



## Promotion of Kannada literature: The role of Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha

Ravi .N. C. Assistant professor, Department of Kannada, Government Home Science College, Hassan, 573201

**Abstract :** Kannada language & literature has been promoted through several organizations during Karnataka unification movement . Karnataka sahitya parishad & Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka sangha were two great organization which supported the promotion of language & literature. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka sangha acted as medium of creating awareness about Kannada literature among Kannada people & supported the cause of Unification. This paper streamlines the key role played by this veteran institution & focuses on main celebrities who worked thoroughly towards promotion of Kannada literature. The Paper highlights the impact of this premier institution towards influencing scholars to write in Kannada language & brining their writings to common people . The institution's role as a torch bearer towards arousing Nationalism & Unification is highlighted here.

**Key words:** Kannada Literature ,luminaries , Impact on Nationalism , Impact on Unification ,

**Introduction** - Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka sangha was established in 1890 AD by R. H.Deshapande, a great Kannada scholar who was active in creating awareness programs on uniting Kannadigas. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka sangha had objectives that resurgence of Kannada language and promoting individuality of kannada literature . The Institution with these objectives, started to work towards popularizing these objectives among people. The members of this institution travelled all over Maratha regions .Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha motivated several Scholars to write in Kannada language this helped the emergence of several Kannada writers. These writings enriched the Kannada literary world. This was helpful in creating awareness among other Kannada speaking regions to join hands towards demanding one administrative unit for all Kannada speaking people.

**Historical background- Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka sangha** had a cumulative beginning because Kannada region was not under one administrative area. The monopoly of Bombay presidency & Marathi language was very dominant . Kannada language was not identified as a language of masses. The Kannadigas were spread across Madras presidency , Bombay Presidency , Hyderabad , Coorg & such other different administrative set ups. Kannada language had no hold on people as people of these different administrative areas spoke the language of the locality such as Marathi, Tamil , Urdu etc. To create awareness about territorial unification of Kannada speaking people, it was necessary to initiate awareness about Kannada language & literature. Hence an association such as Karnataka vidya Vardaka Sangha became imminent. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha was started in Dharwad which was in Bombay



presidency at that time where the Marathi language was the official language. Hence Karnataka vidya Vardhaka Sangha became a premier institution to give an identity to Kannada language freeing it from the influence of Marathi language.

**Impact on other organizations-** The establishment of Karnataka vidya vardhaka Sangha had great impact on associational activities . Kasargod Kannada Sangha , Kannada sahitya parishad were established on the lines of Karnataka vidya vardhaka Sangha to promote Kannada Language & literature. ( K.S. Deshpande, -The Story of the Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangha. Shrihari Prakashan, Dharwad. 2003.).

The first charter of the new body was to publish books in Kannada. The Sangha brought out its first publication two years after it was established and then came the first Kannada literary and cultural journal Vagabhushana. ( District gazetteer of Dharwad Government of Karnataka Publication Bangalore 1967 ). Since Kannada was the mother tongue of the rulers of Mysore, Mr. Deshpande enlisted the support of the Maharaja of Mysore, Shri Chamaraja Wodeyar for the Sangha. The Government of Mysore used to send its scholars to conduct Kannada exams which the Sangha used to hold periodically. It also bestowed funds for the construction of a building for the Sangha. ( K.S. Deshpande, -The Story of the Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangha. Shrihari Prakashan, Dharwad. 2003.).

#### **Activities of Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha**

1. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha organized conferences & these

conferences were attended by 1000s of enthusiastic Kannada people .

2. Vagbhushana a news paper edited by RH Deshapande , became a very popular Kannada paper & it streamlined the study of modern Kannada literature through journalism. ( K.S. Deshpande, -The Story of the Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangha. Shrihari Prakashan, Dharwad. 2003.).
3. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha organization started to involve people in the activities towards promotion of kannada language.
4. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha started to train volunteers towards this. A large number of volunteers started visiting houses in each city & village promoting sale of Kannada printed books . These volunteers started printing Kannada books & selling it .
5. Great scholarly works of Kannada Language & literature were made popular .Ancient works on Kannada grammar , Kannada Vachanas , Kannada chandas , Kannada ganitha , Kannada vignana were revived.
6. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha & its activities helped the Unification of Karnataka in 1956 .
7. The spirit of Nationalism & Kannada culture was amplified through the works of Karnataka Vidya Vardhak Sangha.
8. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha motivated several Scholars to write in Kannada language this helped the emergence of several Kannada writers. These writings enriched the Kannada literary world.

#### **Contributions**

1. In 1917 , Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha urged the



government of India to bring all kannada speaking areas under one administrative unit . This demand was recommended again in 1923 & 1935 . The Karnataka research Institute was founded in 1937 . the Karnataka University was founded in 1947 .

2. Sirigannadam gelge was coined by RH Deshapande of Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha which became a strong bonding epithet connecting kannada people.

