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Arya Samaj Movement In Erstwhile Hyderabad State

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Abstract:

Arya Samaj, (Sanskrit:"Society of Nobles") vigorous reform movement of modern Hinduism, founded in 1875 by Dayananda Saraswati, whose aim was to reestablish the Vedas, the earliest Hindu scriptures, as revealed truth. In Hyderabad it was established to act as a training ground for workers and also credited the leaders associated with the nationalist movement in Hyderabad. In Suryapet of Nalgonda dist. Some leaders want to establish Arya Samaj mandir. For that they buy one building. Bommagani Dharmabiksham played a key role with the support of Nakirekanti Ramalingam, Uppala Venkanna, Kodati Venkateshwara Rao. This mandir became the centre of young leaders, students and social reformers. These leaders try to stop animal slaughter during the festival of Dasara in Dora gadis. Keshav Rao koratkar along with Aghoranatha Chattopadhyaya and Pandita Sreepada Damodara Sathyalekar undertook many political, social and educational reforms. Sathyartha Prakashika translated into Telugu. Through its magazine Vedic Adarsh Arya samaj propogated the legacy of ancient Indian culture. The Nizam prohibited Arya samaj activities. Even though there is huge pressure, it worked successfully and gave birth to good freedom fighters and leaders.

Key Words:

Arya, Vigorous reform movement, Vedas, Nationalist movement, renaissance movement, Shuddi, Ittehad, Tablig, Join India Movement, Satyagraha, Dhindhar movement, Basava philosophy, Razakars, Vedic adarsh, Yagna kunds, Ganesh processions, vandemataram.

Introduction:

Among the major socio-religions movements of India, the Arya Samaj played a pivotal role in spreading the socio-political renaissance in Nizam's dominion. The Arya Samaj Movement took a political colour in Hyderabad state. In north India there is vast spread of Arya Samaj and this impact also touched the Hyderabad state also. Swami Girijananda Sataswati visited Hyderabad state and made people aware through his speeches. The centre of Arya Samaj came into existence in the city of Hyderabad in the year 1892. Sultan Bazar became the active centre of the Arya Samaj. With the election of Pandit Keshav Rao Koratkar (a great patriot and Chief justice of Hyderabad High Court) as the president of Hyderabad state Arya Samaj in 1902, it received a new magnitude in creating political consciousness in the minds of people against the autocratic rule of the Nizam.

By 1938 Arya Samaj had 250 branches in the state, twenty of which were located in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. It started launching a renaissance movement and opposed the cruelties of the Nizam rule. In due course of time, the great political leaders of Hyderabad State namely Swami Ramanand Tirth, Kamble Wale of Udgir, M. Channa Reddy, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Ramachandra Veerappa of Bidar, K.V.Narasising Rao, Vidhyadhar Guruji of Gulbarga, Pandit Taranath of Raichur and so many nationalists in Osmanabad, Warangal, Zahirabad, Adilabad, Basavakalyan, Aurangabad and Beed were influenced by the activities of Arya Samaj and joined its movement to assert civil and religious rights of the non-Muslims.

The Nizam Government in a bid to establish the Islamic State denied opportunities for the people of non-ruling class to enjoy basic civil and human rights. Arya Samaj, under these circumstances could not be a silent spectator. The Nizam mixed religion and politics and encouraged the "Ittehad" to start Tableegh, and issued farman (order) and passed the acts called Mufasa and GayarMafusa. The first one protects the property of the Muslims and those if converted, the second Act encouraged Muslims to enslave the Hindus, by purchasing the lands of the Hindus who mortgaged them on their debts. Many of the Hindu people agitated against the orders of the Government through Arya Samaj. They propagated the message of Arya-Samaj; (a) Equality of all human beings, (b) Condemnation of caste system, (c) Equal opportunities of education and refinement, (d) The message 'Satyarth Prakash' i.e., "Back to Vedas". Inspired the enthusiastic and fearless patriots of Hyderabad Karnataka, like Pandit Dattatreya and Bhimanna Khandre of Balki, Narendraji of Bidar, Bansilal and Shyamlal of Hallikhed, Rama Chandra and Chandrasekhar Patil of Gulbarga, Manik Raoji of Raichur, Lakshmana Gudi of Koppal, Vakil Ganapati Sastri, Udayabhanu, Mohan Singh, R.Arya, Sri Gopaldev Shastri of Basavakalya, Ananta Sharma of Chincholi, Vedaprakashji Gunjotti, R.V. Bidar and others plunged into the Arya Samaj Movement. But sometimes Arya Samaj is criticised by its own Hindu people only. Some Hyderabadis thought that the Arya Samaj movement was brought by Non-Muslims for their interests. But in 1896 Keshava Rao Koratkar and Pandita Sreepada, Damodara Sathyalekar undertook many political, social and educational reforms. Marathi speaking people of Hyderabad state started Ganesh processions and samithi. In 1921 Sathartha prakashika translated into Telugu. Through the schools and libraries Arya Samaj sway was developed. Against these activities Siddiqui Dindhar started the 'Dhindhar' movement based on Basava philosophy. He preached Islam and motivated Hindu people to convert into Islam. Keshav Rao also fought for Hindu Widows and tried to bring a law in 1930.

