

## NON – BRAHMIN MOVEMENT IN PRINCELY MYSORE STATE

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### Prologue:

20<sup>th</sup> Century witnessed the radical changes in the field of socio, Economic and Political fields of India, which resulted in the rise of new movements like, Socio- Religious Movement, Freedom Movement, Labour movement, Peasant movement, etc. Impact of British rule, western education, exploitation of the British, role played by socio religious organisations and leaders etc. are the reasons for this. De-industrialization left government jobs as the only alternative for the jobless craftsmen. Being leading and educated caste Brahmins occupied all the posts and lead their life happily. Thus the non-Brahmins organised themselves with a view to educate their young men and secure them jobs. In this backdrop Non – Brahmin movement rose up its head in Mysore state. Present article discusses the same issue here elaborately.

### Beginning of the controversy

Hindu society is based on the Varnashramadharma. According to Purushasukta Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaishya, Shudra, the four Varnas are born from the head, shoulders, thighs and the foot of Lord Brahma. Except the Brahmins all others are educationally backward till recent years. Educated Brahmin community had monopolised the Govt. jobs. They were at the forefront socially and politically also. Brahmins were educationally more advanced in Madras presidency than in princely state like Mysore.

During the early Dewans period, more number of Brahmins from Madras presidency was appointed in the Mysore Govt. service, at all levels. This lead to the dis-satisfaction, among the Brahmins of Mysore state. As a result they began to demand more jobs for native Mysore Brahmins. Thus began the agitation viz., “Mysore for Mysoreans” This agitation was **Mysore Brahmins V/S Madras Brahmins**.

The earliest sparks of the Backward Classes grievances were evidenced in the 1890s, when the Mysore census report of 1891 was published. In this background the Veerashaiva Mahasabha, Lingayat Vidyavardhaka Sangha was established. The Karnataka Lingayat Education society was founded at Belgaum. Its aim was to help Veerashaivas to seek higher education. Gurusiddappa Gilganchi and Aratal Rudragaud were its leaders. Murugha Matha founded a hostel for Lingayat students at Dharwad.

The justice party of Madras had its impact in Bellary and Dhakshina Kannada districts too. The Mogaveeras (fishermen, 1910) and the Bunts (1908) had organised their caste associations and the Bunts started hostel (1907) for the advancement of their students in Mangalore

Similarly Maratha Vidyavardhaka Sangha was started at Dharwad and Belgaum in 1893. The Bombay-Karnataka area was influenced by the thoughts of Mahatma Phuley, who founded Satyashodhaka samaj to uphold the principle of casteless society. He was supported by Sahu Maharaj of Kolhapur who was highly respected by the Maratha community.

Till 1910 there were only three colleges in the Mysore state. This was the main cause for the educational backwardness of the people of Mysore state. During Dewan VP Madhav Rao's period Vokkaliga, Lingayath and other communities received encouragement to start hostels and schools. In 1907 Vokkaligara Sangha and Veerashaiva sangha started to work. Rao Bahaddur Gubbi Thotadappa, Jayadeva and other community hostels came into being. Besides these community hostels other Public hostel established in all over the Mysore state.

Establishment of Mysore University by Rajarshi Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV and his able Dewan Sir. M. Vishweshvaraya gave great encouragement to the development of educational facilities for all communities.

M Basavaiah a member of the Legislative Council took up the leadership of the backward classes by demanding scholarships and jobs for backward classes. But there was no good response from the Dewan. However the Yuvaraja Nrasimharaja wodeyar and Maharaj Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar, had sympathy towards the backward classes.

During 1917 backward class movement meeting held at Bangalore, Anna Swamy Mudaliar, leader of Madras backward class movement presided over this. There were 3000 people belonged 30 different backward communities attended this. M Basavaiah, M Subbaiah and H Chennaiah bitterly opposed the monopoly of the Brahmins over local bodies, factories and demanded the equal communal representation in all these fields.

#### **Brahmanetara Parishat:**

In the meanwhile, by the initiative of Sir Siddappa Kambli, Brahmanetara Parishat established at Hubli, in which all Non-Brahmin groups including Muslims, Jains and Marathas joined. Its First conference was held at Hubli, was presided over by Tyagaraja Chetty of the Justice Party of Madras, and was inaugurated by Sahu Maharaj of Kolhapur. A Marathi magazine Rashtraveera came to be launched from Belgaum to support the cause.

