



Role of Arya Samaj in the Liberation of Hyderabad State

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Abstracts:

Hyderabad state was ruled by the Nizams who belonged to Asif Jahi Dynasty, who ruled from 1724-1948 CE. During the reign of VII Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan the last ruler, political awakening and Public Opinion began among the people, this took place mainly because of the activities of Arya Samaj- Socio Religious organization. Several restrictions were imposed on the activities of Arya Samaj like by the holding Nagar Kirtans, hoisting Om flags and so on. Hence the members of Arya Samaj had to fight against Government and played a significant role in the political movements fought for the freedom. But these fighters were not given due recognition nor they were considered as freedom fighters. This paper is an attempt to highlight the role of Arya Samaj in the liberation of Hyderabad state and their efforts to get due recognition as freedom fighters.

Keywords: Arya Samaj, Hyderabad state, riots movements, Struggle, Razakars.

Introduction

It is mostly observed that in the liberation movement of any state/country the political associations play a key role. But it is rarely seen where a socio- religious organization plays in the national or political movement, one such socio-religious organization which thus spearheaded the social & political movement in Hyderabad state was Arya Samaj .It is established by Swamy Dayananda Saraswathi the Arya Samaj played a key role in socio- religious reform movement in India in 19th Century and also in Hyderabad state.

Mir Osman Ali Khan became the King in 1911, The seventh Nizam at the age of 27. His personality was important as any decisive event of this period since his decisions, policies, attitudes, habits, likes and dislikes affected all the major events.

Religious policy

When Osman Ali Khan became the King in 1911 he articulated his glorious and famous religious policy, which can be characterized as 'Love towards all' but in 1917 Dasserah and Mohurram coincided and again circulars imposing restrictions on circulars intensified frustration in Hindus since many administrative hurdles were created, where as no such instructions were imposed on Muslims. The Government seem to face a dilemma. On the one hand if Government allows religious freedom, it becomes a vehicle for freedom movement-and Nizam was a British ally. If it controls the Hindus then it will be alleged to practice discrimination. In this situation it also played with the idea of supporting Muslim communalism. As a result Majlis and Bahadur Yar Jung was supported. From its perspective the Nizam Government thought that it is dealing with the Law and Orders situation only and was not against Hindus as such. It was confident that as a committee consisting of all Hindus drafted all these circulars, these would not go against Hinduism and antagonize Hindus. But in reality the effects of these circulars on Hindus were different and they interpreted it as Muslim Governments anti Hindu attitude.

Political awakening

People in three linguistic regions of Nizam state were interested in improving their conditions. Hence, Karnataka Parishad (1934), Maharashtra Parishad (1937) and Andhra Maha Sabha (1921) were formed to pressurize the Government for responsible governance and reforms. Meanwhile the freedom from 1930 to 1944 under the leadership of Bahadur Yar Jung saw the Majlis emerging as his strong party and soul representative of Muslims of Hyderabad. But the Majlis under the leadership of Kasim Razvi from 1946 to 1948 was remembered in the history of Hyderabad for his fanaticism, Razakars (Volunteers) and aggressive approach. His anti-Indian stand, aggressive policies and communalism became one of the main causes of latter day police action.

Arya Samaj at the National Level

The founder of Arya Samaj was Swami Dayananda Saraswati. His original name was MulShankar, born to Karsanji, a land holder and banker in 1824 AD in Kaushia village of Jamnagar State. At the age of eight, he was invested with sacred thread and began saivete education and by 14 years of age his education was completed. He became Sanyasi and went to Benares for further education like Vedaas, Vyakaran, Jyothish. Under virijanand and gave to vow to his guru to spread the true knowledge. He was inspired by the vision of the Vedas. He was convinced that Vedas impart knowledge for the welfare and guidance of mankind. Knowledge of divinity various sciences and arts. He also believed that Vedas give equal lights to men and women to read Vedas, to perform Yagnas to hold property, Marriage rights etc. Enforced widowhood is

against Vedic teachings. He was also convinced that Vedas teach everyone to observe Brahmacharya and hence child marriage is against the doctrines of Vedas. Thus he decided to devote his entire life not only to spread Vedic knowledge but also reform the society and religion by abolishing several superstitions, customs, evil practices existing in the society against the vedic principles. Thus he began the reform movement.

He established an organization called Arya Samaj at Bombay in 1875. Its branches were at Jodhapur in 1883, Lahore in 1885. He brought out a magazine called 'Satyarth prakash' to spread his ideas.

His principles were ...

