



PANDHARINATH SITARAM PATIL: LIFE AND WORK

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INTRODUCTION – Pandharinath Sitaram Patil was the mass leader of common people of Berar. He was the aggressive social activist of that time. He stirred up the social, religious, political and cultural environment of the Berar. He was the first social reformer and the first voice of the social reconstruction of the Berar. Buldana district was actively involved in any stage and time of social reform of the society. Whenever there was need of whistle blower of the movement of justice the soil of Berar fulfilled the demand. This holy soil of Berar was and is always with the movement of justice. This soil always has the glorious past of standing with the justice. When Mahatma Jotirao Phule waged war against the injustice, inequality, exploitation in religious sector, racial hierarchy, apartheid, untouchability and injustice with women that was the real rise of reason of India. Berar also was with him in his movement of justice. Bapuji Shinde was present at the first meeting of the Satyashodhak Samaj held at Poona. Phuleism was the first ideology which challenged the ascendancy of Bramhanism in all sectors. Phuleism not only denied the ideology of Bramhanism, but it established the structural framework to fight against the evils. Phuleism demolished the structure of Bramhanism which set up on the base of injustice. Buldana district was actively involved in the *‘Satyashodhak Movement’*.¹

TERM OF BERAR – Today’s Berar is consist of the five districts of Amravati division. But old Berar was not so little. The old Berar was between Kherla Dist Betul M.P. to Pathri Dist. Parbhani from the north to south. And from West it was from Malkapur to Wardha river to the East. The term Berar comes from the name *‘Varhad’*. And the word *‘Varhad’* developed from the river Wardha.² *‘Vardhatat’* to *‘Varhad’* and then in Muslim period it

became the '*Barar*' afterwards the term 'Berar' emerged from the old name of the region '*Barar*'. Today's Berar is consist of five district of Amravati division.

EARLY LIFE OF PANDHARINATH PATIL – Pandharinath Patil was born on 20th September 1903 at Amboda tq Nandura Dist Buldana. Afterwards his family moved to Pimpri Adhao tq Malkapur Dist Buldana. His family background was of Warkari sect, so little Pandhari also used to actively involved in Kirtan and Bhajan programmes. The economical condition of his family was not so good, so his primary and highschool education was on the basic of earn and learn. As critical minded he argued with many times with preacher who always visit his village. He with his father was present at the All India Maratha Education Conference held at Khamgaon in 1917.³ Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj was the Main speaker of the conferemce. Shahuji Maharaj stimulated the movements of justice of the Berar from this conference. Pandharinath Patil also got inspiration from the conference. His ideological structure was built up by the conference.

SATYASHODHAK MOVEMENT AND PANDHARINATH PATIL – The Satyashodhaki Mahaghat Shastri prepared and cultivated the minds of common Berari people of this region. Pandharinath Patil also got inspiration from Mahaghatshastri and his work in Berar. He listerned stories how Mahaghatshastri defeated Bramhins in Shastrartha from his grandfather. His first speech was arranged at Warkhaed Tq Malkapur to talk about the Satyashodhak Movement. The day was 14th of January 1921, But Sanatanis stopped his speech and disturbed the programme. At 19 November 1921 he was presented at Poona for the programme of opening of statue of Shivaji Maharaj by Prince of Walse. He came in contact of Kesharao Jedhe and other Satyashodhak workers of Maharashtra. He visited and live at Jedhe Mansion the center of Satyashodhak Movement of that time. He arrange the first Satyashodhak Conference of Vidarbha at Warkhed Tq Malkapur where his first speech cum meeting was disturbed by Sanatanis. Afterwards he arranged many Satyashodhak conferences in Berar eg- Savatra Tq Mehakar, Savala Tq. Jalgaon Jamod, Hingane Karegaon Tq Khamgaon, Kinhi Mahdeo Tq Khamgaon, Amraoti, Akot etc. All India Satyashodhak conference was arranged at Amraoti in 1925. He argued with the Shankarachary who invited by the Sanatanis for counter attack on the Satyashodhak movement. The programme was arranged at Deulgaon Raja. He and Anandswami argued with Dr Lingesh Mahabhargav Kurtkoti on the issue of Religious, spiritual, social points. This Dharmparishad was thwarted by Pandharinath Patil and Anandswami. The Shankarachary was dismissed by Chatrapati Shahuji Maharaj for the misbehave. That's why Sanatani arranged his programme to counter the movement. Kurtakoti misbehave in the Dharmaparishad so Satyashodhak conferences held at Dodhra, Mandapgaon, Isrul, Hingne karegaon, Savatra, Kinhi Mahadeo, Shendurjan, MolaMoli, Andhera criticized him for his misbehave and passes the resolutions against his misbehave.⁴

