

Roots of Student Movement in India

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Abstract

In Indian sub-continent during ancient and Medieval Ages students agitations were seen in some areas. But modern student's movement has only appeared just after starting of British administration. So, modern struggle of students in general, is seen as the output of British education policy. It is also true that student's struggle didn't start at the beginning of British administration. But the students, directly or indirectly protested against British imperialism's oppression and colonial rules. This protesting aptitude of students of India was first noted in Bengal right from nineteenth century. Then in twentieth century it spread in different provinces of India. In British India whatever agitation against British (1919-1945) solemnized; the students participated in all that by one or the other means. I have tried to cover the history of the student movement in India in details in my research paper entitled "Student Movement of India".

Keyword: *movement, Student. Struggle, British, colonial*

It is generally presumed that in India the student's movement appears to be the concept of history of modern times. But it is not true that the student's movement is the product of only present era. This is, because in ancient and middle ages certain of those activities were observed. In ancient time the education system followed learning in priest's home. In ancient time especially in the Vedic age we learned about many educational programs wherein disciples used to go to priest's house for acquiring knowledge. In first and second century B.C. we got similar knowledge from the great literature written by Patanjali. From here we understand about some of student movement issues. A good number of students used to live in Panini's hermitage to acquire knowledge? Students here were more interested to mix with the girl students known as 'Dakshya' living in different hermitages. In some cases students disobeying their teacher used to mix freely creating social disturbances. Again in the epic period from the Ramayana of Balmiki one learns to have boy student's wishes to break the rules of hermitage. We know about similar stories from 'Bhababhuti's- written 'Uttar Ramcharit' where such students were called as 'Sandhataki'.

These incidents prove that in the ancient and middle Ages there were instances of student's movement and excitement facts, where students' disobeyed preceptor's orders. But though we know about educational systems of India as also data, related to ideals of students and their

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living status of that period but we didn't find the role of students in the advancement of the society in any way. In this perspective, a comment of Prof. Braun De is very relevant. He said, "In the ancient and middle ages how much the students were attentive to politics of the period except learning & behavior, is noted from some utterances and chit-chat stories only. In priest's home, Tolls, Schools, Maktab (Muslim Primary School), and Madrasa's; both society-conscious as well as disobedient and rough students were present. But in Bengal Rabindra Nath Thakur in his book "Achalayatan", of course raised some issues about student's thoughts while Turks came in but as no original book of history is available, historians are silent thus".

Even though we have some knowledge about the student's agitation of the middle and ancient period we are totally ignorant about the student's role in class struggle linked to evolution of the society & the state. But it is true that in the clash between idealistic and materialistic philosophy, the students, if not wholly, but in individual capacity what they learned, that might have guided them to do something positive accordingly. While Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu worked heartily to erase religion-division, caste identification from his followers and students; Sri Raghunandan at the same time wanted to strengthen the minds of his disciples in the principle of social and religious conservatism. But modern student's movement in India had its origin in one particular outlook. So the student's movement really started from a platform wherein Indians fought against British imperialism.

In the eighteenth century while the Mughal emperor is becoming weak the British force took the opportunity to fight against them to capture our country and as a result we got one part as British India and the other part as Indian states. By this way the whole subcontinent comes under one rule. But Britishers being runner of progressive life didn't conquer India unlike other conquerors. India however had no capacity to obstruct them. The British settlers in their own requirements looted the country and initiated modernization breaking India's economic-systems & erasing the old society.

It is to be mentioned that India got its freedom at the backbone of Britishers destructive spirit and alternatively their positivity of administration. If one looks at the destructive activities of Britishers one will find helpful village agricultural-system before Britishers snatching of India's everything. One can mention of irrigation system. Britishers destructed this infrastructure which led to horrible famine in India. Besides this, economic loot was the outcome of British administration. This they continued unto the last day of their presence in India. Britishers used

to accrue 1/3 of their total collected revenue from India alone. How Britishers exhorted over Indian people that can easily be depicted below vide statistics:

List-2

Period	Expedition	Principle Expenditure (By India)	Principle Exp. (By England)	Addl.Special Exp. (By India)	Addl.special Exp. (By England)
1838-42	1 st Afghan War	All	-	-	All
1839-40	Ist.China War	All	-	-	All
1856-57	2 nd . China War	-	All	-	All
1856	Parisian War	All	-	Half	Half
1859	3 rd ,China War	-	All	-	All
1867-68	Pork War	All	-	-	All
1878	Malta War	-	All	-	All
1878-81	2 nd Afghan War	All	-	5 million pound	5 million
1882	Mishear War	All	½ million	½ million	-
1885-86	Sudan War	All	All	-	All
1885-91	Brahmas 'WAR	All	-	All	-
1896	Mosamba	-	-	-	All
1896	Sikkim	All	All	-	All
1898-14	South Africa,china.parisian	partly	Rest amount	partly	Rest amount
1914-20	1 st world war	All	-	-	All

India's money contribution in some of the wars referred above: (6)

List-2

War	Expenditure in Pound
Pork War	41,000
2 nd Afghan war	12,51,600
Egypt War	12,50,000
Brahmadesh War	47,05,000
Sikkim War	2,31,900
First World War	137,70,00000 (Rs.)

The above figures very well justify the true destructive nature of Settlers administration. This monetary squeeze had deep impact over Indian Society. Side by side, they during 1757-1765 pressed Indian farmers with rigidity over different issues. East India Company used to extract huge money vides graces and bribes from emperors for sending those to England. After 'Palasy war' throughout the whole eighteenth century East India Company and his staff snatched huge Indian wealth for dispatching to their own country.

