

INTRODUCTION

" SATYASHODHAK MOVEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA "

The Satya Shodhak movement in Maharashtra under the leadership of Jotiba Phule had various impact and implications. There have been various studies of Jotiba Phule and Satya Shodhak Movement, but there is very little attention paid by scholars to assess the Satya Shodhak Movement and its implications in Maharashtra.

The British Rule in Maharashtra, had to attune its policy towards India, which was largely because of the Satya Shodhak Movement rivitted the attention ~~af~~ the Britishers towards the **Social, Economic and Political** conditions of the masses in Maharashtra.

In this study of Satya Shodhak Movement, an effort is made to assess Satya Shodhak vis-a-vis the British policy. Jotiba Phule and his literature was an effort in this direction. The British Rule in India learnt many of their first lessons because of this movement. Then Bombay Presidency covered a vast area and extended itself in todays, Karnatak and Gujarat States. The Bombay Presidency, was the Centre of Politics which shaped the British policy in India. The study would also try to understand the implications of Satya Shodhak Movement vis-a-vis Brahminism.

In this direction the work has tried to assess the role played by Jotiba Phule. Starting in a small way Jotiba Phule established himself as a leader of the masses. In the first

chapter an effort is made to point the ideological aspects of the movement. Life of Jotiba Phule is divided in three main stages :

First Stage - 1827 to 1848,

Second Stage - 1848 to 1873,

Third Stage - 1873 to 1890.

Each of these periods changed the views of Jotiba Phule. This is assessed in the light of the experiences which he has had specifically in these years. These experiences developed his ideology. He was much influenced by British liberalism. He could learn much because of the influence of Christian thought and the approach of the missionaries in looking at the problems of poverty. Through these experiences he wrote various books, pamphlets etc. from time to time; which are relevant even to this day. Jotiba Phule established the Satya Shodhak Samaj.

The second chapter is devoted in understanding the Social thought of Jotiba Phule. Much has been written in this direction; but nevertheless the ideas which he has expressed are worth examining. He was the first to attack the Congress, for which he applied the Aryan Theory.

The Congress Movement in Maharashtra had to include the programme of the Satya Shodhak Samaj to attract the masses in Maharashtra into the Congress movement. The Satya Shodhak movement had a hold on the masses; which attacked the classes. He united all the castes except Brahmins in this movement.

The third chapter is devoted to understand the various under currents in the Satya Shodhak Movement. The movement was affected by certain controversies within the rank and file. Jotiba Phule unperturbed by this, went ahead with his movement single handedly. Some of these aspects are examined.

In the forth chapter the impact and implication of the Satya Shodhak Movement on Maharashtra have been assessed. These have had wide influences. Even to this day Jotiba Phule's some ideas are tried to be brought in practice. His ideas on Agriculture, Education, Women etc. have even gone to the extent of influencing the policy of the Government of Maharashtra.

This work is based on different articles, books available in the libraries. It is purely a Library work; based on secondary data.

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