



Role of Assam in the India's Freedom Movement: A Socio-Political Approach

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Abstract:

The paper speaks about the task of Assam in the India's Freedom Movement with its socio-historical approach. Assam played a vital role in the history of country's freedom struggle. In this eastern part of India, the anti-British expansion first made its appearance throughout the first half of the 19th century. Assam came under the through British power after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. The entrance of Mahatma Gandhi, popularly in the Indian politics, wholly changed the scenario. People took active part in freedom movement in gigantic numbers and that could be observed for the first time, from the vigorous contribution of the common people in the Non cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. The paper also tries to recognize the relation between freedom fighters in Assam throughout the course of the movement.

Keywords:

Role, Assam, India, Freedom, Movement, Socio-Political, Approach.

Introduction:

Assam's role in the Freedom Movement is a great value towards socio-political aspects. Mahatma Gandhi commenced and directed three main campaigns in the Indian Independence Movement: Non-cooperation Movement in 1919-1922, the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Salt Satyagraha of 1930-1931, and the Quit India Movement from about 1940-1942. India's independence from the British Raj can be understood to be the most noteworthy movement in its modern history. It is extremely vital for us to identify about this struggle and learn our lessons to what structure the basis of our country and even our constitution.

Review of Related Literature:



There are many literatures relating to the India's Freedom Movement with the role of Assam. Hence the literatures relating to Assam's role in India's Freedom Movement through Non Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement are of great value.

1. Raktimjyoti Hazarika (2017) in his paper titled "*Assam in the Freedom Movement and the issues related to Food*" highlights the relations between food and the agendas of freedom fighters in Assam throughout the course of the Movement.
2. Dr. Rekha Rani Sarma Puzari & Kazumi Mazane (2001) indicate in their paper namely "*Role of Assamese Women in the Freedom Struggle of India*" that in 1920, Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi launched the Non-cooperation movement as an only gadget to expel the British from India who had captured the country in 1757 AD as an outcome of the battle of Plassey and ruled for almost 200 years.

Some other literatures relating to the paper are:-

1. Dr. Amalendu Guha's "Planter Raj to Swaraj: Freedom struggle and Electoral Politics in Assam", 1826-1947.
2. M. Taybullah's 'Karagarar Sithi' is one of the most precious books on freedom politics of Assam.
3. Debeswar Sharma's by 'Herai Jua Dinbur' and 'Bhratar Swadhinata Snagramat Assamar Awadan' by Laxminath Tamuly tries to highlight the significance of opium agitation in courses of freedom struggle. .
4. Loknath Goswami's 'Mati Aru Manuhar Silpi', Hemanga Biswas portrays the significance and importance of '*Salt Satyagraha*' among the general people of the region.

Statement of the Problem:

There are lots of researches and works on India's Freedom Movement with the role of Assam. But the impact of Assam in the India's Freedom Movement from the socio-historical approach is of great value.

Objective of the Study:

The very objectives of the paper are:-

1. To study the impact of India's Freedom Movement.



2. To highlight the Role of Assam in the India's Freedom Movement from Socio-Historical viewpoints.

Research Questions:

1. Is there any impact of India's Freedom Movement?
2. Is there any role of Assam in the India's Freedom Movement from Socio-Historical viewpoints?

Importance of the Study:

The entry of Mahatma Gandhi towards Assam on the eve of Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921 incited the Assamese masses from their slumber somewhere else. Assam quickly found herself in the front position of the struggle and the identical nationalistic trend continued till the achievement of Independence.

Research Methodology:

The method of this paper is historical cum exploratory in nature. To provide the reason of the research, both conventional and analytical methods of investigation are followed. An effort has been made to highlight the archival data on historical background. In addition, several data are compiled from the autobiographies of a number of the well-known figures of the colonial Assam. On the other hand, the data collected from research papers, research articles, edited volumes, journals, paper clips, periodicals, newspapers etc.

Discussion and Results:

Backdrop:

There is no exact data about the alignment of the people of the district in the earlier movement for liberation waged by the princely and upper class people in Upper Assam from 1828 to 1857. But, with the expansion of western education throughout the last part of the 19th century a novel development surcharged the patriots of the land. Few years before the emergence of the Indian National Congress in Bombay in 1885, the Tezpur Ryot Sabha was formed by a group of progressive people principally to complaint against the improvement of land revenue and to ventilate other public complaints.