These workers dedicated their lives to educate the people in Arya-Samaj Mandirs. They opened schools at Bidar, Udgir, Chitaguppa, Gulbarga and Raichur. At Udgir Shamlal opened a hospital for untouchables. The advocates of Arya Samaj in Hyderabad took pledge to devote their free service to the poor Hindus in their struggle to restore the civil and religious liberties. They fought for the establishment of casteless and classless society. In 1934 Arya Samaj established 'Vedic Aadarsh' magazine which was prohibited by the Nizam government. In Bidar, Yagna Kund was destroyed. Morning processions also resisted. According to Gasti Nishan 53 Arya samaj and its activities were prohibited. One Arya Samaj follower Vedaprakash was murdered due to rejecting conversion into Islam. On 16 April 1938 there were huge communal riots in Dhoolpet. All satyagrahis were imprisoned by the Nizam government. Among them Ramachandra Rao giving the slogan of 'Vandemataram' became his surname. Pandita Narendraji was also arrested by the government.

The Arya Samaj used to give fitting reply to the Nizam's operations during 1930's. The attitude of the police towards Arya Samaj was stiffened. The Nizam Administration issued circular No.53, which forbade all annual meetings of Arya Samaj in 1937. But the Arya Samajists protested against it by making celebrations without any prior sanction. As a result, the main centres of Hyderabad state like Gulbarga, Udgir, Bidar, Osmanabad, Nizamabad, witnessed communal riots. But the Samaj was determined to assert the civil and religious rights of the people. The Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha decided to offer Satyagraha movement in the State under the directions of Mahatma Narayana Swamy. He instructed the branches of Arya Samaj to observe 'Hyderabad Day' in 1936-37, to oppose the conversion policy of the Government and to propagate the principle of Arya Samaj. When Nizam turned a deaf ear to the demands of the Arya Samaj on 24th Oct, 1938, the Arya Samaj decided to offer satyagraha against the Nizam government. Arya Samajists from Hyderabad Karnataka, participated in Satyagraha under the leadership of Mahatma Narayan Swami and Kunwarchandrakaranji at Gulbarga on 4 Feb, and 2 Mar, 1939 respectively. They were arrested and imprisoned at Chanchalguda Jail, Hyderabad. However, later on, he was released. The advocates of Arya Samaj in Hyderabad took pledge to devote their free service to the poor Hindus in their struggle to restore the civil and religious liberties. They fought for the establishment of casteless and classless society. The Arya Samaj used to give fitting reply to the Nizam's operations during 1930's.

In order to mobilise public opinion against the despotism of the Nizam government, the Arya Samaj conducted annual meetings inviting people from various parts of the country.

When Nizam Government did not permit non-Hyderabadis to enter the State, Arya Samajists defied the orders and entered the State to support the movement against Nizam through Sholapur, Vijayawada, Barsi, Ahmadnagar, Manmad, Poona and Chand. They were arrested and imprisoned in various jails of the State and some of them died out of Starvation to uphold the cause of patriotism.

The spirit of martyrdom of Arya Samajists continued to be exhibited in 1942, "Do or Die" movement, 'Join Union" movement of 1946-47 and "Border" movement of 1947-48. This saga of sacrifice provoked the sentiments of the people and inspired them to develop the political consciousness. About seventy percent of the nationalists of Hyderabad Karnataka belonged to the Arya Samaj. Arya Samaj served as a training ground for the nationalists of this region.

Arya Samaj its 6th Annual meeting (1947) decided that Hyderabad state has to join India. In this year Razakars looted the houses of Hindus and there were huge riots continuously. Narayan Pawar throws a bomb on a Nizam convoy. Along with his followers Narayan pawar was arrested and imprisoned. Pandit Vinayak Rao secretly maintained communication with K.M.Munshi and gave whole information about Nizam rule, arms collection. In this way all Arya Samaj activities pressurised Hyderabad to merge in India.

Conclusion: Even Though Wahabi and Arya Samaj movements were based on religious aspects, both worked as release power generators in Hyderabad state. The reformers of this Arya samaj played key roles in inspiring youth, making aware of common people, giving strong replies to Nizam brutal orders etcThis Arya Samaj activities became a big tentacle for Nizam. To suppress this movement he established 'Ittehadul Muslimeen party'. The spirit of Nationalism was propagated by Arya Samajists only. It leads to Border camps, Join India movement etcThis is a very important part in Hyderabad Freedom movement.

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