.

Nizam government had arrested Shamlalji¹⁷ and lodged him in Bidar Jail. The jailor Abbu Ayub poisoned Shamlalji through medicine and killed him on 16th of December 1938. Hence the Arya samaj intensified its satyagrah. Since the Nizam government was responsible for Shamlalji's death, the workers at Udgir got angry. They intensified the Satyagrah against the Nizam. Apparao Gaikwad¹⁸ played an important role in this satyagrah. Jaywantrao Kamble, Laxman Sonkamble, Sangram Mistry from Udgir, Bhujanga Sonkamble and other satyagrahis were there along with him. The session of the All India Aryan Congress

was held at Solapur¹⁹ from 25th to 27th of December 1938 under the presidentship of Loknayak Madhav Shrihari alias Bapuji Ane. Apparao and his colleagues went on foot from Udgir to Solapur to attend this session. They condemned the Nizam there. They went to Gunjoti from there. All the workers were arrested by the Nizam Police there. Apparao GAIkwad, Sangram Mistry and Laxman Sonkamble were also arrested there.

All the satyagrahis arrested at Gunjoti were presented before the Naldurg court. The court sentenced them to one year rigorous punishment and fine of Rs 100/-²⁰the next day they were sent to Usmanabad jail. After 60 days they were shifted to Harsul Jail near Aurangabad. They were kept there for 70 days. Subsequently they were shifted to Parbhani jail. All colleagues of Apparao were given government pension and certificate. But Apparao did not get the certificate nor pension despite serving the sentence.

Suryavanshi Satyadev Hanmanta – Nalgir

Suryavanshi Satyadeo Hanmanta from Nalgir Tehsil Udgir participated in the satyagrah organized by the Arya Samaj at Gulbarga²¹in 1938. Hence the Nizam government sentenced him to six months imprisonment. He served this sentence at Gulbarga Jai. He passed away in 1958

Sulkikar Sadashiv Irba – Nalgir.

Sulkekar Sadashiv Irba from Nalgir Tehsil Udgir (Birth 1912) was educated till Marathi sixth standard. He participated in the satyagrah organized by the Arya Samaj at Gulbarga in 1938.

Suryavanshi Digambar Gundaji – Aurad

Suryavanshi Digambar Gundaji from Aurad Shahajani (Birth -1890 Death – 1948) participated in the satyagrah organized by the Arya Samaj²² at Gulbarga in 1938. He was sentenced to two years rigorous jail imprisonment

Pundalik Narsu Chambhar – Nilanga

Pundalik Narsu Chambhar²³ from Nilanga District Latur was educated till fourth standard. The Nizam government had filed a suit against him for violation of religious rules. But the court had acquitted him. Later on he participated in the Satyagraha by the Arya Samaj in 1938. He was sentenced to one year rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 50/-.

Sheshrao Madhavrao Waghmare – Nilanga

Sheshrao Madhavrao Waghmare (born 1915) was educated till Metric standard. He was advocate by profession. He participated in the satyagrah launched by the Arya Samaj in 1938. He was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 100²⁴. Arrest warrant was issued for his arrest in 1947. But tactfully he escaped to the border.

Govinda Rama Waghmare – Devdhanora

Govinda Rama Waghmare from Deodhanora, Tehsil Kalamb District Usmanabad was in contact of the Arya Samaj. He carried out the work of spreading the ideals of the Arya Samaj and brought about an awakening amongst the dalits and organized them. He spread the message about the Satyagraha of the Arya Samaj also registered his participation in the Satyagrah of the Arya Samaj.²⁵

Tukaram Chambhar Tugaon

Tukaram Chambhar came from village Tugaon in Usmanabad Taluka. He was a daring and courageous brave person. He spread the ideals of the Arya samaj without getting scared of the Muslim Organization, Dindar Siddiq. He went from village to village on foot and spread the message of satyagrah. He participated in the satyagraha²⁶in 1939.

