

Contribution of Women in the Freedom Movement in Bombay Karnataka

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Introduction:

Since civilization time, women's contribution in one or the other fields is immense in the Indian history. That too particularly in the freedom Movement, liberating the mother India from the foreign rule and also in the freedom Movement of Bombay Karnataka, women's contribution is really appreciative.

Not only men but also women who participated in the freedom struggle with complete Mind heart and work. They also stood bravely as a backbone for this cause. There were only few women in the beginning stage of the freedom struggle, they did not participate completely because in the beginning Most of the anti-British Movements were revolutionary and violent in their nature. Therefore, women stood apart from the struggle. But Gandhi entered to the freedom struggle in 1917 and called for the use of Ahimsa or non violence as a weapon. From then, every section of the Indian society started to participate in this movement. women in particular actively participated in this struggle and started to oppose the British policies in their own ways.

A group of women participated in the violent arm movement, some participated in non-violent and some women indirectly supported or assisted the revolutionaries.

Here. I'm going to discuss about those brave women participated in our freedom struggle that is particularly from Bombay Karnataka region.

• **Prominent anti - British women activists**

1. **Kitturu Rani Channamma :-**

Rani Channamma was the first brave women activist who declared an armed fight against the British rule in India. Basically, she had belonged to Desai as Desagatti family. She claimed herself as the queen of Kitturu after the state lost her king Mallasarja. She raised an armed fight against the British when the British opposed to the succession of an adopted son to her heirless throne. Initially, she fights bravely against the British and instilled a great fear in their hearts. Later, because of the British conspiracy with the natives, she had to surrender after her

defeat in the battlefield. she proudly spent her lost days in the prison. she is remembered for her bravery and self-esteem as the Greatest Queen of kitturu.

2. **Umadevi Kundapur :-**

Basically, she belongs to the very well cultured family in Kundapur near Mangalore of Karnataka. Her father's was Golikeri Krishna Rao and Mather, was Jug ladevi. Later she was married to Sanjiv Rao Kundapur. Her father-in-law Anand Rao Kundapur was a great patriot, and a social reformer. He encouraged Umadevi to completely participate in the freedom struggle. she also actively participated in the Gouvala Deva women's society started by her father in law and strived for its development.

She had directly witnessed, the death procession of Bal Gangadhar Tilak with her own eyes. This incident pushed her to actively participate in the Indian freedom struggle. Unfortunately, when Umadevi was 28 years old she has lost her husband Her father-in law had encouraged and supported her to Come out from the grief and join freedom. Later Umadevi's father-in-law had established a girls school in Hubli and took the responsibility of it.

Umadevi was influenced by Gandhi's peaceful protest in 1921 November at theme time of interview of prince whales. His fasting and peaceful protest hid influenced whole city and Umadevi herself. She could understand the very structure of the Movement in 1920 to 1923 through listening and Meeting the famous the speeches Indian leaders.

The Ganesh festival helped, Umadevi to bring awareness in women about Independence Movement she was selected as the commander of sevadal in the time of 1924 Belgum session and she had successfully registered Many women volunteers in the Movement which had helped the women to enter into the public sector. Umadevi inspired More when she had met Gandhi in soorath and involved in social activities.

Conducting processions and weaving competitions were special programs in National Movement. Umadevi had visited Many places in Karnataka - like Belgum, Dharwad, Bijapur villages and encouraged women to participate in National Movements through public programs.

Umadevi had actively participated in quit India Movement in 1942 along with Gandhiji. She had given feed and shelter to these many freedom fighters. she was fined 400 and imprisoned by the British for four Months.

Thus, Umadevi became one of the famous Indian freedom fighter who brought awareness in women about their strength and role in Indian Movement and stood selfless through refusing political opportunities.

3. **Shakuntala Kurthkoti :-**

Shakuntala kurthkoti is one of the freedom fighters who fought differently she was born in Dharwad. She was influenced by the Indian freedom Movement when she was still young.

She worked like a lawyer for women's rights. She had successfully gathered women against the British. She was imprisoned many times but her courage and firmness didn't change and she was well knowing from her courage and feverless itself.

Shakuntala Kurthkoti led Many protests and Movements against social discriminations and injustices to women. She had brought awareness about education and took special care about girl's admissions in schools. She had worked even after Independence (1947) in social and political sectors and supported for the establishment of women's association and organisations.

4. **Padmavathi Bidari:-**

She was one of the brave and social reformers of Karnataka. She has born in 1921 in a village called Hulikunte which is in Dharwad. She was born in freedom fighters' family and it had influenced her to join the freedom Movement. she was famous for her strong decisions and dedication in freedom Movement she stood firmly for the Independence Movement even she was Many times imprisoned and violated from the colonizers.

she worked for social reforms like gender equality. Women's rights protested against child Marriage, women's dowry system. She had conducted campaigns for women's education and women's self-dependency.

She worked as Member of legislative council and worked for the betterment of women's lives.

5. **Nagamma Patil: -**

Nagamma Patil recognised as symbol of Mahatma Gandhi's symbol if Independence Movement. She was born in 16th of December in 1905. She had Married freedom fighter, Padmashree Awardian Veeranagouda Patil. She had involved herself for the progress of children education.

she was influenced when she met Mahatma Gandhiji in 1924 in Belgum session, and then became his strong follower. She had established "Harijana Balika Ashram" in Hubli along with her husband.

In 1938 Nagamma Patil had completely involved in Independence Movement and spent her days as punishment in Belagum's Hindalaga prison and again in 1942 the prison of Yarawada. Her contribution is memorable for Indian Independence Movement.

Concluding Remarks:

This article is prepared on the concept of the contribution of the women in the freedom struggle in Bombay Karnataka. This throws light on the movements in Bombay Karnataka against the British exploitation.

This article shows the women's equals contributed in the freedom struggle of India. Only the few women participated and scared the British in the early armed freedom struggle. Kitturu Channamma can be given on example for this cause. Later, because of Many reasons women remained out from most of the freedom struggles, women again joined Many important freedom movements like picketing, non-cooperation, salt satyagraha, civil disobedience and opposed Many British policies when they received a call from Mahatma Gandhi. Women at some time participated directly and sometimes indirectly got involved in the freedom struggle. Among them is Umadedevi Kundapur who spent most of her life in the Indian freedom struggle itself and contributed immensely. Likewise, Shakuntala Kurtakati also strived for the women's empowerment and their education along with her participation in the freedom Movement. Likewise, Parvati Biday, and Nagamma Patil also involved in and boosted the Indian freedom Movement from the Bombay Karnataka region that particularly from Dharwad and Belagavi region. Totally it is understood from this article that the women's contribution is immense In Indian freedom movement.

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