



Major Peasant Movements after the Revolution of 1857

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Abstract

The farmer's movement fought directly for their demands. Movements in the period between 1858 and 1914 tended to be localized, disjointed, and limited to specific grievances, in contrast to the movements after 1914. Farmers in the zamindari areas had high rents, illegal taxation, arbitrary evictions, and unpaid labor had to face. Apart from this, the government also imposed heavy land revenue. The movements emerged when the British economic policies resulted in the suppression of traditional handicrafts and other small industries, which led to changes in ownership an excessive burden of agricultural land and debt on the farmers, and increased poverty for the farmers. Economic policies of the British government She was in favor of the landlords and moneylenders and used to exploit the farmers. Against this injustice, the peasants also revolted on many occasions. Between 1920 and 1940, many farmer organizations emerged. Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha (established in the year 1929) and in the year 1936 All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) was the first farmer's organization. Lucknow session of Congress in 1936. In Sahajanand Under the Chairmanship of All India Kisan Sabha was formed. Later it issued a Kisan Manifesto demanding the abolition of zamindari and occupancy rights for all tenants.

Keywords:

Peasant Movement , British Government , Peasant Organization.

Introduction

The movement done in the spirit of improving agricultural policies is called the Peasant movement. At different times around the world, agitations have been carried out by farmers and agricultural workers for change in agricultural policies. In India too, the agricultural movement has been going on for many decades. The farmer's movement reflects the struggles done by the farmers, under which the farmers have been fighting directly for their demands from time to time. As a result of the famine that occurred before 1900, Indian farmers and agricultural workers started the agricultural movement. Due to the deteriorating economic condition of the farmers from time to time, peasant movements have often been carried out by the farmers. In fact, due to the indifference towards agriculture during British rule, the economic condition of the farmers kept getting weaker day by day due to the decrease in income of the farmers, due to which the incidents of suicide among the farmers increased.

1857 AD Of First War of Independence To The British suppressed it with the help of some princely states, but even after this India In many places, the flame of struggle kept burning in the hearts of the people. Meanwhile, in

many places, one after the other peasant movement happened. Most of these movements were done against the British. How many newspapers the exploitation of the farmers, the biased behavior of the government officials with them, and the struggle of the farmers were prominently published in their letters. Indigo rebellion Pavana Rebellion Tebhaga Movement Champaran Satyagraha Bardoli Satyagraha And the Mopla rebellion is known as the main peasant movement. Where 1918 AD's Kheda Satyagraha Gandhiji started, while 'the Mehta brothers' (Kalyanji and Kunwarji) also started the Bardoli Satyagraha in 1922 AD. Later this Satyagraha was led by Sardar Vallabhbhai remained in the hands of

1. Indigo Movement (1859-60 AD) –

This movement of Indian farmers in Bengal against the British indigo planters. In the context of their economic demands, this movement by the farmers was a huge movement of that time. The British officers gave indigo to the ryots without paying any money by taking land from the zamindars of Bengal and Bihar. Forced to work in agriculture. While the farmers wanted to cultivate rice on their fertile land. The first start of this movement was in September 1859. I was born in Govindpur village of Nadia district of Bengal. Indian farmers were treated like slaves by the British. Revolted because of. This movement was spread to places like Nadia, Pavana, Khulna, Dhaka, Malda, Dinajpur, etc. Due to the mutual solidarity, discipline, and organization of the farmers, this movement was completely successful. The British government had to bow down in front of its success and keeping in mind the independence of the ryots, in 1860 In AD 0, the British Government constituted a 'Neel Commission'. 1859 Neel Rebellion of 0 AD has been described by 'Dinwandhu Mitra in his book 'Neeldarpan'. This movement was started by Digambara and Vishnu Vishwas. of 'Hindu Patriot' Editor Harishchandra Mukherjee did a lot of work in the indigo movement. He continuously published news in the newspaper about the exploitation of farmers, the partiality of government officials, and the struggle of farmers going on at different places against it. Missionaries also played an active role in supporting the indigo movement. The government's attitude towards this movement was also quite balanced. 1860 By AD 0, the cultivation of indigo came to an end completely.

