CHAPTER - 6

ROLE OF GOWTHAMI SATYAGRAHA ASHRAM

(Presently Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Andhra Branch)

Sithanagaram is an obscure village, 25 kms from Rajahmundry. Historians opine that Sithanagaram was named thus because Srirama of Ramayana was in and around this place during Vanavaasa. This village was also called "Etipattu" because it's on the banks of the Godavari. The Godavari known as "Dakshina Ganga (Southern Ganga)" divided itself into two streams and the stream of this side is known as "Gowthami".

Since Sithanagaram was a forest area devoid of transportation and a mountainous area too - it was not fit for cultivation. The villagers had to walk four kms to catch the boat. People were able to go to West Godavari especially Polavaram and the nearby villages. Many Village Assistants of this area resigned their Government jobs in 1921 and plunged into Non Co-Operation movement started by Gandhiji.

When the then Collector "Bracken" came to this village, he was refused food and drink. Not only that, he could not get even a bullock cart. This speaks volumes about the staunch unity of the villagers. Farmer leaders like Sri Neerukonda Venkataratnam, Sri Maarina Subba Rao, Sri Kondru Veeranna, Sri Koththa Viswanadham, Sri Kanagarla Narasimham, Sri Madduri Paparao, Sri Sripada Venkatramayya, Sri Chaparla Subbanna, Sri Telikacharla Varahaswamy spent much of their lives in Prison. They valiantly fought against the British and rendered it sleepless.

As the village was economically backward, socially superstitious, but known for its zealous population, Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam who sacrificed himself at the altar of Gandhism chose this place for setting up constructive service centre for Gandhian thought.

"Conscience always preaches. This preaching is the best preaching. We must follow this, we have to make scarifies for this. We have to be away from our dearest and to be thus is our life duty" so said Mahatma and Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam was the man who heartfully tried to implement this.

Dr. Subrahmanyam wanted to set up Satyagraha Ashram at "Sithanagaram" for the
implementation of Gandhiji's Constructive Programme, besides kindling the fire of freedom. At the same time Sri Seth Jevanlal, the famous Aluminium Merchant of Rajahmundry declared that he would donate Ten Thousand rupees for establishing an Ashram on Gandhian Principles in any village. He also said two thousand five hundred rupees would be forwarded annually. Dr. Subrahmanyam wanted to avail himself of the golden opportunity.

In 1923, the Congress met at Kakinada for its annual session. Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy (Former Speaker of Unified Madras State) proposed for the establishment of an Ashram. But he withdrew the proposal when Dr. Subrahmanyam said he would establish the Ashram. The elders decided to set up the Ashram at Venkatakrishnapuram a hamlet of Seethanagaram. There 14 acres of land was ticked for the Ashram. That land belonged to twenty people and it was bargained for three thousand rupees after night long discussions.

Sri Kala Venkat Rao made the Pandits fix muhoorth in the wee hours of November 9, 1924. Thus the Foundation Stone has laid. As maize was ready to be cut, compensation was paid to the growers. The one acre of land was made ready for the Ashram with the help of thousands of people in the night itself who came from Sithanagaram, Vangalapudi, Rahithapuram and Kondepudi. They plucked the maize. They did all this through "Sramadan".

Sri Bulusu Samba Murthy who was touring West Godavari crossed the Godavari at Thallpudi, came to the place crossing sand dunes.

Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy known as "Maharshi" laid the foundation stone on the morning of 9th November, 1924. Sri Sambamurthy told that "Just like Gandhiji's Ashram on the shores of Sabarmathi, this Ashram will flourish on the shores of "Gowthami" Satyagraha Ashram. The message sent by Gandhiji saying that "I hope the Ashram will radiate opinion.".

One Donor gave 2 lakh unburnt bricks as well as the fuel to burn them and another Donor gave enough timber for four or five houses and some other zealots gave palmyra trees for the construction of Ashram. By quirk of fate, twelve pucca houses came up in no time. When twelve tiles houses, came up. Dr. B. Subrahmanyam conducted Ashram warming on February 2, 1925 in the presence of Andhra Leaders. Fresh water had to be brought from 2 kms away from the Ashram. To overcome this, Sri Palleti Satyanarayana Rao and his Sister made a big well dug in the
Ashram. By the summer of 1926, a pucca well built up mountain stone was ready for the entire village.

Gandhiji said "Self Confidence, Bravery and Perseverance made many of us leaders. We have many examples of this great man. If we really want Swarajya, we must have this self confidence. Nothing can prevent a man who is after an ideal". Dr. B. Subrahmanyam made Satyagraha Ashram the centre for Freedom Fighters, Propagation Centre of Non-Violence, Medical Centre for many villagers and National Education Centre. This is in the line of Gandhism ideals. This Ashram was known as "Southern Sabarmathi Ashram".

NON - VIOLENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ASHRAM

CONGRESS PAPER :

The Andhra Yuvajana Congress Sabha has started "Congress" weekly in the month of May, 1921 at Rajahmundry. First six months they published this by cyclo-styled method of printing. The chief donor of the Ashram Sri Jeevanlal Mothichand Shah also donated a huge amount for "Congress" paper. They bought printing machine with that money and shifted to the Ashram from Rajahmundry in the year 1925. An innovative method of printing Hindi lessons with Telugu alphabets was held in the Ashram. This method of printing was attracted a lot of readers.

After shifting the congress to the Ashram in the month of September 1925, two expert compositors were called from Madras to give necessary training. Sri Madduri Krishna Murthy, Sri Vangala Satyanarayana learned the printing skills with utmost interest. Sri Madduri Annapurnayya, Sri Krovvidi Lingaraju and Sri Ramachandruni Venkatappa discharged their duties for the collection of News relating to the congress weekly.

The Printing Press of the Ashram undertook local jobworks along with the printing of the Congress weekly. They undertook the printing work of high school question papers, which has been treated as confidential work. They were praised for their sincere work. They published very few advertisements and never published foreign articles, liquor advertisements.

At the time of conducting peaceful movements for total freedom, Dr. Subrahmanyam told that "the Congress" weekly has proposed total freedom against a little freedom with conditions.
Viswa Data Sri Desoddharaka Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao Panthulu recognised that the publishing of weekly and running a Printing Press in a remote village like Sithanagaram was an adventure. So he bought one German Treddle and donated it to the Press along with nearly three thousand pounds of letter types.

Dr. Subrahmanyam, Sri Annapurnayya, Sri Lingaraju and Sri Venkatappa worked in Congress daily as State Congress members from the Ashram. Sri Krovvidi Linga Raju wanted to participate in "Salt Satyagraha". So that he took the advice of Dr. Subrahmanyam and invited Sri Dasu Damodara Rao. He handed over the duties of publishing Congress weekly. Being rich, Sri Damodara Rao discontinued B.A. in the year 1921 and joined in co-operative movement. He was working as an Assistant Manager in the Madras State Co-operative Bank, took long leave and took over the charges of Paper Editor in the Ashram.

The Congress Editorial Board took a decision to release a special edition in 16th July, 1926 on the occasion of Alluri Sitharama Raju Jayanthi. They did this job and send the copies to Rajahmundry by night itself without any fear. Gandhiji commented on Alluri Sitharama Raju "Though we cannot agree with Sri Sitarama Raju methods, we have to admire his patriotism, Sacrifice and Service". They also published the message in the next week paper.

The Editorial members or other staff of the Congress paper office had no chairs or tables. They simply squatted on the mats and used writing pads. Gandhiji was astonished at this simple way of press maintenance should be told to Sri Swamy Anand of Navajivan Press, Ahmadabad.

The Congress weekly published Satyagraha review as "war-consent", Bhagat Singh's snare as "Human Sacrifice" and criticized the activities of the British Government. Due to the reason, Sri Lingaraju was arrested under "reaction" and punished him with two years rigorous imprisonment. When Sri Lingaraju was arrested and in Prison, Sri Ramachandruni Venkatappa took charge of Editorship and published the Congress paper without any hindrances.

From 1926 to 1929 Congress published the historical events of Punjab and Bengal, valonous stories of Tantia Tope, Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, Mangal Pande, Bahadoorshah II, Azijan and some other women patriots of the first freedom Struggle of India 1857. So that, the Congress weekly attracted a large chunk of youth.
The congress published the valiant stories of Mangal Pande as a playlet named "Chicchula Pidugu". Sri Garimella Satyanarayana's Songs "we don't want this whites leadership". At the end of the playlet, they added non-violence and peaceful teachings of Gandhism. For this publication, Sri Madduri Annapurnayya was arrested under section 124 in July 1929. After the arrest of Sri Annapurnayya, Editor of the Congress weekly, Sri Krovvidi Lingaraju officially took charge as Editor. Sri Annapurnayya's case trailed before "Brown", the collector of Rajahmundry. He imprisoned for two and half years.

At the time of second visit of Gandhiji, Dr. Subrahmanyam explained him that the Congress weekly had 900 subscriptions and became as self sufficient. By the time of 1929 the Congress weekly published in Royal Size with 14 pages.

On 30th March, 1931 the people of China Vadapalli of Kothapet Taluq arranged Gandhiji Photo along with Lord Sri Venkateswara Swami's car festival and procession. For this reason Rajahmundry Police D.S.P. B.Musthafalikhan opened fire on the mass procession along with lati charge. National Leaders Sri Karuturi Satyanarayana (Kattunga), Sri Pathapati Venkataraaju (Alamuru), Sri Bandaru Narayana Swamy (Kothapet), Sri Ganadhar Rao (Vadapalli) lost their lives in the police firing.

The police prepared a criminal charge sheet on 25 people regarding the case. Immediately after the shooting spree, Sri Krovvidi Linga Raju rushed to Vadapalli village on a fact finding machine. Musthafalikhan was warned for his callous treatment of the freedom fighters. So he was intent on destroying the Ashram on one pertext or other. Sri Linga Raju was arrested in 1931 and was awarded two and half years rigorous imprisonment and was fixed thousand rupees. He collected factors on this bad event and published them in the congress weekly. He also helped to publish this facts in "Swarajya Paper", which has publishing facts courageously even also dominating English News Papers in those days.

Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao published an Edition of the Congress weekly after complete ban on it. Sri Annapurnayya took charge as the Editor of the Congress after being released from Prison. He successfully delivered the editorial duties till the British Government seized the Ashram unlawfully on 1932.
On 19th January, 1932 Rajahmundry D.S.P. B. Musthafalikhan unlawfully attacked the Ashram and destroyed the Press. He also arrested the Ashramites unlawfully and took them to Rajahmundry along with Printing Treddle. There, the Police sold the Treddle for three hundred rupees. After this unhappy incident, the Congress weekly was not published from the Ashram.

From the beginning, every editor of the Congress Paper was punished with imprisonment. But one of the Ashramites took the Editor's duty without any fear. They explained non-violent movements, Sociological issues and the unrestrained activities of the British Government by publishing the Congress weekly.

