

ROLE OF PRESS IN THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Dr. S. Sridevi,
Assistant professor of History,
Lekshmpuram college of arts and science,
Neyyoor, Kanniyakumari dist-629802

ABSTRACT

The national movement pointed more at the exchange of capacity to Indians than at the destruction of pre-free enterprise structures. The Indian National Movement is likewise a case of how the established space offered by the current structure could be utilized without getting co-picked by it. The press, indeed, succeeded to a large extent in founding the ideological foundation of modern India. Through the cooperation and assistance of press, conferences, meetings and congregations could be held from time to time; controversies could be settled, movements organized, institutions build up and their programmes and policies could reach the masses. It is worth mentioning that different community's organization and political associations founded their own press, Newspapers, Magazines, etc. All of these associations, irrespective of their characters, aims and objectives felt and understood the advantages and use of the press. They managed their own newspapers and journals. After 1857, the most important evolution that took place was the relationship between the Anglo-Indian Press and the people of India. During 1858-85 the history of press and journalism had special significance because of several reasons. Not only educated and thoughtful individuals were attracted towards them, rather a wide gulf derived them away from their English counterparts. The changes in the social and monetary existence of India in the 19th century had been, as it were, the commitment of the press. The press gave backing and exposure to the Tamil reason. It helped the general population to frame their own supposition by offering impartial and solid analysis dependent on realities. The writing of the loyalists and intelligent people achieved disobedience in the psyches of the Indians. The press awakened the people about their rights to freedom and fighting the repression. Thus, the press in India played the role of heralding a socio-political revolutionary ferment during the freedom struggle.

KEY WORDS: National movement – Indians – structure – ideological – organization – Newspapers - Magazines – counterparts – revolutionary – repression – dependent - Indian Press - socio-political - political associations.

Introduction:

During the first half of the 19th century, the press in India as well as in India was in its infancy. Several newspapers, magazines and journals made their appearance and many of them had a temporary life and then the revolt of 1857 occurred. It disclosed the drawbacks of the East India Company's rule. The frustration of the ruler and the ruled was highlighted by it. This event ended the Company's administration. As a result of it, the Government of India was transferred to the British Crown with the Queen's proclamation- a Magna Carta in 1858. This restored public trust and confidence. The press, indeed, succeeded to a large extent in founding the ideological foundation of modern India. Through the cooperation and assistance of press, conferences, meetings and congregations could be held from time to time; controversies could be settled, movements organized, institutions build up and their programmes and policies could reach the masses.

Press and Journalism:

The government henceforth became especially alert and active in different walks of life so that the British imperialism might be consolidated. Causes both internal and external led to the emergence of awakening in the public. During 1858-1910 the press moved on gradually but certainly towards increasing majority and self reliance. Let it be stated that expansion of socio-religious movements, frequent famines, increasing economic distress, spread of English education, the liberation and unification of Germany and Italy in the years 1870-1871, Irish Home Rule movement, expansion of western domination in Africa and Asia were some of the major factors which were responsible for the transformation in the thinking individuals during the period of freedom struggle. The transformation could be achieved through press and journalism.

North Indian Press Media:

The post 1857 period became prominent because the emergence of socio-religious, politico economic and intellectual activities in various parts of the country, especially in North India. During the third quarter of the 19th century many organizations, like *Brahma Samaj*, the *Arya Samaj*, the *Rama-Krishana Mission*, the *Prathana Samaj*, *Shuddi Movement*, *Sanatan Dharam Sabaha*, the *Kooka Movement*, *Singh Sabha Movement*, *Ahmdya Movements societies* and others emerged and gained fresh ground. All most all these organizations had their own papers. Soon, many news societies, leagues debating clubs and associations sprang into existence. These institutions could popularize their ideologies missions, aims and objectives through the vernacular and Anglo-Indian press. It is worth mentioning that different community's organization and political associations founded their own press, Newspapers, Magazines, etc. All of these associations, irrespective of their characters, aim and objectives felt and understood the advantages and use of the press. They managed their own newspapers and journals.

