

# Religious Journals in Telugu language during the Colonial period in the Madras presidency; 1872 to 1909.

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## Abstract

*In the history of the development of nationalism in India, journals have been a reflection of as a key factor in imparting nationalism. One of the most important events of the 1800s was the beginning of the regional religious journals in the madras presidency. However, these rapid changes are having a serious effect in the Telugu region between reformers and orthodox sections. In many journals, a debate was taken place between rationality and orthodox sections concerning refining the religion from the code of beliefs and superstitions. The research to date has tended to focus on journals started by various people in Telugu region particularly related to Religion, Vedanta, Ethics, and Religious Reformation. This paper will give an account of all the journals published during the colonial period from 1872 to 1909. The first section of this paper will examine religious journals, the second part with Vedanta journals, the third part with Ethics journals and the fourth part with religious reform journals.*

**Key Words:** Journal, Religion, Reform, Telugu, Missionaries

## Introduction

The journals in India played a vital role under British India and influenced the Indian society politically, economically, religious and in the education field. In Telugu region, the religious press was stated in the year 1872 to strengthen and protects the social life of the Telugu region. The reasons for the birth of religious journals are to reform society, strengthen religious values, countering the misinterpretation made by the British literature. The contradictions reached to the highest level when the Christian missionaries and social reformers influences through journals. The effect was to reform the religion by removing the social disparities and to protect the existing values. This paper mainly focuses on the beginning of the religious journals from the year 1872 to the year 1909. The year 1909 was one of the important landmarks in British Indian history with the 1909 Act by proving the communal electorates under British India. The social conflicts undergone during the colonial period to protect the social capital of the contemporary society with the traditional religious rights and the social reformers played a role as counterparts.

## Objective

The objective of the study is to understand the patterns of origin, growth, and development of the press in Madras presidency. To discover the status and role of the press in Madras presidency during the colonial period, find out the different types of newspapers and magazines along with the impact of the press on the socio-economic development in Madras presidency.

## Review of Literature

Rabindranath Manukonda in his book “History of Telugu journalism print and electronic media” in his study almost covered various aspects of Telugu press and its patterns, and different personalities of editors ship. Venkateswara Rao Telluri and Maluguri Srinivas both wrote Research articles in which they explored the role of the press to the mobilization of masses in the Telangana armed struggle. This study revealed the role of the press in Telangana region. B.Samamurthi, “the press under Nizam rule” mentioned about the role of press in Salar Jung period. Bellary Shamanna Kesavan (1984) “History of Printing and Publishing India”. This volume deals with the origin of printing in India and almost covers the historical background and development of printing and publications in South India. Iyengar A.S (2001) “Role of Press and Indian freedom struggle” according to this book the writes explain about press role in a political

point of view was presented. Report of the Second Press Commission (1982), Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Govt. of India, New Delhi, Volume 1 are available.

## Hypothesis

The paper is designed for empirical research of the historical evolution of the religious press in the Madras presidency. No hypothesis is formulated here. The finding of this study generates criticisms.

## Data and Methodology

The study is basically descriptive in nature and based on historical and empirical data about the press in the Madras presidency. Sources of data and method of analysis dealing with the origin, growth, and development of the religious press in the Madras presidency in historical research-based. The works in this field of the press have been used by applying the document analysing method. Used secondary data from facts and figures from available books, journals, different websites and official records.

