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## Social awareness in the national movement: Haveri District

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### Introduction:

As the various Nations of the world revolted against the British, who had the desire to establish the “Emperor, where sun never sets” for their Independence. Likewise Indian Freedom Struggle does too have a remarkable history. Whole of the Nation became united and gained independence from the cusps of British. The Freedom Fighters of Haveri district also belonging to such brave heritage being inspired and influenced by the National Leaders participated in the Indian Freedom Struggle and evinced the remarkable contribution to the society in setting India free. I am herewith introducing briefly few of those social awareness programmes in my article.

### Objectives:

The objective or the aspect of the study is to throw light on the prominent freedom fighters of Haveri district and provide them the status so as the Martyr soldiers of Neshwi. The Martyrs are remembered as the source of inspiration for the fighters. Besides participating in the freedom struggle the fighters have also provided remarkable contribution to the social and educational field. The present article also tries to introduce the contributions of the freedom fighters of Haveri district. The article evinces the sacrifices and selfless services of the freedom fighters. Further the article hopes to generate interest among the youths towards social service and national welfare programmers’. Encourage and engender interest amongst the youths, to prioritize social service, National harmony and Love towards nation rather than becoming self-centered.

### Influential Aspects of Nationality:

Nationality as a result of Western Education, National awareness due to literature, National awareness due to Progressive movements and revolts, the role of mass communication media in National development and Freedom struggles have remarkably contributed in bringing about National awareness.

### Influence of Mumbai Karnataka:

Generally, the Freedom struggle in the Karnataka province got initiated and efficiently functional in North Karnataka because North Karnataka was immensely influenced by the Freedom Fighters of Maharashtra. The result of non-cooperation movement, violation of Law, Salt protest, forest protest, liquor prohibition protest, Quit India Movement and various other revolts in the Maharashtra greatly

influenced North Karnataka and as a result of this the revolts took a shape of virulence. Apart from this, it is interesting to note that these aspects also resulted in initiating awareness activities.

### **Selection of the District:**

The primary reason for writing the article about the freedom fighters of this district is that I am the native to this region. Since, from the School days on the occasion of National festivals like Independence Day and Republic Day I have been hearing the speeches of various eminent speakers evincing the contributions of freedom fighters of this region. Further the speech also threw light on the achievements of the freedom fighters in social and educational fields. As I have noticed there are no literary sources or publications throwing light on contributions of the freedom fighters of this region. Though Suryanath Kamath in his three volumes literary work entitled “Memories of Freedom Struggle” has provided some information about the freedom fighters of this region it does not provide complete information. Therefore I have put efforts to provide much information about the freedom fighters of this region. As most of the freedom fighters are not alive now, I have gathered information from the freedom fighters and their contemporaries who had associated with those freedom fighters. Further I have also collected the information from the people who were then kids and had witnessed the freedom struggle. I have also engaged myself in Social service activities.

### **Freedom Struggles:**

Four freedom fighters of this region have become martyrs and have immensely contributed in freedom struggle of India. It is also matter of pride that these freedom fighters apart from participating in the freedom struggle have contributed to Societal and Educational fields. I have put in efforts to introduce some of such social struggles.

**Mailar Mahadevappa:** was born as the son of couple Marthandappa and Basamma of Motebennur of Byadgi taluk. Mailar Mahadevappa through the assistance of Hosaritti and Koradur Ashram engaged in destructive activities. He had initiated welfare programmes for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people and has participated in several activities against social superstition and bringing about awareness amongst the people. Further he picketed against the arrack shops and destroyed the arrack shops. He also suggested his companions to carry on this task. He brought the awareness about the use of ayurvedic medicines and gave information about the agricultural activities. It is very painful to know that he became the assassin of Post office loot incidence.

**T.R. Neshwi:** is the native of Divigihalli of Hirekerur taluk. Though being the teacher at Anglo Vernacular School at Hansbhavi. He inculcated patriotism amongst the students and he actively participated in the freedom struggle as a member. He raised the voice against the injustice in sharing of crops to the farmers. He with the Veeranagouda of Kachavi fought for providing justice to the farmers by inculcating awareness amongst the farmers. In 1931 he organized a “Taluk Farmer Congress” and united about 3000 farmers. As a result of this organization then government cancelled the water tax of Rs. 46,000. It is one of the aspects to be proud of. Neshwi was renowned by social movement. He established an organization “Taluk Women Congress” at Hansbhavi on 27-5-1945 to provide social and political rights to women. Further he also put efforts to prohibit animal sacrifice at fairs at Kengonda and other villages thus creating awareness amongst the people. Later after the Indian independence when he became the Parliamentarian he took about 300 to 400 farmers to Delhi to participate in the two days conference and enabled the farmers to know about the modern agricultural techniques.

**Hosamani Siddappa:** was born in Karjagi of Haveri Taluk. Being a President of Regional Congress Committee he proliferated the roots of Congress to each and every village. Hosamani Siddappa was an advocate by profession, he used to take the responsibilities of handling the cases of freedom fighters. He was completely involved in uprooting untouchability system prevailing in the society. Even he was praised by Mahatma Gandhi.

