



Impact of Press on Socio Religious Awakening: A Case Study of Hassan Region

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Abstract:

Hassan as an administrative region, in Princely State of Mysore reflected a plethora of eventful activities during freedom struggle. The leaders & general public of this region showed keen enthusiasm in multiplicity of nationalist activities. They supported the state level leaders as well as participated in all state level Satyagrahas sponsored by Congress Party. Several all India level nationalist activities had their influence in Hassan region also. This paper investigates the stages of the advancement of local Journalism in this region amidst antagonistic political environment & critical tangles of State policy towards local press & its vibrant impact on growth of national consciousness

Key words: *Nationalist activities, growth of local press, state policy, genesis of local journalism*

Introduction

In Princely state of Mysore, the Nationalist ideas were slow to appear because of the strict vigilance & dual subordination. The people of the princely state of Mysore were subordinate to two types of administration. One, the rule of the Maharaja secondly Maharaja was under British vigilance. Maharaja did not welcome any nationalist, socialist, rationalist ideas. A powerful left wing developed in India in late 1920s as an all India political development. It contributed to the radicalization of Indian National Movement²⁴. There was an

ideological diversity & doctrinal differences among national leaders regarding the inclusion of vast mass of poor laborers & women in the main stream politics²⁵. Feeling the insufficiency of the existing nationalist ideologies new leadership breathed in new permanent confrontation. The goal of political independence became clearer with socio economic content. The social & economic weaker sections became the pivotal point of Major political parties. They were inspired to voice their problems. Press became handy at this juncture. Many leaders started making use of the press as a media in voicing



their opinions. British government had laid down strict press rules. There were several restrictions on their publications. In spite of these hindrances press became an important tool in the hands of Nationalist leaders to bring the nationalist ideas nearer to people.

1. Socialist ideas became strikingly attractive which speeded up of the Congress Party leadership at all India level.
2. All over India the youth became more energetic & self-motivated. Social emancipation & the societal progression of the poor & the downtrodden gained momentum.
3. Student & Youth Organizations came to be organized at all India level
4. Youth leaders started speaking against social ills such as illiteracy, drinking & untouchability.
5. The youth became more active in socio political upliftment activities & started demanding radical solutions to the political problems.
6. There was an ideological diversity & this led to doctrinal disputes among old & young generations.

7. The more mature & experienced leadership was displaced by youth leadership which was dynamic, rapid & became more vigorous in expressing political opinions.
8. The Constructive Work was mainly concerned with reconstructing the villages, where vast majority the people of India lived.
9. Thus In the programme of economic reconstruction Khadi was the pivotal item of work.
10. The Khadi Movement worked with the twin objectives of shaking the British economy on the one hand and boosting the Indian economy on the other. The movement, in the characteristic Gandhian mode, was completely non-violent in approach. (Gandhi's Khadi : A History of Contention and Conciliation Rahul Ramagundam,)
11. The charkha mixed up with the revolutionary doctrine of non-co-operation looked like a trend²⁶.
12. Gandhi wrote. Swaraj (self-rule) without Swadeshi (country made goods) is a lifeless corpse and if Swadeshi is the soul of Swaraj, khadi is the essence of swadeshi. Therefore khadi b



ecame not only a symbol of revolution and resistance but part of an Indian identity.) M.K. Gandhi ; Village Swaraj ; Pub. Navajan ; Ahmedabad; Page 3.

13. The Congress sessions came to hold exhibitions which were a visual education in better village life and work. All these issues were directly channeled in National as well as state level Newspapers

Press as instrumental in forming a public opinion

Newspaper publishing in Mysore started in 1859 when Bhashyam Bhashyacharya²⁷ began publishing a weekly newspaper in Kannada called the Mysooru Vrittanta Bodhini, the first of newspapers published in the following three decades. The press was instrumental in structuring a positive public opinion & creating an impressive atmosphere of patriotism. The newspapers carried articles on significance of Swadeshi & the establishment of rural industries. The government authorities in Princely state of Mysore understood the value of spinning and weaving Khadi in the scheme of rural development and often cooperated with the Congress workers in the extension of Khadi industries and other village industries sponsored by the

Congress²⁸. The Diwan of Mysore, Albion Banerjee not only permitted the Department of Industries to send exhibits to the Congress exhibition at Belgaum in 1924, but also gave a donation for the expenses. It lead to the Setting up of All India Spinners Association (AISA) / Akhil Bharat Charkha Sangh in 1935. Following newspapers was instrumental in creating awareness among public.

