INTRODUCTION
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IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT,

REVIEW OF LITERATURE,

HYPOTHESIS, METHODOLOGY,

AND OUTLINE OF THE STUDY

Various aspects of the History of Freedom Movement of India have attracted the attention of a number of scholars all over India and abroad. There is a mass of material available on this subject in Archives and Libraries. Hundreds of books have been published and are being published on different aspects of the freedom struggle. A study of the Civil Disobedience Movement cannot be called an untouched aspect of history for a number of books are found on the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi and various movements guided by him during India's struggle for Independence.

The scholars, now-a-days are concentrating on 'Micro History' and 'Regional History' and are trying to explore the 'Hidden Regional Contribution', the lesser known leaders of the national movement fill in the gaps left owing to the negligence of the earlier Historians who gave little attention to the Regional History.

The Central Provinces and Berar at the heart of India caught the contagion of the nationalist
spirit which was inspired by Gandhiji's mass movements. Civil Disobedience Movement which started with Gandhiji's Dandi march in 1930 and breaking of salt laws was a nation wide movement and it was no surprise that the Central Provinces and Berar followed in the footsteps of Gandhiji under the guidance of its local leaders.

In order to properly fill in the gap in the Indian History it is essential that more and more attention should be paid to its Regional History and much emphasis must be paid towards the research work on the un-explored portions. With this object in view I undertook this work.

There are a number of books available on Civil Disobedience Movement such as "Gandhi and Civil Disobedience, The Mahatma in Indian Politics" by Judith M. Brown; "Civil Disobedience and After" by Manoranjan Jha; and "Civil Disobedience in Indian Tradition" by Dharampal etc., but they have given little importance to the Central Provinces.

D.E.U. Baker's book "Changing Political Leadership in An Indian Province-The Central Provinces And Berar", however, concentrates on Central Provinces and Berar but the period of study covered by him is 1919-1939 and only a single chapter is devoted to the Civil Disobedience Movement along with a few passing references on the
Central Provinces and Berar

"Living An Era" by D.P. Mishra throws light on the various aspects of the freedom movement in the Central provinces and Berar and covers Civil Disobedience Movement. It is an interesting account but is written more or less in an autobiographical manner, therefore, it leaves untouched some important aspects such as 'Rural Scene of Civil Disobedience Movement' and the 'Cross Sectional Participation' etc.

"The History of Freedom Movement in Madhya Pradesh" edited by a Board of scholars consisting of Sitacharan Dubey, Dr. Ram Mohan Sinha, Dr. Y.K. Deshpande and M.K. Kanetkar working under the guidance of Dr. D.P. Mishra is another important book on the subject. But it gives only a surface view on the subject of Civil Disobedience Movement. Moreover it is a general history of this province and covers a huge period--from 1818 to 1947 and only makes a brief reference to the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Each and every study is based on certain hypothesis and the researchers works on certain lines. The major hypothesis of this work is to examine the beginning and the development of the Civil Disobedience Movement in Urban and Rural parts of the Central provinces and Berar. Another
hypothesis is to find out the role of lesser known tribals, villagers, youth, women and other people who contributes to its success. The third hypothesis is to test how far forest satyagraha, an altogether different and new form of civil disobedience was successful. The fourth and the last hypothesis is to ascertain the contribution of Central Province and Berar in national movement of India.

These hypotheses have been tested and I feel I have gone on the right lines. The Civil Disobedience Movement was as powerful in rural areas as it was in the urban. There was an active participation of women, youth, labourers traders and intelligentsia in it without whose contribution the movement could neither take the form of a mass movement nor could have been successful. Forest Satyagraha was a grand success thus Civil Disobedience Movement was definitely more successful in Central province and Berar.

In the absence of any published material on the topic, this study has been based on original records and interviews with the various freedom fighters.

I have mainly depended upon the original government records preserved at the National Archives of India, Nehru Memorial Museum and
Library, New Delhi; State Archives, Secretariat Record Room Satpura Bhawan and Vallabh Bhawan, M.P. State Branch of National Archives, Bhopal, which included fortnightly reports on the internal political situation of the Central Provinces and Berar, government circulars, confidential reports, reports of the Chief-Commissioners of the divisions of Central Provinces and Berar, confidential reports of the district authorities, note on Civil Disobedience Movement, relative correspondence between Secretary to the Government of India and the Chief Secretary to the Government of Central Provinces and Berar, A.I.C.C. papers, Provincial Congress Committee papers, private papers and diaries of contemporary leaders and the reports of the native newspapers. I have also consulted the records available in some of the district collectorates of Madhya Pradesh. Besides these the published records and Annual Administration Reports of the Government of Central Provinces and Berar, provided me with valuable and authentic statistics relating to my topic. The contemporary newspapers have also proved to be of immense value as these have not only provided authentic information of the day-to-day development of this movement in the province but have also given a glimpse of the great zeal, enthusiasm and devotion prevailing among all sections of the people. Certain books and unpublished Ph.D. and D.Litt. These have also been
useful as secondary source to this work.

Besides the traditional archival method used for collection of material I have attempted to derive some more information on the subject through the interviews of actual participants of the movement. I met Mr. Motilal Tripathi, Mr. Ganpat Sao Bilaspuri, Mr. Maniklal Chaturvedi, etc. and got from them some of their valuable and important private collections, but I could not make much use of them because they had participated not in the Civil Disobedience Movement but in the Quit India Movement.

On the basis of the collected literature and records the chapter writing is done. Firstly the framework of the chapters was prepared by 'Headings' and 'Sub-Headings' then the interpretation and description was done.

In my I Chapter I have dealt Background with the salient features of Central provinces and Berar in one section and meaning and philosophy of the Civil Disobedience in another. In the II Chapter I have traced out the causes and circumstances leading to the movement and preparations for launching it. III Chapter deals with the Urban scene of Civil Disobedience Movement in the Central Provinces and Berar. I have splitted it into four sub-headings i.e. Salt Satyagrah
Picketing, Boycott and Reading of Seditious Literature. Likewise IV chapter is also divided into three sub-chapters i.e. Forest Satyagraha, Mob Agitation and No-Tax Campaign giving the Rural scene. V chapter deals with the participation of different groups like women, youth, labourers and intelligentsia. VI and the last chapter deals with the repression and repressive policies adopted by the government towards the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The thesis ends with the Conclusion, Appendix and Bibliography.

Present Thesis "A Study of Some Aspects of Civil Disobedience Movement in the Central Provinces and Berar", is a humble effort to highlight the Civil Disobedience Movement in the Central Provinces and Berar thus illustrating that Central Provinces and Berar was not lagging behind in the national-political consciousness and has contributed to the success of the movement. Not only this, it also proves that Central Provinces and Berar has its role in the freedom struggle and deserves an honourable place in the annals of freedom struggle and the modern political history of India.