

Students' in Non-Cooperation Movement of Undivided Medinipur

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Abstract

The advent of Mahatma Gandhi added a new dimension to the Indian freedom movement. Non-Cooperation movement started against the British Government under the leadership of Gandhi in 1920. Swadeshi and boycott agenda was adopted in this movement. In this movement led by Gandhi, rich and poor, Hindu-Muslim, students and youth of the country actively participated. Like other parts of the country, students of Midnapore joined the non-cooperation movement with courage and responsibility. Responding to Gandhiji's call, the students of the district left the British-run schools and colleges in en masse. National school was established in this district. Besides, students of this district participated in village-to-village campaigned programs to make the non-cooperation movement a success. My topic of discussion is the role of student community in non-cooperation movement in Medinipur district. In this paper a humble effort is made to highlight the contribution of students in the non-cooperation movement in various aspects, across different police stations in Medinipur under the title of "students in non-cooperation movement of undivided Medinipur".

Keywords: freedom movement, Non-Cooperation, student, district, Medinipur

The diminishing status of student's movement that existed during 1911 to 1918 became lively with the participation of students in large numbers in the non-violent movement initiated by Gandhi in 1920. During this mid-period the students community more or less expressed their dissatisfaction related to 'Home-Rule' movement, 'Rwolat' passive resistance and 'khilafat' movement. But the non-violent non-cooperation movement brought the students in the center of political arena in British administered India.

Gandhi in September, 1920 in the special conference of Congress held at Calcutta, proposed to initiate non-violence non-cooperation movement. Then in December, 1920 in Nagpur conference, it was announced—India wants freedom and the way is non-cooperation. The activities were found to be both positive and also negative. The positive activities were: publicity linked to spinning wheel and 'khadi', to shun the untouchable concept, strengthening of Hindu-Muslim unity, abandoning drinking habits and ostracizing foreign goods. The negative aspects were: Not to accept government title, not attending government programs, staying away from schools and colleges, abandoning legislative work and Court functions. For annihilation activities some constructive programs were there-Arbitration Board formation instead of Court and establishment of national school and colleges.

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Gandhi formulation of such plan was really new and different from former ways of struggle. Rich and poor, educated, non-literate, Hindu, Muslim; all realized the strength of the new way of struggle and assembled under one flag. Students and youth were not also far away from such thoughts and they were seen to participate at different stages of the struggles.

Though not having experience and familiarity about non-violence movement, the managing style of students community of Medinipur is worthy of mention in respect to their courage and obeying responsibility. In 1921 Non-Cooperation movement, the students of 'Medinipur Town School' played the most wonderful role and is said to be unparallel. With the persuasive role of the students such as: - Sachin Maity, Purna Chakraborty, Nagen Sen, Mrityunjoy Jana; the old leaders of the town joined the movement. Aged leader Manmath Nath Das opined,— “those students inspired me to participate in movement of the time actively.” Nabin Chandra Pal (Vekutia Village) and Gorachand Giri (Manuchak village) submitted fees for B.A examination in Calcutta South Suburban College (Presently-Asutosh College) but did not appear for taking part in struggle¹

Strike was organized in many schools and in Medinipur College against killing of people of 'Jalianoalabag'². It is mentionable that Birendranath Sasmal was the main architect behind the culmination of fighting spirit amongst the students and youths of Midnapore in non-violence movement. He, leaving his lucrative practice of law in Court, engaged himself in the service of the Nation. For his forbearance and relinquishment, he became one of the superior leaders of Bengal. Persistently he became the crown-less king of Midnapore district³. Practising lawyer of Calcutta High Court- Satkari Roy of Midnapore left his profession and did tremendously hard work to make non-violence success in Midnapore. The Congress Committee of Medinipur was formed with Birendranath Sasmal as president and Kishoripati Roy as secretary. The Congress office was established in the house of Kishori Babu at Midnapore. The lawyers and workers such as –Ramsundar Singh, Sailajananda Sen, Narayan Das Sarkar, Jatindranath Das and others acted as assistants of Kishoribabu⁴. Deshpran Birendranath Sasmal wrote about Kishoribabu in his book, 'Sroter Trina' “— one-fourth of reformation work seen in Midnapore district could not be achieved without the help of honest-cool-prudent and relinquishing personality like Kishoribabu.”⁵