Gundaji Bhujanga Sonkamble – Kalhali

Gundaji Bhujanga Sonkamble from Kalhali, 22 kms from Kandhar was a colleague of Kondiba Gundaji Kamble in the Arya Samaj Satyagrah. He was initiated in the Arya Samaj by Arya samaj leader from Kandhar Gururao Sakharam Wadwalkar and Ramdas Kolnurkar. Thereafter he undertook the work of spreading the ideals of the Arya Samaj. He did the important work of awakening the dalits and bringing them into the Arya Samaj fold. Arya samaj got a foothold into Kalhali area due to him, Malhari Bhiva Sonkamble and Vithal Malhari Sonkamble. When Bansilalji and Shamlalji from Kandhar came to Kalhali, Gundaji Sonkamble and his colleagues spread the ideals of the Arya samaj along with them. In 1938 the Arya samaj launched its satyagrah. A special of the All India Arya samaj was held at Solapur on 25th, 26th and 27th December 1938 to discuss about this satyagrah. Gundaji Sonkamble, Kondiba Kamble, and Malhari Kamble attended this session. They condemned the Nizam government there. Thereafter they came back to Kalhali passing information about the satyagrah. These people gave satyagrah against the Nizam government at Solapur²⁷ and Kandhar.

Tulshiram Mareppa Chandegaonkar – Udgir

Chandegaonkar Tulshiram Mareppa from Udgir in Latur district attended many meetings addressed by Shamlalji Bholaprasad Vakil and Bansilalji. He listened to all their speeches. He was influenced by them. There was no caste discrimination untouchability and feeling of inferiority – superiority in Arya Samaj. Everybody was treated with honor in Arya Samaj. Hence Chandegaonkar Tulshiram started working for the Arya samaj. He implemented social, religious awakening, and purification of individuals converted to Islam. He tried to stop conversion. Tondchir in Udgir Tehsil was a center of the Arya Samaj. Razakars entered the village and started enquiring about Dastgir. Razakars recognized Kisanbuva and shot him. He died on the spot. Then the Razakars plundered the whole Tondchir village. The houses of the dalits were also looted. Chandegaonkar and his colleagues²⁸ opposed this, but it was of no use.

Jaywanta Mang – Kharad gavhan

There is a place by name Kharad gavhan in Ashti Tehsil in Beed district. There was Jaywanta Mang²⁹ a poet singer. He use to sing powadas and did the job of social awakening. He was influenced by the ideals of the Arya samaj. He took the Arya samaj to the masses through his powadas. He propagated the Arya samaj and also did social awakening and organizational work.

Bhiva Gaikwad – Koyal

Bhiva Gaikwad Mahar³⁰ from Koyal in Ashti Tehsil was a worker of the Arya Samaj. There were persons from all castes in the Arya Samaj. Bhiva Gaikwad propagated the Arya samaj and organized it.

Rambhau Tukaram Mane – jagji

There is small but historic village by name Jagji in Usmanabad Taluka. This village was a famous religious and cultural city during the Satvahan period. Rambhau Tukaram Mane (Birth 1897) was a famous singer- performer. Arya samaj was established in Usmanabad in 1924. The number of Arya Samajist people was more in this district. Due to the work of Keshavrao Koratkar, Aghornath Chattopadhyay, Shripadrao Satavlekar, Bapurao Master, Rambhau Maindarkar, Tukaram Survase, Dattopant Jinturkar, Balbhimrao Hinge, Gyanurao Salunke, Devidas Murumkar, and Purushottamrao Mashalkar, Arya samaj and Arya samaj centers were established everywhere. Due to the Dalit emancipation work carried out by the Arya samaj, many dalits participated in the Arya samaj movement. Rama Mane was one of them. He propagated the Arya samaj through his shahiri singing. The first satyagrah was held at Usmanabad under the leadership of Swami Ramanand Tirth in 1937. Rama Mane participated in it. He also attended the special session of the Arya samaj at Solapur on 25th, 26th, 27th December 1938. He also worked as a volunteer of the Arya samaj. He also participated in the Arya samaj satyagrah in 1939. Many Dalits from Sarola Budruk participated with him³¹.

Tatyaba Shankar Waghmare – Deodhanora

Waghmare Tatyaba Shankar (Age 95 years) from village Deodhanora in Kalamb Tehsil was a worker of the Arya Samaj. He did social awakening and organized the society against the Razakars. He was not scared of the Razakars. The workers of the Dindar Siddiq organization were overawed with him. For this reason only the Muslim workers did not dare to force conversion on the people at Deodhanora. He also participated in the Arya samaj satyagrah in 1939.³²

Kamble alias Satwaji Vitthalrao Ramchandra – Khandali

Khandali village is located in Ahmedpur Tehsil in Latur district. Kamble alias Satwaji Vitthalrao Ramchandra from here had completed his primary education. Arya samaj had launched its satyagrah in 1938. Kamble alias Satwaji Vitthalrao Ramchandra participated in it in 1939. He was sentenced for five months for this³³.