For such act of British, agriculture-based village economy of India became ruined. The various land-revenue collection processes (Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari), agriculture-people

and the society stepped down from poor status to poorer realm. It is known that during Mughal Raj, 'Kishak' or tenants were possessor of land. The state was not owner of land. The person tilting land was the occupier in the true sense. The everlasting collection process changed the existing system. Snatching the rights of farmers, landowners were made the possessors. This made farmers to become slaves in part (7). Not only that the equilibrium that stood as bond between artistry and agriculture destroyed totally. The weavers were evicted from their generation linked business organs. The rights of farmers on land were serially taken away. The real pathway for wealth creation by the weavers, farmers and other workers were stopped. Dr. Naraharikabiraj in his book '*Pre-capitalism to settler's economy*' evaluated as, "The conflict between India's progressive mentalities struck by British became the subject of splitting to settler's administration. This resulted to continuous struggle between Indian Working class people and British rule and all that came in focus as separate mutiny of country people".

Again, it is essential to discuss the help that came from settler's constructive administration and to build India's freedom movement.

Firstly:- there was no political amity before the coming of British administration at the flag end of Aurangzeb's rule. The emperor was in name only. The kings of the states functioned on their own will irrespective of other's activities. This status made them engaging in civil war all while. The law-rules differed vastly. The British initiated modern legal practices & judicial settings. By this way a modern state appeared in India.

Secondly, similar revenue system started all through the country. Along with, commercial business transactions with foreign countries rolled this time under the Company rules.

Along with, modern industries came in our country. Settler's working procedures brought it. But British were not agreed to carry forward the utilities of modern industrial revolution & politico-economic facilities to Indian's. Despite, England for their demand of various necessary raw-materials, was compelled to establish few factories in India (9).

Thirdly, British for the sake of political order & raw-materials collection developed communication networks in India. The village-economy transferred to greater capitalist situations. In 1853 Bombay-Thane rail rolling started- in along with flagging off of Agra-Kolkata postal services. By this way modern communication system spread in the various parts of the country.

Fourthly, through English rules came western education, culture & science based ideas. Such exploration brings major changes in Indian psyche. With this, reformation occurred in widow's

marriage, burning of husband-lost wife & opening of newspaper era (10).

Those issues brought radical reform in the stem of economy, social customs & political systems of India. Firstly the output appeared as tragic but positive results lighted up lately. From such two springs there was birth of two types of movements, namely (i) Mass based struggle (ii) Reformist's movement. Thus India's enriched freedom struggle in the above two pathways also animated student's movement too.

Mass-based struggle and reformed-based Movement:

The participants in the first form were oppressed village artisans kicked out from the new-form of Industries, soldiers thrown away by the Emperors, old landlords suffered due to everlasting land possession arrangements. These classes of people suffered most due to social & political reforms undertaken during British rule. This is obviously true that this type of movements had no any fixed target. They were also of poor standard. People arose from common people used to lead here. Naturally these leaders were not up to the mark which is real. In general these movements were inclined to the practice of snatching of property and killing opponents. Still then some showed capability of developing strong organizational acumen. But our main focus of discussion is not for these people's movements. Our deliberation stands mainly on student's role in national freedom struggle. For this, one requires to enlighten the reformist movement of educated class. From the womb of such fights' student's movement arose in modern India.

British rule's settlement in India destroyed the traditional commerce & trading structure of the country. Replacing self-help village- economy comes the steps of application of money in mutual transactions under the individual ownership situation. This brings modern economy arrangements. Cities like Kolkata, Bombay and Madras became the nerve centers for such trading and business activities. They also evolved as point of modern culture and extension zones in the backdrop of such developments. In this city's, middle class people were born due to British Government's administration & running the states. These people believed that our backwardness will go away under such British rules. With these ideas in mind they linked themselves in the process of learning and educating. But this relationship didn't last long with British. This is because while these people wanted to earn more from business and Government services and also to take facilities available, enmity arose with British and that continued. This in-fighting provided resources in the steps of freedom movement of India and freeness from British. Persistently that enhanced and formed into a definitive figure in India's struggle against British.

Nationalism is born in the ropeway of such reformist movements. At this stage against the indifference and stinginess of British a new class of people appeared being learned in western education system. That started in Bengal under the tutelage of Rammohan, Vidyasagar and followers of professor Derozio though he came little afterwards. After Hindu college was established in Kolkata in 1817 many schools were found to start in Kolkata and nearby localities. Father Long in 1843 May wrote in British-friendly magazine "Friend of India" regarding the then students of Kolkata as, "Thousands of students from the city suburbs and moffusals are coming to Kolkata to read and learn. A new wave of consciousness are coming in them.— About two to five thousand students as available in Kolkata are free from blind faith and superstition."(11).

By this way in the first half of nineteenth century centering Bengal, student's movement came in light which in later times in the steps of final national freedom struggle being graceful created a bright chapter in history. This is because British administration and education evolved first in Bengal only. But it requires knowing the exact time when student's movement started in India including different states. Possibly students organization first came into existence in 1857 and the main architect was Ananda Mohan Basu with assistance of young 'Brahma' students. Ananda Mohan Basu highlighted the need of forming student's organization in order to infuse patriotism, societal knowledge & true courage in the minds of students. Krishnakumar and others finding students bought suggestions as worthy of meaning, submitted such proposal at the hand of Surendra Nath Banerjee. Lastly under the tutelage of Surendranath Students Association got its birth in Kolkata in 1875.

