



## A Study on Role of Tumkur Students in Quit India Movement

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### ABSTRACT

*Role of students in Indian Freedom struggle is very important & appreciable. That period is the period of the struggles. One or the other reason, there was a continuous struggle between the government and the freedom fighters. Reading the speeches and statements of Gandhiji and other great leaders everyday inspired the students. The great aim of these youth was to drive the British out of India by participating in the struggle. In 1942 Gandhiji's blatant words against British incited the urge in youth to plunge into the quit India Movement.*

### KEYWORDS :

**Introduction:** From 1918 to 1942 Gandhi organized six All India level non-violence movements against British. We can say, Quit India movement of 1942 led by him was the last agitation. The II world war reached its very difficult position. British pushed India to II world war without informing the existed popular governments. Then, nine provincial congress governments opposed this, and gave their resignation. In the east, Japanese who won the war occupied up to the north-eastern states of India. As Japanese move towards, India would have become battlefield. At the same time Subhas Chandra Bose inspired the Indians by sending his message through Berlin Radio. Many Indians, inspired by his Congress did not like this. So it organized a conference to discuss and to take a decision. In this meeting Gandhiji explained "this is such a dangerous war torn condition, where Japanese landed in India. So British Government will not face the agitation of Indians and agreed to the demand of independence. So Gandhi advised, as it is the right time to launch the Quit India movement and urged the British to give Independence.

"The role of Tumkur districts students we are appreciable the author of this article was already published in the commemoration volume of 5<sup>th</sup> Kannada literacy conference entitled chennudi in 1997.<sup>1</sup> On 12<sup>th</sup> August Tumkur city Intermediate college students and other school students quit the classes and protest government. According to the police reports R.S. Aradhya of Tumkur organized these students.<sup>3</sup>

Municipal president M.V. Ramarao delivered an inspiring speech in the meeting held on the same day evening.<sup>4</sup> Further quit India movement became rampant in Tumkur by the students. As students' agitation became extreme in Mysore presidency, the government declared holidays for schools, and colleges. It also announced rewards to those who helped to capture R.S. Aradhya, The guiding spirit of Tumkur students.<sup>5</sup> Tumkur chief Judge write this to chief secretary as police became helpless and observing the works of the students.<sup>6</sup> It is very important that Tumkur students had been to Hassan and Arsikere in many groups to inspire the students to take part in the agitation and kindled the sparks of quit India movement<sup>7</sup> At the same time student leader K.S. Rajappa was arrested and sent to jail.<sup>8</sup> Now B.K. Puttanna shetti, a 9<sup>th</sup> standard student organized the high school students and jumped to the agitation. But puttannashetty of Tumkur rejected this angrily. So he was sent to Yaravada Jail<sup>9</sup>. It is really proud to the Tumkur city that one of its students did agitation in out of state and became cause of its greatness. Then an officer came out of the train and fired at the students. Students became very angry and burnt the railway station."<sup>11</sup>

Not only the boys but also the girls taking part in quit India movement in tumkur, and gave their valuable gifts to the liberation of the country. To inspire & organize the Tumkur girls, Bangalore Maharani College student leaders like Ponnamma, Meenakshamma and Komala came to Tumkur. spoke about the responsibilities of the girls and became successful to bring them to the agitation.<sup>12</sup> On 31<sup>st</sup> August 1942. Tumkur college students like Sarojamma and Amruthabai organized the students and inspired them with their speech. like this day-by-day students' agitation became powerful in Tumkur district.

It was not possible for the district administration to control this. On 29-08-1942 Tumkur district police superintendent wrote a letter to D.C. says "the entry of students to this agitation, day by day quit India movement became powerful."<sup>13</sup> This letter was transferred to the government. Like this in many places of Karnataka the agitation was started. So government issued an order to its employers to manage. as their children should attend the schools & colleges. Teachers should take attendance everyday and send a report to Deputy Commissioner.<sup>14</sup> Though students go to the schools, did not attend the classes Everyday they started picketing in front of the schools & colleges. Students' strike became headache to the government; it tried to stop this forcefully. So the government advised to Vice Chancellors (15).

Even though the agitation was continued, the students studying in Tumkur colleges organized themselves into many groups, came to different taluk head quarters. created awareness about quit India movement and educate the people not to co-operate with the British government in the war. A team of Tumkur students came to C.N.Halli A.B.Maniappa was their leader. This team of students went to G.V. Narayana Murthy's house and received hospitality. Police kept an eye on this team and followed them. But the students fled to Shettikere and started distractive works. Police also came to Shettikere. When the villagers got this message, they stood in the road at Mahanavami Mantapa in the outskirts of the village. Immediately farmers bided [the students in the cattle shed, sheep shed and other places. Police van came to village; G.V.N. and M.S. Hanumanth Rao also came to the spot. Then police returned.<sup>16</sup>

Student movement that was commenced on 11-8-42 at Tumkur was very active up to 10-9-42, through organizing meetings & conferences every day. During this period many students arrested and sent to jail. In the public meeting of 10-9-42 students declared as "here after it is not possible to do meetings and consul's everyday". At the end of the September, student movement started to lose its strength. On 27-9-42 D.C. submitted report to the government as schools & colleges are run smooth in Tumkur. But practically the condition was different. Though students go to the schools colleges they boycotted the classes. On 5<sup>th</sup> November 42 student council was held at Tumkur city, and demanded the government to release all the students arrested before 10-11-1942, to run the schools & colleges smoothly and to stop the students agitation.<sup>17</sup> Or else they decided to attend the classes, but not to cooperate with the teachers. No without any conditions government released the students on 9-11-1942 and withdraw all the cases against the students. On the same day student leader Krishnachar declared. as students are not participating in any agitation against the government. Because government released all the students from the jail. As the student movement stopped, some students became dissatisfied and put fire to the goods at Port Boys School on 10-12-1942. On the same day they put fire to the cottages behind intermediate college. They blasted crackers in the classrooms, Regarding these incidents Khadi Bhandar S. Ranachandra Rao was arrested and sent to jail.<sup>18</sup>

Tiptur was also an important center of student movement, Police

caught Shambegowda & Keshavamurthy, government high school students at Karadi railway station. But they gave Bhadravathi address and escaped to Tiptur where they organized the students and started under world activities against government. But now Shambegowda was captured and sent to jail.<sup>19</sup> A Tumkur govt. high school student and four Tiptur govt. high school students were in the Tiptur jail. According to Shambhe gowdas statement "jail officers told as they give apology letter they will be released. But the students rejected." Even Taluk Magistrate Kempanna himself came to the jail and asked to give apology letters. again we rejected. So police became again and the punishment continued,<sup>20</sup> From September 1942, Tiptur became the center of student activities. Obalaiah a student leader and his friends traveled in Koratagere and Madhugiri Taluks, organized the students and started underworld activities But police captured them at Tiptur, enquired, according to the security act put him in Bangalore jail upto 17-12-1943.<sup>21</sup>

### Conclusion:

In the Tumkur city council of 10<sup>th</sup> sep.1942, the leaders declared as the student agitation was completed in Tumkur. Yet a group of students continued the agitation by adopting Gandhian principle "Do or Die" and tried get independence. It has become a record in the history. As the student movement zeal decreased, peasants took the responsibility of continuing it. Like this in the great chapter of Quit India Movement Tumkur district students gave their valuable contribution.

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