They never think for bared about their lives. Due to their self sacrificing work, the "Congress" weekly stood in the first place among other political News Papers which were published in Telugu. The great ideals which sore in the adolescence or student life would inspire the individuals to a great life. This type of inspirations caused the Ashramites to work with great sacrifices in the History of Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram. The great inspirative event happened in the year 1921.

That year, a great student conference was held at Rajahmundry under the Presidentship of Sri Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya, the "Andhra Ratna" awardee. Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Dr.Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam were attended to that meeting and delivered stining speech. These speeches shown them the path to leadership duties. The student leaders who participated in that meeting became the leaders of National and planned for non-violent activities.

In the year 1921 Dr. Subrahmanyam conducted a "Marvellous Famers Rally" from Sithanagaram. Eminent freedom fighter Sri Konda Venkatappayya told that "this Farmers Rally" was just like Gandhiji's agitation which was conducted in South Africa. Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy was the Secretary of Congress party in that year.

On 5th January, 1922 Dr. Subrahmanyam was arrested while he was in Satyagraha. He delivered an inspiring message that "Today I am ready to arrest. I may got life impisonment or I may be shoted. But my life slogan is "Vandematharam". National Freedom is the happiest thing to me even my family was totally shoted. "Prohibit foreign cloths and liquor. Eliminate the Educational Institution which develops the habit of slavery. Lawyers should come out from callous

Andhra Rashtra Sabha was held on 21st October, 1924. Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy proposed Total Freedom resolution. Dr. Subrahmanyam, Smt. Kanakamma, Sri Mosalikanti Tirupati Rao and Smt. Kamalamma were supported it. Sri Challa Seshagiri Rao, the chief person in the editorial board of Andhra Pathrika called Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy "Maharshi" for his Generosity and Sacrifying nature. From then on his name was "Maharshi Sambamurthy ".

The Editorial Board members of the Congress weekly also discharged their duties relating to National Political activities. The Ideologists and youth of the surrounding villages of the Ashram came to this Ashram regularly to read Congress weekly and to analyse the various problems for the solutions. In this way, the Ashram played a key role to develop a marvellous Rural Political Leadership and for the large extension of Gandhian Constructive works. The British Government disliked these Non-Violent activities and put the Ashramites in prison. But the Government was unable to stop the regular Non-Violent activities of this area.

The Ashramites come together to the Flag Pole at 6 am. They never gave to self grandeur. Sri Peesapati Subbarao took the duty of ringing the bell at 6 am. He never forgot this duty even in heavy rains or in high fever. They sung "Zandha Ooncha Rahe Hamara", "Andhra Maatha Sri Sametha Annapurna Prapootha Charitha", songs and salute the National Flag.

After completing their regular daily activities, they played some sports like Kabaddi etc. after 5 pm. Then they completes their evening baths. The Ashramites read all the Newspapers and complete their night meal. At 9 p.m. the Ashram bell rang calling them to the flag pole. The Ashramites gather there and salute to the National Flag, then they all went to their residences in the Ashram.

In the year 1926 the Congress movements thoughts went around the Assembly. But the Ashramites worked for Total Freedom as their chief goal. They invented various Non-Violent revolutionary methods to achieve their goal.

Sometimes, somebody towards the United work of the Ashramites and courageous
Constructive Programme. But the selfless and sacrificing nature of the Ashramites overcame these hindrances. The people never forgot these characters of the Ashramites. Most of the Ashramites lived with their families in the Ashram. Rupees twenty-five to Rs. fifty honorarium was given to the Ashramites according to their family burdens. This was done in a direct socialistic experiment. The Ashramites submitted a 20 pages complete report to Gandhiji at the time of his visit. Gandhiji thoroughly verified the contents of the report and fully satisfied. He accepted the vows of the Ashramites. He also commented that the simple family living is better in the aspect of bachelorism.

Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy was arrested in the year 1929 while he was conducting propaganda for total freedom by "Indian Independence League". After this incident Gandhiji told that "This is the year of Independence. So Sambamurthy should be in the working committee" and they admitted Sri Sambamurthy in the Committee. Again Maharshi Sambamurthy was arrested by the British Government in the month of January, 1930.

On May, 1929 Gandhiji visited the Ashram and stayed on 9th and 10th (two days). Smt. Kasturba, Smt Prabhavathi wife of Sri Jayaprakash Narayana, Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh, Sri Imam Saheb, Meerabehn, Smt. Sarojini Naidu etc. accompanied Gandhiji. At the time of this stay in the Ashram, nearly 60 thousand people visited him daily from the local District and other side of the Godavari Bank i.e. West Godavari District. The Ashramites provided bread and meals to all the visitors with the help of donors, brought the food grains voluntarily. We can estimate how the Ashram inspired the people. We can also understand the Constructive Works done through the Ashram.

They arranged sprouts, spinach, orange juice, goat milk, groundnuts, honey etc., food items to Gandhiji according to the suggestion given by Bollapragada Sundara Gopala Rao. Smt. Kasturba herself provided all these facilities. Gandhiji also thought for the facilities to his camp even he was very busy in his activities.

Important historical incidents happened in 1929 in the Ashram. The arrival of Gandhiji along with Smt. Kasturba etc National Leaders who planned for Non-violent movements visited the Ashram in this year and stayed for two days. Sri Annapurnayya, who worked for the publishing the congress weekly with higher goals was arrested in this year. The establishment of various branches
for various Constructive Programmes with a marvellous ideals also happened in the Ashram, also held in this year.

Sri Ayyadevara Kaleswara Rao conducted District Level Congress Meeting under his Presidency in the year 1926 for two days. As the reception committee President, Sri Neerukonda Venkata Ratnam Chowdary provided the facilities without any obstacles. In this meeting Sri Venkata Ratnam Chowdary spoke regarding "Responsive Co-operation". These words attracted a large scale throughout the Nation.

The Ashram became a main centre for giving training in Gandhian Constructive Works and Non-Violent methods to the mass who have interested in participating the Freedom Movement. Harijan Seva, Khadi Industry, Unity of Hindu-Muslims etc. items also part and parcel of the Ashram's internal attitudes.

They protected the Kuteer, where Gandhiji and Kasturba stayed for two days. They named it as "Baa - Baapu Kuteer" and made it as a Museum for the visitors. They kept the spinning wheel in this kuteer. Dr. Susheela Nair, President of Kasturba National Memorial Trust of that time inaugurated Mahatma Gandhiji’s Bronze Statue on 30th January, 1990.

The National Congress party decided to take the National Pledge on 26th January, throughout the country. According to that, the Ashramites informed this message to the surrounding villages of the Ashram. Thousand of people and children came to the Ashram in the evening of 26th January. Dr. Subrahmanyam delivered a marvellous speech. In his speech he told "Our farmers also have to agitate like the Bardoli farmers movement in Gujarat and should be ready to plunge in the Freedom struggle, then took the oath of the "Freedom Pledge".

The Ashramites conducted a training for the "Peace Army" in the month of February 1930. Nearly 150 members participated in this training from various districts of the State. Captain Krishna Murthy acted as the Chief of this training camp who belongs to Dr. Hardikar's "Hindustan Sevadal". This camp was held for one month without any lapses. The people of the surrounding and distant villages provided the facilities voluntarily. The people who were trained and inspired by the Ashram participated in voluntary donations to make the Ashram's Programmes a success.
The Ashramites planned to conduct a huge rally like Dandi March which was under the Leadership of Gandhiji. A group of nearly 200 satyagrahees started the salt satyagraha rally in March 1930, the day of 'Ugadi' festival. The participants of this rally didn't think of their family members and their nurture. The main goal of the Satyagrahees was to make the people ready for salt movement. They planned to reach the Kakinada Satyagraha camp in the first week of April by walking 12 miles per a day. According to their plan, the rally was started on the Day of 'UGADI' at 2 p.m.

Nearly 88 Satyagrahees and 50 volunteers batch started from the Ashram. It was reached to Rajampet in the evening. After completing their evening prayers, they reached Katheru village at 9 p.m. They reached Rajahmundry in the next day morning. A large number of volunteers were included in this rally. The Salt Satyagraha rally went through the Godavari River Bank villages Athreyapuram, Ryali and other remote villages on 3rd April, 1930. The total rally was divided into three batches and propagated the salt Satyagraha movement throughout the district.

The batch led by Sri Krovvidi Lingga Raju was propagated the Salt Satyagraha issued in their routed villages and reached the Sea Coast village "Uppada". They set up a Satyagraha Camp in Kothapalli village to disregard the salt act. They encouraged the people to use "collected salt" against buying the salt from salt godowns. By this reason, Sri Linga Raju and his colleagues were arrested.

The batch led by Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy went through their routed villages and reached "Chollangi". There they made salt and called it "Gandhi Salt", "Swarajya Salt". They sold this salt in an auction. After the sale of total salt, the people also bought the pots in which they produced salt. This was good evidence of their ambition of the Independence. Maharshi Sambamurthy was violated the Government salt Act and produced Salt in 6th April, the same day when Gandhiji disobeyed the British Act and produced Salt at "Dandi", Gujarat.

In 18th April, 1930. Dr.Subrahmanyam, Sri Samba Murthy, Sri Kala Venkat Rao, Sri Tenneti Satyanarayana were arrested by the British Government. This was the first arrest in the state regarding the cause of Salt Satyagraha. Dr.Subrahmanyam courageously told "they will demolish the Government by violating the Salt Acts". Sri Sambamurthy expressed that he thought that "the
British Government might fall within one year. We are trying to demolish this government. We want to establish a Republic Nation in which every citizen has a role in it. The Satyagrahees were imprisoned with 6 months to 2 years punishment.

The Mass rally like "Dandi March" which was conducted from the "Sabarmathi Ashram" was not conducted in South India except Gowtami Satyagraha Ashram, Sitanagaram. So that, this rally was called as "Southern Dandi March", Many freedom fighters and historians stated.

At the time of Salt Satyagraha rally, the Ashramites plunged into the movement. Sri Mamidi Lakshmipathi stayed in the Ashram to look after the welfare of the non-participated Ashramites. He died with snake bite. The only sister of Sri Krovvidi Linga Raju also died in this month. This death news was not informed to Sri Linga Raju due to the the prison norms. Seshagiri Rao has known that Sri Linga Raju and 106 persons were being to Alipur jail from Madras. So he went to Arkonam Railway Station and told Sri Linga Raju about his sister's death. Sri Linga Raju was mentally disturbed but he never forgot his philosophy of Satyagraha movement. Sri Linga Raju was such a noblest person.

The Ashramites left their family members and lost their blood relatives for the goal of National Independence by using Non-Violent Gandhian approach. Sri Linga Raju, Sri Ramachadruni Venkatappa etc. were released in 1930 from the jail.

Dr. Subrahmanya was released from the jail and his followers were elated. Their happiness was short lived. His mother Smt. Lakshminarasamma expired. She worked much for the propagation of Khadi and was aptly called "Grandma". She was the driving force behind Dr. Subrahmanya.