However, Congress leaders of the district had the full support of student's community in non-cooperation movement. Leaving educational arenas they joined the works of congress in

one's own locality. The struggling lawyers and teachers were in general aged than the students. But being free from family-life the students engaged themselves in non-violent activities with their heart and soul liveliness⁶.

Parallel to non-violence movement, Birendranath Sasmal attached 'Union Board' movement. Though congress was against this movement he did so at the request and appeal of the people of Midnapore. For this he summoned a meeting of Contai sub-division congress committee. In this meeting Birendra Sasmal acted as president and College student Satish Chandra of 'Sankabai Jana Paribar' became the secretary⁷. The sub-division committee gladly accepted the 'Union Board' relinquishing proposal of Birendranath Sasmal.

It had tremendous inspiring effect amongst the students and youth. The activities were as: foreign goods abandoning, Court boycott, throwing away intoxicating substances, leaving school and colleges, removal of untouchable practice, spinning wheel use, national-based education systems, collection of money for national store ('Tilak Swarajya Bhandar') along with taking up activities linked to Union Board movement; all these created tremendous impact amongst students, youth and public.

The report published in the conference of All India Congress Committee at 'Bejawada' is noted as: - (1) newly formed Congress Committee of Midnapore district and other committees pledged to resolve the resolutions undertaken at 'Bejawada' conference. This time under appeal of Congress, many persons abandoned Court activities, so as many students left their study places. The names of some of those students are:

Name of Student	School/College
Bipracharan Maity	Tamluk Sub-Division College
Rajendranath Guria	Do
Kumar Chandra Jana	Do
Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee	Do
Satish Chandra Samanta	Do
Hemchandra Raot	Do
Jyoti Pattanayak	Do
Hansadhaj Maity	Do
Ramesh Chandra Kar	Do

Ananga Mohan Das	Do
Surendranath Roy	Do
Sridhar Chandra Samanta	Do
Abinash Chandra Das	Do
Sachinanada Bhowmick	Do
Jibankrishna Maity	Contai Sub-Division College
Bijaykrishna Maity	Do
Basant Kumar Das	Do
Bhimcharan Patra	Do
Sasisekhar Mandal	Do
Bhuteswar Paira	Do
Anil Kumar Mukherjee	Do
Bhibutibhusan Maity	Do
Satischandra Jana	Do
Kangal Chandra Giri	Do
Gyanendranath Manna	Do
Raghunath Maity	Do
Nagendranath Sen	Chief Sub-Division Government College

In non-cooperation movement the murmurings of discontent was too high which led fifty thousand students of Bengal including Midnapore to leave away from schools and colleges; this approximate calculation is of Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhyay⁹.

Those students who left school-college just before their final examination-for them, examination were conducted in a non-government process and national institution was opened for them. In Midnapore district majority of such students were attached to national schools of their area and as contemporary congress worker took part in freedom movement¹⁰.

National Education and Students community of Medinipur:

The educational bodies and education methodologies remained under British did badly than good and in that process class-entropy without national education system is not possible as thought by best brains of Bengal. In the current of non-cooperation movement the teachers and the students leaving government institutions, were too eager to create national education centers.

Like other districts of Bengal, this type of efforts reached to the highest peak. This time 10th class-based 'Kalagechia National School' and 'Kanthi National School' came in Kanthi sub-division. Kakurda(Mahisadal) National School developed in Tamluk sub-division. Besides, many primary and middle schools came into being in these two sub-divisions and also in main sub-division¹¹. These schools became very hard & firm centers for the publicity of nationality and national rousing. The teachers accepted dedicated life leaving all government facilities. The teachers and the students became one type of national soldier in the task of tearing the chain of dependence following the dictum of congress.

