

Arya Samaj Movement in Karnataka with Special Reference to the Integrated District of Gulbarga (1875 – 1948)

T. V. Adivasha

Assistant Professor in History, Government Degree College, Yadgir – 585 202, Karnataka, India

Abstract

Freedom movement in the region of Hyderabad karnataka was a task of multi furious. The people and organisations like Aryasamaj were had to fight against the hard clutches of Nizams of Hyderabad and the tyrannic rule of the British Empire and also to strive hard to unifying their land and language. In this saga of freedom movement Aryasamaj played an important role and Samajists shed their blood for the independence of the country in general and the state of karnataka in particular.

KEYWORDS: Razakars, Border camps, Gunji centres, Shuddi movement

Introduction:

In Gulbarga also the Arya Samaj activities were commenced in 1930 along with Bidar and Raichur districts. Great leaders of Arya Samaj like Keshav Rao Koratkar, his son Vinayak Rao Vidyalkar, Pandit Narendraji and Margal Deva Shastry toured the region extensively and created awareness among the people and organized them to fight for justice and liberty. In fact Keshav Rao Koratkar who was the President of Hyderabad Arya Samah till 1932 was in Gulbarga in his young age. He had served as clerk in the Gulbarga Tahasil office. So right from the beginning itself Gulbarga Arya Samaj had a privilege to seek the guidance of great personality like Keshave Rao. About 1925-26 Dattatraya Prasad played a key role in opening the Arya Samaj branch at Gulbarga. He attracted the youths for Samaj and he organized a group of Arya Samaj workers in Gulbarga area.

Predominant Leaders of Arya Samaj in Gulbarga:

Dattatraya Awaradi, Vaijnath Irvi, Amar Singh Rathod, Chandrasekhar Patil and other of Gulbarga took active part in the samaj activities. These leaders and workers provided the necessary chivalrous spirit to the people. Sharana Basaveshwara temple in Gulbarga has been very well know as the centre of religion and social service. The Nizam government had no respect for such spiritual centres in the region.

The construction work (Chowk) in the temple was pending for the last 40 years. A lot of money has been spent on it. In spite of the fact, the Nizam government did not permit the construction work. We can give another example here one person from Madras came to Gulbarga to deliver as speech on Arya Samaj activities in the Samaj Mandir. But the police authorities did not him to deliver to speech and he was arrested. So enraged by the police action, Gulbarga Samaj workers had to organize people against Nizam's partial attitude people gathered in big numbers (500) and put up a stubborn fight against the police autocracy.

On 18-8-38 on the occasion of birth day celebration of Nizam, the jail authorities of Gulbarga had organized a function in the jail. One staunch samaj worker Lal Singh opposed the function in the jail. The fanatics attacked Lal Singh with deadly weapons in front of jail authorities. The year 1939 marked the beginning of satyagraha movement in the state against the despotic rule of Nizam under the leadership of Narayana Swami. So in Gulbarga Satyagraha movement gained momentum samaj workers of Gulbarga took active part in satyagraha movement with great enthusiasm on 25-1-1939, inspired by the great spirit of satyagraha, one Sharanappa collected 10 associates and offered satyagraha in Gulbarga.

He was carrying 'OM' flag in his hand, Gulbarga police superintendent stopped and knocked him down and Sharanappa was forcibly sent back. Very next day on 26-1-1939 Sharanappa with his associates Shankar Jatedar and Jagannath again appeared on the scene with one thousand samaj workers. Sharanappa this time was arrested by the police. So in Gulbarga stannels followers of Arya Samaj displayed their extra ordinary courage to fight for justice. In 1939 the communal riots took place in Gulbarga. The reason for the riots was silly one, one day 18 year old Hanamant was moving through a Muslim area. Unfortunately the fanatics of that area attacked the young Hanamant with deadly weapons without any reason. Hanmant was stabbed and he died in the Gulbarga hospital. And there was a lot of tension in the city. The samaj workers also protested against the prevailing conditions in the Gulbarga jail. Prisoners were forced to live in tin-sheds even during not seasons. No proper food was provided to the prisoners. There was heavy rush in Gulbarga jail. Medical facilities were inadequate. Prisoners were forced to accept crimes although they were innocent. Many prisoners suffered from diseases because of unhealthy conditions.

On 16th March 1938 there were communal riots in Gulbarga. It was an occasion of Holi festival. The riots occurred for a silly reason that Hindus put some drops of colours on Muslims. The police arrested Samaj workers like Lal Singh, Vijayapal, Manamanth Rao, Bhairavlal and Sharanappa and they were sentenced for 10 years vigorous imprisonment. Mahadev Arya was a stannels followers of Arya Samaj of Gulbarga. He was a very sincere preacher. But fanatics teased and killed him on 17th July 1938 without any reasons. Narayanaswamy leader of Hyderabad Satyagraha movement offered satyagraha at Gulbarga on 4th Feb. 1939 to gain momentum for Sholapur conference. The Gulbarga police arrested Narayanswami with his 20 associates and they were sentenced for one year's imprisonment.

About 1941 the Nizam government imposed restrictions on the activities of Arya Samaj in the region. In Gulbarga hoisting of 'OM' flag was not allowed. The Arya Samaj Mandir of Aland was closed on 4th June, 1941. Fourteen Arya samaj workers of Mardi of Gulbarga district were arrested and sentenced without any reasons. The state government acted according to the wishes of Anjuman-e-Ittehad of Hyderabad. And this institution always opposed the ideals and activities of Arya Samaj in the state. On 10th Dec. 1942 shops of Hindus were purposely put ablaze so that the Hindus should not support the Arya Samaj activities. The state government did not take any steps against the criminals.