- God is the root source of all true knowledge
- God is All -truth, All - knowledge, All bliss, All just
- Vedas is the book of all true knowledge. It is the duty of all Aryas to study Vedas & propagate them
- Accept the Truth & Reject Untruth
- All actions should be performed according to Dharma
- Principal purpose of the samaj is to do good to the world
- We should love all, be righteous and considerate their merit
- We Should work for the abolition of ignorance and promotion of knowledge
- One should feel his own good knowledge in the good of all
- All men are obliged to obey social laws framed for the good of all

His other ideals were Prohibition of idol worship, Prohibition of meat consumption, Performance of Yagnas etc..His slogan 'Back to the Vedas' established vedic schools, Anglo - Vedic schools for girls. Swaraj is my birth right. Some of the members of Arya samaj like lala lajpati Rai. Were influenced by the ideals of the Aryasamaj etc later went on to participate in the national movement.

Branches

Arya prathinidhi Sabha at UP , Bombay, Rajasthan, Central province, Bengal Prathinidhi Sabha, madras Presidency , Burma, British east Africa, Fiji islands and stree samaj. Youngmens association Arya samaj or Arya kumara sabha, paropakarhii sabha. Dayananda Anglo vedic college Lahore. Girls school at Jalandhar, Kanya Maha vidhyalay. Kanya patashala, Dehradun. He established orphanages in Ferojpur in 1877 and Bareli in 1884 and Dayanand Anatha Aashram in Azmer.

Arya samaj established its branch in the year 1880 at Dharur taluq in Bhir District by Narendra Saraswathi. It was in 1892 the organization was shifted to Hyderabad and first president was Kamath Prasadji Raishra.

When Nizam Government offered education only in Urdu Medium attempt were made by leader to start 'Raastriya' School. Arya samaj started school in Gulbarga (1908), Raichur (1920), Kukulnur(1922), Pandit Taranath was forced to leave Hyderabad as a punishment for starting Hamdard school in Raichur, established swadhyaya mandal study at Ghatkeshwar, Upadeshat vidyalaya, a training centre was established at Nalgonda.

It began to perform Nagar kirtans, Havans and hoist 'Om' flag, as a result Nizam imposed restrictions on the activities of Arya Samaj.

The first Ganesh festivals was organised at Shah Ali banda and Chadarghat in 1895 and began to organize festivals since then, in 1899, around 1200 satyagrahis were arrested.

Role of Arya samaj in Hyderabad state and its activities

In 1936 at Humnabad, Maniknagar, the Arya Samaj had commenced their preaching work, a few muslims picked up a quarrel with Nagar keerthan party and there erupted a clash. The police entered the scene encouraged muslims to chastise the Hindus, three leaders Bansilal, shyamlal and pundit Narendra ji,(N.P.Saxena) were arrested. At Umarga a worker, Ramachandr was carrying a copy of satyarthprakashika was arrested and the book was seized, after a great agitation he was released, the book was returned.

In 1937, by issuing circular Ghasti Nishan no.53 holding of meetings were banned, an Arya samajist by name vedaprakash, when protested, was persuaded to accept Islam, when he rejected he was murdered at Gunjoti.

The Nizam state liberation movement ignited by the speech of Sarojini Nayudu in 1938 in Osmania University campus culminated in to the mighty liberation struggle under the formidable leadership of venerable Swamy Ramananda Theertha.

In 1938 the Aryan conference was held at Sholapur. They decided to defy the Government order to obtain permission before a havankund was constructed. And they decided to observe 'Hyderabad day' to highlight the situation and on 24-10-1938 Satyagraha was launched and continued till 1939, 2000 satyagrahis were arrested. The protest led to clash and communal riots spread throughout the state.

* In Gulbarga on the occasion of Holi riots broke out

- In the city at Dhoolpet riots took place and 21 work workers were arrested
- In Udgir during Dussehra celebrations shri shyamlal was arrested along with 20 members and was imprisoned at Bidar where he died
- To stop the activities of pandit Narendraji the Governement arrested and sent him to Mannanoor

Under the presidentship of Swami Ramananda theertha a lot of work towards undertaken to awaken the people against the mis-rule of Nizam.

Arya Samaj activities in Telangana

In the year 1947 village called 'Pambarthi' an Arya samaj activist Raghava gogidi was attacked by Razakars led by Iqbal, the deputy collector of Janagam because he was mobilizing the youth. He was saved by loyal farmers but three shepherds for died. In another incident 'Neerumalla' village a local landlord lingala Jangareddy was made to run along with jeep of Deputy collector for 5 miles and humiliated later the fled to Gudiwada.

Arya Samaj activities in Karnataka

First victim of Aryasmaj was pandit Chandra Bhanu deported in 1932. In 1935 the Taluqdar of Bidar was oppressed at Nilanga

As the movement was restricted to meetings and restriction the youth came together at a small town called Mundargi and set up the first camp of freedom fighters to fight against Razakars & Nizam Governament. This camp was led by Shri Armadaanayya puranic, a native of raichur who left his studies (B.Com student, OU) joined the camp. He was able to get the assistance of mundangi mutt to provide food & clothing to the members of the camp.

