



THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN NORTH KARNATAKA- ROLE OF ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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ABSTRACT :

The Freedom Movement in North Karnataka was more intensified widespread and radical than in the other areas of Karnataka. Various factors were responsible for this width, intensity and momentum. The heroic deeds, memories and folk songs and stories of the rulers like Kittur Rani Channamma (1824), Sangoli Rayanna (1829-30), Mundargi Bheemraya, Naragunda Babasaheb, Halagali Bedas and others.



KEYWORDS : Freedom Movement , intensity and momentum.

1. INTRODUCTION :

Even Nationalist Literature of contemporary intellectuals have enthusiastically encouraged Nationalistic feelings and kept alive the anti foreign feelings. These Historical memories were still fresh in the minds of many. The impact of British was also considerable i.e., through their direct rule over the North Presidency and their exploitative and reformative policies have both positive and negative influence over this area, than the Hyderabad Karnataka, Madras Presidency or the Mysore state.

The Western culture and thought, introduction of English education, industrial revolution, spread of communication system, the urbanization, etc led the emergence of new middle class, which keenly reacted to the process of modernization and renaissance of Karnataka. Even, the influence of Christian Missions and Social Reform Movements especially Prarthana Samaj and the neighbouring national leaders of Maharashtra, like M.G.Ranade, Gokhale, Tilak (especially Tilak) and even Gandhi's visit and his Presidential address at Belgaum Session of 1924. Then the visit Nehru, Sardar Patel, C. Rajagopalachari and other leaders also contributed for the rise of nationalism in North Karnataka.

Further it was the intellectual impact of western scholars like Fleet, Mackenzie, Wilks, Kittle, Rice, Stokes and etc. and western thoughts like the scientific spirit, concepts of equality liberty, fraternity, democracy and self rule, responsible Government etc. Even the spread of literacy and introduction of printing press have also contributed in their own way for all the changes in the realm of intellectual activity, including literacy as well as Nationalism. As a result there arose an intellectual advancement in Karnataka, by which a host of talented and earnest intellectual writers, orators and leaders were emerged. This is also known as the renaissance of Kannada literature, Kannadigas and the History of Karnataka as whole. These intellectuals revealed the past glory of Karnataka (Kannadigas) as well as Mother Land (India), so, Karnataka's history came to be reconstructed during the same period. These intellectuals provided the

historical and cultural background to the political and national awakening as well as to the Freedom movement itself, though it was more spiritual, more glorified a legendary story, rationalistic and religious in nature, than the scientific and objective history. But the total outcome of all this was the rise of Nationalism and spread of freedom struggle. So it was the intellectuals who awakened and inspired the people with help of above symbols and techniques of both literary and folklores.

2. CONCEPT OF INTELLECTUAL:

The term intellectual is applied and used in this context of study strictly to the 'literati' individuals i.e., literary persons. So, the applied meaning of term intellectual in this study confines to literary figures like Novelists, Play Writers, Poets, Biographers and Folk poets. It means an intellectual is a person or individual, who through his writings and songs infused and inspired the common man about the regionalism, nationalism, freedom and etc. The dictionary meaning of the term 'Intellectual' an 'individual' who possesses or shows intellect or mental capacity or possesses the good understanding. - The intellectual history deals with the fundamental ideas and ideologies that have shaped the human history. So also the Bombay Karnataka intellectuals who shaped the course of Freedom Movement both directly and indirectly. It is these intellectual who popularized the ideas and ideologies of Swaraja, Nation and Patriotism. Mean while they came into the contact of great leaders like Tilak, Gandhi, Nehru and Patel and popularized their ideals.