In Midnapore district Birendra Nath Sasmal had active role in establishing national institutions and in their management. He took great care of these institutions being elected as Secretary (1921) of 'Bengal Provincial National council'. He wrote in his book, *Sroter Trina*- "Firstly I looked at the national institutions with deep attention. I hold the belief that as per the defects of present day education policies - the so-called educated persons are not able to upgrade themselves so far as their religious policies, devotion and 'love to country' is in question. Our such educated persons in one side lost to revere national things or self-goods and on the other side they are failing to capture anti-national as also others good. The education ways helped us to earn some knowledge but we cannot apply that knowledge in real life. Actually knowledge did not encroach upon the heart of our educated communities but only education increased little bit than uneducated persons in respect of some incidents. If it was the alternate, then their power could have been expanded to apply the education earned. But it is to be acknowledged that, in present system, we have no full power to propagate education from the nationalistic platform but to acquire power-not speech but it was needed to concentrate first in maintaining national schools¹²

Kalagechia National School: Kalagechia National School was established on 1st March, 1921. It was inaugurated by Birendranath Sasmal. Nikunji Behari Maity of Kalagechia village (Khejuri police - station) and Jagadish Chandra Maity-a patriot of the same village jointly donated land and waterbody useful for school and became establisher secretary. College students: Bhibutibhusan Maity, Hemchandra Raot, Rabendranath Maity and others of minor school joined in the national school. Out of the students of this school, Bipin Behari Sau as doctor and Motilal Sau as also Jyotirindranath Paira, both as engineers became famous in later times¹³. Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy as visitor of the school delivered his written speech with the

following statement-” The students of national school keep their head high and they are wakeful with love to mother India. They are also busy in providing services to human-kind¹⁴.

Kanthi National School: Kanthi National School was established in Kanthi town on 7th March, 1921¹⁵. Students inclined to non-violent movement left Kanthi Model Institution, Kanthi High school and some nearby schools and declared- “they will not anymore read in institutions characterized as ‘house of slavery’”¹⁶. Digambar Paira and others vowed as such. Despran Birendranath Sasmal was invited at Kanthi to lead these students. One get-together was held in ‘Kanthi Swaraswati tala’ on 4th February, 1921. Here he announced ‘to donate his homestead of Kanthi town for the use of the national school.’¹⁷

Kanthi National School was inaugurated taking the high school students like; Atul Chandra Sasmal, Bhuteswar Paira, Gyanendranath Manna, Anil Kumar Mukherjee and others, as also college students were recruited as teachers¹⁸. Student Satish Chandra Jana- the non-cooperation partner, elected as secretary¹⁹. Within few days few teachers: Pramathbabu, Iswarbabu, Panchubabu, Aghorbabu, Padmalochanbabu, left Kanthi Model Institution and Kanthi High School and joined ‘Kanthi National School’. In this school many people-who attended non-cooperation movement while they were college- students, joined this school. They were: Krishnachandra Maity, Pramathnath Bandopadhyay, Bijoykishna Maity, Iswarchandra Mal, Padmalocnan Sahu, Basantakumar Das, Panchulal Ghosh, Moitab ali Mia, Jhareswar Das, Aghor Chandra Das, Raghunath Maity, Troilakyanath Pradhan, Surendranath Das, Prfulla Kumar Maity, Pulin Behari Pal and others²⁰. Some of them earned fame as members of District Board, Bengal Legislative Council, Legislative Assembly, Constituent Assembly, Parliament and as Minister of West Bengal in independent India.

In this school applied department was attached to arts department. The teachers were— Anil Kumar Mukherjee (Spinning wheel), Beharilal Maity (Loom), Ramesh Chanandra Rana (Iron-work). Haripada Pahari donated two ‘Bigha’ of land for the applied department and over this land permanent housing of the school was build. The students and the teachers did exemplary work giving physical labor for the building of the school²¹. This house was meant for the coming of Mahatma Gandhi, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Seth Jamunalal Bajaj.