1. Non Co-operation Movement and Assam (1919-1922):



- a. Non cooperation Movement was launched in Assam with passive protests and boycotts. In this movement, Assam turned into a movement for ban of opium, bhang, alcohol and other goods. Muhammad Taybullah in his '*Karagaror Sithi*' highlighted that in Assam the Non cooperation Movement could be named as '*Opium Revolution*'.
- b. Non-Cooperation Movement was an attempt in 1920-22, headed by Mahatma Gandhi, to persuade the British government of India to grant self-government, or *Swaraj*, to India.
- c. At the same time as the Non-Cooperation Movement was started, Tarun Ram Phookan took an imperative role in it and he toured a variety of areas of Assam focusing the message of Mahatma Gandhi. In this link with the Non-Cooperation Movement, he was sentenced to one year's rigorous custody in 1921.

2. Civil Disobedience Movement and Assam (1930-1931):

- a. Assam's position in the Civil Disobedience Movement came to observe when the students started to complaint and it aggravated the elders to step in and take part in the movement. *Kiran Bala Bora* was a freedom fighter and social activist from Assam, India, who is known for her contribution in the civil disobedience movements of the 1930s and 1940s, which contributed to the independence of India
- b. The speed of the Indian National movement became sluggish after the postponement of the Non Co-operation Movement and was revived only with the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- c. A mixture of developments in the meantime, however, served as the backdrop for the upsurge of the Civil Disobedience Movement. The appointment of the Simon Commission in 1927 offered a chance to bond the different groups and parties in the country against the British. The freedom movement reached new heights centering upon the opposition to the Simon Commission. Complaint demonstrations, strike, etc, were held all over the country when the members of the Commission landed in Bombay.



- d. The Congress discarded the suggestion of a Round Table Conference in London for the resolution of the constitutional difficulties as suggested by the Simon Commission except on promise of full Dominion position, and declared in the Lahore Session in December, 1929 that Complete Independence or *Purna Swaraj* would be the object of the Congress's struggle for freedom.
- e. Congress members were intended to leave their seats in the Legislatures and preparations were made for launching a Civil Disobedience Movement including non-payment of taxes when feasible. It was in vision of these improvements that Gandhiji was preparing himself and the people of the country for the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930).

3. Quit India Movement and Assam (1940-1942):

- a. The last phase of mass movement in all over India was prevalently known as *Quit India Movement*. On 8 August, 1942, All India National Congress took the decision for challenging the colonial authority to quite India. Nevertheless, the colonial Government arrested all the high level leaders of Congress.
- b. In Assam, the similar condition occurred and all the tasks were fallen in the hands of the volunteers. Nevertheless, people here vigorously involved in the courses of the movement.
- c. By the side of Bajali, *Karma Parisad* i.e. working Council was formed who functioned for 8 months, seized 300 goats from a party for refusing to pay dues. It was a type of free government which had president, prime minister and other officials in the exact method of the colonial government.
- d. More than a few leaflets were circulated asking people neither to pay revenue nor to sell paddy, pulses and other food products to 14 the Government employees.
- e. An energetic no tax campaign was started in most of the rural areas of the region. Peasants were asked not to disburse revenue to the Government officials also asked them not to sell any paddy, pulses and other foodstuff to the government employees or army men.

Major Findings:

The major findings of the paper are-



1. The visit of Mahatma Gandhi to Assam on the eve of Non-Cooperation Movement in 1921 revived the Assamese masses from their slumber as somewhere else.
2. Assam's task in the Civil Disobedience Movement came to watch when the students started to protest and it motivated the elders to step in and take part in the movement. *Kiran Bala Bora* and other social activist's role in this movement are of great value.
3. Quit India Movement in Assam is the outcome of many people who played a vital role to defeat the fetters of repression from the British Regime and to establish her own rule with the rest of India.
4. In view of the fact that, the days of the Treaty of Yandaboo and more chiefly since 1857 the banner of uprising against the British Regime was lifted by Maniram Dewan and his acquaintances.
5. Assam quickly found herself in the front of the struggle and the similar nationalistic trend sustained till the achievement of India's Independence.
6. An effort has been made to carry to the concentration the position of Gopinath Bordoloi in saving Assam from the clutches of East Pakistan i.e. now Bangladesh.

Conclusion:

Through the establishment of Indian National Congress, the nationalist consciousness took the form of national movement and Assam was not lagging behind in the case with the rest of India. Consequently, from the Swadeshi movement to the Quit India Movement, the people of Assam obtained their support and involvement for the reason of the nationalist movements. The victory of these movements like Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement in Assam was mostly laid in the achievement of making people aware of the disadvantages of opium, liquor and to decrease the government's income from the objects.

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