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ROLE OF SAMARTHA SADGURU MADHAVANANDA PRABHUJI OF INCHAGERI MATHA IN THE INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE





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ABSTRACT:

Only the Names of the leaders like Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Nehru, Sardar Vallabhabai Patel is much popular in the Indian freedom Struggle. In fact thousands of freedom fighters have sacrificed their life and were jailed during the nation's freedom struggle. It's their efforts, sacrifice and martyrdom which have enabled India to be come in dependent. Undoubtedly, their life and struggle inspired not only the people of

those days but it also inspires the people of present days. Shri Murugod Mahadevappa (Samartha Sadguru Madhavananda Prabhuji) was one amongst such freedom fighters who selflessly fought for the nation's independence. British government has arrested Samartha Sadguru Madhavananda and sent him to jail many a times. He established an organization against the British and individually protested against British rule and played a prominent and descriptive role in setting India free from the cusps of the British. The freedom which we are enjoying today is nothing but the result of Non-Violent and Violent struggles of those freedom fighters. The contribution of these leaders towards the Nation's freedom is very precious and enormous

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KEYWORDS

Freedom Struggle, British, Samarth Sadguru, Prison, Arrest, Philosophy, Inchageri, Punishment, Organization, Protests, Balapaksha, Mavala Paksha Struggle.

INTRODUCTION:

Indian history has a unique background when compared to that of the historical studies of the various nations. The transformation of the nation from the ancient to medieval and to modern era comprises background of an intense struggle. There existed Verna system during the ancient era later in the medieval era there was rule of Moghal kings. During the early modern age, India came under the British administration and later the British snatched all the rights and freedom from the Indians and they exploited Indians and started treating Indians as slaves. History reveals that several struggles have taken place against this slavery and exploitation. The Freedom struggle during 18th and 19th century to set India free from the exploitation of the British rule gradually spread all over the nation. The freedom struggle was both violent and non-violent in nature. Several thousands of brave leaders sacrificed their lives during the freedom struggle. Samartha Sadguru Madhavananda Prabhu was one of such dedicated leader, sage from Inchageri who wholeheartedly got involved in the Indian freedom struggle. Undoubtedly it can be said that Madhava Prabhu was one of the great freedom fighter.

Samartha Sadguru Madhavananda Prabhu:

The Hymn of Vedic period quoted below:

'Yadayadahi Dharmasya Glanirbhavati Bharatha Abhyuthhanadharmasya Tadatmanam Srujamahyam',

Evinces that the when religion comprising of legitimacy and spirituality is experiences perdition, injustice, illegitimacy acquires supremacy and irreligious aspects mount the peak. Then the Supreme God deputes the divine atom in the form reformer of mankind to the earth. Likewise Mahadevappa was born as the third son in an orthodox family on 2nd November, 1915 to the Shaiva couples Shivaprabhu and Kalamma at Veerapur Colony of Hubli. His parents were the followers of philosophical concepts. As the surname of the family was Murgod he became popular as Murugod Mahadevappa.

After the birth the body of the infant remained unmoved for 13 days. Sa.Sa. Girimalleshwara Maharaja the Religious prophet of Inchageri culture arrived to Mahadevappa house and rested his palms on the forehead of the infant. Later the infant returned to normal state and attained consciousness and started to lead a normal life. Then the Girimalleshwara uttered that Mahadevappa is born for the freedom of the nation and he also stated that Mahadevappa's name will be immortal in the history. As days passed Mahadevappa was admitted to school. But his education was limited to 4th standard only. At the age of 16 urge to serve for the welfare of the humanity made him to become the disciple of Girimalleshwara. He was very spiritual, with the consent of Guru Girimalleshwar he established a youth organizations at Hubli, Haveri, Gadag and jumped into freedom struggle.

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Role of Mahadevappa in Indian Freedom Struggle:

