

Khadi Work in Eastern Khandesh

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Abstract

M.K. Gandhi was one of the greatest leaders in Indian Freedom Movement. He has specially known and famous for his three major historical movement viz. (1) Non-Cooperation Movement - 1920, (2) Civil Disobedience Movement - 1930, (3) Quit India Movement - 1942.

M.K. Gandhi prepared to simple living and high thinking policy. He lived very simple life. He choose to wear only Dhoti in white colour which was made by khadi (cotton). He did this because a lot of people in India belong to poor family. He gave the simple message to use khadi to Indian people for getting freedom. The Indian people of those time accepted it and worked and used about khadi very eagerly. Indian people supported to M.K. Gandhi by working for khadi making and using the khadi. This task were spread all over India.

In this Research Paper, the Researcher has tried to explain the khadi work in Eastern Khandesh. Khandesh is nothing but one of the major parts in Maharashtra State. He also explained that how the people of Eastern Khandesh supported to M.K.Gandhi's mission of using Khadi. This paper also recalls the memories about khadi work in Eastern khandesh and leaders work for freedom.

KEYWORDS : Congress, Charkha Sangh, Handloom, Khadi School.

Preparation -

The Indian National Congress had held its two days session at Bezwada in Andhra State dated 31st March to 1st April 1921. M.K. Gandhi thought that we should use Khadi as well as Charkha in Non-cooperation movement because they are most powerful weapons. He made them most useful means. He thought that nobody should be depend on foreign things for food and cloth. Wearer earning point of view, M.K. Gandhi gave a lot of value to use of country cotton. Some Indian announced that one who do not use khadi could not become a real patriot. In this way, use of khadi cap, khadi shirt, khadi pant, khadi dhoti, khadi coat and jacket had become a special symbol of love for country. Cutting and spinning cotton everyday with the help of Charkha became a second feature of patriotism.

It was compulsory to use of khadi by the members of Congress.¹ In this way, Gandhi joined the various Indian people into Indian National Congress for freedom.

Khadi Mandal -

For the progress of khadi work, Khadi Mandal was established in Khandesh in the year 1921. Mr. V.V. Dastane was Chairman while Mr. Deokinandan Narayan was Secretary of this mandal. Mr. B.R. Deshpande, Mr. V.G. Kulkarni, Mr. N.B. Gokhale were members of this mandal. At initial stage, major concentration was on cotton cutting. There was arrangement of training. Everybody specially villagers must be working of cotton cutting and spinning. Mr. V.V. Dastane had visited to various Tahsil and Districts.² The selling of khadi had started after 1922. Mr. Deokinandan, Mr. B.R. Deshpande, Mr. Maganshet, Mr. Atmaram Modak, Mr. A.M. Joshi, Mr. Annasaheb Dastane and Mr. N.B. Gokhale all these members done hard work and played major role in the campaign of M.K. Gandhi.¹

Maharashtra Regional Congress -

The session of Maharashtra Regional Congress held on 27th and 28th April 1924 at Jalgaon. In this session, there was also nice arrangement of khadi exhibition. All the decoration was made by khadi. There were a lot of samples of khadi from various country of all over the world. With the help of this exhibition khadi become so much popular in common man. The strength of weaver grown day by day.

There were some criteria to become a member of this congress. In this way, near about 1100 citizens were become members of congress.²

Kadgaon Udyog Mandir -

Mr. Annasaheb Dastane has established Khadi Udyog Mandir at Jalgaon and Kadgaon dated 3rd February 1925. Mr. Gokhale had taken a training of khadi making from Sabarmati Ashram. Mr. Joshi had taken the responsibility of management of khadi udyog mandir. From raw material of cotton to khadi readymade cloths, all the processes was being developed. In the first year of establishment, 16 members were selected as Trainee. Mr. Pratapshet Agrawal, a renowned citizen from Amalner, donated Rs. 11,000/- at one time. Mr. Dastane had got agreement from Mr. Jamanalal Bajaj and used this all donated money for Kadgaon Udyog Mandir.³

Maharashtra Charkha Sangh -

M.K.Gandhi had established All India Charkha Sangh in 1925. After that, this Sangh responsibility was taken by Mr. Annasaheb Dastane. In the same year, he moved the Udyog Mandirs from Bhusawal to Pimprala and he continued all work still 1932. Mr. Dastane had worked for freedom.⁴ It was major one, and memorable also.

