CHAPTER-VI

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The unique freedom fighter, Hosamani Siddappa was born in 1880. It was time, which had experienced the first war of independence. However the great men are made by the time and circumstances. Thus the birth of the freedom fighters including Hosamani Siddappa, during the crucial days of Freedom Movement, made them the leaders and the freedom fighters. Infact today India is breathing freely because of the strains of such freedom fighters. Freedom is an essential element life of man and the nation. It is like life breath. When it is disturbed and the exploitation reaches the peak the protest is natural. In the same way many of our freedom fighters struggled days and nights to gain the freedom. Most of them sacrificed their private property and even life.

Hosamani Siddappa was such a great leader who preferred the national interest to his private life. North Karnataka was fortunate enough to have that leader in those crucial days. For any type of collective work eminent leadership is essential. His did that for all the nation lovers. He was a great patriot, freedom fighter, Mobilizer of people, organizer of congress party, leader in north Karnataka and led many movements.

He was the inspiring source for the workers. He was quite different from many other leaders. Hence he was consulted for all-important decisions. He was at the front in the movements. He was among few
leaders who served the country for more than five decades. Adventure and scarifies marked his whole life. The work of estimating his personality is a formidable one. His was the many faceted personality, who was selflessly and fruitfully active all his life. He was short in stature but reached the apex of the status in the nation. Not to deny that he was a regional freedom fighter but his contribution to Indian nationalism was significant.

**HIS LIFE AS FREEDOM FIGHTER:**

His career as freedom fighter started in 1905. The first man to influence him was Tilak. The family background and the culture of the family also made him a nation lover. Meanwhile he was much attracted by the seditious speeches of Tilak. Hence Poona was the first place and 1905 Swadeshi Movement led by Tilak was the first movement he participated. Since then his life as a freedom fighter was dedicated and fruitful.

Though he had to face many problems in the family as the only son of his parents, he never bathed about personal life. His cousins, father, uncle, and aunts were all national lovers. Hence he never looked back after 1905. After completion of his education he started career as lawyer. In his profession he was quite different from others. Never he wished to amass wealth. He utilized his profession for the sake of poor, down trodden and for the sake of freedom fighters.
Most of the times he was the friend, philosopher and guide to the freedom fighters in north Karnataka during his time. His intellected ability, farsighted prediction of the politics of the nation. Was always expected by his contemporaries “he only could predict the politics perfectly hence he was to be consulted for every decisions in the freedom movement in north Karnataka. Many leaders like Mohare Hanumantha Rao, Ranga Rao Diwakar, T.R.Neshti, Mailar Mahadev and many others were working under his guidance”. He was unique in his ability and character.

His role in the freedom movement was not just restricted to us adviser and guide. He was an active worker also. Valasangad Panchakshari, Mannangi Ramanand and the woman leaders like Indirabhai Khore and others were the precious leaders he trained and pulled in to the freedom movement.

He actively participated and led the protest of Simon Commission in 1927 at Haveri. He organized procession in Haveri. The arrack shops were closed. Thus he was a successful leader in Haveri particularly. North Karnataka cannot forget his role in the Dandi March in 1930. He was one among the leaders who organized the people in Karwar, Sirsi, and Siddapur prior to Dandi Satyagraha. No doubt his inspiring speeches made the people to raise and take part in the Salt Movement.

1. Interviewed, Hiregoudar, I.G., Dharawad,
One more important weapon used by the Indians in National Movement against the Britishers was the Forest Satyagraha in 1930. The main objective of that was to prevent the production of arrack. The drinking of intoxicating drugs had created many social evils. The British Government developed it. Hence the freedom fighters thought of destroying the source of arrack. For this cutting of toddy trees was observed.

Hosamani Siddappa was the leader for all workers in and surrounding Haveri. He led the movement in Haveri, Savanur and Siggaun. The timely and tactic decisions took by the leader, made the movement successful. He cheated the British officers. So that the workers could be able to cuts the toddy trees. Particularly at Karadur and near Siggaun he could collect all people like Merchants, Farmer and so on. That shows his mobilizing work. He did not just work on his won. He collected and joined many hands. He roused the love for nation in their hearts. That type of work done by him has not been bought into light for many reasons. His successful efforts are but still alive with few of his contemporaries. His job in the Freedom Movement was not only to awaken the people but also he worked with them.