Punjab :

Students' platform was hankering for protest against British rule, oppression and despotic norms. The opportunity came through the protest movement against 'Rawlat' law. On 6th April 1919, students observed strike right from Lahore, Amritsar to Bombay and Kolkata that is almost everywhere. In Lahore the students of the biggest education centre observed non-violence movement. Not only Lahore, all students' community of whole Punjab including Amritsar took part in protest movement in everywhere. On the other hand military aero plane flew in the sky under the guidance of Punjab government Sir Michael O'Dwyer to control the insurgence. Helicopter based observation was also initiated to look at the college and school students living in hostels. One capacious conference was held in the 'Badsahi Masjid' of Lahore. While the

students were returning from the meeting, Police obstructed them and struck too whimsically. A student 'Khusiram' was fired from the front who was killed instantaneously. Khusiram became the first student martyr of Punjab.(12). Then on 13th April 1919 British imperialist became the epitome of cruel killer on innocent people in Jallianwala bagh of Amritsar. Rabindranath abandoned 'Night title' as protest of the firing. Gandhi himself wrote in 'Young India', "this rogue government is not curable so its destruction is a must"(13). this cruel killing-spree impacted two students of age 19 (Udham Singh) and 12 (Bhagat Singh) tremendously. Udham Singh is one direct visionary of Jallinwalabagh killing. Standing there he took the oath, "I will be taking revenge to the hunters of the killing incident. After long 21 years wait Udham Singh kept his promise killing A.Maiechel Odiar in the Kaston hall of England on 13th March 1940. On the same year on 31 July England hanged Udham Singh in Pentvil jail. Bhagat Singh being absent from school on the day following Jallinwalabagh killing reached to the blood infected killing field and touching the mother soil pledged to fight against British imperialism for his whole life"(14).

Military reign started thereafter. Firstly the students' community and their schools were tortured most for the students' participation in struggle highly. Students uncounted were expelled from University. Besides, students were struck with canes and were fined too (15). More than 250 students were arrested from 'Santana Dharma' college. It is true that the students were a special force in the freedom movement this time. From here students felt to have their own organization as also their separate platform.(16)

Lala Lajpat Roy being in long exile in America came back to Lahore on 24 February, 1920. The students were excessively excited around him. Many students reaching his home felicitated him. Students of Punjab were largely dissatisfied while Gandhi and Ali brothers came to Punjab on 20th and 21st October. The students supported non-cooperation and Khilafat movement without hesitation. Anjumand Islamia College disagreed to accept government assistance and 19 out of 50 authority persons supported non-cooperation principle. On 25th October Muslim and Hindu students of Lahore D.A.V College boycotted class and came out of college. All town students joined them.

The students of Punjab participated in picketing and strike managed by Gandhi under non-cooperation and Khilafat movement. Lahore students union was established on 4th November, 1927. This created a new chapter in the history of students' movement in India. The students joined in the movement for their own sake and run by them only (17). Again the students took

part in the protest movement against 'Simon Commission' (30.10.1928). So it is seen, the students class, joined struggle against British and formed 'Students organization'. The students' community of Punjab as also of India inclined to socialistic ideas while judicial process started against Bhagat Singh and 18 others for their bombing on 8.4.1929 at Indian parliament house. During the judicial process thousands of students gathered outside prison. With pasting of the picture of Bhagat Singh they continued chanting slogan, "Let, be Bhagat Singh live long, Jindabad revolution, English imperialism be destructed"(18). This time the students of Punjab lost faith in the non-violence movement of Gandhi.

The total students' community of India protested hugely at the information of hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukdeb and Rajguru on 23.3.1931. All students of Punjab boycotted their classes. One student fired the Government of Punjab while he was returning from the podium of convocation of the university in December, 1931. He was saved and a Police officer was killed. A number of students of the students Union of Lahore was arrested and sentenced for death. But their death-sentence was waived off in later times with jail-living for their whole life.

Again in 1937 the students of Khalsa college of Amritsar and the students of Lahore Ayurvedic College called students strike. The strike continued for long 20 days. They called this strike against college authority for their disgracing and punishing a nationalist professor Niranjan Singh. Police masqueraded everything to close this strike. Student-volunteers' from different parts of north India like Aligarh, Lucknow, Kanpur, Delhi, Kapurtala, Moga, Rawlpindi, Lahore appeared at large in Amritsar. The students not only fought against unjust outrage but also came forward with money collected from people for the people in distress due to natural calamities. This time they took programs collecting money to help unfortunate people suffered due to earthquake in Bihar and Koyeta border in 1937.(20)

Uttar Pradesh (U.P):

U.P is the biggest state in Indian sub-continent. It was named as 'Sanjukta Pradesh' before the freedom of the country. The students there participated in freedom movement from 1920 onwards. Gandhi and Ali brothers reached to Aligarh on 12.10.1920 to organize non-cooperation and Khilafat movement. They invited students to boycott school and colleges as part of non-cooperation movement. The students all over U.P excited hugely. They do not know the text of movement and freedom but wanted to do something positive participating in students' movement. The students of Aligarh University arranged meeting of Gandhi and Ali brothers in their Union

club hall on 12th October. There, at the call of Gandhi the students of the university boycotted class at that moment. They also joined in propaganda to arouse general people about the trend of freedom movement.

On 10th November a conference was held under the chairmanship of Dr, Gourish Prasad of B.H.U for all the college students of U.P. About 400 representative from all corners of U.P joined and hold a proposal without any discord, "In view of the present National need of the country this convention call on all the students of U.P to respond enthusiastically to the call of the Nation through Mahatma Gandhi, supported by the Indian National Congress and urges upon them to be prepared for all necessary sacrifices including gradual withdrawal from the Govt. aided Institutions and other help effectively in the country' first leap forward for freedom"(25).

