

# ROLE OF WOMEN IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN KALYANA KARNATAKA – A HISTORIC PROSPECTS

**\*Dr.C.K.Kotrappa, Associate Professor of History, Government First Grade College, Davanagere.**

## Abstract

These areas later came to be known as Hyderabad-Karnataka region. If we look at the history through the ages, different rulers have neglected the region during pre-independent and post-independent periods. As we know the whole nation celebrates the Independence Day on 15th August every year since 1947, but the people of Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) celebrate Independence Day on not only 15th August but also on 17th September, since 1948. Even during India's independence struggle Hyderabad, Karnataka was under Nizam's rule. The people of Hyderabad, Karnataka have had to fight for their independence not only against the British but also Hyderabad Nizam who supported the Razakars. The freedom movement in the region was in no way at low profile, it was as serious as in other parts of the country. But unfortunately nobody highlighted this aspect in the history of the freedom movement. Hyderabad, Karnataka region originally consisted of three districts-Bidar, Gulbarga and Raichur (and recently Koppal district) which belonged to the Hyderabad state and later merged in Karnataka state. These districts along with Bellary form the Gulbarga division in the state (though culturally Bellary is different from the other). These districts on the border areas of the Nizam state did not receive proper attention of the rulers and hence remained backward and neglected. The Hyderabad state, the largest and the richest of the Indian princely states was a relic of medieval autocracies. The form of administration was absolute monarchy. But the state was governed by an irresponsible bureaucrat, with an executive council at the top. During the rule of the last Nizam, viz., Usman Ali Khan Bahadur, the Hyderabad state was a reflection of social schisms, political upheavals, economic exploitation and religious atrocities. The struggle for independence and integration was more or less a struggle against the communalism of the Nizam government. The spirit of nationalism in the minds of the people emerged out of their instinct to protect their religion. In Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) the Swadeshi movement found its expression in the establishment of national schools.

*Keywords— princely states, India, Koppal, Bellary district, Hyderabad-Karnataka, independence struggle.*

## Introduction

There was neither freedom of speech nor that of an association. People were deprived and denied of their fundamental rights. They did not enjoy the economic liberty owing to the deep-rooted feudal system and its henchmen. The minority enslaved the majority. The Nizam and Ittehad formulated such of the policies which aimed at establishing an Islamic state in a Hindu majority state. He did not grant the religious freedom to Hindus. Social life was tainted with communal feelings, which reached its climax, before the accession of the Hyderabad state to the Indian union, in the form of the —Razakar movement. It was privilege to be a Muslim. He was considered superior in the sociopolitical status to his Hindu counterpart who lived as a second grade citizen in the state. Swamy Ramananda Tirtha, in his memoirs of Hyderabad Freedom Struggle, states that the Muslim fanatics treated the Hindus as slaves. The life of the people was controlled by the Muslim oligarchy. Muslims were allowed to use weapons. Much discrimination was shown in the application of law against the Hindus, whereas,

Muslims enjoyed special treatment in the administration of justice. Private enterprise in education was almost forbidden and it was looked upon with disfavour. Kannada language and culture were reeling under the influence of Urdu, the official language of the state. The press, which is the mirror of public opinion, did not enjoy the freedom to publish articles on nationalism and liberty.

### **Objective:**

This paper seeks to explore the nature of freedom struggle the Kalyana Karnataka region, especially in Koppal and Ballari districts. And also role of general public in the fight against Nizam and British.

