RAJA LAKHAMANGOUUDA SIRADESAI OF BOMBAY KARNATAKA– MAN AND MISSION

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Abstract

Authority, wealth and grandeur are the privileges enjoyed by a king. However, by sacrificing these, he chose to serve his subjects, protect the culture and strove to develop his country by devoting his life to these causes. Such men are one in a million! Present paper explores the contribution of Raja Lakhamangouda a king of princely state Vantamuri of Belagavi district an old provincial of Bombay. Paper is designed with secondary source, academic articles, online journals, expert’s expressions and self-observations to comprehend and analyse the contribution of Raja Lakhamangowda in improving the life style of the weaker sections, down-trodden, orphans etc. in Bombay Karnataka region. Researcher adopted historical research methodology for this purpose and concluded the paper with the scientific analysis of contribution of the Raja Lakhamangowda in the Bombay Karnataka Region.

Keywords: Raja Lakhamangowda, Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Princely state, Charity, Belagavi.

Introduction

Service to mankind is service to God was the mission of Raja Lakhamangouda Sardesai a prince of Vantamuri Princely state of Bombay Karnataka. He contributes all his wealth to welfare of the citizens of his state. He was educationist, Social reformer, leader of farmers and poor, great administrator, and great role model to his followers. Due to his contribution towards marginalised sections, he stands with the line of Samrat Ashok, Kanishka, Kumargupta, Harshavardan, and Shrikrishnadevaray. His considerable contribution in the field of education, social reforms, Social Justice, economics, politics, administration and religious contributions are guiding map to the new generation. His efforts in development of Karnataka Lingayat Education (KLE) society are remarkable in the history of the Karnataka and Veerashivisham.

Objectives:

1. To know about Raja Lakhamangowda Sardesai
2. To explore the contribution of Raja Lakhamangowda for community development through the education.

3. Historically Analyse the contribution of Raja Lakhamangowda for his princely state

Methodology:
The study was conducted by secondary sources of existing literature through historical, analytic approaches. Method consists, analyse concepts and arguments, synthesis ideas and evidence drawn from different sources, construct consistent and well-supported arguments, discuss an issue in a balanced way, evaluate the ideas and arguments of others, make judgments and express informed opinion.

Early Life and Education:
Raja Lakhamagauda was born on 29th July 1864 in Ammanagi village. His first name was Appasaheb and his primary education was in a Marathi school in Ammanagi. The secondary education was done partly in Kolhapur where most of the princely students studied. From Kolhapur he continued his studies in Sardar High School, Belgaum. Here, Mr. H. Hoogwerf, the headmaster gave special attention to Lakhamagauda. In 1882 he passed his Matriculation from Bombay University. While studying in Kolhapur, in 1880, he married Parvatidevi, the daughter of Kalyanshetty of Gokak. On July 29, 1884, he was invested with power by the British government. In 1884, his wife gave birth to a son, who was named Basavaprabhui. With the support and inspiration by the MeeShaa, District judge of Belagaum and Appasaheb Chattre Advocate, he started study of law moves to London in 1886. He completes the Bar-at-Law in 1888. (A barrister (also known as barrister-at-law or bar-at-law) is a type of lawyer in common law jurisdictions who works at higher levels of court. Barristers mostly specialize in courtroom advocacy and litigation). He was also a first person who completes Bar-at-Law from the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community of Bombay Karnatakai. Even though pursuing of higher education in foreign university, after his education he shifts to his Native Vantamuri with the concern of the integrated development of the citizens of his princely state.

CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY:
Public works such as Pasi Pool Bridge over the river Ghataprabha, the road from Hattarki to Paschapur, construction of a Guest House, Medical Shop and Primary School were
taken up at his own cost for the betterment of society. During this time, the Lingayat Education Association of the Veerashaiva community in Dharwad provided hostel facilities with boarding for their students. Raja Lakhamgouda donated Rs. 55,000 to this association in 1901. He reiterated his ideology that “Organisation is bigger than men, Society is bigger than association and Nation is bigger than society.” Social unity, including vision, value and health, the importance of the Lingayat community and its benefits to society were some of the issues of the Veerashaiva Mahasabha held in 1904 at Dharwad. In India complex social structures, economics, constraints and political opportunism have provided ample breeding ground for growth of revivalist ideologies and identity politics Raja Lakhamangouda stood against the social ills and contributed for social change and development.

ADMINISTRATION

Every individual in a society aspire to live a healthy, tolerant, safe, inclusive and fair life. Social services have an essential contribution to make in achieving that goal. Therefore Raja Lakhamangowda concentrated on the healthy tolerant, safe, and fair life of the citizens of his state. There were huge number of Muslim representation in his administration, and high official positions were possessed by the Muslim community, this is an evidence for his secular attitude. Secular mind set of him was the one among the best administrative tact’s of him, moreover his humanitarian concern towards the all communities was noted my many historians and philosophers. He provides financial assistance to start public library in Ganapati Galli Belagavi, Starts Ayurvedic hospital in Vantamuri, English medium school at Vantamuri and Belagavi social club also his contribution to administration. Belagavi college of Ayurvedic, Civil hospital of Belagavi, Gataprabha Karnataka AarogyaDhama, wanless hospital of Miraj were also took administrative and financial contribution by Raja lakhamanagowda. He never increased tax in any forms but collects revenue more by his transparent administration. He love and dedication towards farmers and civilians was higher than Mount Everest. He also provided financial to TB centre of Belgaum civil hospital and District ground of Belagavi.

Positions Held / Awards:

1. Member of legislative council of Bomby province for three times
2. President for all India Veerashaiva Mahasabha Meeting held at Baglkhot in 1908.
3. He awarded with the companion of Indian Empower by the British.
4. He was the second president of Karnataka Lingayat Education Society (KLE) (1928-1943).

5. President of Dharawad Lingayat Vidya Abhiruddi (1933-1942)

6. Sub Judge and Magistrate for First class court for 21 years.

7. King for his princely state (1877-1935)

CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATION:

In the year 1928 he contributed about Rs 20000 to the KLE society of Belagavi and lifted it out from the economic condition crisis, where it was about close due to the financial constraints. Further he contributes Rs 5000 to start science institution in KLE campus. He provides Rs 55000 to Lingayat Vidyaabhirvudhi Society for educational activities. Pune Deccan education society also being facilitated by the financial assistance and contribution by the Raja Lakhamangowda, Wellington college of Sangli Maharashtra was also received financial contribution. Lady Irwin college of Delhi was also honored by his financial contribution. He contributed money to Lingayat free boarding of Kolhapur. Karnataka college of Dharwad, VanitaVidyalaya of Belagavi, Maratha Mandal Institution of Belagavi was also provided with the financial assistance by the Raja Lakhamangowda. In the year 1931 he contributed Rs 1lakh and college honored him by starting Law College in his name. He contributed Rs 25000 for the publication of Prabhulinglile.

Conclusion:

Very few social reformers fought against the unnatural social practices and dedicated their life for the educational advancement of all communities. Raja Lakhamangouda was also a prominent personality of those days, who fought against the all social ills as well as he was great visionary of independent India. He dedicated his life and asset for the developmental activities in his princely. His concern towards Lingayat community was also a notable point in the study of elite classes of Bombay Karnataka. Undoubtful he was man with principle of secularism, his administrative staff was hired from the various religions. There were representation of backward classes, minorities and deprived sections of the society in his administration. Bombay Karnataka privileged with his administration, he enlightened the all his followers through his social, administrative cultural, religious and political contribution.
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