Murder of Vedaprakash at Gunjoti

He (puranic) was also able to the support of sri Hebsur, the Fouzdar of Mundangi to provide training in using the arms to the youth. The youth began to fight the Razakars and Nizam police with guerrilla tactics. Puranic, who was able to raise the strength to 1000 mebers was able to liberate 85 villages. Even sardar Patel was impressed by this fight and he sent union minister Gadgil on a special mention to Mundargi. Many such incidents occurred throughout the Nizam state.

In 1942, December, at Gulbarga to weaken the movement financially, Hindus shops were looted by the Razakars. So that they may not patronize the samaj activities. No steps were taken by the Razakars. So that they may not patronize the swami activities, No steps were taken by the Government to punish the wrong doers.

Arya Samaj activities in Maratwada

The teachings of Arya Samaj had its impact in Bhir district from 1891 due to efforts of Pandit Bhagwat swaroop and Gokul Prasad. Under the president ship of Pandit Rao koratkar in 1932 branches of Arya Samaj were established throughout state and spread education through libraries and schools. In 1938 to resist Deendar movement by Y.D.Joshi started civil resistances movement on behalf of Hindu civil liberties union. 27th October Manikrao, President of Udaygiri branch was shot by Muslims during Dusserah on restrictions of Nizam Government. Madhavrao Vadgaonka, Purushothamrao Chapalagonkar, Ramaraopatil, Shripati Rao were arrested. 'Om' flags, Havenkund were destroyed. Digambara Rao Watkar, Ganapathirao Kathle under their leadership Satyagraha was offered and were arrested Improper treatment was given to them.

Vandemataram movement December 1938

The students of Intermediate college Aurangabad, under the guidance of G.M.Shroff started movement and shroff resigned as teacher and helped to organise the movement

In 1940 G.M shroff, S.K Valshampyan, D.L Pathak, A.K.Waghmare were arrested and imprisoned.

In 1941 in 3rd session of Martwada conference was held at Umri(Nanded) under Kashinath rao vaidya. Thousands of agriculturists attended. Laxman Rao valujkar of Aurangabad inspired young workers. He established adult schools and literary centres.

1942, 8th November Russian Revolution day was celebrated and Maharashtra parishad was revived. Communists also joined the Maharashtra parishad, C.D.Chowdary was the organiser in Aurangabad and R.D.Deshpande in Bhir District and VD Deshpanday for Nanded led the movement in 1942. In Latur, two boys offered satyagraha the Head Master Shrii Iyer gave evasive reply. Mohd vali hasan collector wrote that Ramarao Nona and Vinayak offered Satyagraha at Parbhani vishwanath govinddas shroff and Aibuddin were arrested.

In 1946 in all Hyderabad struggle people offered heroic struggle Against Razakars and Nizam, four kisans killed in Latur. Three types of actions committees were formed to offer

- Mass Satyagraha movement....students , lawyers, merchants, workers participated
- Forest satyagraha
- Violent satyagraha to fight against Razakars

Few women like Ashatai waghmare, Mrs Vaishmpayan, Mrs Charthankar, Mrs Chabra, Mrs Dagada bhai shelke participated by providing arms and ammunitions and hence became victims of oppression.

Conclusion

The activities of Arya Samaj came to an end with police action and surrendering of Nizam to the Government of India on 17th September 1948, the Nizam agreed to merge a state in to the Indian Union.

The participants of Aryasamaj movement represented to the Government that they had participated in the movement which took place in the former Hyderabad state during 1938-39 and that it would not be possible for all the claimants of the category to produce evidence based on official records in proof of their claims of Jails sufferings etc. under the scheme consequently the Arya samaj committee was formed on 13-11-1986. The tenure of this committee expired on 31-12-1989 the composition of the committee was as under.

1. Shri Anand Bodh Saraswathi -Chairman
2. Shri Ramachandra Rao Kalyani - Member
3. Shri Ramachandra Vandematharam- member
4. Shri Somnath marwah- Member
5. Shri Ranbir Singh - Member
6. Prof . Sner singh — member
7. Pandit shiva kumar Shastri - member

The committee was entrusted with the task of screening and scrutinizing the application / documents. Where no acceptable documentary evidence from jail authorities/ courts was furnished by the applicants, the committee was to satisfy itself before making recommendations that the records of respective jails etc. where imprisonment/ detention had been claimed were not really available. These committee considered 2354 claims under recommended grant of pensions in 1152 cases.

This committee was constituted by the Government 5-10-83 to consider the claims of such of the freedom fighters who had participated in the freedom movement in the former Hyderabad state for its integration with the Indian Union. The initial composition of the committee was under :

Shri Govind Bhai shroff of Aurangabad - Chairman, Shri Jagannath Rao chanderki -Member, Shri Tirmal Rao - Member Deputy secretary , freedom fighters division -Convener The committee from 1985 to 1996 recommended about 7,000 cases for grant of pension.

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