CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION
The word 'Freedom Struggle', brings vividly to our minds the saga of sacrifices made by millions, some of whom laid down their lives in a blazing trail of glory. Bondage, whether social, economic or political, has always evoked intense resistance the world over. The history of foreign domination in India is replete with acts of courage, sacrifice and dedication to the cause of freedom.

The Indian political scene was stormed by a galaxy of leaders and illustrious personalities like Rani Channamma, Rani Laxmibai, Gandhiji, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and others. The revolt against British rule goes back to the heroic struggles of Hyder Ali, Tippu Sultan and later the Sepoys' Mutiny of 1857 which has been generally considered as the First Freedom Movement in India. With the advent of great leaders like, Tilak, Gandhiji, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vithalbhai Patel and Sardar Patel on the national scene, the methods and means of the struggle changed.
But over the decades the fight for freedom of the country was continued with the same dedication, singleness of purpose and solidarity. The heroes of our freedom struggle came from every corner of the country. They did not speak one language. They did not belong to one religion or one caste. They rose above these narrow loyalties and considerations. Intense love for their motherland and keenness to see the country free permeated all their existence. That was the single thread of unity that bound them all. Free India has been built on untold sacrifices made by numerous individuals.

The title of the thesis is 'Role of Bijapur District in the Indian Freedom Struggle'.

The researcher chose this problem because though there are several works on freedom movement in India and Karnataka, there has been no systematic study of the freedom movement in Bijapur district, and its role in such movement. This kind of study will give a chance to assess the important role played by Bijapur district in the freedom movement. This thesis will therefore attempt to fill this gap.
Efforts have been made in the present thesis to critically analyse and evaluate the role of Bijapur district in the Indian Freedom Struggle. The spirit of nationalism triumphed in this district and the untold sacrifices of the people of the district have been brought to the light.

This part of the study includes the meaning, importance and concept of freedom and freedom movement. The period of about two hundred years of revolution is divided into two parts, since the arrival of the British. The first hundred years of insurrection from 1757 to 1857 is called as "Armed Insurrection". The second part of the revolution is called as Freedom Movement from 1857 to 1947. The nationwide struggle applies to the first war of Indian Independence in 1857.

This study has been undertaken with the following objectives:

a) To study in general the struggle for freedom from 1757 to 1947.
b) To study the history of freedom movement in Karnataka from 1757 to 1947.

c) To assess the contribution of Bijapur district to the Indian freedom struggle, and

d) to bring to light the sacrifices made by a number of freedom fighters of Bijapur district like, Chanabasappa Ambli, Hanumanthrao Koujalagi, Tammaji Mirajkar, Kaka Karkhanis and others, who laid down their lives for the cause of freedom of India.

Based on this, broad conclusions are drawn with reference to the role played and contribution made by Bijapur district in national movement and the freedom struggle. The role of charismatic leadership, revolutionary consciousness and the impact of time and environment as also the prevailing temper of the people in the success of the national movement is discussed at relevant places in this study.
A sincere attempt has been made here to give justice to the study. It is hoped that this study is going to yield new information about the lesser known aspect of the history of freedom movement in India vis-a-vis Karnataka and Bijapur district. The study is field oriented.

The present study has been developed mainly on the following types of sources. (a) Primary sources (b) Secondary and (c) Interviews.

The researcher has collected material with the help of primary sources like, published and unpublished articles, diaries, journals, newspaper editorials, letters to and from freedom fighters etc. In the course of the field survey for collecting the information the researcher interviewed some of the important freedom fighters of the district and collected relevant material. Since the researcher comes from the same district (of Muddebihal taluk, Bijapur district) and knows the language of the people, i.e. Kannada, there was no problem with regard to communication with them.
Records such as books, diaries, articles, are verified and available sources are entered as the secondary sources for the thesis.

During the course of the study the researcher collected material from some libraries in Bijapur district like the District Library Bijapur, Muddebihal Taluk Library etc., and also some of the Congress Committee offices namely, the Bijapur District Congress Committee, Taluka Congress Committee office, Sindagi, Muddebihal etc. In addition he also collected valuable material from the Karnataka University Library Dharwad and Library of the Department of the Gandhian Studies, Karnataka University, Dharwad.

As regards methodology, the principal methods like historical, analytical, comparative, interview or discussion method are employed in this work.

The thesis is divided into six chapters as follows:
The first chapter is the introduction.