This time it is seen from the events of student's movement of U.P that communal student's body, either of Hindu or Muslim, couldn't influence the student's community. Students non-partisan character is worthy of noting. Whatever it is, in 1929, India's political status created huge agitation amongst the students of North India. But still the day they could not build up any organization for themselves. The students of U.P generally used to link them with 'Youth Movement'. Those were, 'Nawjoan Sabha', 'Tarun Sangha' etc. Actually in the second tern few students' organization came into reality. Then in 1936, 'All India Student Federation' being built in Lucknow, saw scattetered student's organizations to come under its umbrella. Up to this time they were busy in organizing various educational works, speech, debate etc. However such programs were linked to patriotism and social learning.

Whatever it may be, all India student's organization didn't born before 1936. Before that one All-India students and youth conference used to be held along with the conference of All India Congress. Here big leaders of Congress delivered proper speeches to their students for their knowledge and coming into required activities. The students also preferred to follow Congress in his steps of activities. Again, the students who had no belief in non-violence movement of congress, departed to join revolutionary party.

For this it is necessary to mention the history behind the formation of A.I.S.F. In January 1935 Raja George V died as also Saokatwala, the only communism inspired Indian member of British Parliament. After some days the Vice-chancellor of University at the condolence meeting raised grief notice for the bereavement of George V. Safik Nakvi, A. G. Firdou and Jagadish Rastogi

etc. proposed to raise grief notice for the death of Saukatwala as an exceptional Indian in the same meeting. But V.C strongly objected to and so is not solemnized. The meeting was spoiled with highest discord and indiscipline scenario. The University expelled those three students. But it is to be observed that the students following congress were agreed to raise grief notice for Saukatwala and they also realized to build up free organization for students outside the authority of government and semi government bodies. Otherwise, for freedom and also for student's demands no one will be able to fulfill the role for students. Here two persons took challenging role in developing students' body. They were P.C.Joshi, General Secretary of 'Bharatiyo Communist Party' and Congress socialist leader Joyprakash Narayan. They proposed to bring Mohammad Jinnah as president and Jawaharlal Nehru as the inaugurator of the first conference. That was lastly held in Gangadhar Memorial hall in Lucknow town on 12.8.1936. AISF became established. 986 students representative from 11 states including U.P joined that ran for four days.[‘Bharatiya Upmahadesh Chatra Andolan, Page 97].

Sindhu Pradesh:

Student's movement of north and north-west Sindhu Pradesh is worthy of mentioning. There were no events of students' movement there before 1931 but in the same year students being entrusted to organize 'Second All India Student Convention' before national congress session all saw the students of Sindhu Pradesh organized everything with deep sense of responsibility. The leaders were: Doulat Jairam Das, Chouthram Gidwali, Jaisinghani, and Jethisipahi Milani etc..[‘Bharatiya Upmahadesh Chatra Andolan, Page-56]. Under the leadership of Muhammad Amin Kheso the student's movement of Sindhu Pradesh got the revolutionary image. This Kheso was once the inspirer of the nationalistic students of Aligarh University. However, under their leadership the student's movement of Sindhu Pradesh got its new life. Student's Union formed in Karachi, Hyderabad etc. cities.

In 1938 April, 'Sindhu Chatra Sammelan' was held at Karachi wherein the opposing leader of legislative assembly Bhulabhai Desai gave a clarion call to the students for their participating in the freedom movement of the country.

Jammu & Kashmir Valley:

The students' movement of Jammu & Kashmir was inspired from the similar movements of Punjab. Though Kashmiri students mainly revolted against 'Dogra Kingdom' them directly or indirectly took part in the movement of Punjab students' always. The student's organization that

built in J & K in the twentieth century had its all resources derived from Punjab. The student leaders and the workers who lead-in here were: G.M.D.Hamdashi (President of 'All India Kashmir Chatra Federation'), JanakinathJutsi, Kashinath Kaul, K.N.Ramjai (President of 'Srinagar Chatra Union) ['Bharatiya Upmahadesh Chatra Andolan', Page 56].

In 1937 Prabodh chandra as a representative of "AISF" had to Kashmir to help building united student's movement in J & K. Firstly Prabodhchandra was obstructed to work due to differences in opinion amongst J & K students but Prabodhchandra was able to unite the students forming 'Kashmir Students Federation' breaking of different students union existed then there. With Dr.K.M.Asrafi in the chair first 'Kashmir Chatrasammelan' was held in1937.

Bombay:

Students' movement in Bombay presidency was first observed in 1928 when 'Simon Commission' arrived at Bombay port. Thousands' of people with black flags raised slogan at the alighting point of 'Simon Commission' at Bombay port, "Go back Simon Commission" and they were mostly students. They circled the city with big processions. Here Congress led the ovation. But it is true before this issue; students' were generally involved in societal work, slum up gradation, imparting education.etc. Besides, they also organized discussions to solve social problems including related publicity and also did work for 'Harijan' following Gandhi.

The student's union that formed following 'Simon Commission' movement didn't keep them fixed in only social work. The oldest student's organization of Bombay had its name as, "Bombay Students Brotherhood". They this time intently arranged for discussion platforms in the areas of freedom and democratic rights, social legal justice, untouchability, communal mentality etc.

In 1929 came 'Bombay Youth League' whose members were mostly students. In 1930 during the defying of law, members in large participated. British Government banned this body. This organization this time engaged itself in many programs sitting in driver's seat like 'Boycott movement', students strike, publicity work to win in town's strike, meeting on road corners in case of arrest of any leader, student and workers. Work of League didn't stop even after being prohibited. However in 1936 end the prohibition withdrew though Bombay's' student movement materialized in un- coherent steps.

In 1936 with the formation of 'AISF', branch in Bombay Presidency evolved quickly. Presidency Federation is composed of three units of Bombay town and other thirty primary

units. Out of them the south students union became most strong and through services and education-reform programs it became also one vital organ of Bombay Presidency Student Federation, AISF.

