

# History of Journals in Guntur during the Colonial period In India: 1886 to 1947

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## Abstract

*Press is an important component in the colonial period and played a key role in the society. The past decades have seen the impact of the press in Telugu region. However, those changes are having a serious effect on Telugu Society. In many researches the role of press was taking but at a micro level it was not studied at Guntur. The research to study has tended to focus on press in Guntur. The paper will focus on historical origin of modern press in Telugu and various kinds of journals during colonial period.*

**Key Words:** Press, Society, Culture, Printing, Social Capital.

## Introduction

The journals in colonial India are introduced by the colonial powers and slowly it was observed by the British provinces and princely states with their own social, political, religious, cultural economic motives in British India. As part of that for the development and cultural counters, religious counters, rational thoughts, western philosophy are spread in the Telugu region. As of that journals are started in the Guntur in the fields of Political, Education Journals, Literature and Language, Agriculture, Economy, Industry, Trade and Law, Caste and Religion. The Guntur is part of the madras presidency located in the central Andhra Pradesh besides the Vijayawada. It played a vital role in social reformation and freedom movement during the colonial period.

## Objective

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

## 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, different personalities of editor ship. Venkateswara Rao Telluri and Maluguri Srinivas both written Research article in that they explored about the role of press: the mobilization of masses in Telangana armed struggle. This study was revealed that the role of press in Telangana region. B.Samamurthi, “the press under Nizam rule” he mentioned about the role of press in Salar Jung period. Bellary ShamannaKesavan (1984) “History of Printing and Publishing India”. This volume deals the origin of printing in India and almost covering 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 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 press in Vijayawada. 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 Guntur. Sources of data and method of analysis dealing with the origin, growth, development of press in Guntur is mainly historical research based. The works in this field of press have been used by applying document analysing method. Used a secondary data from facts and figures of available books, journals, different websites and official records.

### Political Journals

The political journals are started from Guntur from the year 1886 and there are five journals published in political area. The main objective of political journals was to publish the policies made by the British and its implications in the Madras presidency. From the 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards these journal played an active role in imparting nationalism, propagating the congress struggles and Gandhian ideology. The interesting contradictions were found in the journals from the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century i.e at a national publications are related to the freedom from the colonial power and at the regional level a demand of separate province for the Telugu people.

The political journal Desabhimani Weekly was started in the year 1886 by Devaguptam Seshachalapathi Rao. The earlier name of this journal was 'Krishna Vrittantini' and later named as 'Krishna News' and finally with the name Desabhimani it was published in both English and Telugu language. Even though it was started as weekly it was published for some daily. The publication was taken place from the neighbouring place Vijayawada.

In the year 1912 the Darbaru Fortnightly was started by Palaparthi Ramamurthy. The Gramapalana Weekly was started in the year 1922 by Kanagala Sriramamurth. The Gunturu Patrika Weekly was started in the year 1923 by Unnava Lakshminarayana. The Swadharma Weekly was started in the year 1927 by Govindaraju Venkata Krishna Rao.

### Education Journals

There are two journal found in the field of education from Guntur. With the social contradiction of the Indian society with the Christian missionaries the contraction towards education was started form the year 1892 through journals. The missionaries are very active in publish and circulating the writings from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards in all the British provinces. In Guntur the journal Upadhyayopakari Monthly was started in the year 1892 in English by Mrs. Daidon. This journal was edited by an English person. The second journal named Grama Gurupadesini Monthly journal was started in the year 1924 by Mecauley Sati.

### Literature and Language

In the field of literature and language also two journals are published form Guntur. The first Vishwakala Monthly journal was identified but the date was not found. It was published by Kundurthi Narasimharao. The second journal was Prabandha kalpavallari a Monthly journal started in the year 1909 by Gantupalli Somayya. With the impact of the Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy the journals are established and contributed in the field of Literature and Language to the Telugu society.

### Agriculture, Economy, Industry, Trade and Law

Some of the journals are started in Guntur like as modern day news papers by covering all the contemporary issues in the field of Agriculture, Economy, Industry, Trade and Law. The agricultural article related to the suitable crops in the contemporary period in accordance to the tax and shares. They cover various judgements and policies of the British India and its impact in Madras presidency. There are five journal found during this period. In a modern way of news paper the first journal was Nyayabodhini Monthly started in the year 1919 by Devaguptam Seshachalapathirao the second journal was Parapati a Fortnightly started from the year 1925 by Govindaraju Venkata Krishnarao and Tallapragada Ramarao. The fourth one was Prakatanapatrika a Monthly journal started in the year 1925 by Gundu Raghava

Dikshitulu G. The Kalanidhi Vrittantamu journal was a weekly and started in the year 1899. It covers only the industrial news.

## Religion

The religion is always having its role in every system. The contradiction between the new religious journals philosophy and social reformers rational thought provoked to start the religious journals in Telugu region and its impact was there in Guntur. As part of those six journals are published during the colonial period from Guntur. Three of those journals are to propagate the Christianity, service and their activities in Telugu region. The Vishisthadvaita Prakasika was a Monthly journal started in the year 1910 by Vinjamuri Viraraghavacharyulu, the Strilakoraku Vartamanamulu a Monthly journal was started in the year 1912 by E.N.Macauley. The Tenuguchurchman Patrika journal was a Quarterly started in the year 1916 by H. Auston. The journal 'Telugu Luthern' was started as a Monthly from the year 1917 by H.R. Spyanglo. The journal Dharmasadhani was started as a Fortnightly from the year 1923 by Palaparathi Narasimham and the journal Aryapatrika was started in the year 1927 as monthly by Kolachalam Krishnasomayajulu.

## Caste

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century played a vital role with the social contradictions for the social identify in the Telugu society. In Telugu region almost all the education sections started journals on the name of the caste and as part of that it influenced the Guntur region also. The Vasishya community started the Aryavaishya Weekly in the year 1911 by Sanagapalli Ramaswamy Gupta. The journal Vaishya Fortnightly was in the year 1929 by Kasi Annadana Satra. The motive is to protect the social capital community rights and to protect from the reformative activates of the social reformers.

## Conclusion

The Guntur is so vibrant place in the Telugu region for the wide spread of the news and at the same time it most influenced part is with counters and encounters of the news specially related to culture, religion and castes. The Guntur played vital role in the social reformation under several reformers and notably under Tripuraneni Ramaswamy. But the effects are form both sides due to the influence of the press in Guntur and it reflected on various groups of the Guntur and it resulted on education institutes to establish on the name of the castes to organise their social capital effectively. This is the contradictory part of the Guntur and Telugu society while playing important role in the social reformation for right to equality and other side they tried to protect their social capital at local. They are part of the Indian freedom struggle and at the same time part of regionalism for the separate Telugu province under the British India. The conflict between the rationalism and orthodox sections was also at higher level to safe guard the rights of in accordance to the contemporary society. However the efforts of the educated intellectuals and press influenced the society to move towards the modernity in Guntur.

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