He was the deciding man in the protest of the auction of the grasslands at the outskirts of the villages. The grassland grown on its won was not allowed for grazing the cattle's. The British Government provided that through auction sale. Though the British Government has not put any strains for that it was mercilessly prohibiting for the frazing of
the cattles. Then Hosamani Siddappa collected many workers and 
touted throughout such villages many common people including women 
followed him. They violated the law of the British Government and use 
the grasslands. He was such a daring leader. This leader in his area 
through these programmes made the civil disobedience movement 
successful.

The same type of protest they followed in the Quit India Movement 
of 1942. Hosamani Siddappa despite of his quitting Congress made all 
the plans of the National Leaders successful. He worked for national interest.

No tax movement was also one of the programmes in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Hosamani Siddappa awakened the people not 
to pay the taxes. Himself also did not pay the taxes. He was the leader 
in the flag Satyagraha also.

Despite of his quitting from Congress, Hosamani Siddappa made 
all the programmes of the great Quit India Movement successful. 
Remaining way form Congress he collected all nation lovers on non-
partisans basis to support the movement. He had in his group both men 
and women and the moderates and extremists. He was called as the 
ringmaster for all extremist activities in his area.

His followers like Valasangad Panchakshari, Angadi 
Virupakshappa and others were hand bomb producers. Hosamani
Siddappa was to plan where, how and when the violent activities are to be done. As a result of his proper guidance the theft of postbag in Haveri Railway Station and the blast of bomb on railway track near Karajagi became successful.

The programmes adopted in support of 1942 Quit India Movement were-burning of post offices, courts, railway stations cutting of telegraph wires, burning chawadis of villages, steeling revenue and post bags “For all such destructive programmes Hosamani Siddappa was the ringmaster. He was named thus by an British officer. The Quit India Movement was successful because of Hosamani Siddappa’s leadership. Under his guidance the women force also was able to protest effectively.”2

Though Hosamani Siddappa planned and supported the extremist activities he cared for no loss of lives. The intension of his activities was to disturb the British Government. By the time of Quit India Movement the patriotic Hosamani family had to suffer loss of property, imprisonment and penalty. The dedication and the sacrifice of the family was unparallel. At last he breathed with happy when India got freedom in 1947.

PUNISHMENT AND PENALTY:

Because of his involvement in the freedom movement he was arrested and punished twice. He was imprisoned in 1920 while supporting the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was kept in ‘C’ grade jail in Hiundalaga. Released in 1932 September—i.e. after 2 and ½ years’ imprisonment.

In the year 1943, due to his support the Quit India Movement he was arrested on April 1943. He was released after 8 moths of imprisonment. When he rejected to pay the penalty his carts, oxen and stored grains were auctioned. He lost his property to serve the nation. In fact he happily led the movement though he lost everything in his life.

The whole Hosamani family had to face the imprisonment in the movement. In the year 1930 Paramanna Hosamani Siddappa’s cousin and his wife were arrested. During the Quit India Movement in 1943 his two sons Kariyappa and Siddalingamma, his daughter-in-law Girijamma, his cousins Paramanna and Sanna Siddappa and Paramanna’s wife Savanthremma were arrested. They all suffered imprisonment for 1 and ½ year.

As it is understood earlier Hosamani Siddappa was guiding force for the extremists. He was the ringmaster for the bomb preparation and the blasts. The workers were arrested and case was registered against
them. Valasangad Panchakshari was one among them. The case was judged in the year 1953. The court declared Hosamani Siddappa as the ringmaster for his violent activities and punished him with penalty.

**UNIFICATION LEADER:**

Hosamani Siddappa had quitted Congress in 1939 itself. After independence the party again embraced him. Because of the vested interests in the party. He could have got the key positions and power if he had wished. But the key of different nature. Always he wished remain away form the power. Another reason for his going away from the politics was his ambition to achieve Karnataka Unification.