The teachers and students of this national school became the center of creativity and

inspiration in the issues like: arbitration, keeping aside untouchability, Communal unity, spinning wheel and khadi use etc. This school was also one main center to preach during law-breaking movement. Few bright students of this school to be remembered are: *Banabehari Guria, *Susanta Kumar Maity, *Santosh Kumar Jana, *Nityananda Nayak, *Chanchal Kumar Jana, *Sudhir Chandra Das, *Balailal Das Mahapatra, *Dr. Basant Kumar Sau, *Dr. Jiban Krishna Das Mahapatra, *Dr. Satis Chandra Das, *Dr. Prasanna Kumar Giri, *Motilal Sau, *Jyotirindra Paria²².

Anantapur National School: As per effort of B.Sc (hons) student Kumar Chandra Jana, linked to non-cooperation movement, this school was established in Sutahata police-station area of Tamluk sub-division. They first set up the school in ‘Brindaban Jiur’ temple under ‘Hogla’ (long dry grass to use as shed) sheds²³. Later Srimati Surama Debi donated pond-bank land including pond adjacent to her house. Kumarbabu with the students moved around village homes was collecting wood, bamboo, hay paddy, rice and arranged to make the school building and the students’ hostel. In this angle one fact is very important to be remembered— “That is 1921. Kumarchandra established one national school in Anantapur village at the start of the year. Class-mate and friend Surya Kumar Chakraborty was with him. Suryakumar Became headmaster of the school. Kumarchandra became the secretary, teacher and main organizer. People came forward to support the school were: Jibeschandra Deb (Jamalchak), Bidhu Misa (Amlat), Sasanka Pradhan (Debhog), Srinibas Jana (Dalimchak), Pramathanath Maity (Akubpur), Sasibhusan Das (Diamond Harbour), Gyanendranath Bera (Nandarampur), Haripada Singh (Juneta), Haris Bhowmick (Horekhali), and Pramath Adhikary, Hemanta Chakraborty, Sekh Refaut Alla, Nitya samanta (Amlat) and others. Within a short time 300 students were admitted. The important educational items were: Carpentry, weaving, spinning using wheel, cotton knitting and others. Under the leadership of Kumarbabu the students maintained unostentatious living and acted sincerely for un touch ability concept removal, following the steps of arbitration process, collection of congress membership, abandoning foreign goods etc.”²⁵ The name of the students passing out in the last examination(First) were:

Name	Habitat
Rajani Pramanik	Ranjitpur
Charu Das	Babupur
Sarat Chandra kar	Basudebpur
Ananta Khatua	Anantapur

Janardan Hazra	Sijaberia
Trilokesh Samanta	Gagipur
Bhibuti Bhuan Bera	Nandarampur
Gunakar Jana	Basudebpur
Dhirendranath Jana	Jadabpur
Bankimchandra Bhowmick	Anantapur
Jyotiprasad Maity	Dororajampur
Nitygopal Das	Barabari
Jugal Halder	Diamond Harbour ²⁶

It is worthy of mention that the students who came in this school firstly-all of them ultimately were involved in freedom movement in the role of organizers.

Kakurdah National School: The higher class national school came in Kakurdah village, (Mahisadal police-station) under Tamluk sub-division. This school was over Hijli tidal canal bund –at two miles away from Mahisadal market. Gunadhar Hazra- a non-cooperation struggler student and teacher afterwards, took the responsibility of this national school as headmaster. The assiduous persons in developing this school were: Purnachandra Maity, Jogendranath Singh, Bijoykrishna Maity, Bhabatosh Das, Sripaticharan Kayal, Satischandra Samanta, Ramani Mohan Maity, Gorachand Giri, Dhirendranath Das and others²⁷. Purnachandra Maity of Kakurdah village donated three ‘Bigha’ land and a pond for the construction of the school building²⁸. Along with normal teaching, self-help trainings were provided to the students in the fields of weaving ‘khaddar’, ink making, shoe-paint makes and also soap making. The teachers and the students moving around village homes used to collect bamboo, hay etc. for the purpose of house making of the school. The ex-students of this school were found to act as lively worker in the freedom movement of the country²⁹.