In 16th Century with the consent of Britain gueen Elizabeth on 31st December 1600 British started trade in India. Gradually the trade of British progressed and the trade was spread throughout the country. The expanded trade enabled the British to shelter in India. The Regulating Act 1773 empowered British to Administrate in India. In the name of trade British established their empire and started exploiting the Indians. Periodically they passed various regulations with the view to control Indians and started commanding the Indians. The Indian Leaders raised voice against the British mishandling and misadministration and called for the First Freedom struggle in 1857. The objectives of the Indian freedom fighters were gain the fundamental rights and independence. The Indian Freedom fighters' hope of having self government and freedom from British exploitation got strengthened and as a result of the same Indian National Congress was established in 1885. After the Bengal division in 1905 the Indian National Congress was split into two divisions viz Intensified (Violent) and Moderate (Non Violent) divisions. The Non Violent group headed by Mahatma Gandhi advanced to gain independence through non violence. Whilst the other group violent group was headed by Subash Chandra Bose, Lala Rajpat Rai, Balagangahdar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal advanced to gain independence through violence. Sa. Sa. Shri Murgod Mahadevappa (Madhavanand Prabhuji) was the one of the freedom fighter who was blend with both the violent and non-violent concepts. In a National Congress Conference held at Calcutta in 1928 under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru an agreement of absolute independence was unanimously accepted. Accordingly Independence Day was celebrated on 26th January 1930. The British government was not shocked by this development and arrested several Indian leaders. The news of the arrest of leaders was spread all across the country. The British action of arresting the freedom fighters was severely condemned in Karnataka the struggle took an intensive form. Madhavananda Prabhu of Inchigeri temple called a meeting of his followers and framed the nature of struggle. In view of expanding and empowering the organization Madhavananda Prabhuji spent much of the days visiting various places. He strengthened the organization and the numbers of the members was significantly raised. With the consent of his scholar Girimalleshwara and guidance Tutor Sidrammayya Shirahattimath he came to the opinion that it is impossible to get freedom through non violence and it is worthy to gain freedom through violent means. For the first time, in the National Congress Conference held at Haripur in 1938 he congregated thousand followers from Maharashtra and Karnataka and travelled to Haripura.

Murugod Mahadevappa in 1938 Congress Conference:

Before attending the 1938 Congress Conference Murgod Mahadevappa was arrested for delivering a speech for Indian Independence and kept in jail for a month. Mahadevappa participated in the 1938 Haripura Congress Conference which involved both the forms of Congress. Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi the frontiers of Bala Party and Mavala Party respectively also participated in the Congress summit at Haripura. On the third day of the conference, Mahatma Gandhi addressed to about four thousand people and few of the leaders supported Gandhiji's concepts of freedom struggle. Then was the turn of Subhash Chandra Bose. Addressing to the people Bose quoted "Hit should be answered through hit, and bullet should be answered through Bullet", Begging or pleading does not avail freedom instead struggle should be ferocious in nature. Mahadevappa stood up and articulated

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DOAJ Google Scholar BASE EBSCO that "Freedom is our birth right, Religious Freedom can be attained only through Political freedom". He further opined that these aspects are genuine, truth is god, victory is certain if we struggle honestly and dedicatedly, cowards cannot survive; one should rise up suppressing cowardliness. He preached that if in a struggle if the life is spared it's a freedom and if the life is lost it's a heaven. There was a debate in the meeting and an election was conducted to elect the Congress President. Mahadevappa uttered that Subhash Chandra Bose will be elected as the President. By the support of members from Bengal and Karnataka Subhash Chandra Bose was elected as the President. 'Later, when Subhash Chandra Bose visited Hubli, Mahadevappa greeted him to Girish Ashram at Vidyanagar, Hubli and the matters of Indian Freedom struggle was discussed.'

Participation of Murgod Mahadevappa in struggle of Non Cooperation and Violation of Laws:

The British government imposed tax on salt and restricted production of salt without the license of British government. Gandhi called for protestation against taxation of salt on 06-04-1930. The protestation started with marching from Dandi. Salt was reason of revolution. This struggle had impact on Karnataka too. The protest started by March from Hubli to Ankola Murgod Mahadevappa himself was heading the team. Mahadevappa was assisted by Kalakamba teacher of Banahatti and Neelakanta Ganachari. The British Government arrested the participants in the protest under the Section 144 for violation of Laws.

Protest against Foreign Clothes: Mahadevappa

Mahadevappa firmly believed that 'Khadi is the only way to Nation, Khadi is the way to Heaven'. Mahadevappa always never wore clothes other than Khadi. Mahadevappa used to wear Khadi shirt, Dhoti and a Black Khadi cap. (He wore Black Khadi cap until India became independent later he wore White Khadi cap). The Indians were fascinated by Khadi and locked 21 textile mills producing foreign clothes. Thus locking the foreign textile mills started protesting against foreign clothes. Mahadevappa as a leading freedom fighter travelled to various places like Dharwad, Hubli, Gadag, Belagavi, Raibagh, Athani, Chikkodi, Vijayapur, Jamakhandi, Banahatti, Bilagi, Mudhol, Jatta, Badami etc and propagated the importance of Khadi and condemned the foreign clothes and suggested the people to wear only khadi clothes.

