

## CHAPTER - I

### INTRODUCTION

Regional developments in the Indian National movement have been attracting the attention of the scholars. The present study is an attempt to evaluate the course of National Movement from 1905-47 in the Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. Forming central part of Andhra region, the Krishna District is known for its relative prosperity. This was due to the fact that the region was brought under the delta system through the construction of the Godavari and Krishna anicuts around 1850. This led to the growth of small towns and urban areas became centres of education. The urban based educated middle classes took to new professions and this led to social mobility. These urban based educated middle classes initiated new ideas and provided the base for reform movements.

Kandukuri Veerasalingam (1848-1919) was the pioneer of public life in Andhra and reform movements were associated with his name. Veerasalingam like the Maharashtrian reformers like Ranade, Bhandarkar

etc., believed that social reform should take place along with political reform. He advocated the manufacture of Indian products. He pleaded for the representation of Indians in the local government institutions and also in the Viceroy's council. The influence of Brahma Samaj was evident in Andhra and it represented Indian response to Western rationalism.

Indian National Congress was founded in 1885. This event led to the political awakening and growth of public opinion in Andhra. The first Telugu political news weekly the 'Andhra Prakasika' was started in 1885 under the editorship of A.P. Parthasarathy Nayudu as the editor.

The founding of Madras Mahajanasabha in 1884 was also responsible for the growth of national consciousness among the people. To the first session of Indian National Congress (1885) in Bombay S.V.G. Pantulu and S. Venkata Subba Rayudu of Masulipatam represented. Another important reaction to the growing public

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consciousness to the political affairs was the formation of the Krishna District Association in 1891. Indeed it was the pioneer organisation in the entire Madras presidency. With this Krishna District witnessed sharp growth in public awakening and political awareness. This nascent growth blossomed into Nationalism with the Vande Mataram and Swadeshi Movements. From 1920 to 1947, the Gandhian era, the political developments and the National movement in the Krishna District were mass based movements.

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Masulipatam in Krishna District was the nerve centre. With the growth of swadeshi and national educational institutions and the native press represented by Krishna Patrika, the Krishna District had a unique character in the national movement of the region. Moreover Bhogaraju Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the Congress biographer and close associated of Gandhi began his career at Masulipatam and <sup>was</sup> a driving force in shaping the institutions and politics of Krishna District.

Among the studies on freedom movement in Andhra, M. Venkata Rangaiah's work Freedom struggle in Andhra Pradesh gives extracts from Madras Government Archives and a survey of the various phases of the movement.<sup>1</sup> Sarojini Regani's Highlights of the Freedom Movement in Andhra Pradesh presents salient features of the Freedom Movement.<sup>2</sup> P. Raghunadha Rao also surveys the various phases of the freedom movement in Andhra, in his work on the History of Modern Andhra.<sup>3</sup>

The Freedom Movement between the years 1921-47 in the Guntur District was studied by B. Seshagiri Rao.<sup>4</sup>

The present study is based on the archival material in the Andhra Pradesh Government State Archives, and the Krishna District collectorate records. Further collection of Telugu source material extracted from the Krishna Patrika, Andhra Patrika, Swaraj, Desabhimani etc., and pamphlets are utilised.

The autobiographies of the leaders written in Telugu, are of immense help in evaluating the archival government records and the movement. The following works are consulted : A. Kale-swara Rao, Na Jeevita Kadha - Navyandhramu,<sup>5</sup> Gottipati Brahmayya, Na Jeevana Nowka.<sup>6</sup>

Besides these, in recent years, the living personalities who were participants in the Freedom movement have brought out general survey of the freedom movement in the Krishna District. This work gives insight into little known happenings in the rural areas and freedom fighters. We have also interviewed the freedom fighters in the district.

Following the introduction, the genesis and growth of Political Consciousness in Krishna District is detailed in the second chapter. The third chapter surveys the Swaraj - Swadeshi movement.

The fourth chapter deals with the Home Rule movement. The fifth chapter contains the

growth of the non-co-operation movement in  
Krishna District.

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The Sixth chapter deals with the Civil  
Disobedience Movement in Krishna District.

The seventh chapter sums up the role of  
Krishna District in the movement for the creation  
of seperate Andhra Province.

The Eighth chapter deals with the final  
phase of the Freedom Movement, peasants struggle  
and leftist movements in Krishna District.

The nineth chapter deals with the Quit  
India Movement in the Krishna District.

The conclusions of the above study are  
presented in the Tenth chapter. A note on the  
source material and bibliography are provided.

R E F E R E N C E S

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