After 1857, the most important evolution that took place was the relationship between the Anglo-Indian Press and the people of India. It will not be out of place if some Anglo-Indian papers, which had appeared before 1857, are mentioned here. These were the Delhi Gazette, government monthly Magazine etc. There were regarded established and authentic by literate individuals and also by the government. However the happenings of 1857 enabled educated Indians to bank upon their own press. It is to be noticed, so strong had been the anti-Indian vituperation of the Anglo-Indian Press, during that disturbed period. A similar effect, of course in different ways, was created by the government policy after the upsurge of 1857 as symbolized by Queen Victoria's proclamation of 1858 as well as the Indian Council Act of 1861. They would, in fact, associate

some classes with the administration of the country, about within limits. No doubt the Indian press tended to be knowingly self-reliant that was natural that the British authorities must be impressed with its import as well as usefulness. Though, after some time, with its capacity for creating hurdles and hardships for them writing in connection with native press in India. There are number of newspapers were published from various towns of India. The largest circulation is enjoyed by the Tribune and other Papers that was started by Sunder Singh Majithia and under the patronage of district authority." During that time, the vernacular press was growing on rapidly. During 1858-85 the history of press and journalism had special significance because of several reasons.

Not only educated and thoughtful individuals were attracted towards them, rather a wide gulf derived them away from their English counterparts. A notable feature in this respect was the emergence of vernacular press. It challenged comparison with the English press. In the post 1857 period, the vernacular press faced several formidable difficulties. The editors could not boast of university degrees. Before entering into journalistic profession, they had to try several other avenues of earning. It, however, provided them with a better understanding of society and made them more responsive to the public emotions and aspirations. Really, no love was lost between the administration and native editors. The police and the magistracy made use of their rough and tough methods against the editors of the vernacular papers on account of the weaker socio-economic position. The popularity of vernacular newspapers frightened the Government; so the subsidies of some papers were at once stopped. This happened in April, 1896. However, the overall strength of these papers was not much affected by the government move.

National Movement:

The national movement pointed more at the exchange of capacity to Indians than at the destruction of pre-free enterprise structures. The Indian national movement, truth be told, gives the main real recorded case of a popularity-based sort of political structure being effectively supplanted or changed. Another significant trademark was its Pan-Indian nature. Since the movement crossed the entire of the Indian sub-landmass, it had its own local particulars. These provincial particulars were glaring when the area was actually heavily influenced by the rulers. Thus, in royal India, the struggle was situated against the British Raj as well as against the neighborhood rulers. It is the main movement where the comprehensively hypothetical point of view of position was effectively polished a war in a solitary verifiable snapshot of transformation, yet through delayed well known struggle on a good, political and ideological level; where stores of counter authority were

developed throughout the years through dynamic stages; where the periods of struggle substituted with 'latent' stages.

The Indian national movement is likewise a case of how the established space offered by the current structure could be utilized without getting co-picked by it. It didn't totally dismiss this space; as such dismissal in law based social orders involves substantial expenses as far as authoritative impact and frequently prompts segregation protected struggle to oust the current structure. In the last quarter of the 19th century the all round awakening that gradually occurred was made possible by the spread of new ideas with the help of the press. Apart from carrying new ideas to every part of the country, the press could be effective also because of the importance that the literate people attached to the printed literature.

Role of Indian Press and Literature:

The presentation of print machine was another significant factor that caused for the rise of patriot emotions. The changes in the social and monetary existence of India in the 19th century had been, as it were, the commitment of the press. The print machine was presented in India by the Westerners and the press had an incredible job in making national inclination among the majority. Journalism in India was introduced by European travelers. The early periodicals in India were written in English, altered by English men. By the last half of the 19th century a progress ahead in political thoughts and associations started to occur in India. The print machine assumed a significant job in the ascent of patriot cognizance by helping people to shape a popular feeling. In 1674 the English East India organization presented the print machine in Bombay. On 29th January 1780, the principal Indian magazine 'Bengal Gazette' was distributed by James Augustus Hicky. News Papers like the 'Bombay Samachar', the 'Kesari', the 'Amrit Bazar Patrika', 'Indian Mirror', the 'Hindu Patriot', the 'Hindu', the 'Bengalee', and so on tremendously influenced the people of India and in this manner left a changeless imprint on the political existence of the nation. Crafted by Hem Chandra Banerjee, R.C. Dutta, Din Bandhu Mitra, Navin Chandra Sen, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, and Rabindra Nath Tagore additionally influenced the brains of the people. The Anand Math of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee has properly been seen as the Bible of current Bengali patriotism.