Madras Presidency:

There was no mentionable student's union in Madras Presidency till 1936. J.L.Nehru coming over here in 1936 got huge response from the students. He asked them to imbibe the ideas of socialism and freedom. About 20000 students paid Rs.2000/- to Nehru for national freedom movement. On 10.1.1937 'Madras Sangha' was established with the students of Madras town. This assemblage from the very start coined programs against imperialism and all forms of narrowness.

Just after formation of 'Madras Chatra Sangha' they conveyed their fraternity to the students of Aligarh Muslim University being in struggle. On 1.8.1937 they called for programs respecting 'war-opponent day'. In the afternoon thousands of students with flags in their hand passed across the Madras city and convened a meeting in the sea-shore. From the meeting podium they announced that they will fight against all forms of imperialism wars. Besides, they came down over road as protest against Police's cane striking over students as also to bring back Andaman prisoners & to free political prisoners. They organizing a big assemblage in front of Congress Bhaban lend their full support to the demands of fasting Andaman prisoners and accepted a discourse with deep reproach for brutal Police-force.

Mahisur:

In 1935 'Students Organization', was first formed in Mahisur. The advanced persons were: Siyyad Ramanna, Prabhudeb, Mohammad Sharif Hussein, M.N.Reddy etc.(Bharatiya Upamahadeshe Chatra Andolon, Page 88). Though they initiated programs with constructive-avenues it went into oblivion within a year. It was reconstructed again in 1938 and 'Nikhil Mahisur Chatra Sammelan' was held under the president ship of Sarat Chandra Basu. This organization couldn't take any role in freedom movement before 1942. Still then on 4th and 5th June, 1937, "The Deccan States Students conference" was held in 'Kuduchi' Of Belgaon district. Dr. D.M. Khayer presided over with a presence of 60-70 representatives. In this meeting Mr. F Nariman and Sri Bhopatkar etc. addressed the gathering. There after Nariman was arrested as he came to Bangalore to deliver speech defying order of Police. He was arrested. Police fired over students when they moved in possession against the arrest order of

Nariman. One student was killed. Many students were injured. For such oppression 'Bangalore day' was observed throughout India.

Kerala:

Except few protest possessions as part of strike and Civil Disobedience movement against school-fee enhancement in Tribankur no any students' movement could be seen. The "Nikhil Malabar Chatra Sangha" that arose before Civil Disobedience movement, lost its relevance soon and found to be destroyed in full form. Then in 1937 under the President ship of Soumendranath Thakur "Nikhil Kerala Chatrasammelan" was held. 70 students representative joined. The most of the proposals that were accepted in the conference was of students thoughts.

Delhi:

India's kingdom was shifted from Kolkata to Delhi in 1911 due to British-targeted movement in 1905 centering the activities of dividing Bengal. Delhi was the centre of political activities in Mughal era before administration of British. But in that Delhi no remarkable student's movement was seen. Delhi students took part in Civil Disobedience movement of 1931. To participate in movement the student's of Delhi formed 'Chatra Union'(21). Due to accompanying In the Civil Disobedience issue British Police arrested the students of the union and forbade the union.

Delhi's student's community joined the profanity movement introduced by Gandhi. This time 'Students Harijan League' was established. Principal N.V.Thadani became the President with student's leader B.S.Maniyam Ayar as Secretary. The students using broom-stick cleaned 'Chandnichak' area for the awareness of dignity of labor. They also donated Rs. 1500/- to Gandhi while he came to Delhi. Within a short period, more than 2000 people became member of 'Harijan League'. In September of 1936 Umasankar-secretary of 'Delhi University Law Union Society' called all college representatives including Sent Stiffen College in a meeting at Arabic College to build 'Delhi Chatra Federation' in line with A I S F (23). In the meeting selecting Sri Kanwala as president and K.P Sankara as secretary, a committee was formed. Initially this body though couldn't animate the students seriously but it became the only student's union of Delhi school and colleges succeeding two strikes in Arabic school and Tibia College. This strike was called for expelling one professor of Tibia College on false allegations. The strike continued for three months at a stretch. To break the strike the authority of the college ordered to expel 200 students of Ayurved Department.

Thereafter high tide was seen in the work of 'Delhi Chatra Federation'. Delhi state student's conference was held on 5/6 & 7th of 1937- November (24). Srimati Kamala Chattopadhyay presided in the conference with Sir Wazir Hassan as inaugurator. A proposal was coined to stay away from 'Boys Scout' due to hate speech of Baden Powell- the establisher of 'Boys Scout Movement' against Indians. Actually Baden Powell scout movement was initiated at the behest of British Government to keep the colony- students far from the freedom movement. Along with, British Government appointed Gurusaday Dutta- I A S to initiate 'Bratachari Andolan' to distract students of Bangladesh from revolutionary struggle to social services and village developments. Not much more students could be influenced thus. Out of the other proposals the demand of lessening university fees as also providing support to the fasting program of political prisoners transferred to Andaman, were accepted.

Central Pradesh and Bihar:

In early period of 20th century students movement in Central Province and Bihar started much later of Bengal and Punjab Pradesh. The students joined non-cooperation movement and later Civil Disobedience movement. Before 1934, sixty organizations of different hues spread in Central Province without any of sense of coherence. Few of them however tried to organize students in the steps of freedom movement. In few instances students consciously acted under social service and reformation work.

