



## THE ROLE OF FARMERS IN THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA

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**ABSTRACT** Agriculture has been the backbone of the Indian economy since ancient time. The contribution of farmers here is very important in the Indian independence movement. Agriculture is the main source of income for the ruler population in India. Indian presents were adversely affected by exploitation during the British administration. Conversely in response to the colonial exploitation peasants fought against the Britishers in a larger context. As time changed resistance behavior of the peasant cause also changed.

**KEYWORDS :** Peasant, Zamindari, Agriculture, National Movement

### INTRODUCTION:-

The Indian independence struggle and the present moment are closely linked. The farmer is very hardworking and does his job honestly moment in India are generally classified on the basis of periods into pre-British and post-independence. The post-independence period is classified by some scholars into pre-Naxalbari and post-Naxalbari periods or pre- and post-green revolution periods. The uprising or movement of the farmers of Maharashtra for Indian independence seemed to have taken place in a few places. The Champaran Satyagraha took place in 1917. The Champaran Agrarian act was assessed assisted by the Governor- General of India in 1918. The ideology of non-violence had given much strength to the peasants who participated in movement. The moment also contributed to the growth of nationalism (Cf.,Jha, Hetukar-1996).

### Pre-Colonial Period:-

The 19<sup>th</sup> century experienced many present agitations such as the famous santhaland Indigo revolts in Bengal and other in Punjab and Maharashtra. But no single movement survived in an organized form to exert pressure or influence the administration. In Poona and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra major agrarian unrest, was seen in 1875. The British government directed settlement of revenue with the peasants. It was quite impossible for the peasant community to pay the revenue since the government had increased the rates very high. They borrowed money from money land lender who charged high interest rate (Shrinivas M.N-1995).

More and more land got mortgaged and sold out to the money lenders. Who turned their level best to acquire land by legal and illegal means. Got exhausted the present peasant's means by the end of years 1875 and high agrarian rights took place. Police failed in meeting the Fury of the peasant's registration which was suppressed only when the whole military force at Poona took the field against them. Once again the modern intelligentsia of Maharashtra supported the demands. The peasant unrest, movements and riots did not influence or create and treated to British rule. But these protests proved that Indian peasant had reactions which were instant and spontaneous in every situation (Dhanagare.D.N-1983).

### Post-Colonial Period:-

After the success of Indian war of independence many difficulties were faced by the farmers, hence the agitation was carried out in many places.

### The Telangana Movement in-1946:-

Post colonial India witnessed a number of Peasant movement in different parts of the country. The Telangana present movement was one of them which was started in mid 1946 and continued till October 1951. The movement spread to the whole Telangana region of Hyderabad state and the adjoining districts of the Andhra delta. This movement is considered as the most revolutionary on India by its character and political objective. The objective of movement was concerned extraction by the rural feudal aristocracy (Chand, Tara 1972).

### The Tebhaga Movement in Bengal-1947:-

After the Second World War, the Tebhaga movement emerged in North Bengal districts of Dinajpur and Rangpur. Similarly the movement also broke out in East Bengal districts of Jalpaiguri and Malda in West Bengal of India. The movement was for a share of the

produce from one-half to one third that is the route, which they used to pay to the jointers who passed the superior rights on land. This movement had the revolutionary character in terms of the demands raised. It was organized by the Kisan Sabha (Bipin Chandra 1974).

### Naxalbari Present Uprising -1967:-

The Naxalbari present uprising arose as a major as well as the largest uprising in post colonial India. It took place in the northern part of West Bengal. It was headed by a fraction of CPI (M) leaders who deserved with the official position of the party. The two most prominent leaders of the CPI (M) who led the movement were Kano Sanyal and Charu Mazumdar. It erupted in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the West Bengal, Siliguri in Darjeeling district. It is in Nalbari, Kharibhari and Phansitewa, the three police station area where the movement took a militant town (Chandra Bipin-1979).

This region where different from other region of West Bengal in terms of the existence of the numerous tea plantations and a large proportion of tribal population. Tea plantation have developed along the lines of plantation economy where as the tribal population to region include the Santhals, Rajbansis, Orans, Mundas and a small number of Terrell Garkhas. Due to these two factors, the whole region has a history of land disputes in West Bengal. The landers present in this region had since long claimed that their land was being encroached by the tea estates and also by the rich peasants (Ahmad.Z.A-1937).

### Scope of Present Moment:-

Present movement in India arose during the British colonial period, when economic policy characterized in the ruin of traditional handicrafts leading to change of ownership, overcrowding of land, massive debt and improvement of present. This led to present uprising during the colonial period and development of peasant movement is the post-colonial period. The Kisan Sabha movement started in Bihar under the leadership of Swami Sahajanand Saraswati who formed the Bihar provisional Kisan Sabha in 1929 to mobilize present grievances against the zamindari attack on their occupancy rights (Dr.Karhade.B.M-2011). In 1938 the crops in Eastern Khandesh were destroyed due to heavy rains.

The peasant were ruined in order to get the land revenue waived, Sahe Guruji organized meeting and procession in many places and took out marches to the collector's office. The peasants joined the revolutionary movement of 1942 in great number. Gradually the present moment intensified and spread across the rest of India. All these radical development on the peasant front culminated in the formulation of the all India Kisan Sabha at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in April 1936 with the Swami Sahajanand elected as its first president. A present movement is a social movement involved with the agriculture policy, which claims peasant's right. Peasant movements have a long history that can be traced to the numerous present uprising that occurred in various regions of the world throughout human history (Saha Ghanshyam-2011).

### Contribution of farmers in Maharashtra:-

Maharashtra is a state in the western region of India. It is India's second- most populous state and third largest state by area. The British ruled for more than a century and brought huge changes in every aspects of life for the people of Maharashtra region.

**Forest Satyagraha:-**

Forest Satyagraha was another important phase of civil disobedience movement in which present played a significant role. Those who could not take part a salt satyagraha sufficiently due to lack of sea-coast threw themselves fully into forest satyagraha so, there were several instant of forest satyagraha in Vidarbha and Khandesh region Maharashtra civil Disobedience movement committee is turned their attention towards the forest Satyagraha and violation of the forest law. Therefore forest satyagraha become every day's programe of the present and common man, especialy in rural area. Presently which was holding itself loot from the Congress and national movement got the oppotunity towards the rise and banner against the impresser rule through forest Satyagraha (Kulkarni S.D 1974)

On 9 May 1930 a meeting of Maharashtra civil Disobedience committee was held at vile Parle in which program of the Jungle Satyagraha was discussed. In that meeting a committee of a four person, namely Mr Ramakrishna Maharaj Mr S.S.Navare, Dr. Krishnarao Anerolikar and Mr.Govindrao Deshpande formed to look after the forest Satyagraha campaign. Forest Satyagraha campaign of Maharashtra started in sangamner and Akola taluka on 22 July 1930. A series forest Satyagraha as occurred in Satara district during the civil Disobedience campaign. Besides, formers from many districts including Dhule, Buldhana, Akola, Amravati, Nashik Bhandra, Chandrapur participated in the Jungle Satyagraha and contributed to the freedom movement (Randive, Datar- 1974)

**CONCLUSION:-**

The peas movement and struggle during 20 century in known for Indigo movement considered to the largest and most religious movement against the art sides of the government at the area within the uninterrupted continuity of the agrarian woman's due to the failure of a many rising classes to resolve any e of the basic problem of the following masses in rural India the main aim of these articles is the analyzed to measure region of the season rewards during colonial rule.

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