

## ROLE OF WOMEN FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF KARNATAKA

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**Abstract-** The history of freedom movement would be incomplete without mentioning the contributions of women. The sacrifice made by the women of Karnataka will occupy the foremost place. They fought with true spirit and hardships to undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn us freedom. When most of the men freedom fighters were in prison the women came forward and took charge of the struggle. The list of great women whose names have gone down in history for their dedication and undying devotion to the service of Karnataka is a long one.

**Introduction-** The role of women in the freedom movement is unique in Karnataka. Women participated very actively and sacrificed their lives for the cause of their motherland. In the pre-Gandhi a freedom struggle woman in their role as queens fought for independence of the territories they were Belawadi Mallamma, Rani Abbakka, Keladi Rani Chennamma and Rani Veeramma, Rani Channamma of Kittur started an era of revolt against the British in India.

The word freedom movement brings vividly to our minds the saga of sacrifices made by millions some of whom laid down their lives in a blazing train of glory. The history of foreign domination in India is replete with acts of courage sacrifice and dedication to the cause of freedom free. India has been built on the untold the sacrifices made by numerous individuals. Freedom movement was started not merely to drive the Britishers out of India, but the struggle continued to gain recognition for our nation among other advanced nations of the word.

This may have called as freedom movement is related to human live, namely traditions, economic rich cultural background and goals Gandhiji drempt of Swarajya freedom is related to our mind and knowledge, freedom and responsibility are two related terms.

Women freedom fighters of Karnataka and their role in the history of freedom struggle should be written in letters of gold the dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom of their motherland and secrefied their all to achieve their goal the leading women participants in the freedom movement in Karnataka. This article attempts to view the evaluation of the women in Karnataka with in a framework of analysis based on the concept that upward or downward changes of status acur in a relationship to changes in the primary economic and social structure of society. The role of women in the India freedom struggle and Karnataka freedom movement is of paramount importance with examples freedom fighters and their contributions are an important part of modern Indian history

**Objectives -**

1)Explain the significance of women in the freedom struggle.

- 2) To explore the role played by women freedom fighters in freedom movement in India/Karnataka.
- 3) To create awareness about different women freedom fighter.
- 4) To show the social economic emancipation of Karnataka women.
- 5) To highlight their sufferings and sacrifice of Karnataka women.

History has witnessed many women with exceptional bravery and intelligence who walked of shoulder to shoulder with man of their times. Let us remember women of freedom Era who fought bravely for their country and contributed towards the achievements of independence of the India/Karnataka. There is no doubt that women participated in the Karnataka freedom movement in large numbers if we were to recall the names of women leaders in our Karnataka movement. It is very difficult task to list out all women freedom fighters and equally difficult to segregate few amongst them.

In spite this kind of indifferent and uneven propositions, Kannada speaking people responded positively to the political awakening and participated actively in the freedom movement Karnataka state has contributed a lot in the freedom movement Kannadigas are well now for a bravery and courage they have believed and continue to believe the freedom is more valuable than their life the sacrifice made by women is a feature of the culture of Karnataka.

1) Rani Channamma of Kittur-The first woman who revolted against the British rule of India in 1824 was from Karnataka and she was Rani Channamma of Kittur. She led an armed rebellion against the British East India company in 1824 in a difference of the doctrine lapse in an attempt to maintain Indian control over the region, but was defeated and died imprisoned on the first female rulers to rebel against British rule, she has become a folk hero in Karnataka and symbol of the independence movement in India.

2) Umabai Kundapura- Umabai Kundapur was a Pioneer among the women freedom fighters of the Gandhian Era. She was married to Sanjeev Rao Kundapura and fortunately has she became a widow at an early age she made up her mind to spend her life in the service of the nation. The Bhagini Samaj and Tilak Kanya Shala were engaged in creating National awakening among women and trained for National movement. Umabai service in creating national awareness among women on the eve of Gandhiji's visit to Belgaum in 1924 was highly commendable. Umabhai traveled through out Karnataka and inspired women to join the struggle. For all these activities she was appointed as chief leader of the women's ring of the Seva Dal. Umabai once again toured Karwar district for salt Satyagraha movement .

In 1932 for her great courage in mobilizing the crowd she was appointed the director for the non cooperation movement on 26th January 1933. Umabai collected some fund out of the which she helped the prisoners she was arrested for Satyagraha. After her release from jail her ill health prevented her from participating in Quit India Movement.

3) Subbamma Jois- Subbamma was wife of M.N Jois who was a dedicated Congress worker. In 1930 Subbamma went along with her husband to Sirsi and Siddapura, the scene of hectic political activities like salt tax Satyagraha, non tax movements and Jungle Satyagraha. She took active part in the flag hoisting and pamphlet distributing programs in which quite a good number of women used to participate under the inspiring leaders.

4) Krishnabai Panjikar- Krishnabai was a leading women freedom fighter. She was born on 8th August 1906 at Honnavar. Krishnabai participated in Swadeshi Movement. She is soon become well known for her courage and indomitable will and the Dharwad district Congress committee requested her to go round to enlist participants for the Salt Satyagraha. She moved from village to village inspiring people by her speeches. In 1932 she was arrested for anti-government speeches. In 1940 she was the vice-president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress committee.