The Ashram did much for Prohibition. The Ashramites made many people give up alcoholism. The British Government which was against Prohibition and charged Rs.7,500/- as criminal Tax. Though the land was not fertile, they took up horticulture and animal husbandry. Gandhiji himself saw all this and praised it. Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao and Sri Yeremi Subrahmanym of Krishna District participated in the "Dandi March", started from Sabarmati Ashram.

The Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram was declared an unlawful organisation in the Madras Fort St. George Gazettee on 5th January, 1932. Many people feared the Ashram would face
trouble. So they came to the Ashram in thousands. DSP Musthafalikhan, who was awaiting an opportunity thought the time had come. Since people thronged the Ashram, he reinforced the police force.

200 reserve police were brought. Musthafalikhan was waiting for the opportune time. The District S.P. "A.F. Berkeley" who was aware of Musthafa's monstrous behaviour was ready to come to the Ashram. Thahasildar Behera was asked to prepare the list of the things they were going to seize.

Dr. Subrahmanyam was away for taking part in the Disobedience movement. Then Musthafalikhan seized the Ashram on 18th January, 1932. Sri Madduri Annapurnayya, Sri Ramachandruni Venkatappa, Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao, Sri Garimella Narasimha Murthy, Sri Oleti Narasimha, Sri Madduri Krishna Murthy, Dr. Vangaveti Venkatrama Deekshithulu, Sri Gundepudi Ramakrishna Sarma, Sri Guduri Rangayya, Sri Gattem Suryanarayana and Sri Vangala Satyanaryana were in the Ashram. Since the attack was before hand, old people and women were sent to safe places.

Sri Madduri Annapurnayya along with their Ashramites were asked to come to the four road junction in the Ashram. Then Musthafalikhan ordered them to evacuate the Ashram because it was declared illegal. Sri Annapurnayya fearlessly said "the Ashram is our house. We live or die here only. So we don't quit".

At the same time the S.P. ordered "charge". The police pounced on the Ashramites and caned them with lathis. The lookers on thought Musthafalikhan would kill one or two of them. But the S.P. ordered them to "Stop" and the lathi charge was stopped.

Sri Annapurnayya, Dr. Vangaveti Venkatram Deekshithulu, Sri Madduri Krishna Murthy and Sri Ramachandruni Venkatappa were bleeding profusely and fatally injured. Others received bruises. After some time the police took them all to the inpatient ward of the Ashram Hospital. Dr. Deekshithulu served them all medically and received treatment himself in the end. Sacrifice begins with one man and spreads to many and unites them all in the end.

The police destructed the Flag Pole and the Flag also. They wreaked havoc by destroying
the looms, spinning wheels and the printing press. They took some of the things with them to Rajahmundry and locked other items in an house of the Ashram. The Ashramites were imprisoned and were brought to Rajahmundry. The Treddle of the printing press was sold for Rs. 300/- in Rajahmundry.

The Ashram was handed over to Dr. Subrahmanyan in October, 1932. The "Gandhi-Irwin Pact" gave Indians the right to manufacture salt and the right to picket before the foreign cloth shops. Since all the prohibitory orders were revoked, the programmes of the Ashram started again.
Dr. Subrahmanyam started one camp and Dr. K.L. Narasimha Rao started another in Rajahmundry and both the camps picketed for many months.

Gandhiji visited the Ashram for the second time on 26th December, 1933. He made Removal of untouchability, his focal point this time. After inaugurating the Harijan Ashram here, Gandhiji was introduced to Sri Madduri Annapurnayya's mother and other Ashramites. Sri Annapurnayya had been undergoing imprisonment at Velore Central Jail for the last four years. The Ashramites prepared a report of the programmes of the Ashram from 1929 to 1933 and submitted it to Gandhiji.

Many inexperienced youth of the area put questions to Gandhiji and he answered them all patiently and forbearingly. This incident was unforgettable to many of the witnesses. After observing the surrounding villages of the Ashram, Gandhiji said "No where in my extensive tour have seen such a life, spirit and enthusiasm as I find in these surrounding villages".

In 1933, Gandhiji completed his tour of Andhra and a loan of Rs.25,000/- was sanctioned for Khadi production. It was allotted through the efforts of "All India Charaka Sangh". Dr. Subrahmanyan set up the Ashram for a noble purpose, but he had not got it registered. There was a provision that the said loan should be granted to the registered organisations only. So under the President of Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy, a trust board was formed and the Ashram was registered in July under the Societies Registration act. Then the Ashram got the loan from the "All India Charak Sangh".

In 1936, Dr. Subrahmanyam the Noble Soul died. There was inertia in the activities of the Ashram known as "Dakshin Sabarmathi" during the Quit India movement. But despite that hundred individuals participated in the "Personal Satyagraha" and many more took in the Quit
India movement. Thus they did Yeomen Service for attaining Freedom.

Dr. Subrahmanyam died in 1936 and the Ashram went over to "All India Charaka Sangh". Then it was transformed into "Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust". But people still call it "Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram" and it remains so in future also.

SATYAGRAHEES OF THE ASHRAM

Dr. BRAHMAJOSYULA SUBRAHMANYAM

Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam was born in 12th October19, 1891 at "Muggulla" near Phirangipuram of Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh. His parents were Sri Ramasastry and Smt. Lakshmi Narasamma. He completed Matriculation at Vijayawada.

He married Kameswaramma, the elder daughter of Sri Cherukupalli Buchiramayya, Vijayawada. He went to Calcutta for studying M.B.B.S. under the guidance of Dr. Millik, who was a Nationalist in those days. Then, he came to Rajahmundry for Medical Practice. He had close contact with many of the revolutionary leaders at Calcutta. He had a wonderful and peculiar character to attract the mass by his goodness.

He participated in "Home Rule" movement in Rajahmundry and then took charge of its town unit Joint Secretary. Owing to his efforts and transparency, sincerity towards the medical science, he stood in the first row of the doctors. By 1920, his science got a good name and fame. He used to earn nearly thirty thousand rupees per year, in those days. But he never ran after for money. His main goal was to serve the people and society.

Dr. Subrahmanyam delivered a courageous speech in prohibition of Liquor Movement even though the government passed 144 section. So he was arrested on 7th January, 1922 and imprisoned for one year in Rajahmundry and Cuddalore.

In 1921, Subrahmanyam acted as the secretary of Andhra State Congress. He reviewed the "Chirala-Peralu" movement in 13th October, 1921 along with Sri Tanguturi Prakasam. They spoke to the masses and asked Desabakth Sri Konda Venkatappayya to give financial assistance from the congress funds.
In 30th March, 1921 for Subrahmanyam and others met Gandhiji, Lala lajapathi Roy, Ali brothers and Chittaranjan Das at Rajahmundry Railway Station. He invited Gandhiji on behalf of Rajahmundry citizens. On 2nd December, 1921 he delivered a tremendous speech in a public meeting at Bangarammapet, near Polavaram of West Godavari District under the presidency of Sri Pusuluri Kodanda Ramayya.

Dr. Subrahmanyam proposed a resolution on 24th October, 1924 that the person who wanted to join in the congress as a member should weave two thousand yards khadder of against giving membership for four annas. The resoluation was passed by the majority of the leaders. They had two sons and two daughters. Dr. Subramanyam died in 23rd December, 1936. His wife Smt. Kameswaramma died in the year 1939 at Vijayawada.

The Rajahmundry DSP B.Musthafalikhan came to their on the tenth of his death for condolence. The police officer attacked the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram unlawfully but his inner soul was wedded to the Gandhian approach of life by Dr. Subrahmanyam.

SRI MADURI ANNUPURNAYYA

Sri Annapurnayya was born on 20th March, 1899 in Komaragiri, Pithapuram taluk, East Godavari District. His parents were Sri Jayaramayya and Smt Rajamma.

His father was died at his 13 years age. So he was brought up by his elder brother Sri Kodanadarama Deekshithulu. He completed his studies in Rajahmundry and Kakinada. At the time of studying B.A. in Kakinada, he plunged in to the freedom movement. He marred Venkata Ramanamma. They had a son and a daughter.

After coming out from the college, he went to Rajahmundry on December 1920 and joined in the National school which was established by Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam to elate the people. He also participated in the district level students meeting held at Rajahmundry on March, 1921. He, along with colleagues started "Andhra Yuvajana Swarajya Sabha" at Rajahmundry. To co-ordinate organizations activities they started a News paper named "Congress" weekly and he took charges of the editor. The first copy of "Congress" weekly was published on 22nd March, 1922 at Rajahmundry.
This Publication was shifted to the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in September, 1925. He was the editor for the congress weekly during the years 1922 to 23, 1924 to 1929, 1931 to 32. He was arrested by the British government for his vigorous patriotism and courageous publication of the newspaper. He was the first telugu editor, who published and deeply insisted the unlawful activities of the British government.

He spent 14 years in the prisons for his non violent freedom struggle which very few of the freedom fighters punished like this. The British government shown very cruel attitude towards him. The courageous nature, willpower self confidence, sincerity, empathy initiative were his traits.

He and Manyam rebel Alluri Sitarama Raju were good friends from III form in P.R.College High School, Kakinada. At the age of 14 years in the year 1911, Alluri Sitaramaraju told him of the selfdom of the country under British rule. The same things are told after nine years in 1920 by Gandhiji. Sri Annapurnayya was much inspired by Gandhiji and stopped his education then plunged into the non co-operation movement.

He played a valiant role at the time of the attack on the Ashram, which was done by the Rajahmundry D.S.P. B.Musthafulikhan. He was imprisoned in Caddalore, Vellore, Rajamundry Ballary, Tiruchurapalli, prisons. He was released in the 1934.

After coming from the Jail, he went to Rajahmundry due to the stoppage of Constructive Works in the Ashram temporarily. His wife Smt. Venkata Ramanamma was also very sympathetic with his activities. He sold his ancestral property and established a newspaper named "Navasakthi" at Rajahmundry. He was called "Andhra Subash Chandra Bose".

He was the state general secretary in 1936 to the "Socialist" party, which was started by Sri N.G.Ranga on 23rd June,1931 at Vijayawada. He was elected as the General Secretary on 27th September, 1936 in the "Andhra Socialist Party" meeting held at Rajahmundry under the Presidentship of Sri Yusuf Mehrauli, again he was the General Secretary in 1948. He contested as M.L.A. from Rajahmundry to Madras Assembly in 1952. But he was defeated. Sri Annapurnayya started "Velugu" news paper in 1952. Then he stopped all his political activities and became a staunch follower of "Mehar Baba", a great philosopher. His had a son Jayaram (wife Smt. Vankata Ramana) and a daughter Smt Kolluri Rajeswari (husband Suryanarayana Sastry.).
The sincere patriot and tremendous scarifier Sri Annapurnayya led a miserable poverty in his last days. He died on 11th September, 1954 but he left on indelible impression on the hearts of the people. Under the Secretaryship of Sri A.V.K. Chaitanya, noted socialist and Trade union leader the Centenary celebrations of Sri Annapuranyya are held from 20th March, 1999 to 21st, March 2000. Former Central Minister Sri George Fernandez inaugurated the book on "Sri Annapurnayya".