The fiesta for 50 years work by Congress was held in Nagpur. The students of Nagpur took responsibility of students' conference for four days for the students of Central Province. 577 no of student- representatives were present wherein Pandit Rabisankar Sukla presided over the meeting. From this conference it was decided to send 16-heads representative in the incoming conference of Lucknow meant for establishing 'Chatra Federation'. After the successful turn of events of Lucknow, branches of 'Chatra Federation' started coming in many places of Central Province. Out of those the worthy of places to be mentioned are: Malkanur, Owardha, Jabbalpur, Amberati etc..(26)

No remarkable students' movement materialized in Bihar before the establishment of A I S F. After that student leaders of other provinces contacted Bihar students for the building up of students organization. For such steps students conference was held in Gaya in April 1937 along with coming of student's organizations at Gaya, Jehanabad, and Patna one after another. However in 1935 April for the 'India Administrative law', 'Hartal' was solemnized in every corner of the

country. The students' community of Bihar participated in such strike whole-heartedly. In the procession following the strike, it was uttered, "Let the slavery-twisted constitution be demolished". Police beat students severely in their procession and also used cane-sticks for flagellation of the students for their joining 'Haratal' and procession.

In addition to such above activities the students came forward in the vow of social service and awakening people. One 'Chatra Sangha' named organization were very popular for very many social services. They organized many a programs on the issues of widow marriage, women's learning, problems of caste distinctions, national education etc. Dr. Rajendra Prasad helped them directly or indirectly in the form of advice and teaching. (27).

From the above discussions, it is noted that the great enthusiasm amongst Bengal students as observed for the movements against Bengal division plan, was not seen in other states of India. But not only Bengal students all students of India supported Gandhi in his call of non-cooperation movement as also Khilafat movement. But not having organized student's body corresponding movement strength was not up to the mark. But after Civil Disobedience movement of 1930, students struggle were found to wane but it advanced sincerely near the end of 1935. But during 1930 to 1935 the ideals of socialism and communism pierced students community in slow steps. Due to retraction of congress leaders from law-breaking movement in 1934 many interned person and confined students mortified against leaders. On the other hand for the failure of revolutionary movement, a great number of patriotic youth imbibing a large number of students started searching alternative way for the freedom of the country. With Bengal in front Indian student's community were inclined to the dogma of communism looking into some international events [Russian revolution including China, Spain, Germany, France and England] as also communistic promotion in different countries of Europe including influence of worker-farmer's movement in communist induced areas of India, searched the doctrine of social and economic equality for encountering British imperialism.

In this moment the students of different states of the country felt to create an All India Students Organization. UPSF (Uttarpradesh Student's Federation) took vital role in forming that. For this a reception committee was formed with Dr.A.N.Jha as President. Dr. Jha resigned within a short time for his sticky intension to discuss cultural and educational issues only in the conference wherein students wanted to bring political issues. Student's leader Premnarayan Bhargab became

the new president. Communist leader P.C.Joshi and Socialist party leader Jaiprakash Narayan played greatly for the success of the conference (28).

In the month of August, 1936 All India Students conference was held in Lucknow city. JLNehru was invited to inaugurate it. Kailasnath verma and Balaram Singh etc. requested JLNehru to preside over the conference .Ultimately JLNehru agreed to inaugurate the conference on 12.8.1936.(29). On 11th August the students non-formally discussed resolution about the issues of to be adopted in the conference. At Balarampur house of Kesharbag, S.S.Batliwalan (Bombay), Kadri(Aligarh), S.Sanyal(Allahabad), Rameshchandra, Singh Anowar JanalKidowai Kailashnath Verma (All of Lucknow),BiswanathDubey, Nandalal Basu, J.J.Sarkar, Pramod Sen (All of Kolkata), A.C. Jain of Benaras etc., sat together and did the job. The target that appeared-”The aim of the Federation is to assure political & economic consciousness among students, so that they may help in achieving complete independence in India.”(30) As per objection of Bengal representatives the resolution made the stand as- “The aim of the Federation is to make the students better citizens so that they may help in achieving national freedom.” (31)

‘All India Students Conference’ held in Gangadhar Memorial Hall of Lucknow town on 12/13 August 1936 with the formation of first All India Students Organization, had 986 representatives from 11 states.(32) Inaugurating the conference JLN addressed the gathering. He specifically in his speech touched recent national issues and International problems with call to students for their taking accurate role in the freedom movement of the country. He also categorically mentioned about the negative role of capitalism imperialism in world politics and also positivist nature of socialism. He furthermore said-”I will talk for a while about very big questions which do not immediately affect you but which, I think have a vital consequence for each one of us. Now tell me, do you think has question of Palestine to do with the student of India? Most of them do not know about it except as something entirely separate & different from their daily life and activities. For the matter of that question and the great tragedy is taking place in Spain today, what was that to do with the students of India? Has that any consequence? I may tell you that question of Spain. Europe & Palestine has so far aroused greater interest in me than the entire odd news that newspapers tell me. Why I will tell you, not because I attach less importance to matters which concerns India immediately, but because these happenings affect you & India & the whole of the world.” (33)

One proposal was accepted following the speech of Jawaharlal Nehru. Biswanath Dubey (Bengal) raised it-” The conference views with great apprehension the menacing advance of such forces of cultural destruction as the imperialist war and calls upon the students of the world to resist these forces and not to participate in any such war (34). Just after, to implement the outcome of the conference the body (AISF) communicated to World Students Association (WSA) situated at Paris & Geneva-based International Students Services (ISS). These two international organizations made aware of AISF all over the world.

As per first conference’s lengthy discussions few aims and objectives were marked as follows (35)–

- To encourage cultural and intellectual co-operation on equal terms between the students of various provinces and Indian states, and between students of India and other parts of the world.

*To suggest improvements in the present system of education.