2. Moplah Rebellion

The long and tumultuous history of the Moplah rebellion only highlights the various complexities of the Indian situation. This rebellion shows that religious fanaticism can also become a way to express protest against landlords and foreigners. But the Moplas had forgotten for a while that when one caste becomes fanatic, the other in its reaction accepts fanaticism itself. Although the movement was focused on the question of control over land, at the same time religion was the ideological element through which the struggle on this issue was being expressed. First rebellion - A caste living on the Malabar coast of Kerala was known as Mopla. These people were mainly followers of Islam and illiterate, they used to be under the influence of Mullah clerics (called Thangal). The landlord class here was called 'Nambudari', who were upper-caste Hindus. The Moplas revolted as a result of the increased taxes on them and the exploitation of the British and landlords. He organized several rebellions from 1836 to 1885, in which many Moplas were killed. The nature of the Mopla rebellion of 1921 was economic and religious. During this time, Gandhiji supported the Moplas through his non-cooperation movement and many national leaders also visited this area. In 1921, when the government banned all gatherings, the Moplah leadership passed into the hands of local leaders and the movement turned violent again. The British police raided a mosque to arrest one of its leaders, Ali Musaliar, who was leading the rebellion at this time. Musaliar could not be arrested, but the Moplas considered this incident an insult to their religion and all the Moplas together took a violent form and destroyed landlords, bureaucrats, government houses, and property. Due to the attack on Hindu landlords and the instigation of Hindus by the British, this revolt became completely communal. Hindus were massacred on a large scale and they were forcibly converted to Islam finally the British government put an end to this rebellion completely by imposing martial law in the last months of 1921.

3. Bardoli Satyagraha:

A comprehensive, effective, and successful peasant movement during the entire national movement was the 'Bardoli Satyagraha' of Gujarat in 1928 for non-payment of rent. And, the reason for this was that it had an able and constructive leadership throughout the movement. Impressed by the activism and creativity of the local leadership here (Kalyanji Mehta, Kunvarji Mehta, Dayalji Desai), Gandhiji accepted to start the non-cooperation

movement from Bardoli instead of Kheda in 1922. When Gandhi called off the movement because of the Chauri-Chaura incident, Bardoli workers, on Gandhi's advice, started constructive activities among the untouchables, the tribals, who were called Kalipraj (blacks). By opening six 'Ashrams' in the entire Bardoli taluka, a comprehensive program to educate and awaken them was carried out. The constructive works done during this period played an important role in the success of the Satyagraha of 1928. After 1922, Kaliparaja Sammelan was organized every year. Gandhiji presided over the conference of 1927 and gave a new name to the Kaliparajas as Ramnipraj (forest dwellers) and also studied the economic-social condition of this community. An inquiry committee was constituted. Narhari Parisi etc. in their report said that Ramniprajs have been subjected to economic and sexual exploitation on a large scale by usurers and landlords through 'Hali Padthi' (bonded labor). Through all these constructive works, a strong base of Congress was created among the Ramnipraj community. Happened. In 1926, the British government decided to increase the rent by 30 percent. The Congress opposed it and through its 'Bardoli Inquiry Committee' proved the increase in rent unfair. It was opposed by the newspapers and also by the Indians in the Legislative Council. Finally, in July 1927, it was announced to reduce it slightly to 21.97 percent, which was insufficient. The local leaders invited Vallabhbhai Patel, the leader of successful Satyagrahas like Kheda, Nagpur Jhanda Satyagraha, Balsad, etc. to accept the leadership and Patel came to Bardoli on 4th February 1928. Patel first wrote a letter to the Governor of Bombay, but when nothing positive came out, then on February 12, he asked the farmers not to pay the rent until the government constituted an impartial inquiry committee. The people of Bardoli were very impressed with Patel and the women there gave him the title of Sardar. It may be mentioned here that women participated in a big way in this farmer's movement. In this, special emphasis was given to making women active. Patel conducted this Satyagraha very efficiently. The entire taluka was divided into 13 worker-shivers under able leadership. Daily 'Bardoli Satyagraha Patrika' was brought out. The 'Intelligence Department' was created so that no one cheats in non-payment of taxes. Local government officials were socially boycotted. Gradually public opinion in its favor prevailed. Indians resigned from the Bombay Legislative Council. Viceroy Irwin and the British Parliament also got worried. There was the apprehension of rent reset-movement in other areas of the Bombay Presidency as well. The textile mill workers were on strike and there was a possibility of a rail strike. The whole country was agitated in favor of Bardoli. On August 2, 1928, Gandhiji also reached Bardoli for alternative leadership given the possibility of Patel's arrest. In the end, the government agreed to set up an 'Inquiry Committee'. The committee of Bloomfield and Maxwell misjudged the increase and The hike was reduced from 30 percent to 6.03 percent. Thus, the Bardoli Satyagraha had a successful historical culmination.