SRI KROVVIDI LINGA RAJU

He was born on 3rd November, 1904 at Rajahmundry. His parents were Sri Suryanarayana and Smt. Lakshmi Narasamma. His father was a business man. He stopped his education in 1921 at intermediate level and plunged in to Non Co-operation movement at the age of 17.

At the age of 19, he joined in the "Congress" paper as a sub-editor and started his life as a journalist. Due to his minority, not possible to arrest him at that time. From the beginning, he stood in the forefront of activities in Non Co-operation activities.

The cruel administration of the British, bad incidents at Punjab, political entrance of Gandhiji etc. caused him to attract in to freedom movement. He was very much interested in reading history from his childhood. He heard the life histories of renowned patriots of the history Indian freedom struggle etc. He married Subhadramma.

Dr.Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam encouraged youth like Sri Krovvidi Linga Raju. At a student meeting held under the presidentship of "Andhra Ratna" Sri Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya at Rajahmundry, Sri Linga Raju and 55 others left their education and joined in the congress.

Dr. Subrahmanyam asked him to join in the Ashram as an Ashramite. Even though his parents were old, he heartfully accepted the invitation and joined as an Ashramite. He sacrificed his life in the Ashram to implement the Gandhian Ideals.

He was arrested by the British and was punished with imprisonment in many jails. He participated in "Salt Satyagraha" in 1930 and was imprisoned at Rajahmundry, Vellore, Madras and Alipur jails for a period of six months. On 3rd, December 1940, he was sent to Vellore and Tiruchurapalli jails for a period of one year imprisonment. Again he was arrested on 11th August, 1942 and imprisoned at Vellore, Dhamo(M.P) and Amaravathi jails. He was released on 1st January,
1945. He was prisonmate of Sri Rajagopalachari, Sri Prakasam, Sri Bezawada Gopal Reddy and Sri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy at Tiruchurapalli prison.

He translated Gorki's 'Mother' into Telugu and awakened the youth of Andhra Pradesh. After police attack on the Ashram in 1932, most of the Ashramites migrated to various places.

Then he joined "Swarajya" paper at Madras. In the year 1938 Sri Linga Raju was elected as Municipal Chairman of Rajahmundry. In 1946, he was elected as an MLC from Rajahmundry constituency to Madras Assembly. He took charges Parliament Secretory of revenue branch in the Ministry of Sri Tanguturi Prakasam and proved his tremendous abilities in the Administration.

He charges of the editor for "Praja Patrika" daily on January 1953, which was started by Sri Tanguturi Prakasam at Madras and enlightened his views through various writings. Sri Linga Raju came to Rajahmundry and started "Godavari" daily and "Vedika" weekly to awaken the people.

He rendered a tremendous social service at the time of Godavari river floods on August 1953 and Divi, Machilipatnam "Deluge" in Krishna district on November 1977. He vigorously worked for the establishment of Rajya Lakshmi women's college for women education. He also worked for physical eminities in Government Arts College at Rajahmundry.

As the member of advisory committee of Andhra Pradesh Freedom Fighters Pension Board, from 8-2-1974 to 31-3-1976, he served a lot to the needy and real freedom fighters. He was the Vice President of All India Freedom Fighters Association in 1970. He had two sons and two daughters.

Sri Krovvidi Linga Raju died on 3rd January, 1986 at Rajahmundry. He led a wonderful life as writer, Political leader, Journalist, Parliamentarian, Commentator, advisor and non-violent revolutionary teacher and got a permanent place in the hearts of the people.

SRI CHANDRUPATLA HANUMANtha RAO

He was born on 4th August, 1904 in "Penumanchili" of Narsapur taluk in west Godavari district. His parents were Sri Jagapathi Rao and Smt Chalavamma. He studied at Achanta, Narsapur and Kakinada. In 1921 at the age of 17, he was stopped his intermediate education and plunged in
to the freedom movement. He married lakshmikanthamma.

According the invitation of Dr. Brahmajosyula subrahmanyam, Sri Hanumanths Rao joined as an Ashramite in 1925. He spent eight months in "Sabarmathi Ashram" in 1929 to know the Constructive Programmes for the implementation of those in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in Sitanagaram. He was appreciated by Gandhiji for his exposition of the Bhagawad Geetha. He was also appreciated by Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan for his philosophical approach. Patriotism, Gandhian philosophy and Constructive Programmes were mixed in his blood. He wore khadi cloths which are produced by him only.

He was conducted "Akhanda soothrayazna" (major production of spindling) on 2nd October, 1928 on the day of Gandhijayanthi. They started their spinning wheels at 6 am on that day and continuously worked till 7 pm of the next day. They produced 18 thousand yards of yarn and presented to Gandhiji. He looked after the khadi production, sales and demonstration of khadi goods.

He got a great opportunity to participate in "Dandi March" along with Gandhiji from Sabarmathi Ashram to the coastal area of Dandi.

He came to the Ashram and unauthorisedly took charges of the editor of "Congress" weekly. Then he participated in the Salt Satyagraha. Due to this reason, he was arrested at "Uppada" and punished with two years imprisonment on 21st June, 1930.

He was wounded in his knee at the time of the British police attack on the Ashram on 18th January, 1932 and made a hole on his knee and stood life long witness. Due to his participation in Civil Disobedience Movement, he was arrested on 1st February, 1932 and imprisoned him at Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. But the government released him on 30th April, 1934. Then he came back to the Ashram and started an elementary school along with Sri Polasa Pochayya for the downtrodden along with others.

In 1946 Sri Tanguturi Prakasam became Prime Minister (Chief Minister was called like that in those days) of United Madras state. Sri Prakasam was the first person who implemented Gandhian Constructive Programmes at firqua level. He also appointed officers to implement these programmes.
Like that, Sri Hanumantha Rao was appointed as a Block (firqua) Development Officer at Rajahmundry. Sri Hanumantha Rao called as "Gandhi Officer" in his duties.

After retirement, he settled in Rajahmundry. He wrote commentary about "Bhagawad Geetha" in english as "The flute of new life". He translated Bal Gangadhar Tiluk's life history. He also translated Veerchand Raghavaji Gandhi, the preaching of jain religion speeches which are delivered "All Religious Meet" at Chicago. Andhra Pradesh Jain Mahasabha published these translations. He acted as the secretary of East Godavari freedom fighters association.

He had four sons and four daughters. He received the Tamra Pathra appreciation for his services in the freedom struggle. He suffered ill health for a few days and died on 2nd July, 1976 at Rajahmundry.

SRI RAMACHANDRUNI VENKATAPPAYYA

He was born in May, 1902 at Tanguturu of Prakasam District. His parents were Sri Ramakrishnayya and Smt. Rangamma., He married Seshavatharamma. They had two sons (Sri Bala Venkata Subrahmanyam, Sri Nagaraju).

He was a peculiar person. Growing his whiskers, beard and wore Rudraksha Rosary. He was the student of Andhra Ratna Sri Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya. He was very much inspired by Gandhi at his High School education. He went to Visakhapatnam without telling his opinion to his family members.

He propagated "Congress" activities at Visakhapatnam. After that he worked in freedom movement without rest. At the time of visiting of Prince of Wales in the year 1922, he participated in an agitation. He was arrested on 17th February, 1922 and punished with five months rigorous imprisonment in Rajahmundry Central Jail.

He got friendship with Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy. On the advice of Sri Sambamurthy, he entered Gowtami Satyagraha Ashram as an ashramite. He was the Sub-Editor in the Congress weekly office in the Ashram. He was on "Neil Satyagraha" executive committee secretary which was held at Madras in 1927. He was introduced to Gandhiji as a "Neil Satyagrahi" at his visit to the Ashram in 1929.
He was arrested while participated in Salt Satyagraha in 1930 and punished with six months rigorous imprisonment on 16th May, 1930 and sent to Rajahmundry, Vellore, Madras, Alipur and Madhurai jails. He was released on November 1930.

On 1st February, 1932 he was arrested against the reason of civil disobedience movement and punished with five years imprisonment. Then, he released on 24th April, 1934. He started an Indian Shop by the name of Indian Agencies at Rajahmundry along with co-ashramite Sri Garimella Narasimhamurthy.

For the reason of participating in "Salt Satyagraha", he was arrested on 22nd January, 1941 and punished with rigorous imprisonment at Madras and Alipur jails for six months. Again he was participated in Self Satyagraha and was punished with 9 months rigorous imprisonment along with Rs. 250/- penalty on 8th August, 1941. This time he was sent to Tiruchirapalli and Alipur jails. At the time of Quit India Movement, he was arrested with two years rigorous imprisonment. This time he was sent to Alipur, Wellesly Sanitarium jail and Ballary jails.

He received Tamra Patra on 15th August, 1972. From February 1974 to March 1976, he was acted as a Advisory Board Member to the Freedom Fighters Pension Board. He died on 31st March, 1976.

Smt. DURGABAI DESHMUKH

She was born on July 15, 1909 at Rajahmundry. Her parents were Sri Rama Rao and Smt Krishnamma. She born in Patriotic family and she was selfless enough to participate in the freedom struggle for the welfare of people from her childhood.

She disliked to study English. So, she stopped her education at 5th class level and started to read Hindi. At the age of twelve, she translated Gandhiji's Hindi speech into Telugu at Kakinada in 1921. After meeting Gandhiji, her family started to wear khaddar.

She participated in "All India National Congress Conference" held at Kakinada in 1923 and highly inspired to propagate Hindi which will leads to Nationalism and Unity. Immediately, She started a Hindi School at Kakinada and nearly 490 women, children and elders joined in this school. She trained them according to her principles and Gandhian ideas.
As a service volunteer in that meeting, she has to look after the security guard duty at the entrance of the Indian goods Exhibition. She was asked to stop the persons, who were coming without entrance tickets. She courageously stopped Sri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru at the gate and was appreciated by Nehruji. She was greatly attracted by the National leaders with her discipline and sincerity.

At the age of twenty, she passed matriculation from Benarus University. She also completed M.A., Degree from Andhra University. In 1942, she completed L.L.B. and started her Advocate career at Madras as a criminal lawyer.

She started "Andhra Mahila Sabha" in 1937 at Madras. She helped a lot through this organisation. As a lawyer she fought against social inequality and injustice towards women. She was appreciated by Dr. Ambedkar. He said that "This woman has a bee in her bonnet".

She was the first Representative of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust's Andhra Branch, Sithanagaram, during 1945 - 46 and as per the direction given by Gandhiji, she worked for the rural and child welfare. She implemented various programmes for the welfare of women, which are regularly conducting in present days also.