Mirzapur, Banamalichatta, Bayenda Manikjor National School: Under the umbrella of non-cooperation movement schools comprising of 6-class and middle school, as also four-class primary school were established. In Kanthi police-station area under Kanthi sub-division, Mirzapur National School, Banamali Chatta National School and Bayenda National School (Bhagabanpur police-station area)-all were managed with high proficiency. Non-cooperation movement linked student Sasisekhar Mandal worked as headmaster of Mirzapur School. Gyanadacharan Maity worked as his assistant³⁰. Bhim Charan Patra was the headmaster of

Bayenda National School.

Banamalichatta middle English school was a free school as per the monetary assistance of local Jamindar Rana ana also of Barik family. Surendranath Das was the headmaster of the school during the freedom movement. President Shibaprasad Jana of the managing committee of the school along with member Srinathchandra jana converted the school as one main center of 'Swadeshi' activities³¹. The air of the area was full of 'love to country' wisdom. The son of Sibaprasad Jana joined freedom movement as one non-cooperation movement member³². He was secretary of Kanthi sub-division congress committee from the very beginning. For his imprisonment for a year for joining non-cooperation movement, strong reaction was noticed in Banamalichatta School. In the meeting linked to the release of satischandra jana-the school was declared as National School was taken from the grant-in-aid of government³³. Along with the school the workers and the students of this school became active as a center of the activities of congress.

In the above referred schools in the Arts department along with teaching of English, Literature, Bengali, History, Mathematics, Geography; had arrangements for practical classes. The main subjects were: spinning wheel ('Charka') and spinning yarns ('Takli'). The students used to devote themselves in providing services to the villages in line with activities of congress along with learning in schools³⁴. Their off time was generally passed in the work of villages. In later times these students obtained critical acclaim as dignified organizers.

Besides, a Middle English School was established in Bhabanichak market of Egra police-station under Kanthi sub-division. It was named as, 'First Library'³⁵. One National Primary School was established, in 'Nankar Bamunia Village', with the efforts of non-cooperation movement linked student— Dharanidhar Jana and local distinguished personalities. Padmatamli National Primary School (Bhagabanpur police-station area) was also formed during non-cooperation movement period. Under the donation of Radhakrishna Maity³⁵, Manikjor Kamini Kumari High School (upto class-vi) was established in 1926 at Manikjor village of Bhagabanpur police-station.

The educational methodologies of the national schools and non-cooperation activities created the atmosphere of subjugation-freedom and self-help achievements. The farmers and the village artisans started getting honor and their labor was respected. Minstrel poet Mukund

Das came to Kanthi in 1923 and then moved in all the areas of the district with his songs— ‘Dhanya Deser Chasa tader Charanguli Mathai Nile Pran Hoye jai Khasa’³⁶; Besides, ‘Karameroi Jug Eseche-sabai kaje lege geche amra ki raibo sayan’³⁶. The message that he spread, lighted up agriculture-led Midnapore people spontaneously. Here, the role of poet Mukunda Das as also that of students was really trustworthy.

