ABSTRACT

Of Ph.D. thesis entitled:

“CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION OF SATAVAHANA’S IN THE HISTORY OF DECCAN”

The history of South India begins from the history of Satavahana. The history of Satavahanas has been studied up till now in a political history view point and the socio cultural history of the period has remained unexplored. There is a need to study cultural history in a new sociological view point. Social and cultural aspects of the period require a serious treatment. Satavahana’s or Shaliwahana’s dynasty has played an important role in the history of South India, when fortunes of Indian culture were flourished. Satavahana dynasty has contributed a great deal for enriching Indian culture. The Satavahana’s ruled for more than four centuries and provided peace and glory towards the history of Deccan. While there was uncertainty and instability in South India, Satavahanas’ contributed a great deal in the field of art, literature, and culture. They not only ruled south India but also they ruled entire sub continent and which was vast geographical and cultural expression. Pratisthan or Paithan was a capital of this dynasty and it was epi-centre of socio economic and cultural change, which continued for more than three hundred years. Trade and commerce accelerated and equally art and architecture also flourished in the region. Activity of scooping of rock cut caves began for the first time in the Deccan. Further local literature in Paishachi or Prakrit language received tremendous impetus. There was all round development in different aspects of cultural life. In this research work cultural history of Satavahanas will be properly highlighted, which was not thoroughly explored up till now.

Findings:

Major findings are drawn on the basis of testing of hypothesis and verification of objectives. For this purpose as per theoretical frame of the subject as per guidelines in the sources of historical studies, all types of sources such as literary, archeological and folk tales were collected and ideas were testified and examined by examining these
facts. The major findings are based on new outlook and new vision. The new sociological approach has helped to evolve these findings.

On the basis of the detailed facts and figures collected and sources explored the following major findings have been presented here:

1. The Satavahana period witnessed all round development in Deccan and this had reflected in the well developed cultural life of the period. The material as well as spiritual development was parallel in the period.
2. The political stability had led towards social peace and economic prosperity. The trade and commerce had flourished a great deal for betterment of cultural life.
3. All the three major Indian religions – Hindu, Buddhist and Jainism were living together side by side and the harmony in religious life was responsible for enhancing productivity of the period.
4. The art and architecture and literature flourished in the period due to proper support provided by the Satavahana rulers. The cave temples were carved out. Numbers of literary works were produced. Hala’s Gatha Saptashati and Gunadhaya’s Brahatkatha amply testifies this fact.
5. Literature in Prakrit language flourished a great deal. Fine arts also developed the reflection of material inscriptions in Pitalkhora caves and some panels in Aurangabad caves amply testify the phenomenon.
6. There was a correlation in political, social and economic life leading towards overall development of cultural life in a systematic manner.
7. The well developed cave architecture in western India reveals that there was a neat development of the art and architecture in the period. The cave temples at Nasik, Karle, Rajtadag and Naneghat amply testify this fact.
8. The development of spiritual knowledge and secular aspects go hand in hand leading towards stability and prosperity of life.
9. The Satavahana rulers were progressive. The flexible social and religious life led towards social and economic development reaching cultural life at height.

Chapter Summary:
In this research work following chapters were explained and brief summary of each chapter is presented below:

**Chapter I: The Historical Background:**

In this chapter brief political history of Satavahanas was described as a background to the Cultural Revolution during the period. Sources of history, objectives, significance were also highlighted and future line of study was illustrated.

**Chapter II: Research Methodology:**

In this chapter historical method and sociological approach was briefly pinpointed. The archeological survey method has been explained. Further important excavation reports and their content were judged carefully to support cultural life of the period.

**Chapter III: Review of Literature:**

In this chapter review of literature was undertaken. Entire subject in three categories, such as International, National and Local studies.

A limitations a earlier scholars were noted and future challenge were discus.

**Chapter IV: Socio Economic Life:**

This chapter has illustrated social dynamics and prosperity in the economic field which was based on trade and commerce. Free trade was able to establish quality of Indian products in the global market.

**Chapter V: Harmony in Religious Life.**

The Satavahana rulers were followers of Vedic religion but they supported Buddhism in a catholic manner. Their tolerance towards Buddhism and Jainism was a high magnitude.

**Chapter VI: Contribution in the Field of Art and Architecture:**
In this chapter important outstanding Buddhist caves of Satavahana period prevailing at Nasik, Aurangabad and Bombay-Pune belt were documented and studied properly. The study of sculptures, important master pieces, dress design, costumes and coiffure, ornamentation, dance and music as well as some other aspects which were highlighted here.

Chapter VII: Flourishment in Literature:

The study of few important works written by Hala Gunadhaya was conducted in this chapter. Buddhist and Jain literature were also summarized. The folk tales were also documented.

Chapter VIII: Conclusion:

In this chapter first brief summary was presented, important findings as conclusions were drawn and new theoretical interpretation was also highlighted.

New Theory:

Satavahana period thus witnessed all round progress in southern Deccan leading towards golden age. Their empire had spread from the bank of Godavari river to her merger in the sea. As per Magasthenise’s Indica had more than 30 metro cities flourished in their rule. They had very powerful and flourishing trade centers in the Deccan, which were well connected with sea routes to Greek and Roman empires. The entire balance of trade was in their favor and continuous gold and silver ornaments were exported through ports. The Indian trade was demanded on large scale and Paithani sarees, woven by skilled artists were largely demanded in western countries.

The study of Satavahana’s cultural contribution can lead to understand their artistic achievements in the excellent forms of art work in the field of sculptures, textiles and jewelry as well.

7.8. Summary:
Thus in this study a new approach towards the cultural life was developed. In the ancient period the GDP in Satavahana period was more than 30% flourished in the Satavahana period. The Western Deccan witnessed all round development in the Satavahana period. A steady and continuous development of these centers led towards stability in political and social life which was responsible for economic prosperity. The economic prosperity had led towards development in the field of cultural life. The overall development awareness was created in Deccan and the society as a whole witnessed a high water mark in every field of political life revealing significant growth in cultural life.

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