She was honoured with "Palji Hoppman" International Award. She was honoured with "Padmavibhushan" in 1975. Sri Pandit Nehru asked her to take charge of Planning Commission Member. One lack fifty thousand villages were covered by service organisations. According to her suggestion, the Social Welfare Board was started at central level. She worked for the family planning and family welfare in first five years plan. She was also appointed as member in charge.

She married Sri Chintamani Deshmukh on 22nd January, 1953. Her husband was also a Noble Patriot. She along with Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy started a marvellous Gandhian Constructive Programmes at Sithanagaram service centre. The organisation "Andhra Mahila Sabha" was extented its service centres at many places and conducting so many programmes for women empowerment. She died on 9th May, 1981. Her death is a great loss to the Nation.

SRI KANDREGULA RAMACHANDRA RAO

He was born in 1902 at Tanuku of West Godavari District. He studied B.A., in Gujarat.
University. Again he joined in B.A., at Madras. At the time of his second year B.A., course, he was inspired by Gandhiji in 1921 and plunged into the Non Co-Operation Movement. He was one of the members who started "Andhra Yuvaajana Swarajya Sabha" under the leadership of Sri Madduri Annapurnayya in 1921 at Rajahmundry.

He was one of the members on the editorial board of the "Congress" weekly in 1922 at Rajahmundry, which played a key role to enlighten the state people towards the National freedom movement. As the editor of this paper, he was arrested and punished with one and half year imprisonment.

At the time of Sri Annapuranayya's imprisonment, Sri Kandregula Ramachara Rao as the sub-editor of the "Congress" weekly took charge as the editor of it and published the weekly without any hindrances. For this reason in the month of February 1924, he was arrested under sections 121, 153A and was rewarded one and half year rigorous imprisonment.

SRI DHARANI PRAGADA SESHA GIRI RAO

He was born in 1901 at Manepalli, a village of Razole taluk. East Godavari district. His Parents were Sri Buli Surayya and Smt Subbamma.

He worked with Dr.Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam at Rajahmundry in his student life days. He was a student of the Rajahmundry Arts College and stopped his studies at intermediate level and plunged into the Non Co-Operation movement. In the year 1921, which Andhra Ratna Sri Duggirala Gopalakrishnayya's presidency, a meeting was held at Rajahmundry. Sri Seshagiri Rao and others inspired with this meeeting and stopped their education.

He married Annapurna, the only daughter of Sri Gudipati Gangaraju in 1921. He had a son Sri Rama Sarma. His wife Smt. Annapurana died a few months later. Then, he married Prema Geetha, the second daughter of Sri Jayanthi Venkata Narayana of Berhampur. He married her in "Brahma Samaj" marriage system. They had three sons and seven daughters. One of his daughter Smt. Maheedhara Sutya Kumari, as the Prathinidhi (Representative) of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, came from the U.S.A and served in a marvellous way. She spent nearly 15 lakhs of rupees which was her share and donations collected from NRI's for providing physical amenities in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram, Sithanagaram. Presently the grand daughter of Sri Seshagiri
Rao (daughters of late Smt. Maheedhara Surya Kumari) also Co-Operative with the service centre to conduct many Women Empowerment Programmes.

Between 1927-28 he conducted City Satyagraha at Madras tremendously. He also one of the key person in "Neil Satyagraha". For this reason, he was arrested and was awarded six months imprisonment.

From the beginning, he worked with Dr. Subrahmanyam at the time of founding the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram. After establishment of the Ashram, he worked as general manager to look after all the activities in the Ashram.

At the time of going to meet Sri Tanguturi Prakasam at Madras in the month of July 1932, he was arrested by the C.I.D. police and was punished with six months imprisonment at Madras and Madurai jails.

Gandhiji visited the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram on 8th May, 1929. As the general manager, Sri Seshagiri Rao provided a "Palm leaves Kuteer" for Gandhiji and Kasturba, later it was kept as "Baa - Bapu Kuteer". Sri Seshagiri Rao done a tremendous work for the expansion of khadi industry and its sales.

Sri Seshagir Rao lived in the Ashram at the time of inertia and worked for the reorganisation of the Ashram as the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust's Andhra Branch. He sacrificed his entire life in a Gandhian approach and worked for the Ashram. He shifted his residence to the Harijan ashram, near Sithanagaram for a few months.

Sri Seshagiri Rao suffered from "Chroma Nephrates" and died on 6th January, 1950 at Rajahmundry in Dr. Vangaveti Venkatrama Deekshithulu's house.

SRI PISAPATI VENKATA SUBBA RAO

He belonged to Guntur District in Andhra Pradesh. His father was Sri Venkata Krishnayya. He was very much interested in learning Hindi from his child hood and learned it thoroughly.

From 1919, he worked for the propagation of "Dakshin Bharata Hindi Prachara Sabha".

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He was a wonderful orator. He participated in Gandhian Constructive Programmes. He courageously offended the government's unlawful action, at the time of wearing "Gandhi Caps".

He joined in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram and took charge of Hindi teacher, then taught them Hindi regularly even attending to their work place when they were unable to attend the classes. He also taught Hindi to the people of the surrounding villages of the Ashram. At the time of "Salt March", he followed in the rally and taught them Hindi two or three hours daily. Due to the participation in the "Salt Satyagraha", he was punished with six months and six weeks imprisonment. He was sent to Rajahmundry and Alipur jails.

After the police attack on the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram, he shifted his residence to Vijayawada. He vigorously worked for the Hindi language from Vijayawada as his head quarters. For the propagation of Hindi, he also started a News Paper. He acted as secretary to "Andhra State Hindi Prachar Sabha"

**SRI JOSYULA APPALA RAMA MURTHY**

He was born on 17th July, 1900 at Narsapur of West Godavari District. His father was Sri Kesava Somayajulu. His father's native place is Penumanchili, Achanta mandal of the same district. He was very intelligent in his studies and won more gold medals. He stood first in every class. He was also very hard worker.

At the time of studying B.L. Degree at Madras, he was inspired by Gandhiji in 1921 and stopped his studies. He plunged into Non Co-Operation Movement. After discontinued his B.L. Degree, he came back to Penumanchili and propagated the Non Co-Operation Movement in the surrounding villages on foot. He organised a Taluk level political meeting under the presidentship of Sri Tanguturi Prakasam at Matlapalem, the native place of Sri Pericharla Subba Raju, a veteran freedom fighter in this place.

In 1925, he was entered in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram and worked in Khadi wing. But he came back to his native place. Sri Pericharla Peddi Raju became the District Board President. He appointed Panchayat officers to look after the village level service activities. In this process, he appointed Sri Josyula Appala Ramamurthy as Narsapur taluk Panchayat Officer. He was there for some time, then he joined in Charaka Sangam as an Office Manager at Bandar (Machilipatanam).
The Charka Sangam was handed over to Dr. Pattabhi Sitharamayya. He worked there up to Salt Satyagraha in 1930. Then, he participated in Salt Satyagraha and he was punished with one year imprisonment on 6th June, 1930 and sent to Rajahmundry, Cuddalur jails.

After Gandhi - Irwin pact, he was released on 9th March, 1931. He dedicated himself to Khadi movement and Constructive Programmes. He joined in the Ashram established by Sri Goteti Jogiraju at Kondevaram, near Pithapuram. Here, he stayed for many years. He organised village level Constructive Programmes as the Ashramite.

In 1946, Sri Tanguturi Prakasam became the Madras State Prime Minister (Chief Minister). Then Sri Josyula Appala Ramamurthy became the Block Development Officer of "Dendulur" firca. He worked very honestly and never cared anybody. So he got many problems. In 1955 he was retired from his job.

He didn't liked to depend on his sons. So he started a tuition centre for college students and sent them for B.A., B.Sc., P.U.C. examinations privately. He spent some time at Eluru, Rajahmundry and Kakinada. He died on March 24, 1968 at Kakinada.

SRI MANAPRAGADA VENKATA KRISHNA RAO

He was born at Rajahmundry. His father was Sri Chalamayya. He studied his secondary education in Veeresalingam High School at Rajahmundiy. He plunged in to Non Co-Operation Movement in 1921. He participated in "Flag Satyagraha" at Nagpur and was punished with seven and half months rigorous imprisonment. Then he came back to Rajahmundry. He decided to do for the Nation. He collected some like minded people and started "Harijan Seva" activities at Rajahmundry. He was succeed in it.

After joining in Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram, he worked in "Harijan Seva" wing. Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam's ambition of "Harijan Seva" was fulfilled with this person. He regularly went to the surrounding villages and worked for the upliftment Harijans.

He participated in "Salt Satyagraha" and punished with two and half years rigorous imprisonment on 12th June, 1930 at Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. But due to Gandhi - Irwin pact
he was released on 11th March, 1931.

He shifted his residence from Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram to Raghudevapuram, near Sithanagaram. He established a plam leaves house for Harijan Seva and named it as the Ashram's branch. He lived with them and worked for their welfare. He also participated in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1933.

After the deaths of his wife and Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam, he mentally worried a lot. He shifted his residence to Rajahmundry in 1954. He led a misarable life in his last days. In 1962 he died due to ill health.

SRI MACHIRAJU SRIRAMA CHANDRA MURTHY

He was bom in 1888 at Amalapuram, East Godavari district. He lost his father when he was 3 days of age. He was born on "Sri Rama Navami" and named as "Sri Rama Chandra Murthy".

He got acquainted with Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam and plunged into the Freedom Movement in 1920. When Gandhiji and other National leaders came to this place, the people always welcomed them with bands and music. Sri Ramachandra Murthy look after this activities. He alongwith other leaders violated 144 section on January 1922 and punished with two months imprisonment.

He was also a comedian and made people laugh. He was a pleasent companion in the jail too. The jail staff also enjoyed his wit. Due to his frolic, he was called "Banda Ramudu". He was called with that name life long. He entered the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram along with first batch i.e.Sri Madduri Annapuranayya, Sri Kovvidi Ling Raju and others in 1925. He was participated in "Salt Satyagraha" and punished with two years imprisonment at Cannanor jail.

After releasing from the jail, he married Seshamma. They had two daughters and one son. But son was died at his child hood. After police attack on the Ashram, he joined a Khadi shop at Rajahmundry. He was there for nearly three years, then he worked in "All India Charaka Sangam" shop.

He led a misarable life by in his last days. Dr. Vangaveti Venkatrama Deekshithulu helped
him with financial assistance and medical aid. Due to ill health he suffered for a long time and died in 1949 at the age of 61.

**Dr. SARASWATHULA SURYANARAYANA**

He was born in 1908 in East Godavari District. His parents were Sri Sitharama Sastry and Smt. Pullamma. He was inspired by Dr. Brahmjosyula Subrahmanyam and stopped his education at 9th class. He joined the National School which was started by Dr. Subrahmanyam.