National Movement in the South:

The period under review too witnessed the emergence of a few leading political organizations like Indian Association, the Madras *Mahajan Sabha*, the Bombay Presidency Association, Indian Union and then of course the Indian National Congress, on December 25th, 1885. In 1878 'Hindu', a week after week magazine, started

distribution. Later on it turned into an everyday paper. Fire up. Mead, on a visit to Thanjavur, got a printing machine and made sure about a prepared local printer from Tharanganbadi. In Madras, The Hindu and the *Swadesamitran* were begun by G. Subramania Iyer in 1878 and 1882 separately. They took the soul of patriotism to each alcove and corner of the area. Before the finish of the 18th century Indian news-casting had started to develop quickly. Madras Courier, an English magazine, was distributed by Richard Johnson in the Madras Presidency. In 1829, he began a print machine at Nagercoil. This was the principal print machine in Travancore. 'Athma Botham' was the principal book distributed in this press. Later on comparable presses were begun at Kanyakumari and Kottayam. The fundamental right to freedom of articulation ensured to each resident makes the press a significant mechanism for change and advancement. It gave an impetus to the growth of political consciousness in the early days.

Contribution of Malayalam Press Media:

The possibility of freedom from Malayalee control started to penetrate among the Tamilians of Travancore. The impact of a solid and committed press could undoubtedly influence the majority. The press not just supported the Tamils in their struggle against casteism yet in addition took up the reason for a Free State. Its voice was as successful as it should be. It must be both free and capable. It reflected popular supposition in regards to the clashing interests in the nation. The press gave backing and exposure to the Tamil reason. It helped the general population to frame their own supposition by offering impartial and solid analysis dependent on realities. There was a general disappointment with the regulatory framework among the Tamils. The press tended to this issue capably. There was an across the board feeling that reasonable equity was not to be for the Tamils. So they were sufficiently intense to conflict with the Government. In the start, in South India news papers didn't manage issues of political enthusiasm, as much as those of social or artistic significance.

A few dailies carried on a tireless struggle against the contemporary social foul play and persecution. For eg., T.K. Madhavan, Editor of '*Desabhimani*' and a valiant nationalist and dreamer made a feeling of solidarity and dignity among the discouraged classes and propelled them to defend their privileges. In any case, when the press in Travancore took up the reason for political arousing among the majority the Tamil reason likewise started to discover supports. The *Malayala Manorama*, The *Malayali*, The *Parasuraman*, The Western Star, The *Nazrani Deepika* and the Kerala Taraka were the most significant among the early papers in Travancore. K. Rama Krishna Pillai, the Editor and Publisher of '*Swadesabhimami*', a Malayalam periodical was considered as a contender for the freedom of the press. By the beginning of the Gandhian time numerous

vernacular magazines extraordinarily dedicated to the reason for Indian freedom started to be distributed. The '*Malayala Rajyam*' began at Quilon during the beginning of dynamic political development, had as its first Editor C.V. Kunjuraman, a man of profound edification and mighty rationale. Later he acknowledged the Editorship of Kerala Kaumudi at Trivandrum.

Role of Tamil Press Media:

With the quick movement of political cognizance and the rise of new ideological groups a few different papers also sprang into life every once in a while. Some of them worked for the social advantage and illumination of specific networks while others were of simply artistic intrigue. A few Newspapers, inside and outside Madras Presidency, were seriously condemning of the Government arrangement. A despotic cast of psyche was the trademark highlight of the British organization and the feeling of reliability that it appreciated prompted its hatred of open analysis. Local papers edified the majority on issues identified with legislative issues and government. Expanding information on state and organization actuated them strive for equivalent political status and conveyance of intensity. The lower social classes turned out to be increasingly more aware of their political rights and it constrained them to prepare together for aggregate activity in Tamil.

So as to spread Congress beliefs and making political awareness among the majority, a paper named '*Swaraj*' altered by A.K.Pillai was established in 1931. Seik Thampi Pavalar an extraordinary writer and Tamil Scholar additionally spread the blazes of patriotism. His devoted addresses significantly contacted the young personalities. The extraordinary national writer Kavimani Desiga Vinayagam Pillai motivated the people through his sonnets, for example, '*Desia kodi*', '*Congress Kappal*', '*Suthandram*', and so on. His devoted melodies fueled national emotions in the psyches of the political dissident. T.K.S. siblings spread the soul of patriotism into the youthful personalities through their stage plays like '*Desapakthi*', '*Katharin vetri*' and so forth. In Tamil Nadu '*Ananda Bodhini*' – a month to month magazine from Madras, '*Anantha Vijayam*' – a month to month magazine from Coimbatore, '*Anantha Vikadan*' from Madras '*Bharatha Mithran*' a week after week from Thanjavur, '*Dhesa Bakthan*' every day structure Madras; '*Dhesa Bandhu*' week after week from Madras, Tuticorin and Tirunelveli '*Kalki*' a week by week from Madras appeared. The Tamil magazines which were arranged emphatically for the privileges of the Tamils of Travancore were '*Dinamalar*', '*Dina Thanthi*' '*Malai Murasu*' '*Dinamani*' '*Sudesamitran*' '*Viduthalai*' '*Bharatha Devi*' Dhinasari 'Tamil Nadu' '*Kalki*' '*Kumuthan*' '*Anantha Vikadan*' and '*Nellai Cheithi*'. The primary trace of resistance from the Tamil leaders came through '*Vanchikesari*' of Shivaraja Pillai and '*Tamilan*' of Chithambaram Pillai. The advancement of

