Volume : 3 | Issue : 6 | June 2014 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160

Research Paper History

Emergence and Development of the Indian National Congress

Madan Mohan Mandal

Assistant Professor in History of Sponsored Teachers` Training College Deshbandhu Road,Purulia-723101(W.B.)

ABSTRACT

The National Congress was founded in 1885 by Allan Octavian Hume. The Indian National Congress abbreviated INC and commonly known as the Congress is one of the two major political parties in India. It is the largest and oldest democratically-opening political parties in the world.The party`s modern liberal platform is largely considered to be on the Centre left of the Indian political spectrum.Next time the Indian National Congress became pivotal participant in the Indian Independence Movement. After independence in 1947, the congress has won an outright majority on six occasions and has led the ruling coalition a further four times, heading and central government for a total of 49 years.

KEYWORDS : Safety Valve Theory of Hume, Early Congress, Rise of Extremism, Surat Split-1907, Gandhi`s National Movement.

Introduction: Many Indians were playing to establish an all India organization of nationalist political workers. But the credit for organizing the first meeting of the Indian National Congress goes to A.O. Hume who was a retired English Civil Servant. His view that the emergence of educated class should be accepted as a political reality and that timely step should be taken to provide the right channel to the expression of the grievances of this class. He believed that efforts must be made to satisfy the ambitions of this class. Lord Rippon also shared with his views. Hume strenuously consolidated the network of contacts which he established. In Mumbai, he met and discussed with the leaders who were influential in the presidency, the program of political action to be adopted by the educated Indians.

Review of Related Literature:

1. Loksabha Congress Manifesto Indian National Congress (2014).Here congress emphasis on voice and aspirations of the people and now vision for the country. 2. History of India-the post-colonial period. Emphasis on Demography, polities in India.3. Md. Ayub Mallick-Idelogy of the Indian National Congress: Political Economy of Socialism and socialistic Pattern of Society.4. History of the Indian National Congress from Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia.Here emphasis on the Gandhi`s rise to power.

Safety Valve Theory of Hume: One of the main aims of Hume is facilitating the establishment of the National Congress to offer an outlet `a Safety Valve Theory' to the rising popular dissatisfaction against the British rule. He says that safety valve for the escape of great and growing forces generated by our own action was urgently needed and no more efficacious safety valve than our congress movement could possibly be devised. The safety valve theory is however a small part of the truth. More than anything else, the national congress represented the urge of the politically conscious Indians to set upa national organization. To work for their political and economic advancement.

The Indian leaders who cooperated with Hume is starting this National Congress, were patriotic men of high character who willingly accepted Hume`s help as they did not want to arouse official hostility towards their efforts at such an early stage of political activity. In 1885 The Indian National Congress was established. It was presided over by Womesh Chandra Banerjee of Bengal and attended by 72 delegates. The national movement was to grow and the country and its people were to know no rest till freedom was won.

Early Congress: During the early early years, the moderates pleaded for introduction of policies, which would transform India economically, socially and politically. The means chosen by them to the ends were very well within the constitutional limits. In this time, the educated middle class dominated the congress. Early congressmen had an absolute faith in the effectiveness of peaceful constitutional agitation. The National Congress took pride in the British connection and regarded the British Govt. not as an antagonist, but as an ally. The moderate congress leaders were aware of the fact that India was a nation in the making. They made a modest beginning in this direction close contacts and friendly relations among the people from different parts of the country. The economic and political demands of the moderates were structured with a view to unify the Indian people on the basis of a common political program.

Rise of Extremism: The closing decade of the 19th` century and the early years of the 20$^{th}$` century witnessed the emergence of a new and younger group within the Indian National Congress which was sharply critical of the ideology and the methods of the old leaderships. These `angry young men 'advocated the adaptation of swaraj as the goal of the congress to be achieved by more self-reliant and independent methods. The new group came to be called the extremist party. They opposed the idealizing of the western culture by the liberals and considered it cultural capitulation to the British rulers. The militant nationalist leaders emphasized that it would only bring about an inferiority complex among the Indians and repress their national pride and self-confidence so vital to the struggle for freedom.

The leading extremists such as Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Aurobindo Ghosh were all products of English education and were immensely influenced by western thought, literature and personalities. The political mendicancy of the moderates received a big jolt and let to the growth and ascendancy of political extremism. Till Mahatma Gandhi arrived on the political soil of India. The extremists dominated the Indian National Congress. The philosophy of political extremism, which was greatly influenced by the writings of Bankim Chandra and his spiritual nationalism was a reaction against the policy of extreme softness that was followed by the moderates towards the British Govt. in India. For Aurobindo, nationalism was not a mere political or economic cry; it was rather the innermost hunger of his soul for the rebirth in him and through men like him, the whole India, the ancient culture of the Hindustan and its pristine purity and nobility. Indian Nationalism was given a spiritual orientation by the nationalists at a highly opportune and critical period in the history of India.

Surat split-1907: In 1907, a split occurred in the congress between the moderates and the extremists. The split was inevitable as the moderates, though steadily disillusioned with the British government, did not accept the ideology and the methods of the new nationalists. There was much public debate and disagreement between the Moderates and extremists. While the latter wanted to extend the mass movement to Bengal as well as to the other parts of the country, the Moderates wanted to confine the movement to Bengal and even their to limit it to Swadeshi and Boycott. In 1906, the moderates leaders opposed Tilak`s candidature for the preside ship of the Indian National Congress. Finally, Dadabhai Naoroji was elevated to the chair. Dadabhai electrified the nationalist ranks by openly declaring in his presidential.