The history of Indian freedom struggle would be incomplete without mentioning the contributions of women. The sacrifice made by the women of India will occupy the foremost place. They fought with true spirit and undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn us freedom. When most of the men freedom fighters were in prison the women came forward and took charge of the struggle. The list of great women whose names have gone down in history for their dedication and undying devotion to the service of India is a long one. Woman's participation in India's freedom struggle began as early as in 1817. Bhima Bai Holkar fought bravely against the British colonel „Malcolm“ and defeated him in Guerilla warfare. Many women including Rani Channamma of Kittur, Rani Begam Hazrat Mahal of Avadh fought against British East India Company in the 19th century; 30 years before the “First War of Independence 1857”. The role played by women in the war of independence of 1857 was creditable and invited the admiration even leaders of the Revolt. Rani of Ramgarh, Rani Jindan Kaur, Rani Tace Bai, Baiza Bai, Chauban Rani, and Tapasvini Maharani daringly led their troops into the battlefield. Rani Lakshmi Bai Jhansi whose heroism and superb leadership laid an outstanding example of real patriotism. Indian women who joined the national movement belonged to educated and liberal families, as well as those from the rural areas and from all walk of life, all castes, religions and communities. Sarojini Naidu, Kasturba Gandhi, Vijayalakshmi Pundit and Annie Besant in the 20th century are the named which are remembered even today for their singular contribution both in battlefield and in political field.

### **ROLE OF WOMEN IN FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

The failure of the Government to take up the Nehru Report to take note of the demand of the people within the stipulated period forced the Indian National Congress to proceed with its plans of launching Satyagraha as had been decided at its session in December 1928, at Calcutta. Therefore, the Indian National Congress which met in December 1929, at Lahore declared on the midnight of December 31, 1929, the goal of the Congress to be complete independence instead of Dominion Status. Thus the New Year was ushered in with new hopes, a changed creed and the prospect of an active fight ahead. The congress members of the legislature were instructed to boycott elections and 26 January 1930, was declare as Independence Day which was to be celebrated throughout the country every year. Gandhiji was empowered to initiate the Civil Disobedience Movement in any manner he considered best. Gandhiji selected the breaking of Salt Laws as the centre of gravity. He felt that since salt was a thing of common use, salt tax was unjust for the poor in the land.

### **BELLARY DISTRICT FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

Bellary is a district in Karnataka with hot and dry summers, Historical sites, Farm Land and Rich minerals characterize Bellary district. Also the home of famous Vijayanagara Empire World Heritage Site recently making headlines with mining

industry. On 1st October 1953 CE, the Bellary district of Madras State was divided on a linguistic basis. Areas with a significant Kannada speaking population were transferred to Mysore state, which later became Karnataka state. Areas of the district with a significant Telugu speaking population were merged into the Anantapuram and Karnulu districts in what would later become Andhra Pradesh state. Bellary city itself, with large numbers of both Kannada and Telugu speakers, was included into Mysore state after protracted debate and controversy.

It may be recalled that in the first round of states reorganization, states had been created largely on the linguistic principle. V.P. Menon, who was a witness to this entire process of re-organization wrote, —We had demolished the artificial barriers between the states, inter se and the rest of India and had indeed laid the foundation for an integrated administrative and financial structure. But the real integration had to take place in the minds of the people. It would take some time for the people of the erstwhile states to outgrow the regional loyalties and to develop a wider outlook and broader vision. That task requires great vision and patience. The best-governed state is the one that possesses a sound political system and an efficient administrative system.

Each of these is indispensable, if the state is not to fall into anarchy. Though, in fact the area (Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka)) produced the first Kannada book called Kavirajamarga written by Sri Vijaya, who lived under the rule of Rashtrakuta king, Amoghavarsha Nrupatunga of Manyakheta (the present Malkhed in Kalaburagi district). During this time, the Manyakheta was a famous cultural centre. Throughout history, the —Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) area has been very famous for its socio-cultural and religious activities. The area was also known as the place of —Sharanas of the twelfth century under Kalyana dynasty. Bijjala was a famous king and his prime minister, Basavanna, has done a great service to mankind in the removal of inequalities and establishing a casteless society. Basavakalyana (which is part of Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) region), was the cultural centre of Sharana movement.

