



Arya Samaj Movement In Karnataka With Special Reference To The Integrated District of Raichur (1875 - 1948)



* Dr. T. V. Adivesha

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* Asst. Prof, Dept. of History, Government Degree College, Yadgir

Background:

Swamy Dayananda Saraswati established the Arya Samaj in Bombay in 1875. He desired to reform Hindu society by removing the socio-religious evils through Samaj. In his magnum-opus work 'Satyarth Prakash' throws light on his views. Dayananda was great propagator of 'Shuddi Movement' and he gave the slogans like "India for Indians and back to Vedas". After the death of Dayanand in 1883, his mission was carried further by his followers like Mahatma Hans Raj, Gurudatta Vidyarthi, Lala Lajpat Rai, Munshi Ram and others.

Establishment of Samaj at Hyderabad in 1892:

Today's district of Raichur and Koppal were part of the region of princely state of Hyderabad. By its popular waves Arya Samaj received a warm welcome in South. In 1897 the branch of Arya Samaj was opened in Sultan Bazar area of Hyderabad city. Swami Girananda delivered the regular religious speeches at several places of Hyderabad. The people experienced a new awakening in between 1892 and 1916.

The Arya Samaj was mainly responsible in bringing the region into the main stream of Indian nationalism. Pandit Bansilal and Shamlal of Hallikhed of Bidar district were most popular and dedicated workers of Samaj. With the effort and participation of likely minded samajists the branches were established several places in the region like Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur, Yadgir, Yelbarga, Koppal, Itagi, Kuknur, Alavandi etc.

In 1925 the Arya Samaj started its activities in Raichur. The president of Arya Samaj branch of Raichur was Pandit Ramswaropji. Pandit Swami Sachchidanandji was his associate. Mangaldev Shastri, Mahavir Kalyan, Hiroji Rao Nizamkar, Devji Rao Maderkari, Ramprakash Molkeri, Pandit Manik Rao, Monaji Rao, Narsoji Rao, Tippaji Rao, Ambaji Rao Nimbalkar, Ramoji Rao Kalyankar and others were prominent leaders, played a significant role in growth of Samaj in the Raichur and Koppal districts. In the beginning Samaj was housed in Janaki Prasad's residence. Thereafter several branches were opened in the districts viz., Yelbarga, Yelasangi, Itagi, Kukhur, Koppal and Alvandi during 1930 and 1935.

In beginning Samaj consigned its activities like prayers

Bhajan, discourses, performing Havana etc., also conducted yoga and physical training to youths. Dharma Bhiksha in 1929 and Ramachandra Dehlvi in 1930 came to Raichur and delivered the public speeches on the auspicious of Samaj. Sir Tejbahadur Sapru and Devendranath Shastri from Delhi came to Raichur and delivered public speeches. Muslim leader like Abudl Sattar and Samaj leader Bansilal were also visited Raichur regularly. Acharya Krishnadev, Vinayak Rao Vidyalkar, Pandit Narendra, Joravar Singh and the few of others visited Raichur in between 1940 and 1948. Samaj organized the festivals of Dasara, Holi and Yugadi in many parts of the district and conducting Nagarkirtana and on flag procession were usual activities of Samaj in the district.

Samaj started the Shanti Pathashale in Mangalwarpath in 1940 in Raichur. It was managed by Shuddhananda. In 1935 Samaj made arrangements for food and medicine for terribly affected people of Raichur by epidemic plague. Many times Samaj workers obstructed by the local fanatics and arrested by police and released later. Here in Raichur Arya Samaj also started movement against conversion and made efforts to upliftment of Dalits in the district. For instance, Devji and Shivaji Rao were bravely rescued Channamma, a Dalit women kidnapped and converted to Islam by a Muneer. In 1924 about 50 Dalit women from Askihal and Yeklashpur village and ten lingayat families were converted to Islam by Ittehadul-Musalmeen and Deendar Siddiqui fanatic institutions. Samajists started a hunger strike for jail reformation and more facilities to the prisoners. Pandit Ramanand Teerth, the leader of the Hyderabad State Congress, supported the Samaj efforts. Demand of Samaj were fulfilled with a great success. In Raichur Samaj contributed a big deal to establish the 'Taruna Sangh' and the grand success of the 4th Karnataka Parishat convinced in 1944. Where urge the people to fight against the mis-rule fo Nizam.

The Vande Mataram movement and the Arya Samaj movement's popular waves had tremendous effect on the people of Koppal, Gangavati, Kuknur, Yelbarga, Itagi and other places were become nerve centres of nationalism among the youth in high strata. Basavantrao Hiremath of Katrahalli of Koppal dared

to hoist the national flag on Hyderabad fort inspite of strict police vigilance in 1930.

Finally, the high drama of nationalist agitation shown in the liberation movement of Hyderabad, the Samajists joined hands with nationalists and other organization. In Hyderabad Karnataka at the time of 'Reign of Terror' in 1947-48. In 357 villages 561,58031 loots, 6254550 Arsons 187 murders and 112 rapes were accused by the atrocities committed by the Razakars. At that time there were above 14 refugee camps were organized by the Samaj and congress nationalist leaders. Finally with the surrender of Mir

Osman Ali Khan Bahadur the last Nizam on 17 September 1948 the people of Hyderabad - Karnataka rejoiced, delighted and breathed a sigh of relief and happiness.

This is the saga of Arya Samaj movement in the region. As a custodian of Hindu religion and culture the Samaj maintained the spirit of unity and cultural integrity of the region by day of fighting against the barbarian rule of Nizam. Hence, Samajists experienced untold sufferings and sacrificed their happy moments of life for the sake of society and religion.

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