

AN OVERVIEW OF THE KARNATAKA FREEDOM STRUGGLE: THE FUNCTION OF ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

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Abstract:

The nationwide protests against the counter-availing excise levies on Indian fabric in 1896 gave the Swadeshi movement a new lease of life, and the partition of Bengal in 1905 gave it even more vigour. It was emphasised that Indians should "waken up to the national cause" by supporting the use of Lancashire cotton, regardless of their religious beliefs or other differences.⁷ During this time, three main possible streams appeared. The political extremists employed prolonged boycotts concurrently with the rise of a terrorist movement, while moderates adopted constructive Swadeshi. By 1905, the concept of "Atmashakti," or self-reliance, permeated Bengali society through Swadeshi textile mill plans. Highlights of this era included better handlooms, issues with river transportation, factories that produced soap and matches, tanneries and earthenware, national education through Muffosil Schools, the Taraknath Patil Society, which opposed technical education, and initiatives to put Tagores' Swadeshi Samaj into practice.⁸ Like a triumphant general, Bal Gangadhar Tilak embarked on a propaganda tour in 1906 during the Swadeshi Movement in Bengal. Tilak traveled throughout North Karnataka, giving provocative talks about boycotts, Swadeshi, Swaraj, and national education at Belgaum, Dharwad, Gurla Hosur, Pachchapur, and Bijapur. His main point was that self-government, or Swaraj, was the only way to free the nation from foreign bureaucracy and restore its former splendor. Only national education could provide this understanding. His main point was that self-government, or Swaraj, was the only way to free the nation from foreign bureaucracy and restore its former splendor. Only national education, which passed on legacy and instilled a deep love for the motherland and a resolve to restore the region's splendor and majesty, could bring this understanding.

I. Introduction:

In addition to many others, Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Alur Venkatrao, N. S. Hardikar, Hardekar Manjappa, Sakkari Balachar, Krishna Rao Mudvedkar, and Ananthrao Dabade made lengthy lectures and tours. Swadeshi enterprises emerged throughout Karnataka,

including a porcelain plant in Lakshmeshwar, a matchbox factory in Dharwad, and weaving factories in Kittur and Badami. In 1907, the Karnataka Industrial Conference was organized in Dharwad to determine the directions for the growth of Swadeshi industry and the boycott of foreign products. In Ranebennur and other Karnataka locations, foreign clothing was set on fire. The national schools, which were established throughout Karnataka, played a significant role in maintaining this awakening.

As a result, the Swadeshi movement quickly expanded throughout the country, including Karnataka. The development of national schools and universities in their respective regions, as well as the expansion of enterprises, were entirely the responsibility of the populace, who enthusiastically supported the movement's advancement. However, the valiant actions of the Swadeshi movement's founders and its expansion are mostly overlooked. Karnataka State's contribution to the Swadeshi movement is often overlooked, and on other instances, it is downplayed by numerous regional and national academics and researchers. Therefore, The current study sincerely attempts to investigate the significant contribution that the Karnataka State and its revolutionaries made to the epic Swadeshi movement.

II. Goals and Objectives:

Every study conducted in the post-independence era, even into the 1980s and 1990s, seemed to be haphazard, disconnected, and ancillary, failing to address the roles of individuals, small groups, and organizations. However, the work's goal is to close the significant gap left by the previous studies and research. For the grassroots study, a constrained geographical area and period within Karnataka have been selected. Even if the study conducted thus far has contributed to the development of broad viewpoints on India's fight for independence, several misconceptions have persisted in the public consciousness for a long time. One such misunderstanding was that the movement neglected the involvement of several sabhas and samitis groups and organizations. The second mistake was that the Tilakan contribution was not traced and that the positive reforms, such as socio-religious, political-economic, and cultural linkages, were exclusively perceived as Gandhian contributions. Furthermore, it was thought that Gandhiji's ideas on the formation of the Sabha and Samitis were more familiar than Tilak's. Several poorly thought out and unfounded concepts have occupied the pages of India's liberation movement history. The average man, both individually and collectively, and their sacrifices for the admirable cause of India's liberation have been neglected by academics on the country's freedom movement in their overzealousness to emphasise the

role of renowned freedom warriors and their ideas. It is thought that the only studies that allow us to emphasise the function of organisations in the liberation movement are those conducted at the grassroots level. The socio-economic analysis of freedom movement in India using quantitative technique would only be feasible through research conducted at the grassroots level, such as the one being presented here.

Throughout India's struggle for independence, each short-term and macro-level geographical entity has displayed its own peculiarities and distinctive qualities. However, research conducted at the national level did not fully give due consideration to these distinct organisations and locations, which occasionally had more important, intriguing, and deciding roles. The events, movements, ideas, and organisations of the macro-level, sub-national units can all be represented by research conducted at the grassroots level alone. Furthermore, national level studies have completely ignored the involvement of journalists, writers, columnists, terrorist underground actions, and minor, national events. Only in research conducted at the grassroots level can such events, movements, and individuals receive better treatment.

