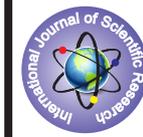


MAHATMA PHULE AND SAHU MAHARAJ “SATYA SHODHAK MOVEMENT IN KARNATAKA”



History

KEYWORDS: Technopreneur, Small business, Innovation, Youth.

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ABSTRACT

Phule was greatly contributed to the emergence of independent labour, peasant, dalit and women upliftment movements. Thus his movement was against the practice of untouchability, casteism and caste and class based as well as the gender based discriminations, socio-economic inequalities and injustice etc., By establishing the 'Satya Shodhaka Samaj' in 1873, he gave organizational structure to his movement. His ideology is found in the following works like 'Gulamgiri', 'Rayots Wipcord', 'Jaati Bhed Vivek Saar', 'Brahmananche Kasab, Satsar (Part 1&2) etc; and has created mass scale awakening among the Shudras and Ati-Shudra non-Brahmins. He opened schools to women, Shudra and untouchable communities in Poona and elsewhere. Even launched movement against widow practice and opened widow rehabilitation centres (Ashramas). He also fought to safeguard the interest of the poor peasants and landless labours. His movement was spreaded to entire Western India and Bombay Presidency which included the Bombay Karnataka also.

INTRODUCTION:

He started the branches of Satya Shodhak Samaj in Kolhapur and other areas. Shahu Maharaj opened the Schools and Hostels to the students of Shudra and Ati-Shudra (Untouchable) castes in Kolhapur State. After Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, Non-Brahmin Movement was led by Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur. In 1907 he gave 50% reservation in employment to the Shudra and Ati-Shudra castes of Non-Brahmin communities in his state. He also brought social legislations like prohibition of practice of widowhood, Devadasi system and against other social evil practices like prohibition of practice of untouchability, mahar vatan and etc. Thus, brought revolutionary transformation among the Depressed and the Backward Classes. Even, he also encouraged and financial helped to Dr.B.R.Ambedkar to launch the Dalit Movement and to start the 'Mook Nayak' paper. He presided over the Managaon Parishat of Mahars in 1921.

This movement of Shahu Maharaj in fact was continued part of the Satya Shodhak Movement of Mahatma Phule. The Satya Shodhak Movement of both Jyotiba Phule and Shahu Maharaj influenced the North Karnataka in particularly, the South India in general. There where branches of Satya Shodhak Samaj at Belgaum, Nippani, Dharwad and Hubli. So also Chhatrapati Shahu's Non-Brahmin Movement spreaded to Bombay Karnataka. In 1920 Satya Shodhak Samaj was transformed into a Political movement known as 'Non-Brahmin Movement'. Thus Non-Brahmin Movement led by Shahu Maharaj posed a challenge to the traditional social order and opposed the Brahminical domination and supremacy. The Non-Brahmin leaders of Bombay Karnataka were so much influenced by Shahu Maharaj that, they invited him to Non-Brahmin Conference at Hubli in 1920. Thus, the Satya Shodhak Movement of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj greatly influenced Karnataka, especially Bombay Karnataka, as a result there was a emergence prominent leaders like Sir Siddappa. Before this Shahu Maharaj invited Bombay Karnataka Non-Brahmin leaders to Kolhapur and gave financial assistance to start the educations organizations like Schools and hostel. These leaders greatly contributed to the cause of Non-Brahmin movement and their communities like Lingayats, Reddy, Jain, Maratha, Muslim, Kurubas and others came to forefront. Kambali, Annasaheb Latthe, Panditappa Chikkodi, P G Halakatti, Menasinakai, Siddappa Hosamani and others. So there was much awakening among these communities. Thus emergence of Non-Brahmin Movement in Bombay Karnataka prepared the background for the spread of Dr.Ambedkar's Dalit and other Movements in later in this region. Thus, they got strengthened and improved themselves educationally, socially and economically.

Objectives and Scope of the Study:

1. The pioneers of this socio-religious transformation movement were like, Buddha, Mahaveera, Charvaka, Ashoka, Sri Basaveshwara, Chokamela, Kabir, Mahatma Phule and Shahu

Maharaj. The movement against the caste/varna and gender based discriminations, practice of untouchability and etc got long history. Their movement provided historical background to the present study. Thu to give a brief historical account of the same is the one of objective of the present study.

2. To study and re-appraise the nature and importance of Satya Shodhak Movement of Mahatma Phule and Shahu Maharaj.
3. To study the spread of Satya Shodhak Movement of Mahatma Phule and Shahu Maharaj to Karnataka and its impact on Bombay Karnataka.
4. To highlight the important non-Brahmin leaders of Bombay Karnataka and to assess their role in the Non-Brahmin movement.

The scope of Satya Shodhak Movement was wide one, which included entire Western and Southern India in general but the present study highlights the events of Bombay Karnataka.

The Nature and Method of Study:

Dr.Hari Narke, Takkar Bappa, Rudrappa Chikkodi and some others is also included. The historical, analytical and comparative methods are adopted in this study. By survey method sources are collected and then data analysis, classification, interpretation and synthetic operations are done carefully and finally thesis engineering work done with dividing it into seven chapters. To get unrecorded sources of information i.e oral information the interview method is followed in this study. The interview of the eminent scholars and personalities like

Sources of the Study and Review of Literature:

Both primary and secondary sources are referred and analysed.

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