3. INTELLECTUALS REPRESENTED NORTH-KARNATAKA:

The most important intellectuals who represented North-Karnataka area were like, Shant Kavi, Kerur Vasudevacharya, Galaganath, Hardekar Manjappa, Sali Ramchandraraaya, D.R.Bendre, Mudaveedu Krishnaraya, Betageri Krishna Sharma, Bhima Kavi, Shivalinga Kavi, Simi Linganna, Modinsab Maranabasari, Garuda Sadashivaraya, Shri Ranga, Kandgal Hanumantha Raya, Huilgol Narayarao, R.R.Diwakar, Aluru Venkatarao, Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Mirji Annaray, Shivalingswamy Chikodi, Balappa Hukkeri, Tippayya Mastar, Basavaraj Kattimani, Siddavanhalli Krishna Sharma and etc. So these intellectuals contributed in intensifying and widening the freedom movement in North-Karnataka. Who through the writings, speeches and songs encouraged and inspired the common men to participate in the freedom movement. Even, some of these intellectuals were also directly participated in the freedom struggle and under went imprisonment.

4. THE DOMINANCE OF MARATHI LANGUAGE:

After the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799 A.D. Bombay Karnataka area came under the control of Marathas. Later in 1818 in the Koregaon battle, Peshwa Bajirao II was defeated and British rule started by merging this area into Bombay Presidency. Then the dominance of Marathi language was continued. In 1860 North Karnataka i.e. Southern Districts of North Presidency was given a new name, The Southern Mahratha Country, as if the name Karnataka was of no account and the medium of instruction was the Marathi language in these Southern Maratha country schools. The precondition of political awakening and the spread of education in one's own language, was thus with difficulty achieved in North Karnataka. It was mainly due to efforts of British officials and scholars like Harman Moegling of Basel Mission (1848), W.A. Russell (1865), J.F. Fleet (1882) and others. It was also the efforts of Deputy Channabasappa, Rodda Srinivas Rao, Shanta Kavi, R.H.Deshpande, Venkatarango Katti, Dondo Narasimha Mulabagal, Huilgol Narayan Rao, Galaganath, Alur Venkatarao and others. Even educational and cultural institution like Normal school of Belgaum (1856), Training college of Dharwad (1861), Benansmith School of Belgaum (1832), Karnatak Vidhavardhak Sangha of Dharwad (1860), Basel Mission School, Dharwad (1828), were also contributed in this regard.

5. LITERACY WORKS:

Due to the result the above persons the literacy was increased and by 1881 in the North Karnataka totally 668 schools were established. Then the literature became popular. Lyrics, Poems, short stories and novels came to be written. Similar works from Marathi, Bengali and English also came to be translated. Most of them were historical novels. The period also saw classical revival due to printed versions of many Kannada

classics. In 1849 *Subodhi Prakasha Press* was started at Belgaum and the same year *Subodhi Prakasha* paper was also started. There were also radical changes in stage techniques. Even the themes of dramas were also considerably changed due to the spread of nationalism. The reconstruction of the history of the Karnataka by Western Scholars and Researchers like J.F.Fleet, B.L.Rice, R.G.Bhandarkar and Robert SeWell were helped to the study of Karnataka history, its culture and literature. Thus, the Kannadigas of this area came to know their historical heros like the Empire builders, religious leaders, artists, poets and other intellectuals. This intellectual advancement ultimately succeeded in creating regional and national awakening. As result, people of this area developed interest in the national activities of Maharashtra. Shri Narayan Chandavarkar of Karwar and Shri Bhate of Belgaum attended the sessions of the Congress from its inception (1885) and in 1900 Chandavarkar was elected as president of the Lahore session Congress. Even in 1893 A.O.Hume visited North Karnataka particularly Dharwad and Belgaum. The political activities in Maharashtra piloted by stalwarts like Tilak, Gokhale and others even Newspapers like 'Maharatta', 'Kesari' and 'Dhyan Prakash', soon became matters of common talk among the people of this area. So, these political (national) and cultural(Kannada) development soon attracted the attention of intellectuals of North Karnataka who gradually entered the Nationalist politics and played very important role.

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