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The regional movements are on the rise in some areas of present day India, and quite often there is undue haste in some political quarters and general populace to condemn the regional movements as anti-national, without enquiring into their genesis. In the Indian sub-continent, where there could be unity in diversity, regional variations and differences ought to be understood with sympathy, imagination and historical perspective.

The historical perspective of the regional movements would reveal the socio-economic and religious roots of the regional movements. The policy-makers and governments, I feel, ought to strike at the socio-economic and religious roots of the regional movements, rather than dealing them on the politico-administrative level.

The present study was undertaken with the aim of understanding the emergence of regional movements in Maharashtra and Madras by the end of the nineteenth century and their inter-connection. The term Maharashtra was used to denote the Marathi speaking area from the Bombay Presidency, and the word Madras was to connote Madras Presidency. The emphasis was to be on the non-Brahmin movements in the two regions.

Dr. K. K. Kavalekar and myself were deeply interested in the subject and therefore had approached the authorities of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). New Delhi for financial support amounting to fourteen thousand (Rs. 14,000/-). The then Member - secretary of the ICSSR, J. P. Naik accepted the project but asked us 'to complete this project within the grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,000/- ----- If that is not possible I will be constrained to cancel the grant-in-aid'. In our then youthful enthusiasm we made a mistake in October 1974: We accepted the grant-in-aid of five thousand rupees. It proved to be inadequate to deal with a subject requiring a lot of field work. The ICSSR vide No. F No.1-31/74 E-A, dated 23 October 1974 sanctioned the amount. I express our gratitude to the authorities of the ICSSR for the sanction and releasing the first and only instalment (Rs. 1,800/-). The non-release of the remaining instalments by the ICSSR, and our other academic responsibilities made it difficult for us to complete the project in time.

It was essentially because of the factors beyond our control that there was inordinate delay in submitting the final report of the project and that too in a partial form, with the kind permission of the ICSSR. As the Director of the project I express my feeling of regret for the long delay. I may be, however, permitted to say that adequate

grants, timely payment of instalments and a general encouraging attitude would go a long way in promoting research in social sciences.

Since 1975 we were closely studying the regional movements in Maharashtra. Dr. K. K. Kavalekar has also studied some of the aspects of the regional movement in Madras presidency. On the basis of our study we had read papers in seminars and conferences on the regional movements. A few of the papers are published or are under publication. Only some of the papers, relevant for the present study, have been included in the final report.

The articles bearing on the regional movements in Maharashtra and Madras written by Dr. K. K. Kavelkar are as follows :

1. Shri Shahu Maharaja of Kolhapur and His Contribution to the Non-Brahmin Movement.
2. Rajaram Maharaja of Kolhapur and His contribution to the Non-Brahmin Movement.
3. Justice Party Revisited.

The articles written by Dr. V. S. Kadam bearing on the subject, included in this final report are as follows :

1. sources in Kolhapur Record Office on Chhatrapati Shahu of Kolhapur.

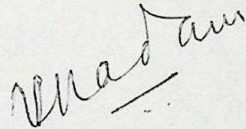
2. Shahu Chhatrapati (1894-1922) and the Untouchables : An Important Aspect of Non-Brahmin Movement in Kolhapur state.
3. Lokamanya Tilak and Shahu Chhatrapati : Indian Nationalism and Non-Brahmin Movement.
4. Swarajya and Non-Brahmin Politics : Approaches of Lokamanya Tilak and Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur.

Dr. K. K. Kavalekar has properly assessed the contribution of Shahu Chhatrapati (1894-1922) and his son and successor Rajaram Maharaja (1922-1940) to the non-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra and Madras. In his extensive and analytical paper, "Justice Party Revisited" he has made a searching study of the development of the Justice party of Madras and the support that it received from Maharashtra, and especially the rulers of Kolhapur.

In the early stages of the non-Brahmin movement in Maharashtra, the untouchables were incorporated in the movement. Shahu Chhatrapati paved the way in uniting non-Brahmin touchables and untouchables. Later on the non-Brahmin movement was to split on these lines. In my remaining two papers, the policy of early political leaders of Maharashtra towards the non-Brahmins has been analysed, and an attempt has been made to study the causes of non-Brahmin movement not

joining the political movement. The limitations in the concepts of nationalism and the swarajya, propounded by the early political leaders like Lokamanya Tilak, led the non-Brahmins away from the political movement. It was essentially due to the political sagacity and all-embracing leadership of Mahatma Gandhiji that these parallel^l movements in Maharashtra were merged in a single stream. But the roots of regional movement in socio-political and religions fields remained largely intact, therefore regional movement continued to be on the rise.

Kolhapur :


(Dr. V. S. Kadam)
Director

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