**Kariyappa Sangur:** is another freedom fighter. He was born in the poor family. He was completely involved in Freedom Struggle and in combating untouchability system in the society. Apart from this he married a handicapped lady named Veeramma belonging to Harijan community. Himself standing as an example encouraged and inspired the youth for inter-caste marriage and played a role of a social reformer. Kariyappa was much involved in Freedom movement. While protesting for banning the arrack he was beaten by the drunkards. But he did not fail to follow the non-violence principle of Mahatma Gandhi. Later he started a Charity School at Harijan habitat and provided education to Harijan students. He used to clean the Harijan habitat daily. Along with the association of Harijan people he was undertook various social programmes. He opposed the people who opposed Harijan people. As the barber refused to haircut the hairs of lady students belonging to Harijan caste studying in Mahila Vidya Peetha at Hubli, Sangur himself used to haircut the students' hairs. Moreover he used to inspire and encourage the youths to take part in the movements.

**K.F. Patil:** belongs to Kakol village of Ranebennur taluk. He is the teacher of Mailar Mahadevappa. K.F. Patil had played a vital role in inculcating Patriotism amongst the students. He made Subhas Chandra Bose to come to Haveri and Byadgi to address and bring awareness amongst the people regarding freedom movement at the district. Apart from the Veeranagouda's wife worked hard at Mahila Vidya Peetha at Hubli for the social and educational development of Harijan girl students. It is interesting to note that, later during her marriage she invited all the Harijan girls at Hubli to attend her marriage.

**Timmanagouda of Menisinhala:** He is the native of Menisinhala of Ranebennur taluk. When Gandhiji called up Violation of Laws movement he dived into this movement. He on 18-01-1932 at Nagavanda of Hirekerur taluk with the assistance of 200 to 300 people and destroyed Harikatti forest and was prisoned. Later he was released from the jail. He indulged in social activities like permitting harijans of his province to draw water from the common well and ponds and provide permission for Harijans and Oppressed to enter the shrines and temples. Timmanagouda being financial sound loaned the farmers, he appealed the loaners not to return the loan instead asked them to give the lent amount to the freedom fighters and assist them in the struggle. This incidence clearly demonstrates the concern of the Timmanagouda.

**Nyamati Veerabhadrappa:** When Gandhiji called up for the upliftment of Harijans, Nyamati Veerabhadrappa took it as an invitation he took the services of Oppressed, orphans, unsheltered children as his duty. Wherever the Harijans were prohibited from lifting the water from the wells and ponds and wherever the Harijans were prohibited from entering the shrines he intervened and fought for providing social justice to the Harijans. He was of the opinion that without awareness, self-reliance, discipline and cleanliness Harijans could not come up. He also understood that education is a must for the Harijans to acquire status in the society. Therefore in 1930 he rented a house at Bydagi and started educating Harijan students. When there was a financial crisis he himself used to go for begging putting a bag on his shoulder. As the common people and merchants donated generously there was no problem for the education of the children.

**Sindhoor Siddappa:** as the programme of eradication of untouchability he invited Gandhiji to AkkiAlur Pond to address the people to permit the Harijans and Oppressed to lift the water from the common wells and ponds. Later he made a revolution in the Irrigation and Educational fields at Hangal region.

**Hallikeri Gudleppa:** He established a Gandhi Ashram at Hosaritti. Apart from participating in the Indian Freedom struggle he took up the various tasks like Rural Employment, Khadi Gramodyoga, Rural Hygiene, prohibition of liquor and eradication of untouchability system. Later in 1934 when Gandhiji travelled for the Harijan development Gudleppa accompanied Gandhiji and made the programme successful. It is very interesting to know that Gudleppa got married on Gandhi Jayanthi at Harijan habitat and after the marriage the newly married couples cleaned the streets of Harijan habitat.

**Saradar Veeranagouda Patil:** Veeranagouda Patil along with the Freedom Struggle took up Educational and Harijan Development Programmes. As per the desire of Mahatma Gandhi he established Mahila Vidya Peetha at Hubli for the development of Harijan students. Hence, provided opportunity for the Harijan girls to pursue education thus Veeranagouda Patil made a memorable achievement in the educational field. Apart from this he laid a firm foundation for Modern Education system at Hansabhavi. In 1914 he along with Rudragouda of Bhogavi invited Mruntyunjaya swamiji of Murgamath of Dharwad and established a Education Society at Hansabhavi. Under the affiliation of this a “Vernacular Anglo School” was also established thus he introduced English medium school for the first time to the students of this province.

### Conclusion:

Haveri district plays a prominent role in the Indian Freedom struggle. There is no scarcity of martyrs in this region. Apart from participating in the Freedom struggle they had social concern they took up programmes so as to eradicate untouchability system prevailing in the society. They also took up awareness programmes so as to stop killing animals during the fairs and festivals. Further they took up various educational programmes their contributions and achievements are the role models for the present social system. It is due to their struggle, selfless service, sacrifice, service oriented concern that today we are leading a respectful life in the society. The social service, patriotism, selfless service, social concern of those fighters all together is a commendable and worth following.

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