With its inspiration the Praja Mitra Mandali established in 1917 in Mysore state. Rao Saheb H. Channayya was its president. M. Basavaiah was the secretary, D. Banumaiah, M. Subbaiah and Abaas Khan were the executive Members. Within a week, the Mandali pointed out that Brahmins had monopoly in government service and demanded fair treatment of all other communities, through opening new schools, hostels, providing scholarships. Mysore government took some steps to assure higher posts to backward classes. Kanthairava Narasimharaja Wodeyar, the crown prince, and the king encouraged this. Now the agitation took a new turn and now it becomes Brahmins **V/S Non Brahmins movement**.

Under these conditions, Brahmins united, meet the king, and forced to vanish the demands of the Non Brahmins and pressurised the king, to give appointment to the Brahmins, who are very intelligent and know the administration very well. But the generous king set aside the demand of the Brahmins by quoting **Non- Brahmins are also my citizens**. This was the great victory of the Non Brahmins movement.

#### **Justice Lesley Miller Committee (9th Aug. 1918)**

Lesley Miller was Justice of the Mysore state High Court, Under these conditions, king Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV appointment Justice Miller Committee to look into the grievances. Miller was the president, Srikanta Iyer, Ranga Iyengar, Muthanna, H Channaiah, M Basavaiah, Gulam Ahmad Kalami were the members.

**Responsibilities of the Committee;**

1. Rules of Appointment
2. Professional Education for the backward classes
3. Backward class representation to the Government bodies. Etc.

**Miller Committee report**

1. 50% of the posts were to be given to the backward classes for the period of 07 years.
2. Fees were abolished for Schedule caste up to middle school
3. Scholarships & free books were extended to backward classes.
4. Admissions to the Panchamas in Govt. and Aided schools were made.
5. No grants to the orthodox schools that rejected admissions to the Panchamas.

Brahmins stand for the Merit system, whereas Non-Brahmins stood for the reservation system for the appointment. Meanwhile Dewan Vishveshwaraya selected six Brahmins for the post of Assistant Commissioners on the basis of merit. But Maharaja rejected this appointment. In protest against the decision of Maharaja, Vishveshwaraya resigned to his Dewanship. The first Non- Brahmin Dewan Kantaharaj Urs implemented the Miller Report with reformative zeal. By 1921 25% of the posts were given to backward classes, and by 1926 the percentage raised to 42%.

Out of 8 posts of Amildars 6 were given to backward class and 2 were given to the Brahmins. Maximum benefits were extended to the backward classes in education and services. Later Dewan Mirza Ismail appointed backward class candidates to 75% of the vacancies in the early period and 68% of the vacancies in the later period. Thus he reduced the percentage of the Brahmins in the Government services.

**Epilogue:**

Mysore is one of the leading princely states of British India, which adopted progressive reforms even before the British Government planned. It is the first state which sowed the seeds of Democracy, gave the franchise rights in India. In case of backward class movement and Non Brahmin movements Mysore kings liberally encouraged. So there was no much violence in Karnataka.

**MILLER COMMITTEE REPORT – 1918**

| COMMUNITY | YEAR | AT THE SALARY OF Rs,25 | BETWEEN 26-50 | BETWEEN 51-100 | BETWEEN 101-250 | BETWEEN 251-450 | BETWEEN 451 800 | Rs, 800 & ABOVE | 1911 POPULATION |
|-----------|------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brahmin   | 1916 | 4903                   | 2282          | 634            | 299             | 106             | 40              | 32              | 193137          |
|           | 1917 | 5171                   | 2484          | 739            | 321             | 122             | 39              | 35              |                 |
|           | 1918 | 5407                   | 2891          | 882            | 362             | 150             | 49              | 41              |                 |
| Kshatriya | 1916 | 117                    | 43            | 14             | 3               | 2               | 4               | 1               | 36894           |
|           | 1917 | 123                    | 42            | 14             | 2               | 2               | 3               | 2               |                 |
|           | 1918 | 148                    | 42            | 16             | 5               | 4               | 1               | 4               |                 |
| Vyshya    | 1916 | 39                     | 30            | 8              | 2               | 1               | -               | -               | 35784           |
|           | 1917 | 35                     | 27            | 10             | 3               | -               | -               | -               |                 |
|           | 1918 | 41                     | 22            | 10             | 2               | -               | 1               | -               |                 |