Individual movement of Murgod Mahadevappa in the Indian Freedom Struggle:

The protests for Indian Independence were of two types. The first one is an organized and united protest and the other is an individual or Personal protest. Vinodha Bhave was the leader of the individual protest. Murgod Mahadevappa was the follower of Vinodha Bhave. Mahadevappa with the permission of Mahatma Gandhi voluntarily started to protest against British started on 01-01-1941 in front of the Girimaleshwara Temple of Inchageri. British termed this as violation of laws and arrested Mahadevappa. He was sent to Bijapur jail. He started protestation in front of Someshwara temple at Hippargi for the second time in November 1941. About 1500 followers participated in this protest. M.P.Patil Advocate of Dundur, Andaneppa Doddameti, Sardar Veeragouda, Tallur Rayanagoudar, Hooli Venkaraddi, Annu Guruji were prominent amongst the protestors. The British government arrested the

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DOAJ Google Scholar DRJI BASE EBSCO Open J-Gate protestors and sends them to Hindalga Jail at Belgaum. British warned the freedom fighters that, they will be jailed for a period of Eight months in case of delivering provocative speech. Madhavananda did not bow to British threat and furthered his protestation. Therefore he was arrested and jailed in Yarawada. The protest got intensified day by day. The British government was unable to find the way to come out of it. A Congress Conference was organized at Mumbai on 8th August 1942 wherein the "Quit India Movement" agenda framed by the Working Committee was unanimously accepted. British becoming aware of this development thought of somehow The British wanted to somehow create a problem to the protestors by creating food shortage. British government passed a control order stating that nobody are allowed to store food commodities more than six gunny bags.

In such circumstances while Gouda of Karadikoppa was transporting 30 bullock carts of food grains to the freedom fighters. Some of the traitors planned to capture some of the carts and thought of handing over to British. Realizing this factor Mahadevappa himself cleverly disguised as a Police made the food grains to reach the protestors. Because of this reason some called Mahadevappa as a traitor, terrorist and Gunda. But this did not affect Mahadevappa. Mahadeppa continued his freedom struggle.

Murgod Mahadevappa in Quit India Movement:

The movement against British got intensified in India. Mahatma Gandhi appealed British to Quit India and called for the protest in 1942. As a result of this Mahatma Gandhi was arrested. Mahatma Gandhi from the jail suggested the freedom to keep protesting. As per the directions of Gandhi, in Karnataka Mahadevappa took the leadership and made a provocative speech, made the patriotism reach the peak and suggested the protestors to destroy the British Administration mechanism. not without harming the public property. He suggested to destroy the government property and started flag hosting, strikes and procession. The Government Post Office was destroyed. Railway lanes were detached, the property of Gouda Kulkarni was seized and Police Station was destroyed.

In order to oppose the British administration he established a arms manufacturing centres and started training centres at Kottalgi of Athani taluk, Sonihal of Jath taluk and Asuti at Ron taluk to train freedom fighters to use the weapons. Mahadevappa was intolerable for the British. 25 railway stations were completely destroyed by freedom fighters of Karnataka. The forums at Kerakalamatti, Chandargi, Mahalingapur, Naganuru were destroyed. In return the British arrested the protestors and were jailed at Bijapur. Mahadevappa was later shifted to Hindalga Jail at Belagaum. Mahadevappa suffered 6 months jail and then got released.

Brave Women Participants of Freedom Struggle in Mahadevappa Troop:

Mahadevappa's team of Freedom Struggle consisted not only men in its team. But it also included brave women who can be role model for the present day. This is one of the characteristic features of Mahadevappa's team of freedom struggle. Several thousand of women participated in the 1942-43 Quit India movement amongst them prominent are Gijavva Angadi, Mahadevi Masalli, Veeramma Shirahattimath. Women joined hand in hand with the men and assisted in destructive activities like disconnecting the telegraph cables, derailing the rails, uprooting the electric poles etc. This was headache for the British.

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Destructive Activities against British by Murugod Team

- 1. Setting fire to Inchageri Police Station
- 2. Snatching away the Postal Bag at Kottalagi Post Office
- 3. Setting fire to Hulkoti Police Station
- 4. Attacking Hallur Police station
- 5. Stealing the rifle from Konnur Desai
- 6. Stealing weapons at Kottalgi

Murgod Mahadevappa organized and participated in several such activities to set India free from British. Murgod Mahadevappa kept fighting till his last breathe. He was jailed on many occasions but Mahadevappa did not stop protesting and he was a terror dream for the British.

CONCLUSION:

Madhavananda Prabhuji of Inchageri Math organized and participated in several such struggles of Indian independence and suffered jail on many occasions. But it is observed that, when we speak of Indian Freedom Struggle only two to three names are quite often mentioned. But, Madhavanand Prabhuji though does not come into picture bravely fought against British. Madhavanand Prabhuji is indeed the real hero and a real freedom fighter. Though there are several literatures mentioning the contributions of Madhavanand Prabhuji towards Indian independence, government has failed to identify the contributions of Madhavananda Prabhuji. Today it is responsibility of all of us to regard and pay homage to Madhavanand Prabhuji who has wiped the tears of thousands of people. Government has to take-up steps to honour Madhavanand Prabhuji. However, the contributions of Inchageri temple towards the Indian freedom cannot be undermined. Madhavanand Prabhuji rendered his life for the welfare of the people and country. Madhavanand Prabhuji's name can be included in the list of brave heroes comprising of Gandhi, Subhash, Bhagat etc. It would not be exaggerated if we say that Madhavanand has a brave son of Mother India.

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