III. Relevance of the Subject Topic:

In comparison to the Indian setting, the four districts of Bombay presidency Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwad, and North Kanara were the first to absorb and foster a sense of nationalism similar to Bengal and Maharashtra among all the Kannada-speaking regions. Despite being divided into several administrative divisions, Karnataka Some of the most notable freedom fighters with exceptional talent, dynamism, independent ideologies, and organizing abilities, such as Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Hanumanthrao Deshpande, Govindrao Yalgi, Alur Venkatrao, Muduvedkar Krishnarao, N. S. Hardikar, Hardekar Manjappa, Karnad Sadashivarao, Srinivas Rao Kaujalgi, Hanamanthrao Kaujalgi, Jayarao Nargund, Krishnarao Jorapur, Vittal Rao Devlgoanker, and several others, could be produced on the eve of the Swadeshi movement.

The promotion of the indigenous press by the State of Karnataka was crucial in advancing nationalism. Dharwad, Belgaum, Mangalore, Bijapur, and Bangalore served as hubs for the work of journalists like Alur Venkatrao, Hardekar Manjappa, Jayarao Deshpande, Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, and others, who propagated nationalism via their publications. In northern Karnataka, prominent Marathi newspapers such as Kesari, Kal, Navkal, and Chitramayajagat were widely distributed. As the movement's driving force, Lokamanya Tilak's role during the

Swadeshi movement was equally important. As a result, Tilak's supporters inhabit areas of northern Karnataka that resemble a seething cauldron. The significance of Karnataka State in the Freedom Movement may be explained by all of these factors taken together, these factors explain Karnataka State's importance in the Freedom Movement, which explains the importance of the research issue.

IV. Importance of the Research:

However, historians have given the history of the liberation movement in Karnataka's sub-national and sub-cultural zone their full attention. The State has short-term investigations that are still pending the researcher's attention. G. S. Halappa's "History of Freedom Movement in Karnataka" is unquestionably a movement work on the topic. On the other hand, it is believed that the matter has not been fully addressed. The explanation of the account is brief and abstract; no specifics are provided. The erudite scholar has focused on the movement's main stream and documented the roles of notable organisations and associations, national schools' beliefs, revolutionary groupings' roles, the function of the Provincial Congress, the first-ever mass mobilisation for the national cause, etc., completely ignoring the function of regional institutions and organisations, sabhas and samitis, and the movement's socioeconomic analysis. The topic becomes significance because the current study attempts to close some of these significant gaps. Since the goal of this endeavour is to honour all the organisations that contributed to India's freedom, they have yet to be properly recognised, acknowledged, and cared for. Therefore, there is no need to exaggerate the importance of the current task. Additionally, the study seeks to emphasise distinctive aspects of the liberation movement, noteworthy incidents, and intriguing tales that are not included in supra-regional studies.

V. The study's nature and scope :

It is expected of the researcher to establish the parameters and bounds of the studies with regard to time, space, and theme in order to make them systematic, continuous, and interrelated. The goal of the current study is to examine Karnataka's history of the freedom movement. There were significant differences between the movements in the princely states and those in other areas under British administration. Naturally, when compared to the areas under the princely kingdoms, the British Empire's dictatorial and harsh rule caused an uneven rise in nationalism and popular awakening in its dominions. Even though the study aims to limit its scope to the current borders of Karnataka, it is impossible to ignore external

factors like the influence of the West, national leaders like Lokamanya Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, and the Terrorists of Bengal, as well as national and international affairs, leaders and their opinions, and the influx of national newspapers into the state. The research topic has a wide range of viewpoints. As a result, a wide time frame spanning from 1905 to 1947 has been selected for study. The events from the Swadeshi movement might be covered in the current study, but to make it more engaging and thorough, the researcher has invested additional time, effort, and labor to include the events up until the end of the saga of the freedom.

Karnataka was not an exception to the national phenomenon when the country worked to realise the admirable goal of freeing India from colonial domination; the state supported the country in all agitations and movements against the illegal colonial control. Neo-nationalist tactics for resistance were used by the populace throughout the liberation movement. The research starts with the rebellions carried out by some unhappy elements at the start of the nineteenth century, which led to the initial response of the Karnataka populace to the British expansionist agenda in the state. The study's most recent boundaries have been expanded to include 1947.

A researcher can create an interpretative, analytical, or narrative strategy for these macro-level studies. For the first time, an analytical and narrative technique rather than an interpretative one is deemed desirable due to the fact that research on the Karnataka State freedom movement has been conducted for study. Therefore, it is noticeable that there are no in-depth evaluations of political ideas.

VI. Method of Research

The current thesis has been developed using a historical process that includes data collecting, criticism, synthesis, and exposition. The documents related to Karnataka's freedom movement were dispersed. The majority of them were kept in the Maharashtra State Archives' different files in Bombay. Some of these documents were gathered from the Andhra Pradesh State Archives in Hyderabad, the Karnataka State Archives in Bangalore, and the National Archives in New Delhi. Where appropriate, the approach of corroborative evidence has been used to demonstrate the papers' legitimacy and validity. Personal biases and prejudices have been removed as much as possible when using the diaries and memories.