Sonavane Manikrao Sitaram – Mogarga

Manikrao Sitaram from Mogarga in AUSA tehsil in Latur district had completed his education till secondary level. Arya samaj had launched its satyagrah against the Nizam government in 1938. Sonavne Manikrao Sitaram propagated this satyagrah. Arrest warrant was issued against him for this act³⁴

Kamble Tukaram Dasharath – Chakur

Chakur in Latur district is the native place of Kamble Tukaram Dashrath. He was born in 1922 and completed his education till 7th standard. Arya samaj had launched its satyagrah against the Nizam government in 1938. Arya samaj had launched its satyagrah at Dhakefal and Kamble Tukaram Dasharath participated in it. The Nizam government sentenced him to one year imprisonment. He had to serve that sentence³⁵.

Dr Tukaram Dnyanoba Gade – Parbhani

Dr Tukaram Gade³⁶ from Gautamnagar, Parbhani was an active worker and strong leader of the dalit movement. He carried out awakening and organization amongst the Dalits. It took long time for the beginning of the Dalit movement in the Hyderabad state. Arya samaj started the work of social awakening in the state for the first time. Not only that, Hyderabad city was the center of all the movements. Hence many workers from Marathwada were residing at Hyderabad. Dr Tukaram Gade was one of them. Dr Tukaram Gade also participated in the Arya samaj movement before the beginning of the Dalit movement. He was the worker of the Arya Samaj after coming in contact with Arya samaj leaders like Keshavrao Koratkar Vakil, Vinayakrao Koratkar and Vidyalkar. He propagated the Arya Samaj. After the rise of the Dalit movement, Gade initially started working for the depressed class's mission. A gathering of this organization was held at Parbhani on 30th of May 1942. They did not read a message expressing best wishes from Kasim Rizvi. Hence the Muslim goons threatened him to bury him alive. Hence Gade resigned from the depressed class mission and joined the Scheduled Caste federation.

Ganpatrao Manikrao Waghmare – Parbhani

Similar to Dr Tukaram Gade, Ganpatrao Manikrao Waghmare (first MLA from Nanded)³⁷ also worked for the Arya samaj before the rise of the Dalit movement. He started his work from the Arya samaj. He was a native from Parbhani. But subsequently he settled down at Nanded. Subsequently Nanded became the center of all the movements. He went from village to village and propagated the Arya samaj. He joined the movement due to Arya samaj leaders like Vyankatrao Koratkar and Vidyalkar. After the rise of the Dalit movement, he came in contact with the dalit leader B S Vyankatrao. Hence he became a worker of the depressed class association.

Ganpatrao Waghmare and B S Vyankatrao were in closed contact with each other. Ganpatrao Waghmare became the secretary of the Nanded branch of the depressed class association in 1941. The

same year he organized a meeting of the dalits in Nanded. In that meeting they passed a resolution³⁸ thanking the Nizam government for grant of educational concessions to the Dalits. The Jintur meeting of the DCA was held under the chairmanship of Ganpatrao. In 1947, he was nominated to the Government legislature as member of the Depressed Class Mission. He celebrated the 49th birth anniversary of Dr Baasaheb Ambedkar in his life time at Nanded. He also held a meeting on this occasion. Dr Babasaheb's birth anniversary was celebrated for the first time in the country.

Hanumantrao Dharmaji More – Nanded

Similar to Dr Tukaram Gade, and Ganpatrao Manikrao Waghmare Hanumantrao Dharmaji More also worked for the Arya samaj before the rise of the Dalit movement.³⁹ He started his work from the Arya samaj. He propagated the Arya samaj. He awakened and organized the Dalit community. He tried to abolish untouchability through the work of the Arya samaj. During the Nizam period the Dalits were banned from entering the temples since they were untouchables. Hence Hanumantrao More started a movement for throwing open the temples to the dalits. The Arya samaj had started its satyagrah in 1938 itself. The intensity of this satyagrah increased in 1939. The same year Hanumantrao More started the program of entering the Hanuman temple in Nanded. He entered the Maruti temple along with his colleagues and bathed the idol of Maruti with his own hands. His act was full of daring.