- To safeguard the right of the student communities.
- To prepare the students for citizenship, in order to take their due share in the struggle for complete national freedom; by arousing their political, social and economic consciousness. [At the same time it is decided to publish one mouthpiece with the title-‘Students Tribune’. The aims and objectives of the magazine as decided] are: (36)

- Ventilate the grievances of students to support their cause and organize them into powerful organization.
- Seek to solve the problem of unemployment.
- Inculcate the spirit of simple living and high thinking.
- Agitate against the rotten system of education.
- Along with on the basis of discussion a demand charter is made comprising 23 demands. In it there was no print of bigger politics.(37).

This is to be mentioned that this time the news of student’s movements of various countries used to be printed in ’Student’s Tribune’ of AISF. By this way the student’s community of India slowly formed a strong platform of students and strong foundation of student’s movement is created in India including Bengal as per the touch of international students’ movement.

Students' movement in India at the backdrop of second world- war (1939-47) :

In 1939 in the steps of India's national movement contrasting opinion arose between the rightist and the leftist Indians. The leftists wanted to elect Subhash Chandra Basu in the post of Congress President for the second time. But the rightists taking support of Gandhi declared Pattavi Sitaramaya as President of Congress Party. Though elected, at the behest of rightist of the congress party, Subhash Chandra Bose was compelled to resign. This time the national movement-turns were very significant. In one side while India's freedom struggle against British imperialism is uppermost, the second world-war began with the strike of fascist Germany over Poland. Under these two happenings Student's movement (1939-1947) passed through blows and corner blows.

Sometimes it is observed that this student's movement is approaching in one way and but next it flows differently. Before the second world-war for the presence of congress ministry, the movement didn't reach to acuteness. Still then Convention of AISF held on 1.1.1940. That time Subhash Chandra was the most beloved leader with left leaning. 'Chatra Federation' summons to Subhash Chandra Basu to preside in their Delhi Convention. More than 500 student's representative joined the convention. (38)

Subhash Chandra Bose in his speech the need of pervading militant people's struggle- "Standing in the midst of a complex situation, it is just possible that you may feel perplexed for a while. The vacillating Zigzag policy of the congress High Command increases ones bewilderment. The menacing attitude of some communal organization added to more difficulties. The want of unity among the Leftists themselves well-neigh unnerves and ordinary mortal. Remember Comrades that the left movement today is on its trail. Its future will depend on how you & I come out of this ordeal..."(39)

In the representative's meeting of the convocation that accepted observation of freedom on 26th January, came huge support and the body vowed to do strike with meeting and procession defying British order throughout the country. For such decisions students strike and procession were held in Bangladesh on 25th and 26th January. To obstruct the program in totality, government issued warrant to arrest the student's leaders. A number of students were arrested. Out of them one was Biswanath Mukhopadhyay- the then secretary of Students Federation of Bengal Province.'

The student's community was not at all indifferent for the disaster linked to fascism in the fight for India's freedom. Still it can't be disowned that a part of the students had the weakness of falling into a perverted form of knowledge. Realizing the situation Roma Rolla "alerted

Indian students through a solicitation with pinpointing-”Be heedful; this is my secluded appeal. Be careful from the people with mask bubbling with fascist character; be more vigilant from the deceitful people like Hitler and Mussolini know how they with money and media run publicity in the disguise of shrewd politicians. In the strong spirit of fascism they make the country’s youth maddened-but how that they do- I know that. In the same channel they cheat ignorant public. You don’t know it or can’t understand it. Being European we can grasp that & realized. Oh! My Indian youth, unfolding your eyes see for once and those who are still sleeping-let them awake. Be energetic for self-defense.”(40)

This appeal of Roma Rolla deluded Indian youth and students from fascism in delusions of grandeur. In the mean time in the course of Japan’s invasion to China, democratic fight of Spain, in the question of Abyssinia and Palestine; students of various states (UP, Bihar, Bengal, and Bombay and Gujarat) created remarkable protest movement at this stage. Near the end of 1939 few intelligent university students formed an organization in the name of “Youth Cultural Institute”. However this body didn’t last long. Here the leadership of communist party and communist student workers became the engine for forwarding the activities. Such bodies were formed in different provinces of India (Bombay, UP and Gujarat) but no any organization could take decisive role in the students’ struggle.

Thereafter on 20.7.1940, one mammoth students meeting was held in Town Hall of Kolkata with the hand-in-hand of Students Federation and Muslim League Syed Badraddoja presided over the get-together. After the meeting a big students’ procession moved forward for the breaking of monumental column of Halwell. Police used stick and sand and tear forming gases and many a students were injured. Before it Police arrested Subhash Chandra Basu. For that Students Federation and Muslim League jointly performed all-out strike in Kolkata and different districts on 6th July.

The combined fight of Hindu and Muslim students was stronger while Fajjul Hak Ministry declined to allow destruction of Halwell Monument. At the same time Police oppression was violent. Police injured innumerable number of students biting them in the big gathering near Islamia College. The huge procession encircled the house of Fazlul Haque -the Minister-in-Charge under Haque-Nazimuddin ministry. The Minister-In-Charge was compelled to allow removal of that monument. This is one great fighting spirit of united student’s struggle as observed by one and all.

Movement of 1942 and the Role of Indian Students Community:

With the deviation of Creeps Mission in April 1942 much antagonism between British and Indians was prevalent all over the country. In this background, in congress session of 14th July at Wardha there was one announcement to start struggle against British in new form and structure. It was settled to take final decision in the proposed meeting of the working committee. On 8th August at 'Gowalia Tank' meeting of Bombay a historic decision was taken against British in the form of 'Quit India Movement'. Gandhi outside the meeting venue announced for the large number of public that despite decision, struggle program can't be initiated immediately. Congress will talk to 'Barlat' for full freedom of India and 2/3 weeks time will be required for the output of talking. We will have no any understanding with British except full freedom. He announced our lateral thinking is based on, 'Do or die'. While he narrated the roles public have to take up he particularly called the students, "If you belief to remain firm in struggle till freedom is achieved, you are advised to stop going to school/college for taking full-form preparation to participate into the final fight against British"(41).