5) Nagamma V Patil- Nagamma V Patil popularly and widely known as avva. She married Padmashree Sardar Veeran Gowda Patil who was the founder of Karnataka Liberal Education society and Veteran leader of freedom movement. She was the social worker who worked for uplifting the conditions of the Harijan children in Karnataka. She started a hostel for Harijan girls Harijan Balika Ashram in Hubli. The hostel was based on the Gandhian principles and it became the only place other than Mahatma Gandhiji Sabarmati Ashram serving the Harijan children responding to the call of the freedom struggle by Mahatma Gandhi, both Nagamma and her husband join at the freedom movement in 1938. The same year, she was arrested and imprisoned and Hindalga jail in Belgaum for 3 months. She was also arrested for 13 months in the Yalawada central in 1942. Nagamma was attracted by Bhodana Movement and joined Saint. Nagamma followed her husband in all the activities of Harijana upliftment, bringing of the orphans, establishment the institutions, freedom movement and other fruitful activities.

6) T. Sunandamma- T. Sunandamma was married to Narasimhayyengar and advocate of the Doddaballapura in 1932. She was from Doddaballapura was closely associated with the leaders like T. Sidalingaih and T. Narasimhayyengar in starting the Niggers youth league in 1936. Sunandamma and her husband were closely associated with its functioning in the Shivapura Congress Session. T. Sunandamma was a leader of volunteers. Each functions in those days would open with her prayer and with her 'Vande Mataram'. There she led a batch of women clad in white to defend the national flag. In the Quit India Movement her husband was arrested and she worked underground for sometimes. Later in the 'Palace Chalo Movement' she participated along with M.R Lakshamma courted arrest and was in jail for 5 months. In recognition of her services, she was twice put as candidate for the House of Representatives and both the time elected unopposed.

7) Bellary Siddamma- Bellary Siddamma is another name to remember for her active participation in the freedom movement. This incident inspired many more youngsters participate in the freedom movement. It was at this time that Siddamma declared that the British should be driven out of India and independence should be gained at any cost. She who had not so long

ventured out of the four walls of the house became an inspiring speaker and a good organiser. She was really a very brave woman. She was soon recognised as a prominent state level leader in the Mysore state.

Her association with Sardar Veeran Gowda Patil, Nagamma Patil, S.Nijalingappa and T.Siddalingaih enabled her to enlarge her activities. Her first important public activities was her participation in the memorable Shivapura Congress Session held in April 1938. In that session the leaders who hoisted the national flag were arrested imprisoned on 12th April 1938. Siddamma Sang in her beautiful tone the song "Vande Mataram". Due to which she came to prominence among all the persons gathered there. It was women like T.Sunandamma, Yashodhara Dasappa, Bellary Siddamma, Subbamma Jois who struck a serious nail in the conflicting conditions among the organisers in the Shivapura event. The Shivapur flag Satyagraha was an important milestone in the struggle for National freedom.

Ballary Siddamma unfurled the national flag and the very next moment she too was arrested she was the first lady arrested by Mysore state. After her release she travelled widely all over Karnataka and Mysore state. She popularised Khadi. She tried to discuss the end and the old from the drinking habit, her second major political activity was her participation in the programme of cutting of 20 toddy trees in Thiruvannur and Chitradurga district under the leadership of S.Nijalingappa. The Quit India Movement of 1942 found her again politically active. In recognition of her service to women and Nation a Tamrapatra was awarded to her.

8) Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay- She was an Indian social reformer and freedom activist. She was most remembered for her contribution to the Indian Independence Movement. Kamla Devi played a prominent role in political reforms and India's freedom struggle. She joined Indian National Congress in 1927 and was elected to the All India Congress committee within a year.

During the salt march to Dandi she convinced Gandhi to give women equal opportunity to be in the forefront of the March. Later she joined Sevadal and trained women activists. British government banned Sevadal and threw Kamla Devi into jail. After her release in 1931 Kamla Devi was put in charge of the Sevadal. Next Kamla Devi participated in Quit India movement on August 8 Mahatma Gandhi gave the ultimatum to the British to Quit India struggle and went to jail. After Independence she devoted her entire life to social work. In a recognition of noble service she was honoured with Ramon Magsaysa Award in 1966.

9) Yashodharamma Dasappa- Yashodharamma Dasappa a unique place among the first generation of women freedom fighters and Gandhian Era. Yashodharamma's first confrontation with the Government took place at Shivapura Congress Session held on 10th April 1938. Yashodharamma along with other women participated guarded the flagpole for which she was arrested. She also played an important role in underground activities. There was a particular significance in hoisting the flag near the Town hall because the government had banned holding of any meeting there. She was most influenced by Mahatma Gandhi. Later she participated in 1942

Quit India movement and under went imprisonment. The Quit India movement of 1942 was a significant and final freedom movement for the Independence. People of India followed the principles of great leaders and the practiced them in their struggle against to the Britishers. She was in Sevagram in 1944. Gandhiji advised her to take to constructive work.

In history of India/Karnataka occupies a very special place through its contributions in the fields like art, education, literature, music, science and also in its contribution during freedom movement Karnataka played a prestigious roll in the freedom struggle.

The women played a significance role by involving themselves in the freedom movement against the British government in order to gain independence for the country. The women actively participated in more and more number in the important movements like non-cooperation movement, Quit India movement and Civil disobedience movement. the women courageously took part in the Non-Violence movement supported Mahatma Gandhi by righteously adopting his Non-cooperation, Civil disobedience and Quit India movement. The women of Karnataka also played a prominent role in the freedom movement.

Conclusion- The role played by women in the freedom movement is so remarkable and the glorious. In the national movement large number of women participated namely Umabai, Kamala Devi, Krishnabai, Bellary Siddamma, Yashodharamma, T. Sunandamma and others.

There are many women who have taken part in freedom struggle in princely Mysore. The women played very important inspiring role by the district and indirect participation in freedom movement. The women freedom fighters where and an eye opener in the masses. It has been found that there are 70 women participants in freedom struggle in princely Mysore.

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