- ✓ Praja Hitaishini,
- ✓ Vritthantha Patrike,
- ✓ Prajamata,
- ✓ Tayinadu,
- ✓ Swarajaya,
- ✓ Janma Bhoomi ,
- ✓ Vijaya Dwaja ,
- ✓ Kannada Nudi ,
- ✓ Dhanurdhari ,
- ✓ Karmabhoomi

papers such as these & others were famous & had circulation here but Vritthantha bodhini & Vishwa Karnataka had larger circulation. The official restrictions were so hard that many newspapers struggled to survive in Mysore State.

Leaders of journalism in princely Mysore

- ✓ Ashwatha Narayana rao

- ✓ Diwakar R.R.
- ✓ Gopala Iyengar
- ✓ Gundappa D.V.
- ✓ Gurupadaswamy M.S.
- ✓ Mohammad Kasim Gham
- ✓ Mohare.B.R.
- ✓ Seethramashastry.M.
- ✓ Sharma T.T.
- ✓ Srinivasa Iyengar
- ✓ Tirumalachar Bhashyam
- ✓ Venkata Krishnaiah

In Hassan there were several leaders who augmented a positive opinion through their speeches & writings . Significant leaders were

- ✓ Anantharama shastry ,
- ✓ Anantha murthy ,
- ✓ Chidamabara rao,
- ✓ Chinnappa ,
- ✓ Giridhara rao ,
- ✓ Gundappa shastry ,
- ✓ Hari halli
Krishnashastry ,
- ✓ Krishnaswamy Iyengar
,
- ✓ Narahari shastry ,
- ✓ Ramaswamy Iyengar ,
- ✓ Shadakshariah
- ✓ Shahadaksharaih ,

- ✓ Sheshappa ,
- ✓ Subramanya shastry,

These leaders were enthusiastic in writing on various community based issues.As a consequence Harijan upliftment was taken up seriously besides adult & women education²⁹. The press monitored several political issues rejuvenating social living of the period. There was a new call for “Rural Reconstruction” at the National level which was reflected in regional level Press also. The press could influence people to indulge in social community based needs . There were wide references to local journalism motivating the people to participate following anti British campaigns³⁰.

National schools were established in following areas.

1. Bagalkote,
2. Belgaum,
3. Bijapura,
4. Dharwad,
5. Gadag,
6. Hangal,
7. Hospete,
8. Hubli,
9. Mangalore,
10. Siddapura.

11. Sirsi, & other palces

In the National school run by Alur Venkata Rao at Dharwad, Dr. Bendre and R.R.Diwakar worked as teachers & these developments had great impact on political leadership in Hassan region.

1. Anti-Foreign Goods Campaign
2. Pro Khadi Campaign
3. Anti-Liquor Campaign ,
4. Picketing
5. Staging dharana
6. Forest Satyagraha
7. Group hartal
8. Individual hartal

Social & Community need based awakening

Several social & community need based tasks were undertaken as supportive of press writings. Adult education was seen as direct inference. women & children welfare associations became popular, the segmentation of community as untouchables dalits & poor, illiterate people was revoked & they were motivated to participate in all types of social campaigns .Loyalty & patriotism alone was stressed as a bond unifying large mass of Indians ³¹.

Reflections on Gandhian Visits

Mahatma Gandhiji's visit to Hassan region in 1927 & top Congress leaders such as Pattabhi Seetharamaiah & Raja Gopalachari in 1937 heralded a host of cooperative activities³².

Leaders of Cooperative Activities

- ✓ A G Ramachandra Rao ,
- ✓ S. G. Athri,
- ✓ K.M.Rudrappagowda
- ✓ Gopal Rao Belavadi,
- ✓ Boranna Gowda ,
- ✓ Tippeswamy ,
- ✓ Lokanna gowda ,
- ✓ Bal Gopal Rao ,
- ✓ Sheshachala ,
- ✓ Padmanabha ,
- ✓ Swaminathan ,
- ✓ Guru Murthy ,
- ✓ Shamasundara Bhatta,
- ✓ Subbanna Kandimane ,
- ✓ Shankrapapa ,
- ✓ Srinivasa Iyengar ,
- ✓ Krishna Bhatta ,
- ✓ Goruru Ramaswamy Iyengar ,
- ✓ Shama Rao ,
- ✓ Srikantesha ,
- ✓ Venkatachala Shastry,
- ✓ Sri Sachchidananda ,



✓ Ramarao Etc

These were some of the famous columnists of the region . Their pointed writings & motivational speeches helped the people of this area to indulge themselves voluntarily in Congress sponsored Nationalist & cooperative activities. The writings in press effect the Cooperative sector. The number of Cooperative societies rose sharply increased³³.

