



A STUDY OF SWADESHI MOVEMENT IN POLITICAL VIEW

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ABSTRACT

The Modernist and extremist in India have given a new direction to the struggle for freedom in India. Though the modernist helped to take Indian National Congress at the doorstep of general people. Modernist like Surendranath Banarjee, Gopalkrishna Ghokhale, Dadabhai Nauroji, Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade, Firojshaha Mehta, Dineshbhai Vachha etc who appealed to masses. Extremist became the amulet of the people. The Vang-Bhang Movement attracted the attention of masses. Which gave impendance to Home Rule Movement and Non-cooperation Movement. This research paper discuss about various facets of Swadeshi Movement in Political View.

Key words: Modernist, Extremist, National Congress, Swadeshi , Home Rule...

INTRODUCTION

In the early years of Congress was completely under the influence of moderates , who believed in purely constitutional methods and exited for piecemeal reforms in the Indian Administrative system. But during these very years of the Congress, certain events happened in India and abroad and certain forces where at work, Which produced , among the younger of the nation a group of people who began to question the wisdom of the methods of prayer and petitions followed by the moderates in order to achieve their political objectives. They where called the extremist or militant nationalist.

The last official act of Lord Curzon was the partition of Bengal. The province of Bengal was sought to be divided into two parts that is the Western and Eastern Bengal. In Western Bengal Hindus where in a majority and in the eastern zone Muslims wear in preponderance. It was said that partition was necessary for administrative convenience and efficiency because the province had become an widely. But Indians in general and the Bengalis in particular

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clearly realised that it was a subtle move on the part of the British government to the weaken the forces of Nationalism in Bengal by weaning away the Muslims.

Lord Karjan visited East Bengal and in his attempt to win over Muslims in favour of the partition, said that the partition would create in East Bengal a province where the Muslims could flourish without the dominance of any other community . The partition was taken to be a diplomatic moved to play the game of divide and rule. Some of the Muslims were apparently caught in the Snare. The speeches and intentions of Lord Curzon and other British officials might have been misunderstood, but the subsequent riots which occurred where attributed to those speeches by the Hindus.

A vigorous agitation started against the contemplated partition. Swadeshi movement had already been gaining ground in Bengal and other provinces of India for sometime. The people of Bengal retained by giving a vigorous start to the movement for the bye Court of foreign and specially the British goods . The Swadeshi and the Boycott Movement spread throughout the length and breadth of India and especially in Bengal.

The Swadeshi Movement-

It began as anti-partition education in Bengal and by Court was first suggested by Krishna Kumar Mitra in Sanjivani in 1905. Dubai Court of British products was followed by the advocacy of Swadeshi and to by indigenously produced goods as a patriotic duty. The leaders of Bengal felt that near demonstrations public meetings and the resolutions were not enough and something more concentrate was needed and the answer was Swadeshi and boycott. Mass meetings were held all over Bengal and big crowds took The Oath of Swadeshi . Patients refused to take foreign medicines and where willing to face the consequences. People burnt foreign clothes and foreign cigarettes. The Swadeshi Movement was an immense success.

An important aspect of the Swadeshi Movement was the emphasis placed on self Reliance or athmashakthi. Self Reliance means assertion of national dignity honour and self-confidence. In economic field it meant indignation of the industry. Mini textile mills soap and match factories National banks and insurance companies were started. A prominent part was played by the students of Bengal in the Swadeshi agitation. Depicted the shops selling foreign cloth and other foreign goods. Women also joined processions and picketed the shops dealing in foreign goods . The programmes of Swadeshi and boycott went hand in hand.

As a consequence of Swadeshi movement there was a flooring of Nationalist poetry, prose, and journalism. The leader of Bengal took up the work of national education in right earnest .National educational institutions were opened by them and literary technical and physical

Education was given there. On 15th August 1906 the National Council of Education was set up and Arvind Ghosh was appointed the first principal of the National College.