It was under the Nizam rule that this region was totally neglected; and after independence of the country nothing changed. The history of this region is a saga of sufferings and backwardness and a long spell of stagnation both in economic and social sectors. However, the region was expected to have a bright future. Because large scale and rapid development was expected to take place when the Tungabhadra and Upper Krishna Projects were completed. But, unfortunately, the projects were not completed even after the completion of the period. This region has remained neglected even in the new set up as it was woefully neglected in the erstwhile Nizam's Hyderabad state. The area is full of potential, talent and material resources. After its integration with the state, considerable effort has been made to promote development in this region by State Governments through the five-year plans. Even so, till 1980, all the three districts occupied the bottom position except Bellary (placed 10th place in per capita income). The continuous backward position of this region consequently led the authorities to undertake some specific efforts for development. These include the preparation of development plan by the Kalyana Karnataka (Hyderabad Karnataka) Development Board (HKABD) in 1992, for implementation of schemes in this region.

### **KOPPAL DISTRICT: FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

Koppal district is an administrative district in the state of Karnataka in India. The Koppal district came to existence on 25th August 1997, bifurcated from Raichur district of Karnataka.

Palkigundu is described as the Indrakila parvata of epic fame and there is an ancient Shiva temple called the Male Malleshwara. There are two Ashokan inscriptions at Palkigundu and Gavimatha. It was the capital of a branch of Shilaharas under the Chalukya's of Kalyan. In Shivaji's times it was one of the eight prants or revenue divisions of Southern Maratha Country. During 1857 Revolts, Mundargi Bheema Rao and Hammige Kenchana Gouda died fighting the British here in June 1858.

At first, women had not been allowed to participate as Gandhiji had thought they would complicate matters. But the women of the land, coveting a place of equality with men, could not sit back at the call of the nation. They protested that in these critical days there should not be any watertight compartments of services. Women demanded that “no conference, no congress or commission dealing with the welfare of India should be held without the presence on them of their king. Similarly they must ask that no marches, no imprisonment, no demonstrations organized for the welfare of India should prohibit women from a share in them.” Later they were permitted to take part in all phase of the campaign. They (the women) started their march on the road to liberty by breaking salt laws, forest laws, taking out „Prabhat Pheries“, processions picketing schools, colleges, legislative councils and clubs. The Government met the just demand with lathi charge, shooting, arrests, Section 144, Press Ordinance, Unlawful Instigation Ordinance and Intimidation Ordinance. Nizam was succeeded by Mir Osman Ali Khan who endeavoured to improve the administration to meet the needs of the times. While hundreds of Hindus were murdered, more than 125 women were raped, some in public places mainly by the Razaakars. The Gorta village in Basavakalyana taluk bore the brunt of Razaakars attack. More than 200 Hindus in the village were massacred and their residences set on fire. This massacre is called the “Jalianwala Bagh” massacre of Karnataka. The Indian armed forces entered the Nizam state on September 13 and completed an operation within 109 hours. At around 4 pm of September 17, 1948 General Al Edroos, Commander in Chief of the Nizam's army, surrendered to General A.M. Choudhary of the Indian army.

### **.Conclusion**

In 1912, Salar Jung III was appointed as the prime minster. After his resignation in 1914, Nizam took the reins of government in his own hands and dealt with the heads of various departments without any intermediary. He pledged all the resources of the State to the British for prosecution of the First World war (1914-1918) for which he was hailed as the “Faithful Ally” of the British and began to be styled as “His Exalted Highness”. The British never gave up its right of interfering in internal affairs, yet it allowed considerable autonomy to Nizam to rule his subjects to the extent, it would not affect the British interest adversely.<sup>44</sup>This tacit understanding allowed the Nizam to continue his feudal rule withoutany interruption up to 1947. The increasing spread of the freedom movement throughout Hyderabad state was regarded with alarm by the Nizam When India achieved independence on 15th August 1947, the Razakars in Bellary and Koppal let loose a reign of terror in the Hyderabad State and popular reaction to it threatened the continuance of the Nizam’s rule. Finally, on 13th September 1948, the Government of India started the Police action against Hyderabad.

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