GURU GOBIND SINGH COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

98

SECTOR 26, CHANDIGARH - 160019 (Affiliated to Panjab University Chandigarh)

Re-accredited by National Assessment & Accreditation Council, Bangalore)



87. EMERGENCE OF INDIAN NATIONALISM IN HARYANA (1900-1919)

Purva Mimaansa A Multi-discipinary Bi-annual Research Journal (Double Blind Peer Reviewed)

Vol. 9 No. 1-2, March-Sep. 2018 ISSN : 0976-0237 UGC Approved Journal No. 40903

Emergence of Indian Nationalism in Haryana (1900-1919)

Dr. Bhajan Singh

Abstract

Haryana was formed in 1966, it was earlier a part of Punjab and therefore there is a lot of mention of Punjab in the Indian freedom struggle but little is known of Haryana's contribution in terms of people's sacrifice and the places where significant events took place. People of Haryana participated in all freedom struggles viz., the revolt of 1857, Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement. Though the British Government took every measure to keep aloof people of Haryana from the freedom struggle but people of Haryana participated in the struggle with full spirit. There were many social and political leaders who lead the people in the freedom struggle. They did not leave any stone unturned when it came to get the freedom of the country. In this paper, an attempt has been made to analyse the main reasons behind the emergence of nationalism or political awakening in the people of Haryana and their participation in the Indian freedom struggle.

I

The first bugle of the 'great uprising' of 1857 was blared at Ambala on 10th May 1857, about nine hours before the outbreak at Meerut took place. It was here that the soldiers of the Native Infantry started the revolt. The incident quickly spread to all parts of Haryana which soon came to be known as the 1" Battle for Independence. This uprising was not only confined to Ambala alone but was quite widespread. On 25 May 1857, both the sepoys and the civil population of Rurki rose in revolt. Meanwhile, the local people of Hissar, Hansi and Sirsa were up in revolt under the leadership of Lala Hukam Chand Jain, his nephew Faqir Chand Jain, Meena Beg, Mohammed Azim and Nur Muhammad. On 29 May, 1857, they killed 12 Europeans including the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar, John Wedderburn. Such was the resentment against the British Raj. Like other parts of Haryana, Rohtak also saw a violent uprising with all symbols of British Raj being attacked and destroyed. One Bisarat Ali of Kharkhauda, who was a Risaldar in the British Army, took charge of the revolt, along with Sabar Khan, a local peasant leader. The local people all came together and began attacking British property and residents. They soon attacked Rohtak. The Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak District, William Loch had to leave Rohtak but the Tehsildar, Bakhtawar Singh and Thanedar, Bhure Khan were killed. Finally, on 15 August 1857, Lt. W.S.R. Hodson supported by Major General Wilson arrived with reenforcements and superior arms and took on the locals who had revolted in Kharkhauda. Despite offering stiff resistance, the revolutionaries ultimately were defeated and Bisarat Ali was killed in the struggle. They then proceeded to Rohtak District to take on Sabar Khan, who was leading the revolt there. Sabar Khan along with the local peasants of Rohtak fought back with limited

*Assistant Professor, Deptt. of History, Guru Gobind Singh College for Women, Sector - 26, Chandigarh (UT)

29

2

Principal Guru Gobind Singh College For Women Sector 26, Chandigath

Phone: 0172-2792757, 2791610, Website: www.ggscw.ac.in, Email: principalggscw@yahoo.in, principal@ggscw.ac.in