Hence he collected and mobilized most of the workers on non-partisan base and fought for unification. Infact he had to face many problems on this way. He worked in AKARANI [Akhanda Karnataka Rajya Niramana Parishath]. It was his successful attempt to call the all-party conference in the year 1953. His letter to Shankaragrouda, Adargunchi in Hubli Taluk mirrors his love for mother tongue and the state. He had written the letter in his blood requesting Shankaragouda to stop fastening. He believed in collective fighting for unification of Karnataka on linguistic base. Even he had declared that only after achieving the unification of Karnataka he dies.
For this movement he did the work of touring throughout the areas of Kannada speaking people. It was a mobilizing work. Fazal Ali Commission appointed by the Central Government had met Hosamani Siddappa and discussed about the solution of many problems. He had given the very good advice of collecting most of the areas. It was his wonderful achievement of collecting the opinion of thousands of people within a day in favour of the Karnataka Unification.

His good experience in the field and the far-sighted nature was even attracted Kengal Hanumantharayaru. When there was a difference between the old Mysore people and the North Karnataka, regarding unification, Kengal Hanumantharaih thought of getting advise of this old man. He met Hosamani Siddappa in his house on and they discussed the issue and Hanumantharaih got the advice of the old man.

Hosamani Siddappa had advised to from Bangalore as Capital City so that Mysore people should agree for the unification. Then it was a relevant advise also. As a result of that unification was activated soon in the year 1956 November 1st.

A MAN WHO EMBRACED ALL:

He was Muslim among Muslims, Christian among Christians and Hindu among Hindus. But none he exploited and not tolerated the same. He thought a lesson of protesting the exploitation. Particularly in Haveri
his work done in removal of untouchbility was remarkable. In fact never he wished the publicity for his service. Hence much of his work done in the freedom movement, unification movement and in the social reform has not been brought in to the light.

He made better use of the Presidentship of the Municipality, Haveri for the upliftment of Harijan and providing educational facilities to Haveri. Anybody can be amazed to see his efforts of those days to construct a well equipped and the very big school builds today's Haveri. It is a living example.

He had made efforts and succeeded in providing equal importance to Harijan in the society. For that he first practiced his advice and later completed others to follow. That was the very best method.

HIS CONTRIBUTION INDIAN NATIONALISM:

The nationalism was first sprouted in Hosamani Siddappa during his childhood itself. It was grown by the support of the influence of the stalwart like Tilak. A strong and firm foundation he had got for his love towards the nation. In the same way wherever he went and whom so ever he met he could make them to become the nationalist. He was able to fill in the spirit of nationalism in the minds of the people of Bombay and Hyderabad Karnataka particularly.
The collective work needs effective leadership. He provided that to the North-Karnataka people. He was able to mobilize the people in most of the crucial times of the movements. His work done for Congress was significant due to the disturbing caste politics of those days the other that Brahmins were away form the Congress. Hence Congress party in Karnataka, started in 1920 itself was into able to get support in the movement. Then Hosamani Siddappa with others summoned non-Brahmin Conference in Belgaum. Only by the speech given by him all youths and non-Brahmins moved towards Congress like flood. That resulted in strengthening Congress. Thus the party got its real birth in Karnataka in the year 1930.

Soon after his mobilizing work in congress the leaders like Gandhiji made him President, Karnataka Pardesh Congress Committee to get his more service to the party and nation. As the party President he worked as an ardent worker of it. Though the party he took many relevant decisions in the movement. He was able to mobilize the people of whole Karnataka irrespective of divisions. It was possible for him because of his unweavy efforts.

Hosamani Siddappa was a pragmatic leader. His role both in freedom movement and the Karnataka Unification was most significant, heroic and unique. He inspired the masses for heroic fight. He cast a magnetic influence on them with his great qualities.
Undoubtly Hosamani Siddappa was great leader. He was the spirit, guiding force to most of the workers. A farsighted predictor of the politics. He had collected the major portion of the mass in North-Karnataka with his magic voice and brilliant speeches. Hence it was possible for him to win the Central Assembly election of the year 1935 from the six districts of different languages and culture. Those districts were Dharawad, Belgaum, Karwar, Ratnagiri, Kulaba and Bijapur.