4. Peasant movement of Awadh:

1858, the zamindars of Awadh were returned to their lands. Now the landlords had control over the farmers. Therefore, the landlords had now started collecting arbitrary rent, they used to take all cess and forced labor from the farmers. Due to this, the condition of the farmers became pathetic. The workers of the 'Home Rule League' were already active in Awadh and formed an organization by organizing farmers against this tyranny. In 1918, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Gaurishankar Mishra, and Indra Narayan Dwivedi together established the 'Uttar Pradesh Kisan Sabha'. By the month of June-July 1919, about 500 branches were formed. The main leaders of this movement were 'Jhinguri Singh', 'Durg Pal Singh' and 'Baba Ramchandra Das'. In the Pratapgarh district, a social boycott of the barber-washer bandh was being done against landlords. The main leader of this movement 'Baba Ram Chandra Das' visited these villages in 1920 along with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and awakened the farmers. In 1920, there was a difference of opinion between the non-cooperation activists and the nationalists. At the same time, an organization named 'Awadh Kisan Sabha' was established in Pratapgarh. This assembly The following suggestions were made in the interest of

1. Farmers should refuse to plow the land of eviction.
2. Don't do any kind of forced labor.
3. Settle your disputes through Panchayat.
4. The farmer who does not follow these rules should be socially boycotted.

Meanwhile, due to some misunderstandings in 1921, this movement took a violent form. Landlords, shops of banyas, etc. were raided. Its main centers were the areas of Rae Bareilly, Sultanpur, and Faizabad. Government repression followed and the violence ended. Meanwhile, the government passed the "Awadh Malguzari Rent Act", which gave some relief to the farmers and the movement weakened from here. By March 1922, the movement ended.

5. Pabna Rebellion :

The Pabna rebellion lasted from 1873 to 1876 AD. The cultivators of the Pabna district were protected by an act in 1859 AD against eviction and increase in rent to a certain extent, yet the zamindars charged them excessive rent and deprived them of their rights to their land. In 1873 AD, the farmers of ' Yusuf Sarai ' of Pabna together formed a ' Farmer's Union ' to counter the tyranny of the landlord. The main work of this organization was to collect money and organize meetings. East in time Bengal many districts of Such movements took place in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tripura, Bakerganj, Faridpur, Bogra, and Rajshahi. By stopping the payment of increased rent, the farmer's union wanted to fulfill its demands of change in the measure of measurement, abolition of illegal taxes, and reduction in rent. This movement was non-violent in some cases. It was a movement against the landlords, not the British. The farmers of Pabna gave this slogan in their demand, ' We want to be the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen and only her '. The then Governor Campbell justified their demands in a declaration. In this movement, the ryots were mostly Muslims. and most of the landowners Hindu Were. Ishan Chandra Rai, Shambhupal, etc. were among the important leaders of this movement. The Pabna rebellion was supported by many young intellectuals, including bankimchandra and R.C. Dutt was involved. in the 1880s when Bengal The discussion on the Tenancy Bill was going on, then Surendranath Banerjee, Anand Mohan Bose, And Dwarka Nath Ganguly campaigned to protect the rights of the tenants through the association. These people demanded that the ownership rights of the land should be given to those who cultivate it.

The Pabna rebellion was a movement of a peaceful nature. The farmers were demanding the protection of their interests peacefully. His movement was not even against the government, so the Pabna movement indirectly got the support of the government. 1873 AD. Lieutenant Governor Campbell of Bengal justified the farmer's organizations. But the landlords of Bengal wanted to give a communal color to this movement. a newspaper Hindu Patriot published that this movement has been started by Muslim farmers against Hindu landlords. But some historians believe that it is wrong to give a communal color to this movement because both Hindu and Muslim farmers were involved in the Pabna Revolt. The leaders of the movement were also people from both communities, like Ishan Chandra Rai, Shambhu Pal, and Khudi Mallah. As a result of this movement, in 1885 Bengal Tenancy Law was Passed in which arrangements were made to provide some relief to the farmers.