On the advice of Dr. Subrahmanyam and with the help of Sri Kasinadhuni Nageswara Rao he did L.I.M. course (Medical course) during 1924-28. From 1928 to 30, he was in Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram to look after the Medical Services in the Ashram hospital. After police attack on the Ashram, he shifted his residence to Munganda, East Godavari district. He settled at his sons house at Hyderabad in his last days.

**SRI GARIMELLA NARASIMHA MURTHY**

His father was Sri Bapanna. He was an Agriculturist. He was inspired by Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam. He married Kameswaramma and joined in Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in 1929. He participated in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1921.

Sri Narasimhamurthy as a Ashramite, looked after the duties in Khadi wing. In 1930, along with other Ashramites he also participated in "Salt Satyagraha". Due to this reason, he was punished with six months imprisonment from 26th May, 1930 at Rajahmundry and Ballary jails.

At the time of police officer Mustefalikhan’s attack on the Ashram unlawfully, he was one of the eleven members team which opposed the unlawful activities of the police. So, he was rewarded with four years rigorous imprisonment on 1st February, 1932 at Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. But he was released on 30th April, 1934.

After this police attack, the Ashramites shifted their shelter to various places. Sri Narasimhamurthy also shifted his residence to Rajahmundry and started to South Indian Agencies with Sri Ramachandruni Venkatappa for some time later, he took charge of Deputy Panchayath Officer job and retired in 1954.

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SRI PEDDADA GOPALAKRISHNA MURTHY

He was born on 16th November, 1906 at Veeravasaram in West Godavari district. His father was Sri Perraju. He studied B.A. in Andhra Jatheeya Kalasala, Machilipatnam of Krishna district.

At the time of student life, he developed Nationalism and Patriotism. He joined in Chagallu Ashram of West Godavari district during 1927 to 1929. Then he joined in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram. He worked for the service of Harijans and propagation of Khadi.

He participated in "Salt Satyagraha" and punished with six months rigorous imprisonment from 26th June, 1930 at Rajahmundry, Vellore and Alipur jails. In January 1932, he participated in Civil Disobedience Movement and wounded severely with the lathi charge. Again he participated in Civil Disobedience Movement and punished with six months imprisonment and rupees 200/- as criminal tax. After releasing from jail, he reached the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram. He was there upto 1935 and worked for the implementation of Constructive Programme.

He established a Co-Operative Society at Bhimavaram, West Godavari district. From 1936 to 1942, he worked as Divisional Organiser for Hindustan Mutual Insurance Company at Machilipatnam, Krishna district. He also elected as the District Board Member of West Godavari district during 1939 - 1942. He took charge as an Executive Officer and Trustee in various temples of Krishna district. He worked for the upliftment of Harijans and propagated for the Khadi till his death.

SRI GUNDEPUDI RAMAKRISHNA SARMA

His father was Sri Sankarayya. He married Lakshmi Narsamma. They had two sons and two daughters.

He was the Co-brother of Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam. He looked after the Khadi sales at Rajahmundry on behalf of the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram. In 1931, he joined in the Ashram, then worked along with Sri Madduri Krishna Murthy and Sri Vangala Satyanarayana in "Congress" weekly office.

He was one of the eleven members batch, who objected to the unlawful attack on the Ashram fearlessly and severely wounded in the lathicharge. He was arrested and punished with four years
imprisonment on 1st February, 1932 and sent to Rajahmundry, Cannanore jails. But the government released after two years.

Then, he shifted his residence to Rajahmundry and worked in Khadi village industries board. He also started his own Khadi store at Innispet, Rajahmundry.

SRI VANGALA SATYANARAYANA

His father was Sri Sivaramayya, a farmer. He married Ramanamma. They had two sons. He joined in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in 1925 at the time of shifting the congress paper from Rajahmundry. He and Sri Madduri Krishna Murthy mastered the techniques of composing work. He worked at the congress press office of the Ashram and published the paper fearlessly even at the time of police surveillance.

He was one of the eleven members batch, who objected to the unlawful attack on the Ashram in 1932, Due to this reason he was rewarded with four years rigorous imprisonment on 1st February, 1932 and sent to Rajahmundry and Ballery jails.

The State Charaka Sangam was handed over to Dr. Pattabhi Sitharamayya. Then Sri Satyanarana joined the Khadder Shop at Rajahmundry which was controlled by the State Charaka Sangam. Then he was transferred to Vijayawada and afterwards Kakinada. He stayed at Rajahmundry after his retirement. He had two sons and two daughters. He died due to some illness.

SRI OLETI NARASIMHAM

He was a native of Razole, East Godavari district. His father was Sri Sriramulu. He married with Sithamma. He plunged into the Freedom Movement at the time of Non Co-Operation Movement in 1921. He joined in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram along with Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam and Sri Madduri Annapuranayya at its starting days.

He worked in Khadi production wing of the Ashram in co-ordination with Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao, Sri Josyula Appala Rama Murthy and Sri Mamidi Lakshmi pathi. Along with other Ashramites, he participated in "Salt Satyagraha" in 1930. He was punished with two years rigorous imprisonment on 12th June, 1930 and sent to Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. Due to Gandhi
- Irwin pact, he was released on 11th March, 1930.

He was one of the eleven members batch, which objected to the unlawful attack on the Ashram in 1932. He was also severely injured in lathicharge and also punished along with others with four years rigorous imprisonment on 1st February, 1932 and sent to Rajahmundry and Ballery jails. But the government was released on 11th August, 1933.

Then he worked in a Khadi shop at Rajahmundry controlled by the State Charaka Sangam. At the time of working at Rajahmundry, he attacked in T.B. and died in 1952. He worked in Gandhian approach of Constructive Programmes especially in Khadi Movement till his death.

SRI GUDURI RANGAYYA

He was born on 15th July, 1902 at "Narava" village of Giddaluru taluk, Prakasam district. His father was Sri Sayanna. He married Nagarathnamma. They had a son.

By profession he was a tailor, but he was a Noble Patriot. He was a student of Sri Thallapragada Narasimha Sarma and shifted his residence from Giddalur to Rajahmundry. He took oath not to stitch cloths other than Khadi. He lived by his oath till his death. In 1923 he joined in the chagallu Ashram, West Godavari district, then he joined in Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram during 1926 to 1928.

He joined in "Brahma Samaj" at the time of his Chagallu Ashram stay. He married a widow (Smt. Nagarathnamma) and followed Gandhian Principles. Along with tailoring, he worked in "Harijan Seva" and propagation of Khadi movement activities.

He participated in "Salt Satyagraha" in 1930 and severely injured in lathicharge at Kakinada. He also participated very actively in Civil Disobedience Movement in 1932. He also one of the eleven members batch, who objected the unlawful attack on the Ashram and punished with four years rigorous imprisonment on 1st February 1932 and sent to Rajahmundry, Ballery jails. Along with others, he was also released after two years. Then he settled at Danavaipet, Rajahmundry. He lived with son in his last days.
SRI GATTIM SURYANARAYANA

He was a bachelor. He joined in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram as a "Composer" in the "Congress" weekly press in the year 1927.

The Ashram life instilled him with new political ideas and ideology. The other Ashramites advised him to go to a safe place before the British police attack on the Ashram in 1932. He didn't like to go out and stayed in the Ashram willfully with others.

He was injured severely and about to die as he was not a strong man physically. But by the grace of god, he came out from the dangerous position. He was also punished with four year rigorous imprisonment, but was released after two years. Later, he joined as composer in the Shanti Ashram, which was at Thotaplli and spent his last days there.

SRI POLASA POCHAYYA

He was born in 1905 at Vangalapudi, near Rajahmundry. His father was Sri Durgayya. He passed the Higher Grade Teacher Training and worked as Teacher for some time.

He acted as the secretary of East Godavari district Farmers Society during 1944 - 1947. He also worked as secretary and vice president of the Congress at Rajahmundry taluk level. He worked for the welfare of Harijans. He participated in Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.

At the time of the police attack on the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in 1932, he objected the unlawful attack. Due to this reason, he was punished with two and half years imprisonment on 1st February, 1932. At the time of handing over the Ashram to the Ashramites, he was released from the jail.

Then he organised an elementary school for Harijans and others in the Ashram along with Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao. Due to his participation in "Quit India Movement" in 1942, he was punished with one year rigorous imprisonment on 7th October, 1942 and sent to Alipur camp jail.

Smt. BHRAMAJOSYULA LAKSHMI NARASAMMA

The Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram was a good shelter for four patriotic, valient women of
ideals. Smt. Lakshminarasamma was one of them. She was the mother of Dr. Brahamajosyula Subrahmanyam. She gave her two sons i.e. Dr. Subrahmanyam and Sri Sitharamayya to the Nation.

She put the bundle of Khadi on her head and sold them by touring vigorously in a Gandhian approach. By her strong willpower, she sold more and more Khadi cloths. She went to Anathapur along with some volunteers from Rajahmundry on 12th November, 1927 to Andhra State meeting. She went there for encouraging the Satyagrahees against "Neil Statue" at Madras.

She spoke in that meeting that the removal of "Neil Statue" at Madras was essential, otherwise they would not go back. The Satyagrahees were inspired by Smt Lakshmi Narasamma's (75 years old Satyagrahee) noble words. She died in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram in 1930. Thousands of people came and attended to her funerals.

Smt. MADDURI VENKATA RAMANAMMA

She was the wife of Sri Madduri Annapurnayya. She was born on 3rd March, 1906 at Peddapuram, East Godavari district. Her father was Sri Kolluri Brahmaji Rao. Her husband was a Noble National leader and a great freedom fighter. She always stood by her husband's side and participated in freedom struggle. She was one of the women who was punished with imprisonment.

She participated in the "Civil Disobedience Movement" and punished with six months imprisonment at Vellore and Cannanore jails. At the time of the unlawful police attack on the Ashram, the Ashramites thought of sending her to safe place. But she courageously objected to that proposal and willfully stayed in the Ashram. She worked in the Ashram with great ideals and goals.

The British police destroyed the property of the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram on 18th January, 1932 and the Ashramites were sent to jail. Then, after weekdays Smt Madduri Venkata Ramanamma organised a picketing of foreign cloth shops at Rajahmundry. Due to this reason, she was rewarded with six months imprisonment at Vellore and Cannanore jails.

Her husband got a punishment of 14 years imprisonment during 1921 to 1947. He was not allowed to attend to the marriage of their daughter. She looked after this marriage and never...
stopped her Constructive Programme.

She died on 6th December, 1943. Her husband Sri Annapumayya was in jail at the time of this tragic incident. The cruel government did not release him on "Parole"

**Smt. MANAPRAGADA SUNDARAMMA**

She was born at "Khandavalli" of West Godavari district. Her father was Sri Kanakayya. She married in 1926 with Sri Manapragada Venkata Krishna Rao, the Ashramite of Gowthami Satyagra Ashram, Sitanagaram.

