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MALLAYYASWAMI KAVATAGIMATH (1935-1996)

A.B. NADGOUDA

Devchand College Arjunnagar.

Abstract:

The Kavatagimath family derives the toponym part of their surname from 'Kavathe' village in Sangli District of Maharashtra state. The family was the resident of Kavathe Mahankal village. Mallayyaswami's great grandfather migrated to Chikodi from this village.¹ Hence, the family came to be known as Kavatagimath.

INTRODUCTION:-

Mallayyaswami was born on 4th July, 1935, to Kallayyaswami and Gouramma. He studied upto vernacular 4th standard at Chikodi. He lost his father at the age of 14 in 1949. So, he stopped his education and continued his family occupation. He married Shantadevi, the daughter of Channayyaswami of Saundadatti, in 1958 and had four children from her.²

He entered the Congress Party in 1952 and became the Director of the Chikodi Taluka Congress Committee in 1956. He was inspired by Shri. Appanagauda Patil and Ratnappa Kumbhar.³

In 1962, he established New High School at Chikodi with the help of Swamiji of Nidasoshi. The then State Education Minister Shri.Kanthi permitted him to start 8th and 9th classes in the same year. Shree Siddhaprabhu Mahaswamiji of Chinchani donated 10 acres of land for the construction of the school building. Then, he became the Chairman of R.D.Highschool's General Body.⁴

He became the Director of Belgaum District Central Co-operative Bank in 1962 and worked there for more than 11 years. During his Directorship, the Bank celebrated its Diamond Jubilee.⁵

In 1969, he was made a Member of K.L.E. Society.⁶ During the famine year of 1972, he helped people of Chikodi taluka by supplying drinking water through trucks and tractors.⁷ He was also instrumental in the establishment of Dudhaganga Sugar Factory (1974) at Chikodi with the help of the then Chief Minister Devaraj Urs, who sanctioned land for the construction of the factory and helped Mallayyaswami in many way for establishing the factory. He collected the share capital of the factory with the help of Basavagauda Patil.⁸

He was the first President of Chikodi Municipality (1975) and remained in that position for more than 37 years. During his tenure, many municipal roads were repaired, municipal medical facilities improved and the number of streetlights increased. He took up farming as a family occupation in 1978 and put his wife Shantadevi in its charge. After selling family gold, he purchased 21 acres of land at village Kallol on the banks of the river Krishna. He again purchased 10 acres of land for his son Mahantesh. He developed the family agriculture business and soon became a landlord in Chikodi taluka.⁹

He visited Italy, France, England and the United States in 1982. He was famously known as 'M.K.' all over Belgaum district. He became the Vice-President of the K.L.E. Society in 1989. During his Vice-Chairmanship, the K.L.E. Society started many new colleges in Belgaum district.¹⁰

He became Chairman of the Belgaum District Literacy Conference in 1990. He organised a 10-days Shivanubhav training camp for young people in 1994. Many Veerashaivas participated in this camp. Shree Sidharam Mahaswamiji of Nangnur, Shree Maniranjana Jagadguru, Shree Panchan Sivalingeshwar, Duradindeshwar Math, Nidasoshi and Shree Siddhaprabhu Mahaswamiji of Chinchani delivered lectures

Title: MALLAYYASWAMI KAVATAGIMATH (1935-1996)

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in this camp.¹¹

He was an office-bearer of various cooperative ventures as under:

Director of Shankeshwar Sugar Factory for more than 12 years.
President and Director of Hiranyakeshi Transport Co-operative Society.
Founder Vice-Chairman of Chikodi Dudhaganga-Krishna Sugar Factory.
Chairman of the Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Nipani, for 10 years.
President and Chief Promoter of Siddheshwar Co-operative Spinning Mill at Chikodi.
Director of the State Apex Bank at Bangalore.
Director of Belgaum District Central Co-operative Bank.
President of Chikodi Lottery Club.
Director and Chairman of L.S.M.P. Society for 30 years.¹²

Mallayaswami occupied an important place in the hearts of people of Belgaum district. He was a great educationist, social reformer, lover of literature and a religious-minded person. He died in 1996.¹³

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