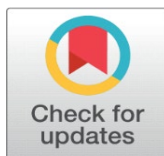
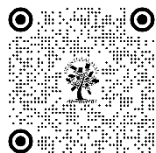


INFLUENCE OF TILAK IN MUMBAI KARNATAKA FREEDOM MOVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Mumbai Karnataka shares its boundaries with Goa and Maharashtra in the northwest, in the east with Hyderabad Nizam of pre independence, Mysore before integration in the south, and Arabian sea at the west, is the geographical location of Mumbai Karnataka. Kannada is the primary language here. This Mumbai Karnataka was the southern area of Mumbai Presidency which comprised of revenue districts like Belagavi, Dharwad, Uttar Kannada and Bijapur. Along with these places it also included Mudhol, Jamakhandi, Ramadurg, Savanur and many other such princely states. The development of national freedom movement is the important incident of Modern India. This freedom movement was the major movement which started after the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. The freedom movement was initiated by many freedom strugglers and intellectuals. Tilak was one of the main leaders of struggle who made this movement a public movement.

Keywords: Mumbai, Belagavi, school, Kannada, Desagati, kesari, Jamakhandi, Dharwad

1. INTRODUCTION

Tilak was born in 1856, was a pioneer in freedom movement who was aptly called as Lokamanya by the people. A philosopher, journalist, Social Reformer and also one of the builder of modern India. Tilak entered public life in 1880 with educational field. Tilak was inspired by the missionary schools wanted to start national schools. With the assistance of his friend Agarwal, Tilak started "New English School". Later the same institute developed to "Deccan Education Society". Tilak later was the member of this society, member of Poona Municipality, member of Mumbai legislature, senate member of Mumbai University. He profounded the rights of Indians in these bodies. A selfless servant of motherland who imbibed and inculcated the ideas of Swaraj and Swadesh among Indians.

The freedom struggle of India can be classified into three stages on the basis of Indian freedom Movement history. From the establishment of Indian National Congress in 1885 to 1905 as period of moderates, from 1905 to 1920 as extremists period and from 1920 to 1947 the Gandhian Age : 3 stages of movement. In the era of Extremists, Lala Lajpat ray, Bipin Chandra pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak are most prominent.

At this time the four mahamantras of Tilak like usage of Swadeshi goods, abolition of foreign goods, establishment of national schools, and swarajya arose new life among Indians. Kannada speaking areas of Mumbai presidency actively participated in the freedom movements against the British. For instance revolt of Kittur (1824), revolt of Sindagi (1824), the revolt of Bedas of Halagali, revolt of Naragund Bhaskar Buva (1846).

Four representatives from this area participated in the Indian National Congress Conference held in Mumbai in 1885. Bhausaheb Bhate of Belagavi was one among them. So Kannada speaking area of Mumbai presidency had its own significance in the freedom movement from early stage only. Sir A.O. Hume himself visited Belagavi and Dharwad to propagate the ideas and views of Congress. Apart from this, in 1853 "The political council of Mumbai State" was held in Belagavi under the presidentship of Din-sha-vacha. In this way Belagavi took a initiative in freedom movement. The Marathi newspaper "Kesari" and English newspaper "Marathi" started by Tilak played a major role in inspiring the nationalist awareness among people. Kesari newspaper had highest circulation and formed the intellectual political public movement. The newspaper not only in Maharashtra but also had great impact on Kannada speaking areas which provoked the ideas of freedom, self egotism and patriotism. The newspapers had its subscribers not only in Bijapur, Belagavi, Dharwad, Uttar Kannada but also in princely states and many rural areas. Govind Narasimha Shanbag of Bastikeri of Kumata is of the opinion that both Kesari and Sandesh newspapers influenced him of nationalism since 1914. Kesari newspaper was favorite of his grand father. He was ardent follower of Tilak and with his inspiration he used to write articles in the newspapers like 'Kannadavrut' and 'Canara news' in 1916 under the editorial of Krishna K Shenoy. Similarly father of Mahabaleshwar Manjunath J of Honavar was a teacher in Mission school who also read the Marathi newspapers 'Kesari' and 'Chitramaya Jagatu'. And also, the first graduate of Siddapur taluka Dodamane Narayan Ganesh Hegade who completed his college education in Poona was influenced by 'Kesari'. This paper was circulated to Siddapur and Bialgi also. Few people had learnt Marathi language for the sake of reading this newspaper. So in this way, Tilak and his newspapers played an important and crucial role in making a large number of people to participate in freedom movement.