She willfully participated in Gandhian constructive programmes along with her husband. After marriage, she used to wear Khadi cloths regularly and participated in the freedom struggle. Both of the couple concentrated on the upliftment of Harijans.

She participated in "Civil disobedience Movement", and was punished with six months imprisonment and two thousand rupees criminal tax and sent to Vellore, Cannanore jails. She was attacked with T.B. during her imprisonment. After being released from the jail, she died in 1936.

**Smt. GUDURI NAGARATNAMMA**

She was born at Erragudem of Kovvur taluk, West Godavari district. She was widowed in her youth. She joined in the Chagallu Ashram. For some time she also joined in the "Hithakarini Home", established by Sri Kandukuri Veersalingam at Rajahmundry. Sri Guduri Rangayya married her at Chagallu Ashram. They had a son.

She followed Gandhian Principles and willfully participated in Constructive Programme. She was punished with rigorous imprisonment at the time of "Civil Disobedience Movement" in 1932, she lived with her son in last days.

**SRI MADDURI KRISHANA MURTHY**

He was the brother of Sri Madduri Annapurayya. He was born at Komaragiri, East Godavari district.

He stopped his education at his childhood and trained in the National School which was
started by Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam. He joined the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram alongwith Sri Dharanipragada Sashagiri Rao, Sri Oleti Narasimham, Sri Manapragada Krishana Rao and others. He learned composing work and worked in "Congress" weekly office.

He was participated in "Salt Satyagraha" and punished with two years rigorous imprisonment on 13th June, 1930, sent to Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. But he was released on 11th March, 1931 due to Gandhi - Irwin pact.

He was one of eleven members team, who objected the unlawful attack on the Ashram in 1932. He was severely injured in this incident and punished with four years imprisonment on 1st February, 1932 at Rajahmundry and Ballary jails. But the government released him on 31st August, 1933.

After 1932 police attack, the press was not opened. So he shifted his residence to Rajahmundry and joined in a Khadi shop, then he worked at Pithapuram, Kakinada and Hyderabad. Due to severe ill health he died in the month of August, 1968. His wife Smt. Suryakantham died at the time of his professional stay at Pithapuram. They had one son and three daughters.

Dr. VANGAVETI VENKATA RAMA DEEKSHITULU

He studied L.M.P. course in 1920 at Visakhapatnam Medical College. He plunged into Gandhiji's Non Co-Operation Movement in 1921. At that time 26 students were arrested and was imprisoned for four months punishment in Rajahmundry central jail. After their incarceration, all the students except two or three completed their Medicine Study and settled as Doctors along with their main motto of Patriotism. Dr. Vangaveeti Venkatrama Deekshitulu and two others of his classmates belonged to Rajahmundry.

Dr. Deekshitulu started his Medical practice in Aryapuram at Rajahmundry. He was invited by Dr. Subrahmanyam to the Ashram, Sithanagaram. So he went to the Ashram and looked after the activities in the Ashram.

In 1930 at the time of "Salt Sayagraha" Dr. Deekshithulu stayed in the Ashram along with Sri Dharanipragada Seshagiri Rao and Sri Mamidi Lakshmipathi to look after the welfare of the Ashram residents. In the month of January 1932, he fought in a Non-Violent way along with
other Ashramites at the time of Musthafalikhan's attack on the Ashram.

First of all, he treated the wounded Ashramites and finally he thought about his wound. He participated in Civil Disobedience Movement\textsuperscript{28} and was punished with four years rigorous imprisonment on 1st February, 1932. He was sent to Rajahmundry and Tiruchirapalli jails.

Dr. Deekshitulu led a simple life. He married Rajeswari. They had two sons and two daughters. He helped many Freedom Fighter's families. He provided educational facilities to the needy youth. He consoled the patient's mentally and treated physical ailments.

He acted as a member of District Congress Committee. He was elected as Municipal Councillor at Rajahmundry for many years. Once, he took charge as Vice chairman of Rajahmundry municipality.

His wife died in the month of September 1946 and Dr. Deekshitulu was died on 11th August, 1959 in Sitampet at Rajahmundry.

SRI MAMIDI LAKSHMIPATHI

Though their parents were very rich, he plunged into the Non Co-Operation Movement. He participated in "Nagapur Flag Satyagraha". For this reason, he was arrested and punished with seven and half months rigorous imprisonment. His family was very close to Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam. His father agreed to send him to stay at Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram, Sithanagaram due to his utmost respect to Dr. Subrahmanyam and his Gandhian Constructive Programme.

He worked as accountant general in the Ashram and conducted various programmes with utmost sincerity and respect towards Gadhian philosophy. Along with his main duty, he also worked in the Khadi Branch of the Ashram.

He wanted to participate in the "Salt Satyagraha" rally in 1930. But it was not possible, due to guarding the Ashram while the Ashramites actively participated in the rally. He died of Snake bite. Even then also he wanted to die in the Ashram. For the emergency medical purpose, the inmates took him to Rajahmundry, but no use.
SRI BRAHMAJOSYULA SITHARAMAYYA

He was born in October 1888 in Muggulla, near Pirangipuram of Guntur district. His parents were Sri Rama Sastry and Smt. Lakshmi Narasamma.

He studied B.A., in 1908 and L.T. Degree in 1911. He worked in Bezawada Mission High School, Rajahmundry Government Secondary School and Government training school between 1911 - 1915. Then he was appointed as Deputy Educational Inspector by the Madras government.

He observed the Gandhian activities of his brother Dr. Subrahmanyam and plunged into the freedom movement. He conducted "Andhra National Education Conference", prepared a syllabus for the National School and started a National School91 at Rajahmundry. He entered in the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram and started a National School.

He had four children. He didn't like to give additional burden to Dr. Subrahmanyam in the Ashram. He fixed some goal to the National School, which he was started in the Ashram. He also prepared a batch to look after the running of the school in a Gandhian approach. Then he went to Panchagani of Satara district in Bombay state in 1926 and joined in a school for a job. Later he reached Bombay and settled there by 1947. He died in 1955.

SRI SETH JEEVANLAL

Sri Seth Jeevanlal was a Noble Gandhian. He was very much interested in rural development and Constructive Programme. He indirectly worked for the National Freedom Struggle through out his life. He encouraged Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam to established an Ashram with Gandhian principles in a rural area.

He donated the amount for establishing the Gowthami Satyagraha Ashram at Sithanagaram. He also vowed that he donate an amount of rupees 2500/- per year would for the Constructive Programme.

He voluntarily helped to shift the congress weekly printing unit to the Ashram. In 1927, Sri Seth Jeevanlal visited the Ashram and was satisfied with the Constructive Programme and wished them success.
CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME IN THE ASHRAM

Through the Ashram, their main goal is to implement Gandhian Constructive Programmes and propagating Non-Violence activities in the villages to awaken and elate the people. In his visit, Gandhiji said that "no where in his extensive tour have seen such life, spirit and enthusiasm as he found in the surrounding villages of this Ashram".

REMOVAL OF UNTOUCHABILITY

Sri Manapragada Krishna Rao lived along with Dr. Subrahmanyam at Rajahmundry after stopping of his education. He entered the Ashram and looked after the activities of Harijan Seva. Daily, he went to the Harijan places in the surrounding villages of the Ashram to educate them. He taught the news of Congress weekly and other daily papers. He explained them the essence of the issues.

He was unable to bear unlawful actions toward the Harijans. He spent much of his own money and the amount collected as donations to help them in their sufferings. After staying in the Ashram for a short period, he shifted his residence to a Harijanwada, a hamlet of Raghudevapuram village near the Ashram. He sacrificed his life for the Upliftment of Harjans.

Fruitful propaganda was taken through the Ashram for the protection of individual health. Ashramites enlightened the people to enter the temples of Sithanagaram and Vangalapudi villages. They also worked effectively for putting water from 33 wells surrounding the Ashram without caste discriminations.

The Ashramites were established a night school in the Harijanwada for their educational development. Daily, the members of "Harijan Seva Sangam" went to the Harijan areas to sweep their streets and educating them about the cleanliness of their homes. These regular services caused to stop the habit of eating beef and pork. Many of them took oath for prohibition and succeeded in it.

The Ashramites worked for the propagation of untouchability in the neighbouring villages. Gandhiji observed the activities doing for the Harijans. He told that work for the upliftment of downtrodden destitutes is going in a large scale. A night school was also established for their educational development.
There is another school for the elite and dalit students to study jointly without any caste discrimination. Gandhiji noted the establishment of prayer groups with them. Gandhiji praised the Ashramites for their Harijan seva activities.

In the month of May, 1929 Gandhiji brought a dalit boy to the Ashram. The Ashramites brought him up and Dr. Subrahmanyanam trained him in Medical Services. Later, became a compounder of the Ashram. He is Sri Tethali Subba Rao.

On 27th December, 1933 they provided the facility of entering three temples in Sithanagaram Taluk. Gandhiji inaugurated the "Harijan Sevashram" which was established by Dr. Subrahmanyanam and said that "It was a holy duty for him. He also added that the Ashramites will successfully overcome the obstacles in the way of the upliftment of Harijans. He hoped that the Ashramites would be completely inaugurated self sacrificing.

Gandhiji distributed fruits to the children in the Ashram after inauguration of Harijan Sevashram. Smt. Chiravooru China Venkamma has donated 2 acres of land for the Harijan Sevashram. On behalf of the villagers, Dr. Subrahmanyanam donated seven hundred rupees to the Harijan Nidhi. There are eight persons in the Harijan Sevashram. Maharshi Bulusu Samba Murthy has introduced the Ashramites to Gandhiji. In this visit Meerabehn also accompanied Gandhiji and she distributed hundred pairs of khadi dress to the Harijan children.

Untouchability eradication propaganda was successful in Sithanagaram Taluk. In every meeting, Gandhiji explained the broad ideas in eradication of the untouchability removal movement. In a meeting, he told that constructing houses and providing the wells or schools to Harijans was not the goal.

Even after providing them with all those amenities, if we treat them as untouchables, it is just like binding once legs with golden chains instead of iron chains. "It is nothing but Slavery" so said Gandhiji. We must provide them with all the facilities and bring them back to the main stream. "Only when the differences are sorted out can we fulfil our holy duty" that is Gandhiji's utterance. The programmes conducted by the Ashramites attracted Gandhiji's attention.

He warned "If we can't wash out the untouchableness from our soals, the Nation may be
spoil". He explained that "the untouchability is a thought of narrow thinking of human and we have to look after the religion with broad vision and humanity".

When Gandhiji participated in the movement of eradication of untouchability by Self Satyagraha, large number of people started one or two days self satyagraha and prayed for the success of Gandhiji's movement. Sri Chatti Krishna Rao, Sri Kottha Rama Swamy etc. were conducted regular propagandas in Harijan wadas.

PROHIBITION :

The Ashram did much for Prohibition. The Ashramites made many people give up alcoholism. The British Government which was against prohibition and charged Rs.7,500/- as criminal Tax.