### 1. Religious Journals

The first religious journal was started in the year 1872 with the name Swadharna Prakashini by Dvaitam Koteswara Sarma from Machilipatnam and it was continued up to the year 1876 (Gautam). The Satyaduutha Monthly journal was started in the year 1888 by D. Anantam from Madras. Dharmavardhani journal was started in the year 1892 as Monthly by Ch. Subramanya Sastri from Visakhapatnam. The journal Dhiranjani Monthly was started in the year 1892 by Vishwanatham Raghavendra Sastri from Atmakuru, the contents are related to like present newspaper in General along with religious matters. The journal Dharmavardhani was started monthly in the year 1893 by Ch. Ramamurthy from Bhimavaram. In the year 1895, the journal Sivagrantha Muktaivali was started as Monthly by Kandukuri Srisaila Virabhadra Varaprasadarao from Eluru. The journal Satyasadhani was started monthly in 1897 by T.A. Swaminatha Aiyer from Madras (Gautam). The journal Ravi Weekly was started in the year 1897 by J.B. Malurian from Kakinada. In the year 1899, the journal Satvasadhani was started and it was continued up to the year 1905 by the Omanduru Vaidyam Dorasamayya from Madras. The journal Dharmavadini Monthly was started in the year 1901 by Boddupalle Subbayya from Bapatla. In the year 1901, the journal Prasannamanjari Monthly was started by S. Narayanamurthy from Visakhapatnam. The journal Dharmopadesini Monthly was started in the year 1902 by A. Varadacharyulu from Madras. The Viswasrit Monthly journal was started in the year 1902 by Manduri Virabhadrudu from Vedurupaka of Godavari. The journal Hamsa monthly was started in the year 1908 by S. Hanumantha Rao from Gooty. The journal Sugnana was started monthly in the year 1909 by S. Gopalaswami Karvetinagaram from Chittor. Aryamatabodhini Monthly was started in the year 1828 by Kasibhatta Brahmayya Sastri from Kakinada, Suvarnalekha Monthly was started in the year 1905 by Tallapragada Suryanarayana from Tanuku as a counterpart to the social reformer Kandukuri Viresalingam journal 'Satyavadini'.

#### 1.1 Missionary Journals

The Christian missionaries are the first to start the priming in the madras presidency The tracts were printed chiefly at the expansion of an association called the 'Christian institution in the east. Hence the early Telugu tracts are issued from the Vizag press as early as 1809 and 1810. John Gordon came in 1810 and Edward Prichelt arrived in 1812 at Vizagapatam and prepared a New Testament, which was printed in 1818 in Madras. The vernacular tract society in India was established at Bellary in 1817. "The Bellary tract society did not have a press of its own until 1825. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century A.D the Madras religion tract society was started in 1818 and printed more than a million tracts in Telugu. In addition, Christian literature, grammar works, dictionaries and school books in Telugu were also printed in this press. For this, the Madras school book society was established in 1820, and printing activity in Telugu started with scriptures, grammar works and dictionaries. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a few classic tests translations and very few original works were printed." The missionary journal Rayabhari Monthly was started in the year 1877 by Butla Chagall, The journal Lutharin Monthly was started in the year 1891 by F.C. Makrid from Madras and the journal Baptist fortnight was started in the year 1899 by W.M Compbell. Christavabhodhini Monthly was started in the year 1904 by J.A. Barley from Naidupeta, Christava Monthly was started in the year 1908 by S.B. Simon from Prodduturu.

## Vedanta Journals

The journal Brahavidya Monthly was started in the year 1895 by G. Srinivasa Sastri from Madras and the Mumukshu Janaranjani journal Monthly was started in the year 1897 by A. Narasimhacharyulu from Madra

## Ethics Journals

The journal Nithidarpanamu monthly was started in the year 1885 and run up to the year 1887 by Bhukta Jamma Sastri from Julumuru, the second journal Sanmargabhodhini Weekly was started in the year 1891 by Jagannadhayya from Ballar, the third journal Sunithi monthly was started in the year 1897 by Nallagonda Kodandaramaiah from Rajahmundry

## Religious Reformation Journals

In the year 1885 a monthly journal Hindujanasamskarini was started by Mannava Butchayya Pantulu from Madras Gautami, OML (Madras) The editor of this journal Butchayya Pantulu was a lover of social reform activities. He has helped Viresalingam in his reform activities. The Rajayogi weekly was started in the year 1891 by Gurajada Sriramamurthy from Kakinada (Gautami) Religion and Science. The journal Eswaradarshini was started monthly in the year 1905 by the Brahmasamaj branch of Chennapuri Brahma Samajam from Chennapuri.

## Conclusion

Religion is always having its role in every system. The contradiction between the new religious philosophy and social reformers' rational thought provoked to start the of religious journals in Telugu region and its impact on Telugu region. The ideologies between the various religious philosophy led to the contradiction in the Telugu society and a lot of social conflict were taken between various social groups in Telugu region and struggle led to the supremacy of the social capital. Further research required how the publishers influenced and maintains the relation between Nationalism, rationality, and social contradictions in the Telugu Society.

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