In terms of synthesis, the traditional approach has been used. The topic approach and chronological arrangement serve as the main foundations for the thesis's chapterization. In terms of the exposition, a straightforward narrative style has been used. There are numerous footnotes and references provided at the conclusion of each chapter to help verify the tale. Primary sources have been cited more often than secondary sources.

Source Documents :

The primary sources employed as evidence are crucial to the research work's historicity and authenticity. Only the classified account can demonstrate the scope of the primary sources used in this thesis because they are so many and diverse. As a result, the following general headings might be used to group the sources used in this thesis:

- 1) Documents from archives.
- 2) Newspapers and Magazines.

1) Documents from archives:

The National Archives in New Delhi, Maharashtra State Archives in Bombay, Karnataka State Archives in Bangalore, and Andhra Pradesh State Archives in Hyderabad have all kept the official records related to the Karnataka freedom movement as folios. All of these documents are on paper. In New Delhi, official records of national importance have been conserved. All of them are in English. These documents are divided into two categories: Home Department and Political Department. Although there aren't many of these records at the National Archives, they are extremely important to the country. One of the most important and up-to-date sources of information kept at the Archives of Bombay is the Report on Native News Papers. There are countless files with the heading "Report on Native Papers." State of Karnataka No official records are referring to Northern Karnataka in archives created during the post-independence era. However, the Karnataka State Archives have partially maintained private collections of individual liberation warriors, like Hardekar Manjappa, Alur Venkatrao, Sadashivrao, Mudurvedkar Krishnarao, Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, and others. Additionally, the Archives' micro-film branch has some accessible pieces of Kannada daily and weekly newspapers.

2) Newspapers and Magazines:

In addition to being among the first Kannada-language newspapers from Bijapur, "Karnataka Vaibhava" was also a newspaper with a strong sense of patriotism. It was a very common

and well-liked daily newspaper both during and after India's independence movement. As a result, this journal had enormous relevance in relation to the Karnataka freedom movement. Another weekly with a strong sense of patriotism was "Karnataka Vritta," which was published from Dharwad. These papers provide more detailed information about the developments in North Karnataka. Additionally, nationalist publications from the princely State of Mysore, such as "Dhanurdhari," a Kannada weekly written by Hardekar Manjappa, and "Deshabhimani," a Kannada daily edited by B. S. Iyengar, included news stories and scholarly essays on event of the Freedom movement in Karnataka.

In addition to these, a wider range of newspapers, including Kesari, Maratha, The Hindu, Vishal Karnataka, The Bombay Chronicle, The Times of India, and the Galaxy of Kannada papers, including Kannadiga, Chandrica, Chandrodaya, Kannada Kesari, Dharwad Vritta, Rajahamsa, Vagbhushana, Lokabandhu, and numerous others, have covered the Karnataka and surrounding areas with appropriate significance and pertinent information.

An Overview of Karnataka's History :

Karnataka was a mecca for sculpting, the birthplace of numerous kingdoms, and the wealth of numerous famous dynasties. The key components of her culture are tolerance, cooperation, and understanding and tolerance among other religions. Her cultural legacy is magnificent, demonstrating unity in diversity. These qualities have been nurtured by Karnataka's various monarchs, saints, poets, thinkers, reformers, and artists. This is where the Dravidian culture of the South and the Aryan culture of the North converge.

CONCLUSION :

Previously known as Mysore State, Karnataka has been renamed "Karnataka" starting November 1, 1973. This area, language, and people are all appropriately referred to by their old name, Karnataka. With its numerous historical and cultural customs, Karnataka holds a special place in Indian history. The Ganga, Kadamba, Chalukya, Rashtrakuta, Hoysala, Vijayanagara, and Mysore kingdoms are renowned for their bravery and daring. Numerous notable sons, including Devaraya, Sankana Nayaka, and Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, were born in this country.

Conversely, it served as a gathering place for thinkers and people of other faiths. Renowned intellectuals, reformers, and preachers like Ramanuja and Shankara came to Karnataka willingly. The well-known Karnataka sons, including Basaveshwara, Madhvacharya,

Purandaradasa, Kanakadasa, and their disciples, put a lot of effort into instilling in people the values of piety, bhakti, social service, patriotism, and reflection. These traits have contributed to the development of Karnataka culture. These attributes were woven into the Kannadigas' way of life, according to ancient writings and inscriptions. One inscription claims that the mother instilled these traits in the child from birth: Even as a little child playing on his mother's lap, Lakshmidhara, the Chief Minister of Devaraya I, the monarch of Vijayanagara, learned from his mother the following lessons: "Build tanks and lakes, dig wells, construct temples, help the orphans and friends; protect those who have faith in you and support your followers." An examination of a country and its culture where such lessons are imparted to infants will serve as a guide for both the current generation and the next generation.

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