Dr. Subrahmanyam delivered a courageous speeches in prohibition of liquor movement even though the government passed 144 section. so he was arrested on 7th January, 1922 and imprisoned for one year in Rajahmundry and Cuddlore.

KHADI

Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao went to the Sabarmathi Ashram for studying the constructive programmes implementing there. He worked for the successful implementation of Gandhian Ideals in this Ashram. He took the propagation of Khadi movement as the main object.

Making of reels, spindling and weaving etc., all the activities are done in the Ashram. Very soft Khadi also produced with their special skills in the ashram and pate looms are established in the Ashram for this purpose.

The weaving staff discharged its duties specially for weaving various coloured khadi materials and for weaving silk edge clothing. Due to this reason the ashram Khadi got a huge demand. So that, two sales godowns are established in Nagulapalli and Ramanakkapeta under the supervision of Sri Kottha Kamaraju.

Everyday, after flag hoistation at 6 am the Ashramites did spindling upto 7 am. Then they go to their routine day work. Sri Krovvidi Lingaraju, Sri Chandrupatla Hanumantha Rao, Sri Vangala
Satyanarayana, Smt Madduri Ramanamma, Smt. Palakodeti Syamalamba etc., went for the door sales of Khadi cloths. The sales were very high in Gandhi Jayanthi week.

Pithapuram Khadi centre won the first place and awarded with Gold Medal31 in 1927 at Bangalore "All India Khadi Exhibition". "KORA" cloth, which was produced in Pithapuram centre got this honour. Then they developed this centre for more production, established sales godowns at Vijayawada and Rajahmundry.

They produced Khadi cloth vigorously till the Government seized the Ashram illegally in the month of January, 1932. The British Government handed over the ashram to Dr.Subrahmanyan in the mouth of October, 1932. Then the Khadi production work done more and more.

Gandhiji felt very happy and was suprised at the work of the women who are working with more concentration even in the dim light. He wrote a comment in the Young India32 that "They are Khadi weaving clubs". After Gandhiji’s Andhra Pradesh state visit in the year 1933, the "All India Charaka Society" granted a loan of Rs. 25,000/- to the ashram for the development of Khadi industry. Pade looms were established. Gandhiji visited Nagulapalli centre which was running by the Ashram.

The Ashram Khadi Industry sold nearly Rs. 3 lakhs worth of Khadi items. Gandhiji found that only below 4 to 5 thousand rupees expenditure was spent and there was no unnecessary expenditure. Gandhiji was fully satisfied with the Ashram’s report. He wrote his tremendous comment and published in the next week’s Young India along with the Ashram’s Report.

In 1933, Gandhiji completed his tour of Andhra and a loan of Rs.25,000/- was sanctioned for Khadi production. It was allotted through the efforts of "All India Charaka Sangh".

Dr. Subrahmanyam died in 1936 and the Ashram went over to "All India Charaka Sangh".

OTHER VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

Under this Centre, the training Programmes33 like Ambar Charaka training, Production of Mats, Fibre Industry, Pound Rice unit, production of Match Boxes, manufacturing of Paper Boxes, Production of Khadi Garlands, Production of Toys, Production of Soaps, Dairy Farm Training,
Agriculture and Horticulture etc Cottage Industrial Trainings are held regularly according to their daily time table.

They are giving various training programmes to the needy women and providing Short Stay Home Facility. This is a most tremendous activity for the Women Empowerment which never forget in their lives.

They are also running a Care centre for the infants. This is a marvellous programme which is conducting in a remote place for the purpose of Rural People.

The Service Centre was rendering various service to the poor and downtrodden. It is providing maternity and child care facilities without any hindrances since 8 decades.

VILLAGE SANITATION

The ashramites were established a night school in the Harijanwada for their educational development. Daily, the members of "Harijan Seva Sangam" went to the Harijan areas to sweep their streets and educating them about the cleanliness of their homes.

Presently, the N.S.S. volunteers of the Degree College, Sithanagaram were going to the remote places in conducting various programmes to educate the people for the village sanitation.

WOMEN:

The future vision of Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy and Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh shown the golden path to the permanent Constructive Programme and for regular social service as their goals. They transformed the total estates to the Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust and named it as Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust's Andhra State level service centre. Due to this marvellous transformation, the Ashram is conducting various Constructive Programme without any hindrances.

Gandhiji was established in a National level Trust on the month of April 1945 for the welfare of Women and their Empowerment. It was named as Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust. It's head office is at Kasturba Gram near Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
Sri Avinasi Lingamchettiar was inaugurated the Programmes in the Ashram after transformation in 9th June, 1946. Noblest Social Worker Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh as its First Representative, eight teachers and with thirteen women students, the service activities are started. Smt. Asha Devi Arya Nayakam, Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy etc., were participated in this occasion.

The Trust's Andhra Pradesh, Sithanagaram rendering its marvellous Constructive Programme for the Empowerment of women from 9th June, 1946. Its Representatives are:

1. Smt. Durgabhai Deshmukh,
2. Smt. Vidya Devi Om Prakash Gupta
3. Smt. Digumarthi Buchchi Krishnamma
4. Smt. Ranchorla Samrajayam
5. Smt. Mallimadugula Vijayalakshmi
6. Smt. Yarneni Damayanthi
7. Smt. Gandhiraju Rukhminamma
8. Smt. Maheedhara Surya Kumari
9. Smt. Govindhavajula Suseela Behan

From December 1999 Govindhavajula Suseela Behan discharging her duties as the service centre's Representative.

The present time table of the service centre is given below:

4.00 am. : Awaking from the sleep
4.00-5.00 a.m. : Bathing
5.00-5.15 a.m. : Morning Prayer
5.15-6.00 a.m. : Yogasanas
6.00-6.45 a.m. : Sanitation
6.45-7.30 a.m. : Bathing
7.30-8.00 a.m. : Breakfast
9.30-12.30 p.m. : Classes
12.30-2.00 p.m. : Meals and Rest
2.00-5.00 p.m. : Classes
5.00-5.15 p.m. : Evening Prayer
5.15-7.00 p.m. : Gardening & Rest
7.00-8.00 p.m. : Dinner
8.00-9.00 p.m. : Self Reading
9.30 p.m. : Go to Sleep.

In the early days, the centre rendered its services through 18 Service Centres throughout the State. The Sitanagaram service centre was the State Head Quarter to these 18 centres. 3 Balwadi centres for helping the infants with Nutritious food, 5 village service centres for the Medical Services, a Medical centre with 20 beds inpatient accommodation was in the Centre. Under Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy and Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh etc. Leadership Rs. 5,31,368-94 ps. was collected through donations for Kasturba National Trust. In an instant Gandhiji told that "he has known the workmentship of Maharshi Sambamurthy, Dr. Subrahmanyam's marvellous services can be easily remember and he was a good administrator".

Through the Sitanagaram Centre the 18 centres are maintained in an inspiring way. If we can observe the activities from 1946 to till today, we can understand the programmes which are mainly helped for the "Women Empowerment".

Training Programmes are conducting regularly from the service centre. The State and Central Government also providing some financial assistance for conducting various programmes. They are conducting regular classes for the discontinued girl students. An adult education school also there.
PRESENT ACTIVITIES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Two Anganwadi training centres are successfully running with the financial assistance from the Directorate of Women and Child Welfare. Here, they are giving training to the instructors and Ayas who are working in State Government Anganwadi’s in various places of the District.

Presently, the Service Centre is having three employees in the Office, one employee in the Agricultural wing, three in Medical wing, two in infant centre, Seven in short stay home and fourteen in Anganwadi centre were rendering their sincere efforts in a Gandhian way.

Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust also providing funds according to the norms and conditions to continue their programmes through this State Branch.

They are giving various training programmes to the needy women and providing Short Stay Home Facility with the financial assistance from Central Social Welfare Department. This is a most tremendous activity for the Women Empowerment which never forget in their lives.

They are also running a Care centre for the infants by the help of Central Social Welfare Department. This is a marvellous programme which is conducting in a remote place for the purpose of Rural People.

The Service Centre was rendering various service to the poor and downtrodden. It is providing maternity and child care facilities without any hindrances.

The Service Centre conducting various Constructive Programmes for the women empowerment which are give below:

1. Village Workers training
2. Health workers training
3. Child Care centre
4. Bee keeping training
5. Training for the Anganwadi instructors and Ayas.

6. Short-stay home.

7. Tailoring and Embroidery.

8. Training for the production of various articles with coconut fibre.
TIMELINE OF THE ASHRAM:

1921: Many village assistants of Sitanagaram area resigned their jobs and plunged into non cooperation movement.

1921: Marvellous farmers rally conducted by Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam.

1922, Jan-5: Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam arrested while in Satyagraha.

1923: The Congress annual sessions held at Kakinada. Bulusu Sambamurthy (Former speaker of Unified Madras State) proposed for the establishment of an Asram.

1924: 14 acres of land ticked for the Ashram in Sitanagaram.

1924-Nov, 9th: Sri Bulusu Sambamurthy lead the foundation stone. They received Gandhiji’s message.

1925: Congress Paper Publication shifted from Rajahmundry to the Ashram.

1926: Pucca well built up in the Ashram for the entire village.


1927: Ashrams Khadi Center won the first place in All India Khadi Exhibition held at Bangalore, with Gold medal.

1929-July: Sri Madduri Annapurnayya arrested.

1929: Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy was arrested.

1929-May, 9: Gandhiji visited this Ashram along with his followers.

1929-May, 10: Gandhiji stayed in the Ashram along with his followers.

1930-Feb: Peace Army training was conducted in the Ashram.

1930-Mar: Conducted salt march (Southern Dandi March)

1930-April 18: Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam, Maharshi Bulusu Sambamurthy etc., were arrested.

1931: Sri Krovvidi Lingaraju arrested.

1932-Jan, 5: Madras Fort St. George Gazette published a notice about the Ashram.

1932-Jan, 19: Unlawfully attacked in the Ashram by the British Police DSP Mustaf Alikhan.
1932-Oct. : The Ashram handed over to Dr. Brahmajosyula Subrahmanyam by the British Government.

1933-Dec. 26 : Gandhiji visited the Ashram second time.

1933 : A loan of Rs. 25,000/- was sanctioned to the Ashram after Gandhiji's visit from All India Charaka Sangh.

1933-Dec. 27 : Harijan's entry into temples.

1933 : Gandhiji was inaugurated the Harijan Sevashram.

1936-Dec. 23 : Dr. Brahmajosyula was died.

1946-Jun, 9 : Ashram was transferred to Kasturba Gandhi Natinal Memorial Trust. Smt. Durgabai Deshmukh was first representative.

: From then this is working with the same spirit by overcoming hurdles.
REFERENCES:

6. Andhra Pradesh Daily, Vijayawada 22-7-1987


37. Time table of the centre.


40. Collected data from Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Andhra Pradesh.