Landge Hanumant Vishwanath – Vasmat

Landge Hanumant Vishwanath from Vasmat in Hingoli district was a satyagrahi of the Arya Samaj. He carried out the important task of awakening through the Arya samaj. He propagated the Satyagraha program of the Arya samaj. He offered satyagrah along with his three colleagues at Vasmat on 25th of December 1938. Landge Hanumant Vishwanath was educated upto seventh standard. He was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 200.⁴⁰

Satyagrahis from Undri

There is a village named Undri in Kille Dharur tehsil in Beed district. Since the Arya samaj was first established at Kille Dharur, Arya samaj enjoyed a considerable influence there. Pandit Arya Bhanuji⁴¹ from Dharur undertook the task of liberating the dalit castes of Mahar, Mang and Dhor. Moreover in the Arya samaj everybody was equal. Hence the dalits were attracted to the Arya Samaj. Pandit Aryabhanuji initiated the Mahar, Mang and Dhor dalits in the Mauze Undri into the Arya samaj.⁴² And he also performed their thread ceremony. He admitted them to the Arya samaj after performing their thread ceremony. He also sent them to gurukul at Kangdi to enable them to study the Vedas. Aryabhanuji initiated the dalits into the Arya samaj, performed their thread ceremony and permitted them to wear the thread as per the Vedic system. So the Dalits started using the thread like the bramhins. But this was not liked by the Bramhins and Marathas. As soon as Aryabhanuji left Undri, they boycotted the Arya Samajist Dalits and severely beat them with iron rod.⁴³ But the Arya samaji Dalits did not pay any heed and propagated the Arya samaj. When the Arya samaj decided to offer satyagrah in 1938, the dalits canvassed for the Satyagraha and participated in it.

Satyagrahis from Nilanga

Arya samaj also enjoyed influence in the Nilanga tehsil. Sheshrao Waghmare organized the Arya samaj in this tehsil. Arya samaj rapidly got foothold due to his extensive touring. Many dalits were workers of the Arya samaj in this tehsil. The following workers participated in the satyagrah of the Arya samaj and gave a momentum to it.

- 1) Santappa Dhor.
- 2) Pundalik Arya Chambhar
- 3) Bhimrao Nitnavre Chambhar
- 4) Babu Gaikwad

- 5) Babu Dhage (Mang)
- 6) Bapusaheb Waghmare
- 7) Bhivaji Mahar.⁴⁴

Aryha Pundalik Narsingh Rao was educated till Urdu 9th standard. He was sentenced to 6 months of rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 25 for participation in the satyagrah⁴⁵

Satyagrahis in the Jalna District.

There are dalit freedom fighters in the Jalna district. Out of those many dalits participated in satyagrah of the Arya samaj in 1938. The gatherings of the Arya samaj were held at Jalna, Badnapur, Jaffrabad, Bhokardhan and Pimpalga Kolte. Dalits attended these gatherings on a large scale. The dalits from Badnapur, Jalna, Jaffrabad, Ambad and Gangapur attended the annual gatherings of the Arya samaj. Dalits from Dhanora, Warud Budruk, Pimpalgaon Kolte, Takli, Paradh, Bhokardan, Kandhari, Gomegaon Tandulwadi and Deulgaon raja participated in the satyagrah of the Arya samaj in 1938. The dalit youth gathered in such a way that the Razkars and the police did not get any doubt, offered satyagrah, gave slogans against the Nizam and got themselves arrested. The following dalits from Paradh in Jalna district gave satyagrah at Bhokardan, Jaffrabad, Jalna and various other places

- 1) Tukaram Pandurang Sirsat
- 2) Raghunath Sonawane
- 3) Bhikaji Kharat
- 4) Yashwant Sadashive
- 5) Pandurang Ghangaon
- 6) Ranganath Ghangaon
- 7) Babu Kisan Nannaware
- 8) Tejrao Ghode
- 9) Tukaram Ingale
- 10) Namdeo Ingale.
- 11) Laxman Shinde
- 12) Sheshrao Mhaske.⁴⁶

All the above satyagrahis were arrested and presented before the Jalna court. The court sentenced them to 3 years and 4 months imprisonment under section 164, 12, 126 (a) of the RI /SI. They were then put in Aurangabad jail. Subsequently due to shortage of space they were sent to Hyderabad Jail.