At the lee hours of 9th august Police arrested all forefront leaders of congress including Gandhi and kept them in some unknown places. With such information of arresting leaders the agitation spread all over the country like prairie fire. The student's community was also not only behind such struggle but adhered to that whole-heartedly. A big crowd, most of whom was students, in procession raised national flag near 'Barlat's' house. English soldiers indiscriminately fired over the participants and the enraged people in contrary attacked government office and post-office. In every part of India students' struck for a continuous period and did meeting for participation of every stratum's of Indian people along with farmers and workers in the struggle against British rulers. Not only such activities the students became the antenna between hiding centers of managing August movement as also their regular activities to destroy different properties of the government. 17 years old student Hemu-Kalani was hanged under British order at far away Sindhu Pradesh. Struggling student leaders' like Sobhagyanchandani, Gobinda Malahi and Narayan Oadhani etc. lead-in for all the movements of the students of Sindhu Pradesh.

The students of Benaras Hindu Viswabidyalay preached for 'Quit India movement' and for which they spread into villages of U.P. The students took possession of many a trains resulting to a deadlock situation for English administration. The places where students in U.P extensively participated are: Allahabad, Benaras, Kanpur, Lucknow and eastern based areas

like Ajamgarh, Balia, and Gorakhpur. The places of Bihar are: Patna, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Saran, Purnia, Munger, Shahabad, Mazafar, Champaran etc.. The revolutionary-minded students took serious role in destruction of bridges, Railways; Post-office and Rail station in various areas of the country. Nandaioir Patagiri and Charu Goswami led the agitation linked programs of the students of Assam.

Madras town was the epicenter for the student's participation in Quit India Movement. The students- call strike continued in Madras weak after weak disobeying repressive policy of Police. K.R.Ganesh Mohan Reddy was the leader for the student's activities.

In Pune, Satara, Baroda, Bombay, Gujarat, Karnataka; students stopping school and college took part in long-drawn struggle up to the end of 1942. Farmer's children and school students were in the militant struggle as frontal head in Ahammadnagar landed estate of Maharashtra. Their leader was a 10th-class student-Dharmapokharkar. In the first day of student's strike and procession at Bombay, Uma bhai Kadia was killed under the firing of Police. At Lucknow under the behest of Police striking student's leader Harish Tewari, Rabi Sinha and Ram Ammrey were injured. Student's worker Sankarappa lost his life in Mahisur Jail under Police firing. Quit India Movement spread in country states. Here students took active role in full. For two months strike continued in schools and colleges in places like Tribankur and Cochin. At chittur with confrontation of Police many students were injured and they were compelled to enter into Jail under tremendous oppressive activities of Police. Two students were hanged. Two students were killed due to run over by train while they were removing Rail lines. This time secrecy center was established at Chinur of M.P for imparting education related to revolutionary struggle. Here undisputed leader Maganlal Jogadhi worked for the learning students. Two students out of 8 were killed by Police firing in the procession at Allahabad.

But during 'Quit India Movement' students participation was under the control of non-communist students' body, student leaders and followers of Gandhi.

Whatever opposition mentality to 'Quit India Movement' had in Communist Party of India, locally communist- administered 'Chatra Federation' workers in hundreds joined the struggle. Besides, in 1942(5th-10th September) AISF in their working committee meeting of Bombay the proposal that was accepted was- "The present crisis is the creation of imperialism. To keep administration in hand the bureaucracy took the last attempt in the name of saving India from fascism. But repressive policy didn't help bureaucracy to survive. Then the expectation of

freedom became high. At this time it is the responsibility of the student's community to stand behind the demand of national government and for that all the students are to be united as also to fight for the release of national leaders which again reminds that for the freedom of the country and to save the same this is only the revolutionary path in true spirit".(41)

Thereafter the freedom movement of India got its gravity centering judicial steps against Azad-Hind-Fouz. After the end of 2nd world war in 1945 one extensive struggle with campaign all over India started in auto-mood throughout the country while British Government tried its level best to punish INA inmates after the surrender of Azad Hind Fouz. In this movement there was a great role of students and that was militant too. The students meeting and processions were full of joyous babble of sound in their struggle from Rawalpindi(North Punjab) to Salem(South), Baluchistan(West) to Bengal, Assam(East) etc..Without bowing down before Police's cane and firing the students created matchless war against British rule for the freedom of the soldiers of Azad Hind Fouz. In it communist supported student's federation was at the forefront in full.

In Bengal, struggle against freeing of Azad Hind Fouz soldiers spread like anything. On 21.11 1945 the Judicial process was initiated in 'Lalkella' and Congress's student's union called for student's strike on immediate basis. In this strike all students and students union irrespective of party ideology adhered to. We will discuss in detail in the next chapter about the struggle held in Bengal.

From the discussions mentioned above it can be told that In Indian sub-continent during ancient and Medieval Ages students agitations were seen in some areas. But modern student's movement has only appeared just after starting of British administration. So, modern struggle of students in general, is seen as the output of British education policy. It is also true that student's struggle didn't start at the beginning of British administration. But the students, directly or indirectly protested against British imperialism's oppression and colonial rules. This protesting aptitude of students of India was first noted in Bengal right from nineteenth century. Then in twentieth century it spread in different provinces of India. In British India whatever agitation against British (1919-1945) solemnized; the students participated in all that by one or the other means. Again student's movement in Bengal was found to be situated in the front than other provinces of India

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