- ✓ Mahila Samaja ,
- ✓ Balawadi ,
- ✓ Geleyara Balaga,
- ✓ Stree Samaja,
- ✓ Yuva Sangha
- ✓ Kala Sangha
- ✓ Yuvakara Balaga Etc
Registered Sharp Rise In
Membership.

**Important Social
&Community Associations**

- ✓ Sri Kempu Chaluvarammani Avaru Mahila Samaja Hassan was established on 2nd october by the concerted efforts of the leading ladies of hassan this was commemorative society of ladies to train women in the field of crafts.
- ✓ The Vani Mahila Samaja Arsikere was started in the

year 1939with object of promoting the welfare of women and train them in charaka.

- ✓ The Kasturabagram in Arsikere started in 1946 also had the intention of upliftment of women through self-help.
- ✓ The Kasturaba Gandhi National Trust was one of the pioneering constructive founded in 1945 to promote women welfare,
- ✓ Mahila Samaja Sakaleshapura which was started in the year 1940 had the motto of promoting social cultural wellbeing of women.
- ✓ The Shankarapura Mahila Samaja Hassan 1945 had also same intention of making women self-dependent.
- ✓ The Church Of South Indian Organization had its origin in a small boarding school founded in 1856 under the auspices of the Holy Wesleyan Methodist missionary society. later it was amalgamated in Methodist mission church in 1946 .It ran a Destitute Home for orphans during the great famine of 1876. It



gave educational and medical help for the poor and needy during the famine, later it became a home for orphan children. It trained them in the arts and crafts. It also promoted self-help for poor and down trodden³⁴. This institution later became a well-known name in the district for its social service, with the empowerment of the local bodies in 1927 Elementary education & suffrage received importance which was mainly due to the efforts of local leaders through press. Their writings on important making local body an high power instrument in Societal advancement paid fruits. – The local press was instrumental in helping the writings on spiritual issues. Many religious based associations sprang up in this area.

- ✓ The Adayatama prakashalaya was one such institution which was started in Holenarasipura.
- ✓ In addition to this some organization published their own newspapers

Sugjana deepika , Aruodaya , Sanathana dharma, Deepthi , Bhakti vardhana etc newspapers were started with an intention to spread Hindu philosophy.

Conclusion:

Thus the prospective implications of press during this period & its reflections on societal & community based issues were reflective of the National consciousness. The increase in community based associations, the high demand for local Suffrage & the growing support for schools & elementary education had a great proposition in the region. Even though the local press had limited access & easily succumbed to hostile State policy their role in inspiring the rural mass towards Nationalism was substantial & noteworthy. This study becomes relevant because there had been a proportional rise in the reflective & intricate studies in INM & their combined impact on subalterns. This study thus focused on the critical tangles of State policy towards local press & the advancement of local Journalism amidst antagonistic political environment.



List of Journals & Newspapers in Karnataka

Name of the editor	Name of the news paper
Manjeshwara anatharaya	Kannada kesari
Benegal Ramarao	Suhaasini
Kerodi subbarao	Krishnasukta
Srinivasa kamat	Swadeshambhimani
Muliya Thimmappayya	Kannada kogile
Vithal rao	Kantheerava
Honnayya shetty	Navayuga
Kadegodlu shankara bhatt	Rashtrabhandhu
Tirumaleetatacharya	Vishwakarnataka
Betageri krishnasharma	Bharata jayanthi
Aluru venkata rao	Jaya karnataka
Sidduvanahalli krishna Sharma	Harijana
Mohare Hanumantharao	Karnataka vaibhava
Hardekar manjappa	Dhanurdhari
Ramaraya	Subhodha
P.V. Acharya	Kasturi
V.B. Nayaka	Sadhvi
Navagiri nanda	Chandamama
C. R. Ramaih	Tayinadu
Mohare datar	Samyukta karnataka

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