PREFACE

Reading of the history of National Movement in Orissa has ever proved to be a great pleasure for me. The role of the Satyabadi School forms a glorious chapter in the rise of nationalism in Orissa. With the birth of the Indian National Congress in 1885 there began an organised political life in this dependent country. With this background of the Indian political life, we shall proceed with the history of the political movement in Orissa.

The ideas and ideals of Keshab Chandra found their way into Orissa and the movement for social reform began under the leadership of Fakir Mohan Senapati, the Maharaja of Mayurbhanj, Mr. M. S. Das, Madhusudan Rao and Gopabandhu Das. These leaders dedicated their lives to the cause of their country and proceeded a long way in their movement for social reform and political awakening. A wave of nationalism was now sweeping over the entire length and breadth of this mighty sub-continent.

The Satyabadi School was started in 1909. Pandit Gopabandhu Das founded the Satyabadi Vana Vidyalaya for implementing the national awakening in practical field. The prime aim of this institution was to provide equal opportunity of education to the children of the rich and the poor irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. The activities, thought and even the personal life of the Sadhakas of Satyabadi have remained as ideals for the people of Orissa in the subsequent periods in the social and political fields. In the fields of education and public service the ideals and activities of the Satyabadi School are still cherished in the public mind of Orissa.

The Satyabadi group or the Big Five or the Panchasakhas like Gopabandhu Das, Nilakantha Das, Godavarish Mishra, Krupasindhu Mishra and Harihara Das contributed much for the making of modern Orissa. They played a vital role in the
national movement in Orissa. The topic 'Satyabadi epoch in the history of modern Orissa' has almost always thrilled me instinctively and has ever proved to be a permanent source of joy for me. But no research work has been done in this field. So I decided to continue my research work in this field with the approval of my Guide Dr. Sarat Chandra Patra. Since the topic entitled "A Study on Satyabadi epoch in the history of Modern Orissa" remains largely an unexplored area, it provided necessary encouragement to me to make an indepth study of the subject. The purpose of my research work is to highlight some unexplored aspect.

Very few scholars have worked recently on the history of Orissa under the British Rule. Dr. B. C. Roy's 'Foundations of British Orissa' (1960), Prof. P. Mukherjee's 'History of Orissa', Vol. VI (1964), Dr. K. M. Patra's 'Orissa under the East India Company' (1971) and J. K. Samal's 'Orissa Under the British Crown' (1977) deal with the history of the region in the 19th century. The history of the Freedom Movement in Orissa (1957-59) edited by Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab (in five volumes) and Dr. Mahtab's own History of Orissa, Vol. II (1960) while dealing with the history of the present century, have focussed neither upon the growth of racial consciousness among the Oriya-speaking people, nor on their fervent search for a political and geographical identity. No work has so far come to light, portraying the role of the Oriya elite class and the importance of Satyabadi epoch in creating a national resurgence in Orissa for the creation of modern Orissa in 1936.

This, therefore, is the first attempt at recording the socio-cultural and political developments in Orissa during 1900-1936. This thesis consists of five chapters and a concluding observation.

The First chapter deals with the origin and development of the Satyabadi School. In this chapter origination and chronological development of the Satyabadi School have been
discussed. Special attention has been focussed on the growth of nationalism in Orissa.

The Second chapter deals with the leaders of the Satyabadi School, their associates and their ideologies. The main aim and intention of the leaders for the establishment of the Satyabadi School has been discussed. Their ideologies in life form a special feature in this chapter.

Chapter third analyses the noble pattern of education at the Satyabadi School and its impact in the socio-cultural history of Orissa.

Chapter four deals with the contribution of the Satyabadi leaders to the Oriya literature which constitutes an era of Literary Renaissance in Orissa. In this Chapter emphasis has been laid upon the growth of Oriya literature and how the leaders of the Satyabadi School became the most successful writers and poets.

Chapter fifth analyses the background of the national consciousness, the development of the Oriya movement from 1900-1936 and the role of the Utkal Union Conference in effecting a resurgence among the Oriya-speaking people. How Orissa participated in the Freedom Movement under the leadership of the Satyabadi Group has also been examined in this Chapter.

Lastly I conclude that the Satyabadi leaders are the real makers of modern Orissa and Pandit Gopabandhu Das the Chief architect was the uncrowned king of Orissa.

Gitiranli Dash (Gitarani Dash)
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY,
S.A.MAHAVIDYALAYA,BALIPATNA
PURI, ORISSA.