Arya Samaji Dalits at Ilegaon

There is a village name Ilegaon in the Dharmabad Tehsil in Nanded District. In this village, Mahar, Mang, Dhangar, Muslims, Fishermen, Munner Varlu and Sutar (Carpenter) castes lived in harmony. This village was under the influence of the Arya Samaj. The peculiarity of this village is that the New Year festival Gudhi Padwa was celebrated by people of all castes enthusiastically. The Arya samaji people have sung powadas with sword in hand and awakened the society. They lent a helping hand to the Hyderabad freedom movement of the Hyderabad state congress. Babu Bhoganna Rajanna Ambatwad was the head of the Bhajani Mandal. 32 Arya samajis were there in the Bhajani Mandal under his leadership. The following Dalits awakened the society and propagated the work of the Arya Samaj through the medium of Bhajan and Kirtan.

- 1) Sambhaji Ramji Sarje (Mahar)
- 2) Irba Ramji Sarje (Mahar)
- 3) Laxman Balaji Bhalerao (Mang)
- 4) Piraji Mariba Bhalerao (Mang).⁴⁷

Bhajani Mandal at Bahadarpur

Dr Keshavraoji Dhongde and Gurunathraoji Kurude from Bahadarpura in Kandhar tehsil were the active leaders in the Hyderabad freedom movement. They did the significant task of social and political awakening. There was a Bhajani Mandal at Bahadarpura. This Bhajani Mandal did the work of social awakening through social, religious and cultural work. Bajaranglal Chaudhari Shrinivas was the chief of this Bhajani Mandal. Shankarrao Kurude told in the interview that Dr Keshavraoji Dhongde and Gurunathrao Kurude mainly provided guidance to the Bhajani Mandal. Many people were included in this Bhajani Mandal. He also said that these included Matang caste people like Govinda Sadhu Gaikwad and Nagorao Sadhu Gaikwad.

Shankar Sarvade Mahar – Chobali

Shankar Sarvade Mahar⁴⁸ from Chobali in Shirur Tajband Tehsil took part in the Arya Samaj movement. He was an active worker of the Arya Samaj. There were other Dalit Arya samajis also. But amongst them, Shankar Sarvade was the main worker of the Arya Samaj. He joined the Arya samaj due to contact with Shamlalji and Bansilalji from Udgir. He used to give slogans “Vaidik Dharma ki Jay” holding the OM flag. He propagated the satyagrah of the Arya samaj in 1938. The same year Shamlalji was arrested and put in Bidar Jail. The jailor Abu Ayyub killed him by poisoning him through medicine. Hence the satyagrah at Udgir was intensified. Shankar Mahar Played an important role in this satyagrah.

Kambale Shankarrao Hausaji

Kamble Shankarrao Hausaji⁴⁹ from Dhaswadi village in Ahmedpur Tehsil in Latur district was an active worker of the Arya samaj. He was born on 16th of November 1918 at Dhaswadi. He was influenced by the ideals of the Arya samaj and he participated in the Arya samaj movement. He was a famous shahir and mrundang player. He did the job of social change and awakening through his Shahiri. He launched a staunch struggle against the blind beliefs due to the influence of the social and religious movement of the Arya samaj. The Arya samaj launched its satyagrah in the Hyderabad state in 1938. He participated in the satyagrah in 1939. Since Vittal Gaikwad, Tukaram Gaikwad and Digambarrao Gaikwad participated in the struggle along with him, he was arrested and produced before the Ahmedpur court. This court sentenced him to one month imprisonment which he served in Bidar Jail.

Shri Kamble Shankarrao played the Mrudang in the kirtan of Sant Gadgebaba Maharaj. Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe stayed in Kamble's house for three months. He worked in the art team of Annabhau. Today also he is doing the work of social awakening and abolition of blind belief. The Maharashtra government has conferred on him the title of “Dalit-Mitra” (Friend of the Dalits) award in 1991-92. He has also authored the books “Hattichhap sona”, Janjagruti and “Budhhim Sharanam”. At present he is residing at Ahmedpur.

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