Address that the goal of the Indian National Movement was self-Government or Swaraj like that of the United Kingdom or the colonies.

But the differences dividing the two wings of the nationalist's movement could not keep pace with events. They were not able to see that their outlook and methods, which had served a real purpose in the past, were no longer adequate. To placate the moderate nationalists, it announced constitutional concessions through the Indian Councils act of 1909, which are known as the Morley- Minto Reforms of 1909. In 1911, the government also announced the cancellation of the partition of Bengal. Western and Eastern Bengals were to be reunited, while a new province consisting of Bihar and Orissa was to be created. At the same time the seat of the central govt. was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. The partition of Bengal and the launch of Swadeshi and the Boycott of foreign goods movement in 1906 heightened and brought about a split between the Moderates and Extremists. The suppression of the Home Rule Movement in 1916 by Tilak and Annie Besant furthered the spirit of freedom among the people in India. The suppression of the Home Rule Movement had only resulted in furthering the course of the struggle, for freedom in India. The Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in 1916 brought the moderates and extremists together and it also marked the unity of Hindus and Muslims. Now India was ready for the next phase of National Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi`s National Movement: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi took control of the National Movement in 1919. Gandhian Philosophy emphasized the strategy of Satyagraha and Ahimsa in fighting against the British. In his struggle against the racist authorities of South Africa, Gandhi evolved the technique of Satyagraha based on truth and non-violence. Gandhi showed the people a new way of fighting injustice without violence, for what one believed that political freedom was closely linked with social and economic changes and it meant the use of things belonging to one`s own country particularly stressing the replacement of foreign machine-made goods with Indian handmade cloth. Gandhian philosophy consisted non- violence resistance and when applied to the Indian Scene, it served to bring millions of people into the National Movement. The Rowlatt Act was met with a wide protest from the different sections of Indian society. As a reaction, the British govt. resorted to lathi charges and firings in many places. It eventually resulted in the jallianwalaBagh Massacre. The khilafat Movement was a protest against the injustices done to Turkey after the World War 1. In fact, it became a part of the Indian National Movement. The congress leaders joined the khilafat agitation and helped in organizing the same throughout the country and it was the first countrywide popular movement. Under the leadership of Gandhi, the congress in a special session at Calcutta in 1920 adopted the new program of non-violent non co-operation movement. The aims of the non-cooperation movement were to redress the wrongs done to Punjab and Turkey, and the attainment of Swaraj.

The non-cooperation movement spread among the masses and to the countryside. The peasantry of UP, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, and Malabar responded to the non-cooperation movement. The tragedy of Chauri Chaura and Gandhi`s Imprisonment put an end to the non-co-operation movement itself for some time. An unfortunate development after the calling of of the non-co-operation movement was the growth of communal tension and the occurrence of communal riots. The growth of communal tendencies hindered the nationalist movement. This side tracked the attention of people from the need for complete independence from foreign rule.

The civil disobedience Movement began with the famous Dandi March on 12March1930. In this place, Gandhi and his followers made salt in violation of the salt laws. This act was a symbol of the Indian s Refusal to live under the British- made laws and also under British rule. In May 1934, the entire civil dis obedience movement was called off. The resistance involves millions of people in the country, young and old, men and women and people belonging to all regions and communities.

Even though congress condemned the govt. of India act, 1935, it decided to participate in the elections to the provincial legislatures that were take place in 1937. The election was held in 1937. The parties that participated in the elections were the congress, the Muslim league and others. The congress ministries soon after coming to power took some important measures such as the release of political prisoners and the lifting of ban on the newspaper.

Quit India movement one of them, known as August Movement in 1942.The British govt. used to police and the army to suppress the movement. This movement marked a new era in the history of Indian National Movement. Through the movement was a short live one, it exhibited the depth that nationalist feeling had reached in the country. It also served as an eye opener to the British Govt. about India`s attitude to British Imperialism. It was a revelation to the British that they cannot dominate over India for long. It was a landmark in India`s Struggle against British imperialism.

REFERENCES

1. Indian National Congress-aboutinc,history,symbol,leaders and more.Elections.in.2014-02-07.Retrieved 2014-05-03. | 2. Expected Participants(Dead link), Progressive Alliance | 3. Rastogi, P.N.(1975). The Nature and dynamics of factional conflict. Macmillan co. of India. P.69. | 4. Parliamentary Debates.98 issue 1-9. Council of States Secretatariat.1976.p.111.Retrieved 26 November 2012. | 5. Barry, Ellen. Indian National Congress Concedes in India Vote. NdTV.Retrieved 17 May 2014. | 6. Khilafat Movement(1919-1922) History Pak. History Pak.com.Retrieved 2014-05-03. | 7. Main Bharat Hun. Main Bharat Hun. Retrieved 2014-05-03. | 8. Guha,Ram (2007). India after Gandhi. Macmillan.pp. 19-115. | 9. Indian National Congress. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved 21 May 2014. | 10. Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. Pmindia.nic.in.Retrieved 2014-05-03. |