3. Prahallad naregal , Krishna kumar kallur , SG kulkarni became established scholars writing on Nationalist ideas & Gandhian concepts of educations village upliftment.

4. Karnataka college was established which influenced the establishment of Karnataka University

5. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha impact on Kannada Journalism was very great.The Publication of Karnataka Samrajya in 2 great volumes created an awareness about modern Kannada scholars.

6. Several Newspapers Sadbodha , Saguru , Vachana Chinthamani , Guru Bodhe , Vachana sangama , Sukta depika were brought out Even though several of them were religious content oriented they were very important in delivering Kannada content to people.

7. Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha motivated several Scholars to write in Kannada language this helped the emergence of several Kannada writers. These writings enriched the Kannada literary world.

8. Venakata rao Kulkarni , Kabeer das of hubli , Vallabha Mahalinga , Venkata Nayarana Hanagal . SreenivasaVenakata katti . Mudaveedu Krishna rao , Jeevaji naragunda, Fakeerappa gurubasappa, etc became popular writers

9. Several other scholars from Dharwad region who enriched Kannada literature. ( District gazetteer of Dharwad Government of Karnataka Publication Bangalore 1967) .

- 1.Gopalacharya Adabaddi of Kalghatagi
- 2.Narayanarao Krishna Rao Huyilgol
- 3.Raghavendra Krishna Inamathi (1885-1940)
- 4.Garuda Sadashiva Rao (1884-1955),
- 5.Gundo Krishna Churamari (around 1885)
- 6.Raghavendra Rao Nataka
- 7.Achyutharao Krishna Rao Huyilgol of Gadag (around 1885)
- 8.Basavaraja Shastry of Kodikoppa Math i (1886-1953)
- 9.Narayana Srinivasa Rajapurohit
10. Shivalingappa Shivayogappa Basavanala,

Kannada Literature both modern & neo modern was influenced by the initial literary works of Vidya Vardakas sangha , Dharwad otherwise known as southern Maratha Country could boast of c countless number of scholars who were scholars on various Kannada dictions. The following list might b eincomplete but the influence to write in Kannada , enriched the literature but also motivated the spsirit of nationalism & Kannada culture. D RBendre, Mugali, Gokak, V.M. Inamdar, Basavanala, Sali Ramachandra Rao, Betgeri Krishnasharma, D.B. Kulkarni, Krishnakumar Kalluru, Prahlad Naregal, S.S. Malawada, N.K. Kulkarni, Naryana Sangama, Huyilugola Narayanarao, P.V. Acharya, Mudaveedu Krishnarao, Sham.Ba.Joshi, S.S.Wodeyar, R.C. Hiremath, Aluru Venkatarao, G.B. Joshi (Jadabharatha), Bhoosanoor Math, Varadaraj Huyilugola, Siddalinga Desai,



Channamallapa Kavali, Negalooru Ranganatha, B.R. Waadappi, D.S. Karki, Raobahaddur, Valigangappa, D.L. Kerur, N.S. Gadagakar, G.S. Amooru, Shanthinatha Desai, Ramachandra Kottalagi, Kalamadani Gururayaru, Burli Bindumadhava, Kurtukoti and Basavaraja Kattimani. Chandrashekara Patil, Giraddi Govindaraj, Chandrashekara Kambara, Sreenivas TophakDevendrakumar Hakari, G.V. Kulkarni. R.G. Kulkarni, Govindamurthy Desai, M. Dastgir, Vem.Mu. Joshi, M.M. Kulburgi, Siddalinga Pattannashetty, Veeranna Rajoor, Panchakshrayya Hiremath, Somashekara Imrapura, V.G. Maarihala, M. Jeevana, M.N. Rajashekaraiyah, Sadananda Nayak, Neginala, Girish Karnard, Paraddi Mallikarjun, B.V. Shirur, V.S. Hittalamani, Surendradani, K.S. Narayanacharya, Deshapande Subbaraya and many others . ( District gazetteer of Dharwad Government of Karnataka Publication Bangalore 1967) Conclusion – Thus Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha initiated a great & significant move towards popularizing Kannada language among Kannada

speaking people. The scholarly drives of Karnataka Vidya Vardhaka Sangha motivated several Scholars to write in Kannada language this helped the emergence of several Kannada writers. These writings enriched the Kannada literary world. The Literary worked was enriched through innumerable significant scholarships through innumerable scholars who not only helped the kannada cultural efflorescence but also contributed towards Nationalism & unification of Kannada speaking areas.

#### References

1. K.S. Deshpande, -The Story of the Karnataka Vidyavardhak Sangha. Shrihari Prakashan, Dharwad. 2003.
2. Jyotsna kamat – History of Kannada Language & literature 2001
3. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka\\_Vidyavardhaka\\_Sangha](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnataka_Vidyavardhaka_Sangha)
4. [www.kamat.com/kalranga/kar/leaders/deshpande.html](http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/kar/leaders/deshpande.html)
5. District gazetteer of Dharwad Government of Karnataka Publication Bangalore 1967