

Experiences of women freedom fighters in Dist. Kolhapur in Maharashtra

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Abstract

The story of the freedom fighters was quite inspiring and great from the period before Independence till the year 1942. The detailed information about the contribution of the four great woman freedom fighters Jayabai Haveri, Bhagirathibai Tambat, Kashibai Appaji Hanabar & Indumati Korgaonkar for the freedom is briefly described here. The woman freedom fighters have the history similar to that of the great freedom fighter like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Chhatrapati Tarani, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj etc.

KEYWORDS- inspiring, quite, Contribution

Introduction:

The city Kolhapur is very much purified by the existence of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The founder of Hindavi Swaraj, Shakkarta, Chhatrapati Tararani, Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj etc. History has been continuing with the activities of these such great people. The story of the freedom fighting in Kolhapur is quite inspiring & great from the earlier freedom fight till 1942. It was a crime according to the British Rule to utter 'Vande Matram.' In Kolhapur the flame of the freedom went on brighter & brighter. It was never off. The result is that Kolhapur totally was an integral part of the freedom fighting. To get the freedom for India, the women in Kolhapur fought the fight with great courage with the men.

Objective :

- 1) Knowing information about the work & sacrifice of woman freedom fighters.
- 2) Sell evolution for the respect of Independence without fighting for it.

Research Methodology:

This research Paper depends on secondary source data. Which induces books & encyclopedia.

Experiences of the women freedom fighters in Kolhapur as followed:

1) **Jayabai Haveri :**

In the contemporary time, Jayabai was educated till std. 7th. She was very much influenced by Padmashri Deshbhaktta Rathappa Kumbhar & Honorable Dattatraya Tambat that resulted in her inter-religious marriage with Jayrao Haveri. This was the first inter religious marriage in Kolhapur Region. Jayabai was from the backward class and Jayrao was Lingayat by religion. But Jayabai had to face many problems because of inter religious marriage. She was boy clotted by the neighbors as well as the society. But for Jayabai it was a great chance to stand firmly as there was more pressure of the society. She stood firm.

Kolhapur was surging with anger against the British. There was an emotion of revolt against the British. In this situation, Jayabai and Bhagirathi Tambat were selected as a part of this revolt. They were to put pitch on the statue of Ex. Governor Lord Wilson – the contemporary Ex. Governor of Mumbai. Both the ladies completed their duties and filed; it was the day 10th August 1942 – after noon. As the British knew the news both the ladies were arrested and declared jail for six months, even

they were give one more month jail under the Defense Act of India. The family members of the both the ladies went far away from them. Both the ladies remained lonely then they worked on Charakha at night and used to sell khadi and gained money to earn bread. Meanwhile they got financial help from Prabhakar Pant Korgaonkar.

Both these ladies reacted and revolted against the British before the court. These courageous two ladies were the first persons from Kolhapur to be in the Jail to gain political freedom in the history of Kolhapur.

2) **Bhagirathibai Tambat :**

She was born in 1919. She plunged into the freedom fight with the inspiration from her husband. She never liked injustice a she harshly revolted against it; and courageous and bold as well freedom fighter Dattoba Tambat was her husband who was very much indulged in the work of Prajaparishad. She was against the British and their rule. She always wanted freedom for her nation and the British to quit India. When the people used to come to their home for the reason of Prajaparishad. She always was interested in the activity of freedom fight. She plunged into the freedom fight in 1942. All the volunteer of Prajaparishad were arrested.

As an answer to it, she gave bangles and blouse piece as a gift to the Magistrate Court in Shaneevar Chowk in Kolhapur. Then she was arrested for this reason.

We see the statue of Ch. Shivaji Maharaj once upon a time there was a statue of Lord Wilson, the ex- Governor of India. Both Jayabai Haveri and Bhagirathibai Tambat put pitch on the statue courageously. Both were arrested and jailed. After returning from jail they helped the other volunteers hidden. After getting freedom she thrown herself into the Sanyukta Maharashtra fight with Vimaltai Bagal – the social worker.

3) **Kashibai Appaji Hanabar :**

Kashibai's son 'Mallu' was the headache to the Britishers in the freedom fighting in 1942. He caused terror, fear in the mind of the British.

The British tried to find out Mallu, but they could not. At last they picked up Kashibai to the police station, tried to abuse her. They enquired about Mallu's information i.e. Where he lived, when he came, etc. Kashibai answered the British that she hadn't seen him nearly four years a she didn't know anything about her son. Then Kashibai was brutally tortured by the British. She was naked, beaten by leather belt, thrown on the wall. Even her family members were also brutally tortured.

Later on she & her husband was also tortured a abused in a very inhuman manner. They put chilli powder in her private part but didn't say anything. The people felt ashamed and didn't see the discrimination. At last Kashibai at her husband were relieved. While returning back home, Kashiba bled, stood in the water but later on her child was aborted in the wall. The incident surged through India. Sane Guruji pleaded Kashibai to forgive them.

4) **Mrs. Indumati Korgaonkar :**

She was hardly 12 years old the freedom fight of 1942. Indian leaders used to visit her house in Sawantwadi. She was from a renowned family. She revolted against the British with her relative women as well as her neighbours. She was always ahead in the work of Prabhateri. She was arrested two times – in Vengurla as well as in Sawantwadi when she was in the court before the judge. Mr. Chandrachud asked the people but he felt interesting and asked Indubai about her age, education etc. He was about to slap her, but Little Indumati quietly showed he cheek to the judge, but the judge was ashamed, but proud of Indumati. Later on she was relieved for her

education. Immediately she joined the freedom struggle and was sent to Jail for two months. In Ratnagiri jail, she met Akka Dhadam with her four daughters.

Conclusion:

In freedom struggle Indian women who fought for freedom with men i.e. Information taken from. Prof. “Bharatiya swatantryaladhyatil Striyanche yogadan.”Written by Prof. Shyam yedekar about Jayabai Haveri, Kashibai Appaji Hanbar, Bhagirathi bai Tambat. More information is taken from the books ‘Te Mantaralele Divas :Mahila Swatantrya Sainikanche Patrarupi Anubhav Kathan’ written by Dr. Rohini Gavankar & Dr. Nanda Apte. Besides this book “Swatantrya Sainikancha Charitrakosh” published by Maharashtra Government is also used.

References:

1. Shyam Yedekar- “Bharatiya swatantryaladhyatil Striyanche yogadan.”
2. Rohini Gavankar & Dr. Nanda Apte - ‘Te Mantaralele Divas : Mahila Swatantrya Sainikanche Patrarupi Anubhav Kathan’
3. “Swatantrya Sainikancha Charitrakosh” published by Maharashtra Government