Tilak had a great influence on Kannada speaking region of Mumbai area. He had travelled a lot in this area to spread the awareness of freedom struggle. Many incidents in this area were responsible for the rise of nationalism. Feroz Sha Mehta and Bal Gangadhar Tilak participated in the Mumbai state political council held in Dharwad in 1903. Complete independence or Poorna Swaraj was the goal of Tilak. Therefore he declared, "Swaraj is my Birth right and I shall have it". Tilak was deprived of presidentship of Congress session which was held in Calcutta, moderate leader Dadabhai Navroji was given the opportunity in 1906. Tilak forced to declare Swaraj in this session. Eventually Navroji declared Swaraj in this session. This declaration was popularized by his newspapers throughout country. This was also spread in Mumbai Karnataka region which aroused the feeling of Swaraj.

With the great influence of Tilak, freedom struggle was pioneered by late. Shrinivasrao Kaujalagi in Bijapur. He was a famous advocate, who was also a friend of Tilak, participated in all the freedom movements and kept his house open to all the people who participated in freedom movement. He went to all the Congress sessions and was considered as most valued person among the friends of Tilak. In the non-co-operation movement, he indulged himself completely in the spread of freedom movement, and said good bye to advocate profession. In 1908, Congress session of Mumbai region was held in Bijapur, where in Kaujalagi was the president of welcome committee and Vitthal Bhai Patel barrister of Mumbai was the president. Lokamanya Tilak, Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Padmaja Naidu, Narasimha Chintamani Kelkar, Shivram Mahadev Paranjape, Rajagopalachari and other eminent leaders were present in this session and with their inspirational speeches sprouted the nationalism in Bijapur district.

On October 6 1905, Lord Curzon divided Bengal for administrative purpose. This division led to Swadeshi movement. It's called 'Vanga Bhanga movement', where in people were told to use the goods produced in India and abolish foreign goods. Once Tilak remarked, 'we are not armored with weapons, nor we need weapons. We have much more powerful weapon with us that is abolition'. This was an undeclared war against the British in retaliation to division of Bengal. Influenced by this movement many Kannadigas held protest rallies in Dharwad, Alnavar, Gadag, Bagalkot, Kittur and many places. The four rules or Chaturth Sutras like propagation of Swadesh, abolition of foreign goods, national education and demand for Swaraj were popular in Poona, after Poona these things were more popular in Belagavi. Inspired by Tilak many like Gangadhar Deshpande, Govindrao Yalagi, Babasaheb Somanna, Hanamantrao Deshpande, Ramachandra Joshi participated with great enthusiasm in freedom movement.

Swadeshi store was opened in Belagavi. National school named Ganesh Vidyalaya was also started. Krishnaji Haridikshitb was the Headmaster. In 1907, 20-25 volunteers including Govindrao Yalagi, Ramachandra Joshi were arrested and were imprisoned for 7-15 days for organizing volunteers and picketing on alcohol shops. This was first of its type in Karnataka where in the law was violated.

The princely states like Jamakhandi, Mudhol which were indirectly under British rule, with much resistance of the rulers many people with influence of Tilak participated in freedom movement. In Jamakhandi princely states Damodar Hulyalkar, Shankarrao Kharkhanis, Anantrao Joshi, Vitthalrao Kolhatkar, Bandopant Watve were few students who were

engaged in the spread of swadeshi, collected paisa fund and sent it to glass factories. Also wrote many articles. Govindrao Kulkarni, Damodar Hulyalkar, Shankar rao Apte, Phadke lawyer, Sadashiv Pedse and many others participated in Mumbai region political council held in 1915 in poona and they were present in political conference at belagavi held in 1916. hulyalkar established organisation named 'Praja Sudha' and continued the freedom struggle.