Spinning Club -

In the year 1925, Spinning Club was started at Jalgaon City. In this club, various kind of works like cotton cutting, spinning, weeping were learned by students and members. Special education and training were given National School students. After that outer students had also given training and education by members. In the first year near about 160 boys was trained. But in the year 1932 this club was closed.⁵

Pimprale Udyog Mandir -

Mr. Dastane was selected as a representative of Charkha union. He moved the Kadgaon udyog Mandir to Pimprale in the year 1926. All important documents of this sangh are also stored in Pimprale Office. In this Udyog Mandir all the work related with cotton had done. It became a main branch till 1929. Mr. Krishnadas Babu became chairman of Charkha Sangh. So Mr. Dastane resigned that time. The office of Charkha Sangh moved at Vardha in 1929.⁶

The work of spinning and selling cotton were started in Amalner City. Mr. Thakur started this work in Amalner Ashram. In 1925, one khadi centre was opened at Patonde.⁶ Patonde was one of the major and bigger village in Amalner tehsil. It is said that on the date of 2nd October 1921, Khandesh Education Society included the syllabus about khadi making. Mr. J.G. Gune had discussed the importance of khadi in freedom movement.⁷ In this way, the work of khadi was progressed in various places. Mr. Deokinandan and Mr. N.B. Gokhale had opened the Khade School in front of Jalgaon Municipality Corporation.⁵ Mr. B.R. Deshpande started a khadi centre in Chopda in his leadership. In the same period, one more centre was started at Jamner City.⁸

Tilak's Swadeshi Cloth Factory -

In Pragtik weekly of 7th Nov. 1921, has written that Lokmanya Tilak Swadeshi Cloth Factory was started in Amalner. At first, there was single handloom but now there were three for weeping vertical cotton was used of Jalgaon mill while horizontal

cotton was made by handloom. This factory had worked under the Congress Committee of Amalner. In this factory, near about 500 vaar khadi had made. For a single Vaar (one metre) price was 9 Annas. This price was so much low. If there was special demand for khadi then it should be completed and sent. Each and every person could contain to Secretary. The cotton made on handloom can be buy for factory in MRP. If anybody wants a charkha then it should be supplied. The education about weeping had given freely to interested person.⁹

Bharucha's Travelling for Khadi Work -

The general secretary of All India Congress Committee Mr. Bharucha had travelled 12 days in Eastern Khandesh with Mr. Annasaheb Dastane. In this travelling, they collected near about 130 kg cotton. They cooperated by Sheth Bhagchand and Mr. Chincholkar. The Jean owner from Parasi and Bohori community also helped them. Mr. Bharucha collected 40 kg cotton from Pachora city. Here Mr. Sheth Kapurchand Bachraj helped him.¹⁰ The use of Khadi and it's importance were speared in Eastern Khandesh.

Conclusion -

M.K. Gandhi gave more importance to khadi and Charkha, after starting the non-cooperation movement. He fully understood that khadi and charkha both were strongest means of getting freedom. The people from Eastern Khandesh used khadi in maximum way. Chairman of khadi mandal Mr. Dastane travelled in various villages and tried to understand people about importance of khadi and charkha in freedom movement. Khadi school were established in Eastern Khandesh specially Kadgaon Pimprale, Amalner, Patonde, Jalgaon, Jamner, Chopda for the purpose of training of cutting spinning and weeping the cotton.

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