6. Deccan Rebellion:

1875 peasants in Pune and Satara districts in Maharashtra revolted against exacerbating agrarian distress. The sole aim of the rebellion was to obtain and destroy the bonds, farms, and other documents in the possession of the moneylenders. The peasants of the Deccan directed their revolt mainly against the excesses of the moneylenders of Marwari and Gujarat. The Deccan riot was the face of many adversities. Excessive government land revenue, the fall in international cotton prices at the end of the American Civil War, etc. made the economic condition of the Deccan farmers extremely miserable. He was heavily in debt. The greedy moneylenders were experts in the art of manipulation and used to extract unjust taxes and money from the farmers. Illiterate farmers unknowingly signed the bonds because they did not have proper knowledge of what was in the bond. Civil courts arbitrarily gave judgments in favor of moneylenders. The rebellion originated in December 1874 in Kardih village of Sirur taluk. When a Marwari moneylender Kaluram gave an order of eviction for one hundred and fifty rupees against the one who drowned Babasaheb Deshmukh in debt. The oppressive attitude of the moneylender towards the demolition of his house incited the anger of the villagers. By June 1875 the entire Poona district was burning. Peasants attacked the moneylender's houses, and shops and burnt them. The main goal was the binding of the deeds of the documents and the deeds done against those moneylenders. The peasant revolt spread to most of the talukas of the Ahmednagar district. The Government of India pressed into action the police, aided by the army, to quell the rebellion. By June 1875 about a thousand peasants were arrested and the rebellion was completely suppressed. The Deccan Revolt was a fragmented revolution. Finally, the Government of India appointed the Deccan Riots Commission to investigate the causes of the rebellion. The Peasants' Relief Act of 1879 took several measures for the betterment of the peasants of the Deccan. The Act prohibited the alienation of farmers' land and imposed certain restrictions on the Code of Civil Procedure. As a result, the civil borrowers could not be arrested for defaulting on the loan to the farmer. Much attention was paid to the Deccan rebellion. The Deccan rebellion showed that the repressive nature of the British government also inspired changes in rural society; Through this, the rebel farmers united to raise a united protest against the moneylenders of India and the British government.

7. Tebhaga movement :

Tebhaga Movement Bengal's famous peasant movement of Was. the year 1946 This movement of AD was the most powerful movement, in which the farmers started the struggle to reduce the rate of rent to one-third according to the recommendation of the ' Flyde Commission '. This movement was a movement of sharecroppers against the Jotedars. Important leaders of this movement were ' Kamparam Singh ' and ' Bhawan Singh '. The ' Tebhaga Movement ' of Bengal was a movement to get two-thirds of the crop to the oppressed sharecroppers. It spread to 15 of the 28 districts of Bengal, especially in the northern and coastal Sundarbans regions. About 50 lakh farmers participated in this movement and fought on the call of ' Kisan Sabha ' and it also got wide support from agricultural laborers. 1946 was the year when The movements of the people of India were springing up on a large scale. September 1946 In ' Kisan Sabha ' called for Tebhaga Chai. This August 1946 in Calcutta (currently Immediately after the communal massacre in Calcutta), after which October Communal riots also took place in the eastern district of Novakhauli in 2010. The peasant population of the main area of the movement was Hindu. And Muslims belonged to both communities. Tribal farmers also participated in it. this movement in English began during the reign of the Muslim league_ Suhrawardy's cabinet was ruling. When Mahatma Gandhi With the slogan of Hindu - Muslim friendship and prayer meetings, he was touring the rural areas of Novakhauli along with the feudatories. Then this class struggle inspired tens of millions of farmers from both communities and gathered them behind them. This struggle targeted all those landlords who were active in spreading communal hatred. Countering all the adverse propaganda and communal provocation, this struggle established real unity of the people on a class basis and discouraged the communal forces. Peasants fighting intense police repression and atrocities from November 1946 to February 1947 retained control of two-thirds of the crop between.

Conclusion:

Due to the agricultural movement, the feeling of unity and non-discrimination among the farmers ended, as a result of which it helped in uniting all the classes. By doing the farmer's movement, the farmers could put their demands directly in front of the government regarding their demands, due to which the agricultural laborers started getting benefits from time to time. The farmers' movement created awareness about agriculture among the Indian farmers, due to which the farmers were given the rights of agricultural laws. Detailed information was received about The peasant movement encouraged the farmers to organize themselves against the exploitation and oppression being faced by them. Gained strength. Kisan Sabhas were formed in different places in the country to listen to the demands of the farmers from the peasant movement, which helped in uniting the farmers. After independence, an act was prepared for agricultural reforms in India so that the farmers could get benefit from the policies of the government. These movements created a favorable environment for various agricultural reforms carried out after independence. For example- the abolition of the Zamindari system. He made the landowners ie the farmers aware of their real rights and started the process of change in the agricultural system.

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