|                         |      |     |     |    |     |    |    |    |         |
|-------------------------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|----|---------|
| Lingayeth               | 1916 | 340 | 43  | 11 | 11  | 4  | 2  | -  | 728571  |
|                         | 1917 | 392 | 52  | 17 | 11  | 2  | 2  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 412 | 50  | 25 | 10  | 5  | 2  | -  |         |
| Vokkaliga               | 1916 | 222 | 40  | 17 | 6   | 2  | -  | 1  | 1328237 |
|                         | 1917 | 241 | 46  | 18 | 3   | 2  | -  | 1  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 258 | 54  | 18 | 4   | 3  | -  | 1  |         |
| Madalyari               | 1916 | 79  | 196 | 82 | 16  | 6  | -  | 1  | 11871   |
|                         | 1917 | 89  | 202 | 68 | 16  | 4  | 1  | 2  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 74  | 185 | 82 | 19  | 5  | 1  | 1  |         |
| Naidu                   | 1916 | 80  | 94  | 41 | 6   | 3  | -  | -  | 480623  |
|                         | 1917 | 82  | 100 | 38 | 5   | 2  | -  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 74  | 107 | 38 | 5   | 4  | 2  | -  |         |
| Kuruba                  | 1916 | 37  | 3   | 1  | -   | -  | -  | -  | 291708  |
|                         | 1917 | 62  | 2   | 2  | -   | -  | -  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 44  | 2   | 2  | -   | -  | -  | -  |         |
| Muslim                  | 1916 | 744 | 150 | 43 | 7   | 9  | 1  | 1  | 594637  |
|                         | 1917 | 779 | 771 | 49 | 17  | 5  | -  | 2  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 803 | 177 | 65 | 17  | 13 | -  | 3  |         |
| Panchama                | 1916 | 31  | 6   | -  | -   | -  | -  | -  | 7839    |
|                         | 1917 | 32  | 7   | -  | -   | -  | -  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 59  | 8   | -  | -   | -  | -  | -  |         |
| Jain                    | 1916 | 24  | 10  | 2  | -   | 1  | -  | -  | -       |
|                         | 1917 | 32  | 10  | 3  | -   | -  | 1  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 34  | 8   | 1  | -   | -  | 1  | -  |         |
| Parsi                   | 1916 | -   | -   | 2  | 1   | 1  | -  | 1  | -       |
|                         | 1917 | 1   | -   | 2  | -   | 1  | 3  | 1  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 1   | -   | 2  | -   | 1  | 3  | 1  |         |
| European & Anglo Indian | 1916 | 10  | 21  | 29 | 31  | 6  | 17 | 17 | 5213    |
|                         | 1917 | 8   | 19  | 41 | 47  | 8  | 5  | 15 |         |
|                         | 1918 | 11  | 19  | 41 | 144 | 17 | 7  | 17 |         |
| Indian Christs          | 1916 | 255 | 71  | 45 | 6   | 9  | 5  | 3  | 34201   |
|                         | 1917 | 232 | 72  | 36 | 11  | 7  | 4  | 2  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 257 | 71  | 45 | 7   | 5  | 5  | 5  |         |
| Pillai                  | 1916 | 8   | 18  | 7  | 1   | 6  | -  | -  | -       |
|                         | 1917 | 8   | 18  | 4  | 2   | 1  | -  | -  |         |
|                         | 1918 | 11  | 21  | 5  | 1   | 1  | -  | -  |         |

TABLE 1

Brahmins and Non Brahmins in Government Services

| Salary Scale<br>RS | 1916     |              | 1917     |              | 1918     |              |
|--------------------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|
|                    | Brahmins | Non-Brahmins | Brahmins | Non-Brahmins | Brahmins | Non-Brahmins |
| 50 - 100           | 68       | 32           | 72       | 28           | 74       | 26           |
| 101- 250           | 82       | 18           | 82       | 18           | 82       | 18           |
| 251- 450           | 69       | 31           | 78       | 22           | 76       | 24           |
| 451- 800           | 62       | 38           | 64       | 36           | 67       | 33           |
| 800 & above        | 82       | 18           | 76       | 24           | 71       | 26           |

TABLE-2

| Community                  | 1918 | 1936 | 1942 | 1949 | 1956 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Brahmins                   | 64   | 61   | 54   | 41   | 34   |
| Christians                 | 15   | 8    | 7    | 5    | 5    |
| Muslims                    | 4    | 7    | 7.5  | 7    | 5    |
| Lingayats                  | 2    | 5    | 6    | 9.5  | 13   |
| Vokkaligas                 | 1    | 25   | 4    | 8.5  | 10   |
| Total Posts for all castes | 370  | 760  | 885  | 1500 | 1530 |

Brahmins and Non Brahmins in Gazetted Posts

TABLE – 3

Brahmins in Gazetted and Non Gazetted Posts

| Gazetted Post |          |               | Non Gazetted Post |               |
|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Year          | Total No | % of Brahmins | Total No          | % of Brahmins |
| 1918          | 370      | 64.86         | 13946             | 69.64         |
| 1936          | 760      | 61.32         | 22615             | 49.65         |
| 1948          | 1437     | 43.18         | 44025             | 35.04         |
| 1956          | 1530     | 34.90         | 57516             | 27.65         |

**FURTHER READINGS:**

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