neighborhood press like 'Swadesamitran', 'Navasakthi', 'Vanchinadu' and 'Ahimsa Puratchi' and national papers like The Hindu conveyed the message of patriotism to the villages. Thus the writing of the loyalists and intelligent people achieved disobedience in the psyches of the Indians.

The British attempted to advance European writing and science among the locals of India. In India under the unbending station framework, education was the restraining infrastructure of higher positions. In any case, the British people presented another arrangement of granting training, under which education was available to all areas of the people in South Travancore. In 1854, the Court of Directors of the East India Company began an approach of efficient advancement of general education as one of the obligations of the state. They wanted for the dissemination of European information in India. These extreme personalities were responsible for the movement of Indian patriotism. The informed working class erudite people sorted out and drove a patriot movement in India. They could find out about the American war of Independence, of the Italian struggle for national freedom and the Irish struggle for freedom. This informed Indian working class turned into the ideological premise and its political leaders drove the Indian patriot movement in South India.

Conclusion;

Hence, with the open of the 20th century English press, owned by the Indian developed rapidly. It is pertinent to mention that various in India had been inspired by the press-newspapers, periodicals and journals which were published from Madras, Bengal and Bombay Presidencies. Certain firm attempts were made by individuals and public organizations to speed up the pace of growth and development of press. It is true, though the government had been following repressive policies towards the native/ vernacular press from the very beginning, yet the press displayed signs of maturity with progressive courage and determination. For this the political consciousness was directly responsible. Moreover the socio-religious organization boasted the vernacular press. The press in India prepared the common man to take part in the freedom struggle. The press awakened the people about their rights to freedom and fighting the repression. Thus, the press in India played the role of heralding a socio-political revolutionary ferment during the freedom struggle.

REFERENCE

Aggarwal, Sushela, *Press, Public Opinion of Government of India*, Jaipur, 1976.

Ambika Charan Mazumdar, *Indian National Evolution*, Madras, 1915.

Amot Stanford, *The History of the Press in India*, Bombay, 1858.

- Azad, Abul Kalam, *India Wins Freedom*, Bombay, 1958.
- Bams, Margarita, *The Indian Press*, Bombay, 1940.
- Bose, Subhas Chander, *The Indian Struggle (1920-34)*, Bombay, 1967.
- Chatterji, A.C., *India's Struggle for Freedom*, New Delhi, 1947.
- Desai, A.R., *Social Background of Indian Nationalism*, Bombay, 1948.
- George, T.J.S., *The Provincial Press in India*, New Delhi, 1987.
- Ghose, H.P., *Press and Press Laws in India*, Calcutta, 1930.
- Karunakara Menon. P.K., *History of Freedom Movement in Kerala*, Trivandrum, 1966.
- Krishnamurthi, Nadig, *Indian Journalism*, University of Mysore, Mysore, 1966.
- Kunjanpillai, N., *Studies in Kerala History*, Kottayam, 1970.
- Majumdar, R.C., *History of the Freedom Movement in India*, Vol. I, Calcutta, 1963.
- Mani, A.D., *Journalism in India*, New Delhi, 1980.
- Mehrotra, S.R., *The Emergence of the Indian National Congress*, Delhi, 1971.
- Mitra, Mohit, *A History of Indian Journalism*, Calcutta, 1977.
- Nambudiripad. E.M.S., *A History of Indian Freedom Struggle*, Trivandrum, 1988.
- Narasinhan, V.K., *The Press & the Administration*, New Delhi, 1961.
- Natarajan, S., *A History of Press in India*, Bombay, 1962.
- Noorani, A.G., *Freedom of the Press in India*. Bombay-7. 1980.
- Raghuvanshi, V.P.S., *Indian National Movement and Thought*, Agra, 1950.
- Sitaramayya, P.B., *History of Indian National Congress*, Delhi, 1947.
- Sreedhara Menon. A., *Kerala District Gazetteers*, Trivandrum, 1962.