



శ్రీవర్ర చెన్నారెడ్డి ప్రభుత్వ డిగ్రీ కళాశాల



పలమనేరు, చిత్తూరు జిల్లా



భావోపేక్ష ప్రత్యేక సంచిక

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“Role and Inspiration of Telugu Poetry and Poets in Attaining Indian Independence”

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18 & 19 ఆగస్టు, 2022



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తెలుగు శాఖ

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18-19 August 2022



**“Role and Inspiration of Telugu Poetry
 and Poets in Attaining Indian Independence”**

(నగ్గిలకేరీలకు నా ఆంధ్ర- నామకం నామకం , సాంకేతికత & కేరీ)

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గోపాల గోపాల కేరీ
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Role of print media in the Indian freedom moment role Balagangadhar Tilak

M.Surya Sekhar Reddy, *Lecturer in Physics, SVCR Government Degree College ,
Palamaner, Chitoor Dist AP*

Introduction

The print media's role in the Indian freedom moment began in the year 1872. The Bengal Gazette was India's first newspaper started by James Augustus Hinkey who is considered the father of the Indian press in the year 1780. As it was critical of the British government, sized in the year 1872. After that, the number of Newspapers increased, and the Government became accountable and brought several acts in order to suppress the press.

In the year 1824 Raja Rammohan Roy was the first social activist who protested against a resolution restricting the freedom of the press. The Nationalist movement leaders noticed the Importance of the press to propagate political ideas. In the early phase of the Nationalist movement, from around 1870 to 1918, everyone focused on political propaganda and education. The role of print media plays an important role in the formation and propagation of nationalist ideology, training, mobilisation and consolidation of public opinion.

With the inspiration of Rajaram Mohan Roy, many newspapers emerged under distinguished and fearless journalists. G. Subramanyam Iyar started the Hindu and Swadesammitran, The Bengalee under Surendranath Banerjee, Voice of India under Dadabhai Naoroji, Amrita Bazar Patrika under Sisir Kumar Ghosh, Indian Mirror under N.N. Sen, Kesari (in Marathi) and Mahratta (in English) under Balagangadhar Tilak, Sudhakar under Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Hindustan and advocate under G.P. Verma.

The main motto of these Newspapers was to serve the public but not to make a profit. The effective distribution of these Newspapers stimulates the public to move toward the National movement leading to the popular Library movement. The Library movement was not limited to cities and towns but also reached remote villages. In this library movement, each news item and editorial published in several newspapers would be read and discussed thoroughly in local libraries. Thus libraries enabled not only political education but also political participation.

The role of the Newspaper completely changed with the Library movement. These Newspapers acted as an institution of opposition to the Government. The Government on its part had enacted many strident laws to curb the newspapers by bringing the acts such as section 124A of the Indian

Penal Code which said that anyone trying to cause disaffection against the British Government in India was to be transported for life or imprisoned for any term.

To subvert these legal hurdles journalists evolved clever strategies. For instance, pieces critiquing the Government were prefaced with sentiments of loyalty to the very Government or critical writings of socialists or Irish Nationalists from newspapers in England would be Quoted. This was a difficult task which required an intelligent mix of simplicity with subtlety. The Indian newspapers became highly critical of Lord Lytton's administration, especially regarding its inhuman treatment to victims of the famine of 1876-77 The government struck back with the Vernacular Press Act of 1878. The Vernacular Press Act (VPA) was formulated to better control the Vernacular press and effectively repress seditious writing.

Surendranath Banerjee and Balagangadhar Tilak like National movement activists criticised the British government and Judgements through their newspapers. In 1883, Surendranath Banerjee became the first Indian journalist to be imprisoned. In an angry editorial in an angry editorial in The Bengalee, Banerjee criticised a judge of the Calcutta High Court for being insensitive to the religious sentiments of Bengalis in one of his judgements.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak role:

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was most frequently associated with the nationalist fight for the freedom of the press. Tilak encouraged anti-imperialist sentiments among the public through Ganapathi festivals which started in the year 1893, Shivaji festivals which started in the year 1896 and through newspapers Kesari and Maratta. With his Journalism in the Nationalist movement, the participation of the lower middle class, peasants, artisans and workers participation increased. The decisions of Congress reached the common people easily.

In 1896, he organised an all Maharastra campaign to boycott foreign clothing in opposition to the imposition of excise duty on cotton in a grand manner. In 1896-97, he initiated a no-tax campaign in Maharastra, urging farmers to withhold the payment of revenue if their crop failed. In 1897, the plague had hit Poona and although Tilak supported government measures to arrest the plague, there was large-scale resentment against the heartless and harsh methods of the British Government such as

segregation and house searches. The popular unrest resulted in the murder of the chairman Charles Walter Rand of the Plague Committee in Poona by the Chapekar brothers. The government policies on tariff, currency and famine were also behind this popular resentment.

The Government had been looking for an opportunity to check this militant trend and hostility in the press. Tilak was arrested after the murder of Rand on the basis of the publication of a poem, 'Shivaji's Utterances', in Kesari, and of a speech which Tilak had delivered at the Shivaji festival, justifying Afzal Khan's murder by Shivaji. Tilak's defence of Shivaji's killing of Afzal Khan was portrayed by the prosecution as an incitement to kill British officials. Tilak's defence of Shivaji's killing of Afzal Khan was portrayed by the prosecution as an incitement to kill British officials. Tilak was held guilty and awarded rigorous imprisonment of eighteen months. Simultaneously several other editors in the Bombay Presidency were tried and given similar harsh sentences. There were widespread protests against these measures.

After imprisonment :

Soon after he was released from jail, Tilak adopted the clarion call, "Self-rule is my birthright and I shall have it." The movement was aimed at boycotting foreign products and social boycott of those Indians who used foreign goods. The initiative was prompted by the desire to promote goods produced indigenously. He proved how words can play a role in challenging establishments and inspiring the masses. He mainly contributed through his articles published in the Kesari and Mahratta newspapers, which motivated people to take part in the freedom struggle. That's why he was called 'Father of Indian Unrest' by the Britishers. Tilak became the National hero and

was given "Lokamanya", a new leader who walked his talk. In 1898, the Government amended Section 124A and added Section 153A which made it a criminal offence for anyone to bring into contempt the Government of India or to create hatred among different classes vis-a-vis the English in India. This also led to nationwide protests. Due to the Swadeshi and boycott movement and also the rise of militant nationalist trends, several repressive laws were passed. During the first and second world wars, not only freedom of speech but also political and human rights were strictly restricted. Even though Britishers implemented all restrictions Tilak gave trisutri or a three-point programme for national awakening – Swaraj, Swadeshi and Nationalist Education based on vernacular. This helped the realisation of self-pride and activism in a nation that was culturally suppressed by the British under the narrative of Whiteman's burden.

Conclusions

In the national movement, the print media play an important role to spread the movement nationwide in that Balgangadhar Tilak played an important role which leads to united the print media and making freedom activists strive toward the victory

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