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11. Forgotten Heroe's in Freedom Struggle in Karnataka

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Abstract

Women satyagrahis of Karnataka and their role in the history of freedom struggle should be written in letters of gold. They dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom of their motherland and scarified their all to achieve their goal. The role of women in the Freedom movement is unique in Karnataka. Large number of women who have taken part in Freedom of Karnataka women did not lag behind in the participation of national Freedom.

Keywords: Prabhat pheri, women freedom fighters, jungle Satyagraha, Ashram.

Introduction

In India, the struggle for independence from the British has been marked as the foremost freedom struggle in the country. Many such women freedom fighters had immense contribution towards this struggle. History has witnessed many women with bravery who walked shoulder to shoulder with men of their times Women satyagrahis of Karnataka and their role in the history of freedom struggle should be written in letters of gold. They dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom of their motherland and scarified their all to achieve their goal. The role of women in the Freedom movement is unique in Karnataka. Large number of women who have taken part in Freedom of Karnataka women did not lag behind in the participation of national Freedom.

Many national male and female leaders like Mahatma Gandhiji, Tilak, Nehru, Yashodhara Dasappa and other leaders who have influenced the women. As important and as impressive was the contribution of the women in the national struggle. The sacrifice made by hundreds and thousands of women in Karnataka formed the rank and file the freedom fighters. It was these women, uneducated and without ever a clear conception of the importance and significance of the fight, responded to the call of Gandhiji and patiently bore all kinds of suffering pain and anguish, their fortitude, their endurance in the midst of agonizing experiences, elevated the fight for freedom in Karnataka.

Forgotten Women Freedom Fighters

Bhavanibai Kangod

The patriotic poems of the late master Tippayya inspired Bhavanibai Kangod to take an active part in the freedom movement in 1920-21. She used to go from house to house to persuade people to boycott foreign goods and to buy Indian hand-woven cloth and join the congress party. She used to be extremely careful, as police kept a watch on her. In 1930-32 during "Jungle Satyagraha" she used to bring from secret campus hand bills and distribute and explain them to the people. She worked day and night to arrange for food and shelter for the workers in the congress campus. In addition she arranged processions of "Prabhat Pheri". In 1940-41 when she was participating in Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement. She was arrested and was kept a prisoner in Hindalaga Jail, for 4 months. Later in 1942 she took part in Quit India movement.

Devamma Harijan

Devamma's role in freedom struggle, in the history of freedom movement in Karnataka North Kanara district has played a unique role. Her husband too was sick, and she had no means to earn her livelihood. One fine morning she went in search of some fruits and tubers, and she climbed up a Banian tree to pluck tubers of "Marakesu" (Arum colocasia grown on trees) not far away from the dilapidated house of Nagesh Hegde.

The sun was rising and his rays were falling right below the tree. From the branch of tree she saw something shining on the edge of the mound under the tree. She found on copper casket hidden on the edge of small earthen mound. She found to her great surprise that there were such caskets all locked those caskets had been hidden their under earth by one brother of Nagesh Hegade, Subraya who was the last among the members of the family to court arrest. The police had somehow scented the fact that the valuables have been some her hidden. Devamma did not open her mouth and Government of Karnataka to honour her.

Naik Bamma Bommai: (Bommakka)

She from Kanagail village from Ankola taluk. She was a great freedom fighter; she took very serious part in 1921 in the Swadeshi movement and made her name she boycott British Goods and made her name and participated in salt Satyagraha though many of her associates are not described her. Smt. Bommakka went from village to village and around the river beds where raw salt was prepared and thus induced many women to bring the wet salt and heat it up to be sold at different stations. This came to the notice of the police and the women selling salt were subject to difficulties and harassments.

Mahadevi Masali

Mahadevi Masali of Inehageri math made an indirect participation in the Quit India movement. She supplying food to those people who are imprisoned by authorities. She also carried letters and message while providing the food bundle. This is how she has contributed to the society by running the math and helping the freedom fighters.

Garavva Abbejeri and Yamanna Badegar

Garavva Abbejeri from Chulaki saudatti taluk took part in Quit India movement. She imprisoned for six months, from 2nd Oct 1973 at Belagaum central Jail. Yamanna Badeger from Hirekumbi, took part in this movement and imprisoned on 22nd Feb 1943 for one month.

Gangabai Hegde

Gangabai Venkataramana Hegde actively took part in no-tax campaign did hunger strike before the houses of those who purchased buffaloes in auction for default of payment of land revenue, and she was imprisoned for 6 months at Hindalagi Jail.

The Ankola, Sirsi, Siddapur in Uttar Kannada district and Hirekerur carried on the freedom struggle by remarkable performance of No-Tax campaign is undoubtedly a glorious chapter in the experiment of collective Non-violent struggle. When the properties were seized and men were taken to jail it was women who stood by them and besides routine work they engaged in the no-tax campaign. It is of this type of participation the history of women of Karnataka who took part in the no-tax campaign needs to be written in golden letters.

There is a most peculiar instance in No-Tax campaign in which the women Bhagiratamma, Ganapamma, Kulibeedu Sitamma Hosakoppa, Devamma Hemgaru, smt. Bhuvaneshwaramma, Tyagali, Laxamma Kalla, on 8th may 1932 at mavinagundi took part A clerk and Policeman (low enforcing person) Purchased the buffalo in the auction, these women sat in front of the house of a clerk and the police Hawaldar for returning the buffalo to the owners. These women were subject to great harassment and Physical torture. They ended the hunger strike only after the return of buffalo. In this way they delected even the low enforcing persons. However it is sad to record that Kallala Kaveramma Dodamane Mahadevamma were sentenced to imprisonment for three months.

Thus women's played very significant role in Karnataka freedom struggle. The Karnataka women took part in the freedom struggle with others but with a difference angle that is some new directions, new activities and new moments were undertaken by the women freedom fighters of Karnataka.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

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