Pandharinath Patil and Anandswamiji was actively involved in the programmes of Jalsas. There are many famous Jalsas of Berar which performing for the Satyashodhak movement. Rajanda Dist Akola, Wadegaon Dist Akola, Birsingpur Dist Buldana, Naygaon Dist Amraoti, Belura Dist Amraoti, Kelwad Dist Buldana, Sawargaon Dist Buldana are some famous Jalsas of Berar.⁵ Anandswamiji and Pandharinath Patil guided the programmes of Jalsas of Berar and Maharashtra. Anandswami gave security to the programmes of Jalsas in Berar. CP & Berar Third Satyashodhak Conference was held at Karodi in 8th of April 1928. Pandharinath Patil was the first writer who wrote the biography of Mahatma Phule. He worked hard for that, he collected documents and references for the biography. That's why he was invited from all over Maharashtra and out of states to talk about Phuleism and Satyashodhak Movement. He was invited at Satara for the birth anniversary of Mahatma Phule in 1947 the date was 17th November. He was processioned with 21 bullock carts in that programme. The procession was leading by the elephant having the Photoframe of mahatma Phule.⁶

POLITICAL LIFE – He fought district council elections in 1923 but he defeated by opponent. But he and his Non Bramhanist Party won the district council elections all over the Berar in 1924. The real hero of this victory of Non Bramhanist Party was Pandharinath Patil and Anandswamiji. He also active in Local Board elections. In the local board election held at 23rd June 1934 he and his Non Bramhanist Party won 16 seats out of 25. He also fought the legislative assembly election in 1936 and won it. He became MLA from Chikhali-Mehakar constituency. After the Non Bramhanist party's immersion in Congress he became the leader of Congress Party.⁷ Afterwards he became MLA and MP from the Congress party. He always fought for the common people eg.- Farmers, workers, deprived casts, social conflict etc.

EDUCATIONAL WORK – He established the primary school and Adult education school at Jambuldhaba in 1921. He also established public library at Pimpalgaon and Buldana. He also helped the Chokhamela Boarding of Chikhli run by Laxmanrao Bhatkar. He established the series of school named Shivaji Highschool which merged afterwards into Shivaji Education society. Buldana, Chikhali, Nandura are the some major institutions among them. He also collected economical help for the Shivaji Education Society established by Panjabrao Deshmukh by arranging the programmes at various places in all over the Berar. Panjabrao Deshmukh with Pandharinath Patil visited to Nizam at Haidrabad for economical help for the Shivaji Education Society. Nizam granted twenty thousand rupees as first instalment for the society. As a council member he established government primary school in every village having 500+ population .⁸

NON BRAMHIN MOVEMENT- He arrange the first CP & Berar Non Bramhin Conference at Morshi in 1923. The President of the conference was Bhaskarrao Jadhao Education Minister of Mumbai Region. Nanasaheb Amrutkar and Bhausahab Gund was the major host of the conference. One other Non Bramhin Conference was

arranged at Buldana in same year. The president was Sitaram Nana Choudhari. At 17th August 1924 the meeting of Bramhanetar Sangh held at Jambhuldhaba dist Buldana. The president of the meeting was Sakharam Patil. The second Majlis of All India Non Bramhin Congress held at Amraoti in 1925. The conference was of three days, 25 to 27 December of 1925. The first conference was held at Belgaon Karnataka. He was the editor of the 'Atmodhar' newspaper of Malkapur edition. This newspaper had been publishing from Jalgaon Khandesh. Pandharinath Patil arranged the Khamgaon Taluka Non Bramhin Conference in Kinhi Mahadeo at 14th January 1928. The President of the conference was Annasaheb Kayande. Near about five thousand people were present for the conference. Pandharinath hosted the conference. Bombay region third Non Bramhin Conference was held in Kalyan at 15th July 1928. Pandharinath Patil was present at that conference. Afterwards many conferences was arranged in Berar by him and other members of Non Bramhin movement of Berar eg- Bhatori Dist Akola, Jastagaon Dist Buldana, Wardha, Elichpur, Amraoti etc.⁹

CONCLUSION - Pandharinath Sitaram Patil was the mass leader of Berar. He was active member of Satyashodhak and Non Bramhin movement of Berar. He also social activist and social cum religious reformer of Berar. He tried to demolished the bad traditions flowed with time in society.

KEYWORDS:-

Bramhanetar Movement – The movement of demanding justice by the rest of Bramhin communities in 19th century Maharashtra. They oppose the system of 'Chaturvarna' of Hinduism and ascedency of Bramhins in all sectors.

Satyashodhak Movement – (Truth Seekers' Society) This social reform society was founded by Mahatma Jotirao at Phule on 24th September 1873. This movement ran the movement of social justice which generally known as Satyashodhak Movement.

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