In the second chapter entitled: "Freedom Movement in India - A Historical Background", an attempt has been made to focus attention mainly on the freedom movement in India, as a background study.
This part of the study covers the advent of the British in India as simple merchants and how they established their supremacy over India. How Indians revolted against the vile nature of the Britishers is narrated. This chapter also includes the meaning, importance and concept of freedom and freedom movement. The two hundred years revolution since the arrival of the British is divided into two parts. The first hundred years revolt from 1757 to 1857 is called "Armed Insurrections". The second part of the revolt is called "The Freedom Movement in India". The first hundred years insurrections occurred due to reasons such as political causes, economic causes, religious causes etc. The Indian principalities or rulers were not having a complete idea of freedom movement. They mainly revolted against the British due to their personal grievances.

This chapter also contains how these individual causes gave rise to a nationwide revolution. This nationwide struggle applies to the first war of Indian Independence. Though Britishers called it the 'Sepoy Mutiny', for us it is the first war of Indian Independence. It is also explained how this first war of Indian Independence led to the organised movement or revolution.
The causes and the consequences of this revolt are also viewed. The birth of the Indian National Congress and arrival of Mahatma Gandhi on the horizon of the Indian freedom struggle is also discussed. Gandhiji's advocacy of non-violence (Ahimsa) is also dealt with. This part of study also refers to the famous Dandi March, in protest against the salt tax laid by the Government and also the Quit India Movement of 1942.

This two hundred years of continuous struggle for freedom ended in gaining freedom.

The third chapter entitled: "Contribution of Karnataka to the Freedom struggle of India", deals with the traditional culture and heritage of Karnataka, the ancient dynasties.

This chapter also includes a study of armed insurrections and their success. Here, some of the references are made to the freedom fighters who had participated and devoted their life completely in the freedom struggle, namely, Rani Channamma, Dhondaji Waugh, Raja Venkatappa Naik and others.
This chapter also deals with the Bedas of Halagali who revolted against the 'Arms Act' and sacrificed their lives for the sake of their motherland.

This part of the study covers the birth of the Indian National Congress, the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Karnataka during the freedom struggle and also his role in the All-India Congress Session held at Belgaum in the year 1924.

"Udayavagali Namma Chaluva Kannada Nadu" (the national song of Karnataka) written by Narayanrao Huilgol was sung in this session. This chapter gives in brief an account of Ankola Satyagrah, the freedom movement in Hyderabad Karnataka and the impact of 1942 Quit India Movement. Besides, it covers and picturises the revolutionaries of Coorg District.

In the fourth chapter entitled: "Role of Bijapur District in the Indian Freedom Struggle", attention is focussed mainly on the role played by the Bijapur District in the freedom struggle from 1757 to 1947. This part of
the study discusses the origin of the name and importance of this town, the legendary and background history of the Bijapur District with reference to Aihole, Badami, Bagalkot, Galagali, etc. The researcher gives accounts of the uprisings against the British since 1757, like "Sindagi Bandaya" of 1824 Revolution in Badami (1841), etc., etc.

In 1857 War of Independence, many Armed Insurrections took place. Among them was the revolt of Halagali Bedas of Mudhol Taluk and their struggle against the Arms Act has been depicted in this chapter titled as 'The Brave deeds of Halagali Bedas'.

The researcher has also dealt with the National Movement under the Indian National Congress from 1885 onwards and discusses the part played by the leaders who led the movement successfully. This also deals with the statement made by Gandhiji to the people, when he visited Bijapur. It is as follows:

"So long as our flag remains in paper, our freedom also will remain in paper".
It also covers the role of Gandhiji in Non-Cooperation Movement, Salt Satyagrah and Quit India Movement. It includes a detailed study of the role of the Bijapur district during the Quit India Movement. An account is also given of the rigorous participation of the people in the struggle for freedom for nearly 200 years culminating in Independence for India in the year 1947.

The fifth chapter entitled "Profiles of select freedom fighters of the Bijapur District", mainly gives profiles of a few notable freedom fighters of the district like Chanabasappa Ambli, Hanumanthrao Koujalagi, Thammaji Mirajkar, B.D. Jatti and a few others. The contribution made by these leaders is highlighted.

The sixth and final chapter entitled "The Final Estimation" is related to the critical evaluation of the role of Bijapur District in the Indian Freedom Struggle.

A select bibliography is appended at the end of the thesis.