

INTRODUCTION

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Nana Patil, popularly known as ' Krantisinha ' ( revolutionary lion ) was one of the most influenced leaders of rural Maharashtra. Nana Patil shot into national prominence during the 'Quit India ' Movement of 1942, when he set up a Parallel Government ( Prati Sarkar ) in Satara district. He started guerilla warfare activities against the British regime. He caused a terrible embarrassment to the Britishers and was mainstay of 1942 movement and the Parallel Government in Satara district. During the 'Quit India ' Movement he mobilised hundreds of workers and launched his Parallel Government. He established a guerilla force, peasant army and a judicial system of his own. He succeeded in his attempt to establish a 'Gramrajya' in most of the villages in Satara district.

Nana Patil began his career as a social worker and was a Satya Shodhak activist. He was attracted towards Satyashodhak Movement started by Mahatma Jotiba Phule, right since his student days. He was moved by the poverty and sufferings of Bahujan Samaj, Particularly peasant community in rural parts of Maharashtra and firmly believed that the Satya Shodhak Movement would give justice to the rural masses. In his early life Nana Patil tried to eradicate evil practices such as old customs, superstitions etc. that were prevalent in the society and he tried to enlighten rural masses.

During the civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, Nana Patil became a Congress worker and took an active part in the

national movement. As a result, upto 1942, he was imprisoned on several occasions. He was mainly responsible for attracting the rural masses in Satara district towards the Indian National Congress and the National Movement. Otherwise the rural masses under the impact of Satya Shodhak Movement had been reluctant to join the Indian National Congress.

The peak hour of his political career came when the Indian National Congress decided to launch final battle for the independence of the country in 1942. The Congress at its Bombay session held in August 1942, resolved to start 'Quit India' Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. But the British government tried its level best to suppress the movement at every cost.

At this critical movement the Congress workers, most of them belonged to the peasant stock, of Satara district determined to fight against the foreign rulers and they set up Parallel Government. Nana Patil was the source of inspiration to these freedom fighters.

Krantisinha Nana Patil played a vital role in social reform movement of Maharashtra and the freedom struggle of India. But scant justice is given to him and his work in the social and political field. No serious attempt has been made to study the working of Parallel Government of Satara in general and political ideas and leadership of Nana Patil in particular upto this date. It is intended, in this work to take up a brief review of his political ideas and to study various aspects of his leadership.

In the first chapter an attempt is made to understand the historical background of Satara district and the state of Maharashtra with special reference to social and political conditions. Any attempt to study political leadership demands certain understanding of socio-political conditions within which the leadership operates. Therefore, for the study of political ideas and leadership of Nana Patil, understanding of social and political background of Maharashtra and Satara district is quite necessary.

The second Chapter deals with the history of national movement in Maharashtra and Satara district. Krantisinha Nana Patil was a nationalist leader and he had played an important role in the national movement of the country. But in order to assess his role in the movement, particularly in Maharashtra and Satara district has to be taken into account.

In the third Chapter, a brief life sketch of Krantisinha Nana Patil is drawn. It becomes necessary because we can understand the work of any person only after knowing his entire life.

Though Nana Patil shot into national prominence as a leader of the Parallel Government which was established during the Quit India Movement of 1942, he had began his public life as a Satya Shodak activist. Afterwards he became a Congress worker during the 'civil disobedience movement' of 1930. He was responsible for social and political awakening among the rural masses of Satara district. By his work he tried to abolish social evil practices. He also prepared the ground for the spread of national movement in Satara district. In the IV Chapter.

the role played by Nana Patil as a Satya Shodhak activist and as a congress worker upto 1942, has been examined in detail.

The V Chapter deals with the work of Krantisinha Nana Patil as a leader of the Parallel Government of Satara, which came into existence during the 'Quit India ' Movement of 1942. It was the Parallel Government (Prati Sarkar ) that gave him fame at the national level. By establishing the Parallel Government, Nana Patil and his followers challenge to the existence of the British rule in Satara district. In this Chapter an effort has been made to study the causes for setting up the Parallel Government and the work done by this Government. It is also discussed how the leadership of Krantisinha Nana Patil gave inspiration to the rural masses to participate in the freedom struggle of the country.

This work, ' Political Ideas and Leadership of Krantisinha Nana Patil ( upto 1946 ) ', is based on the data collected by interviewing Shri G.D.Lad, Shri B.N.Patil, Shri Ramchandra Lad, Shri N.B.Lad, Shri Akaram Pawar, Shri Govind Mirage, Shri Mahadev Mirage, Shri Maruti Salunkhe, Shri S.D.Pawar, Shri Mahadev Jagadale, Shri R.T.Patil, Shri B.R. Mohite and many others who took active participation in the freedom struggle of India I had the rare opportunity to discuss the subject with Krantisinha Nana Patil himself. Besides the work is also based on soveneirs, pamphlets and articles written in news papers and periodicals by various scholars from time to time. Care has been taken to discuss the subject from various angles.