Methods:

- Methods included by Court of foreign clothes and Other goods public meeting and processions forming corps of volunteers or samitis.
- Use of traditional popular festivals and meals for propaganda
- Emphasis on self Reliance or athmashakthi.
- Launching program Swadeshi on national education Swadeshi or indigenous Enterprises
- Initiating new trends in Indian painting forms poetry pioneering research in science.
- Call for by Court of schools colleges councils government services etc.
- The students of Bengal played a prominent part they practiced and propagated Swadeshi
- Remarkable aspects was the involvement of women.
- Many prominent Muslims including Abdul Rasool , liaqat Hussain, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad also join the movement
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak played the leading role in spreading the moment to the rest of the country.

Impact of Swadeshi movement

- ❖ Swadeshi movement was a stepping stone of Nationalist movement which led to beginning of organised political Movement in India
- ❖ Rise of neo nationalism
- ❖ Surat split
- ❖ Revival of indigenous industries
- ❖ Boycott of foreign goods
- ❖ Cultural Revival and emergence of nationalism art and literature.
- ❖ Concept of national education

Limitations of the Swadeshi Movement:

The Swadeshi Movement had its obvious limitations. The efforts to boycott foreign goods and promote Swadeshi goods had temporary success and failed to bring about the economic regeneration of the country. The objectives of National Education hardly made any progress. The movement left the peasants practically untouched and failed to achieve the much-needed Hindu-Muslim unity. By and large the Muslims stood aloof and their anti-Hindu sentiments

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were sedulously fostered by the orthodox Mullahs and the British. With the arrest and imprisonment of the nationalist leaders and the ruthless suppression of the working class movement, the Swadeshi and Boycott movement subsided. The Hindu of Madras wrote on November 23, 1908, wrote —all thoughtful men in the country will accept the ideal which the moderate leaders have set up for realization in politics....It is also beyond dispute that political agitation in the country must be strictly confined to constitutional methods and must be carried on subject to the laws of the country||.

Importance of Swadeshi Movement :-

- People do not worry about suppression of imperialist and jail. Conversely they feel jail teerthashetra.
- Khadi got importance by the pride of swadeshi.
- Charakha reboots in every houses. Truly nationalism upmost in India and so that national movement intensified.
- Gandhiji was the chief leader of people's movement. Out of India many people took inspiration by the principles of Gandhiji such as Martin Luther king, Nelson Mandela and work in other regions totally important in Indian independence movement.

Success of Swadeshi movement :-

- New inspirational means has created among the people.
- Extremist become the heart of National Congress.
- Huge nationalism and sentiment of independence created by swadeshi movement.
- Independence movement changed as people's movement.
- End of fear about British Government.
- National congress onwards their welfare programme.
- Swarajy become nearest goal.
- Generation of leaders and personnel formed.
- Many welfare programme started

Significance of the Swadeshi Movement:

Despite its obvious limitations, the Swadeshi Movement occupies a unique place in the history of the freedom movement in India. A great national impulse pervaded the air and brought nationalism into the realm of practical politics. In December 1905, even Jawaharlal Nehru, then at Harrow, was surprised to read in The Times that the Swadeshi Movement had



spread to Kashmir. Mahatma Gandhi wrote in 1908 that the real awakening of India took place after the partition of Bengal.

The Swadeshi Movement brought out latent spirit of the people to defy and challenge the authority of the Government with grim determination. The Swadeshi cause, purified by the sufferings of the people, heralded a new destiny in the history of our country. _For the first time since British rule began, Gokhale wrote, _all sections, of the Indian community.....have been moved by a common impulse...and to act together in offering resistance to a common wrong.

Concluding Remarks:

Swadeshi is the first era of peoples movement. This movement was country wide movement. It united all country. Before the non cooperation movement congress was only the organization of argument. But by this movement Congress became well-organized country wide organization and Khadi became costume of common peoples. In the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi swadeshi movement of congress done the awareness among the people.

Swadeshi movement gave impedance to the Indian National Movement . Extremist Lal , Bal and Pal turned swadeshi as a mass movement. Due to successful achievement of swadeshi movement British Government has passed the enactment of 1909 , i.e. Morley Minto act. This is the success of movement.

The Swdeshi movement has a prominent place in politics and social system and Freedom movement of India. As a recent observes, swadeshi marked a major change in the depth and dimensions of concerted political hostility to the Raj. Never before had the British faced a continental campaign against their rule’.

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