PREFACE

The Liberation Struggle Of Goa has a special place in the Indian National Movement. I say this because, firstly, it was the rule of Portuguese on this land of Goa which lasted for about a period of 450 years and secondly India was ruled by a different colonial power i.e., the British. Further there was a lot of difference between the rule of Portuguese on Portuguese India or 'Estado da India' and British on British India. Though two different colonial powers, with two different types of government, were ruling on the land of Hindustan at the same period, neither the Indians nor the Goans in any way felt that Goa was different from India. In fact, if we look at the entire liberation struggle of Goa it was characterized by the two demands; (i) the liberation of Goa from Portuguese rule and (ii) its integration with the Indian Union. Even after India’s Independence in 1947, Portuguese rule in Goa was considered as the last vestige of Colonialism on Indian land and Goans as well as Indians fought to eradicate it from the Indian soil. They believed that the Indian National Movement would not come to an end if Portuguese were not driven off from India.

Thus with this background one should see the participation of Goans as well as Indians in the liberation struggle of Goa. Portuguese, in Goa, were responsible not only for colonization but also for making the natives of Goa, Christians, which continued to have its impact on Goa’s social life. Further its impact was also seen on the liberation struggle of Goa where two communities fought hand in hand. The liberation struggle of Goa was not only fought on the land of Goa but even in India and at the international level. ‘Voices In The Liberation Struggle — The Case Of Goa- 1947-61’, strives to understand the role played by the Goan as well as Indian nationalists through their voices either recorded directly or taken from the secondary sources. These are those voices which were either neglected or not given importance in the larger understanding of the liberation struggle, which was mostly dominated by the big voices.

I could complete this work with the assistance of many people. First and foremost I would express my heartfelt gratitude to my guide, Prof. Peter Ronald DeSouza, who not only encouraged me to continue my studies even after my Masters in Arts but also guided me in my research work and gave critical comments on my work. His belief that I can do much better, encouraged me to work hard all the time. Without his assistance, guidance, supervision and encouragement, it would have been impossible on my part to complete this work.
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