But sill he was not free of the weakness. He was of short tempered-because which he had differences with Nehru and Rangaro Diwakar. His straightforward nature and also promptness in the politics was also one of the many reasons for his remaining away from the Congress party and also power after independence. His service in the party to the nation and state was really great. But his quitting of Congress and joining Forward Block under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose was not quite proper.

If he had found the vested interests in the party, he could have opposed and suppressed that by remaining in the party. This quitting Congress did not solve the problem in the party. Convincing the leaders with his tactic conversation was an easy task for him. If he had remained in Congress itself he could have been unparallel leader in Congress even after the freedom.

Toerr is human nature. But his work done, service given in enhancing the nationalism in Karnataka cannot be underestimated. In
every context he preferred to function as an intellectual, as a speaker, as a humanist, as a social reformer, as man of ideas and ideals, as a man of wise criticism and constructive comment. It is in this capacity he rendered phenomenal service to the cause of Indian nationalism and the nation building. He was an ever-remembered leader of Karnataka because until his last breathe the thought and worked for the nation, for the sake of unification and glory of Karnataka.

His inclination towards folk culture was notable and with the help of dreams and folk songs he made efforts to awaken people in rural areas. In that direction he opened a drama theater at Guttal village of Haveri Taluk in view of using the media as an instrument of awakening people to love the nation and to fight for the sake of nation. He never showed indifference with common people, infact he led the life of one of them.

Hosamani Siddappa was at the center of Karnataka politics from 1930 to 1939 emerging as a great leader, mobilizer and organizer. This period may rightly be called the ‘Hosamani Siddappa’s era’ in Karnataka. He was the guiding force, moving spirit, deciding factor, source of inspiration and the symbol of unity, strengthen and stability in the thick and turmoil during the crucial times of out freedom movement and the Karnataka Unification movement.

Hosamani Siddappa was more practical than theoretical. He did not advocate a theory or an ideology but he led an ideal life. He was not
an arm-chaired politician and never wished to amass wealth. He loved and served the mankind. Nothing was more than service of the motherland to him.

If a question is asked that whether Siddappa was a Gandhian or the follower of Bose? Was he a revolutionist? It is quitted clear from the study of his role in the Freedom Movement and the Unification Movement that, he was not follower of a person because of many were the followers. He was influenced by the seditious speeches of Tilak. He was attracted by the magnetic and magic personality of Mahatma. At the same time he also liked young and enthusiastic patriot Shubhas Chandra Bose. It is quite clear form his life that he was more revolutionist than a moderate. Immediate results he excepted always. His involvement in bomb cases and punishment supports these ideas. His quitting Congress and supporting Subhas Chandra Bose again makes him a revolutionist. He worked as the President, Karnataka Pardesh Forward Block party from 1939. But when Subhas Chandra Bose was disappeared from the seen of Indian National Movement the party lost its importance. Hosamani Siddappa backed Subhas Chandra Bose and supported his ides. The most loving character he found in Subhas Chandra Bose was his statesmanship and selfness zeal to fight for the cause of nation. Hosamani Siddappa did not restrict himself to the bindings of being obedient follower of the established leadership. But he always choosed the leadership by thinking on broader sense. The base for all his thoughts was the common interest.
To support the Swadeshi Movement led by Mahatma Gandhiji in 1930, Hosamani Siddappa successfully organized people at Haveri and Ranebennur. At Ranebennur with the help of Siddanna Banakar and other workers he convinced the people give up using foreign goods. Within no time people threw the foreign cloths and goods to the roads. The heaps of such thrown away foreign goods were set to fire. Since then Swadeshi the freedom fighters and the common people used goods.

Hosamani Siddappa is ever remembered with gratitude, awe and reverence by all class and caste people for his service, rendered to the people of Karnataka in particular and the nation in general. Hosamani Siddappa was a man of impunity. He had a highly developed sense of unselfish duty and uncorrupt administration and these qualities marked him from the rest. The courage of conviction the dash of the daring and the dignity of the department only made him of the rare species he belonged to. He was a man of quick conception, free intercourse and easy delivery. He sets well in posts of initiative, tact and resourcefulness. But because of his rapid and the straightforward nature he had to live a hard life till the end of his life.

Such a wonderful patriot breathed his last breathe in 14-02-1958. His soul did rest on peace only after achieving the Karnataka Unification.