In 1943 Pandit Narendraji, a great leader of Arya Samaj made a public speech in Gulbarga, but the police found him guilty and he was sentenced for one month's

imprisonment. Even during the 1942 movement the Arya Samaj workers displayed unique national spirit. D. R. Awaradi, of Gulbarga, Chandrasekhar Patil of Mahagaon, Hakikat Rai of Chitaguppa, and K. S. Raj of Bidar were prominent leaders who took active part in the movement with nationalists. They were arrested and kept in different jails viz., Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur and Hyderabad. Gulbarga had the privilege to organize the 4th Aryan Conference for three days from 22nd, 23rd and 24th April 1945. The president of the conference was Raj Narayan Lal Pitti. The police authorities of Gulbarga had determined to disturb the conference and book case against the samaj workers on the occasion. Great leaders like Pandit Narendraji, Ganpat Shastri, Pandit Vinayak Rao and Hiralal Pandey were beaten in front of police officials by fanatics. Narendraji suffered fracture in his leg. All over the state there was stiff opposing was expressed by Arya Samaj workers. So the police had to degrade one sub-inspector of police and four constables.

In Gulbarga district also the Razakar atrocities were more intensive during 1947 and 1948. The following villages in the district were victimized. Mahagaon, Hebbal, Kamalapur, Chincholi, Kadaganchi, Nimbarga, Gangapur, Ratkal, Kurikota, Yelsangi Sarasamba, Kalgi, Jewargi and Aland etc.

- 1) Chandrasekhar Patil a dynamic leader and native supporter of Arya Samaj of Mahagaon was publicly paraded with chains in the main street of Gulbarga from railway station to Gunj area for the reason that he violated the Nizam's arms act called 'Kodli Baramad'.
- 2) Razakars attacked Sharanabasaveshwara temple of Gulbarga suspecting the loyalty of Poojya Doddappa Appa.
- 3) In 1942 the local fanatics attacked the procession of Arya Samaj at Yadgir with deadly weapons. The young and brave samaj workers viz., Jnanendra, Ishwarlal, Mallappa and others opposed very strongly the activities of fanatics. So they were arrested by the police. Haridas and Ganapat Rao of Basavakalyana offered legal assistance to them but they were sentenced to one year imprisonment later the High Court released them. On 31st May 1947 at Yadgir one Arya Samaj worker Ishwarlal was stabbed by the Razakars, the police knew the culprit but they did not take any action.
- 4) In 1946-47 the teachers and students of National Schools of Gulbarga, Chincholi, Raichur and Kuknur were attacked by Razakars. Later the Arya Conference held at Gunj area of Gulbarga was disturbed by Razakars.
- 5) In 1947 the marriage procession of Dr. Amar Singh Rathod, a staunch follower of Arya Samaj of Gulbarga was attacked by Razakars and in this incident innocent people were injured. On the midnight of 15-8-1947 Razakars attacked the train from Bombay to Madras at Gulbarga station as the train passengers pronounced 'Bharat Mataki Jai' and the train was fully decorated with national flags which were turned out. The Razakars stopped and looted the Bombay-Madras train between Gangapur and Kulali stations. Passengers were dragged out of the train and killed. Women were molested as young girls were carried away and children were mercilessly thrown away with the help of daggers. For two months the train was cancelled.

The Razakars attacked Yelsangi village and looted the household articles including cash and food grains. The villagers shifted to Sholapur refugee camp.

Virupakshappa and Mahantgoud of Surpur were murdered by the Razakars during day time. On 4th September 1948 at Aland Razakars killed 42 innocent persons without any reason. On 17-9-1948 9 persons were shot dead at Aland by Razakars. Chandramappa, Bhimappa, Revanasiddappa, Basavannappa, Ramchandra Chandranath Jindas, Rahuchand and Vithal were killed.

Suggestions:

We have the more and more samaj literature regarding its activities in Bidar district. Still Samaj's branches are actively working with that influence the person like Ramachandra Veerappa, an illiterate belonged to scheduled class elected seven times to the parliament from Bidar constituency. Himself was participated in the Razakar movement from Humnabad. Such the dedicated persons' we didn't see in the part of Gulbarga and Raichur. Why? Because, the Razakar skirmishes deeply influenced in the minds of people of Bidar it of Gulbarga and Raichur region. However, still samaj activities in the pre and post independent decades are virgin in nature for a researcher in history in the said region.

References:

1. Desai, V. H., Vandemataram to Jana Gana Mana, 1990.
2. Dhruvanarayan, Pandit Taranath, 1976.
3. District Administration, Koppal, Vimochane, 1999.
4. District Administration Bidar, Bidar Jilla Swatantra Horatagararu, 1999.
5. Halappa, G. S., History of Freedom Movement in Karnataka, Vol. II
6. Jayadeva and Suryadeva Sharma: Hyderabad Satyagraha Ka Rakta Ranjit Itihasa (1947).
7. Krishna Rao, V., Swamy Ramanand Teerth, 1988.
8. Menon, V. P., The Story of the Integration, 1961.
9. Munshi, K. N., The End of An Era, 1957.
10. P. Narendra, Hyderabad Ke Aryonki Sadhana Aur Sangharsh, (1973).
11. Ramesan, N. (ed.). The Freedom in Hyderabad, Vol. IV, (1966), Hyderabad, P. 89.
12. Suman Sindhe, Arya Samaj Movement in Hyderabad Karnataka, 2000.
13. Swamy Ramanand Teerth, Memories of Hyderabad Freedom Struggle, 1967.
14. Usha Desai, Freedom Movement in Raichur District, 1994.
15. Vijaya Kumar Chinkod, Arya Samaj Movement in Bidar, Dt. 1988.