Many students of mudhol princely state who were in poona for studying, organized 'Shivaji playing club' when they visited their home in vacation. So by this they started to celebrate Shivaji and Ganesh festivals. in swadeshi movement tatyatas gaonkar, anantrao belavadi collected paisa fund, mushti fund. a handwritten newspaper 'vagban' was also initiated. At this time Hanmantrao Kaujalgi and his brother Tirumalarao spread the awareness among students about swadeshi movement and abolition of foreign goods. Picketing was done in front of the store of foreign goods. Under this movement buttons of shirt were done by the jute of coconut and brush by the hair of horse, all this was manufactured by the students. This movement was there from 1906-1908 in the princely state.

In 1910, the movements of Tilak were at pinnacle. Gangadhar rao Deshpande started 'Swadeshi' a national school in belagavi. Madhwarao Pyati of Hunagund was engaged in freedom struggle since 1908. He proposed to buy swadeshi goods. in collaboration with late Hanamantrao Kaujalgi, Late Raghavendra Desai started 'Charaka Sangha'. he was influenced by Tilak and was in freedom struggle. Day by day there was difference of opinion between extremists and moderates in national congress. On December 26th 1907, annual session of congress was held in surat. Here the congress was divided into two parts, extremists and moderates. Here Lala lajpat ray was chosen as the president of extremists. But the moderates chose Raj Bihari Ghose as their president. Tilak was avoided the opportunity which rose to many quarrels. Many leaders of kannada speaking Mumbai area like gangadhar rao deshpande, govindrao yalgi from belgaum, alooru venkatarao, annacharya hosakeri from dharwad, shrinivasa koujalgi from bijapur participated in the national congress session of surat. Between the tussle of extremists and moderates in surat, these all stood with tilak. Govindrao yalgi, hanamantrao deshpande inspired by extremists leaders formed a secret revolutionary organization called Mazini club in 1907. Gangadhar rao deshpande earlier used to give his speech in Marathi in belgaum. but later, to spread his domain of freedom struggle in Karnataka, he started to deliver speeches in Kannada, with the instructions of tilak.

Home rule movement was started in belgaum immediately after the release of lokmanya tilak in 1914 from mandala jail. Lokamanya started home rule league in 1916 in belagavi and also visited nippani and sankeshwar. Gangadhar rao deshpande, govindrao yalgi were the pioneers in this area who were inspired by the famous swaraj dialogue of tilak. The movement which was centered in belgaum but also spread to athani chikkodi sankeshwar pashchapur bailhongal and many other places. Tilak was the first person who planted the idea of freedom in the minds of Indians this programme was continued by gangadhar rao deshpande in Mumbai Karnataka region. till 1920 belagavi was the center place for these movements.

In 1916, Mumbai region political council was held in belgaum, tilak participated here also. with the inspiration of home rule movement in belgaum, a branch of it was started in dharwad. Here itself the idea of one Karnataka with respect to political and administration was initiated. To develop this feeling alooru and kadapa raghavendra rao started Karnataka sabha in dharwad. This was inspired by home rule movement of tilak. For the propagation of this movement tilak visited chikkodi and gave speech about national freedom movement.

Tilak had a great influence at the stage of nationalism. Dharwad, siddapur, mulki were the branches of home rule league. To prepare people for such struggles is not easy. Such work was done by vernacular newspapers and literature to some extent but as 90 % people were illiterate, it was tough to reach every person in which hindus were majority. such facility was there for muslim, Christ and skh with mosque church and gurudwaras but for hindus nothing such facility was there. At this juncture to spread the idea of independence, a new method was formulated in Maharashtra. In 1914, balgangadhar tilak started ganeshotsav and in 1916 shivaji utsav. The hindu gods were taken symbolically to spread political awareness. These festivals were spread to Belagavi, bijapur, dharwad hubli shirsi, ganpati and shivaji festivals were celebrated publicly. today also ganesh and shivaji festivals are celebrated in belagavi and hubli. On august 1 1920, tilak breathed his last where many people from Karnataka were present.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

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