The evolution of spinning wide wheel was an important part of no-cooperation movement. All India Congress committee at their ‘Bejwada’ conference decided to increase wheel based spinning system to 20 lakhs. To Gandhi; the creator of non-cooperation movement; spinning wheel was the epitome of decentralized industry imbining economy and self-confidence. To give real value to Gandhi’s outlook, it was felt to take ‘spinning wheel and spinning loom’ as the most important learning items in all national schools of Midnapore. The students and the teachers of the national schools became the torch-bearer for the popularization of thread cutting machineries³⁷. It impacted tremendously to the masses of the district in view of wearing of ‘Khadi’ dresses by the students and teachers of the national schools and also by congress workers. In many areas of the district centers came up for the production and sale of ‘Khadi’ dresses. Out of such centers: Keshabchandra Khadi Mission (Kulapara of Nandigram police-station), Jukhia (Durgachak of Bhagaban police-station), Kadua of Ramnagar, Bishnupur under Sabong police-station Amarshi center under Potaspur sub-division; are remarkable. Few ‘weavers councils’ were formed encircling Moina for spinning wheel and Sutahata for ‘Khadi’ dress manufacturing. Another was named as-‘Dakshin Moina Tantubai Samiti’. Equally there were similar bodies in Gokulnagar and Changboy gram³⁹.

Moina Police-Station: Moina took a serious role in proper managing non-cooperation movement. Congress Committee was formed for such managing work. Sri Anangamohan Das was responsible for carrying out such activities. A branch unit was opened for fine tuning of the works.

Branch Unit	President	Secretary
Ramchandrapur	Gopal Chandra bhowmick	Sk. Daniruddin
Paramanandapur	Saral Kumar Das	Sasibhusan Maity
Ramchak	Nilmani Adhikari	Sachidananda Maity
Bakcha	Sanatan Ghorai	Iswarchandra Hazra
Asnan	Brajendra Krishna Das	Rakhal Chandra Maity ⁴⁰

In different camps of Moina police-station area the non-cooperation aligned volunteers did lot of picketing activities like: publicity for spinning wheel, popularization of 'Khadi' dresses, abandoning school, college, office, Court, caste-division concept removal, starting of national schools, starting of widow marriage, avoiding foreign goods, discarding intoxicating substances, village arbitration processes to clear local level hostility. The young persons of the area came in large in such activities. On 12.01.1921 'students day' was observed in Calcutta keeping ahead the call of Bipinchandra Pal as-'Education may wait, but Swaraj.' Extensive activities were finalized regarding leaving school and colleges. Many students living under Moina police-station being inspired from non-cooperation movement left schools and colleges. Out of them the students were: Anangamohan Das, Bholanath Das, Phanibhusan Pattanayak, Himangsu Sekhar Das, Mrityunjoy Manna, Krishnaprasad Pradhan, Asutosh Das (Bitasokananda)⁴¹.

Unity amongst people must be very steady to bring success in mass movement. The student's community of Midnapore district captured most important role in forming unified stand and also providing services to the society. For Indians- the caste-division is the most dividing factor. The line-eating is one easy way to remove un touchable syndrome. The leaders of Moina gave much stress on it & students helped enormously in such endeavor. One thousand people enjoyed meal from line-eating in the house of Harekrishna Maity of Changrachak. Similarly line-eating was organized in the houses of: Kenaram Pramanik (Brindabanchak), Nabadwip Maity (Ramchandrapur), Bhubanchandra Maity (Dakshin Harkuli), Rasbehari Maity (Kalagechia), Satischandra Maity (Kiyarana)⁴².

The leaders of Moina arranged 'widow marriage' programs despite objection of conservative peoples along with removing the strictures regarding untouchables. After such programs the students made publicity based on rationality. Umakanta Das(Tilkhoja) was most active in widow marriage and the other persons who helped Umakanta Das were: Gopinath Maity (Ramchandrapur), Mahendranath Pramanik (Brajaballavpur), Sasibhusan Das (Brajaballavpur), Sasibhusan Maity (Paramanandapur), Gunadhar Nayak (Purba Dakshin Moina), Ekadashi Jana (Purba Dakshin Moina).

Few references are given related to widow marriage:

Name of wedded Person	Village
Isan Chandra Jana	Asnan
Iswar Chandra Kar	Tilkhoja

Sridhar Chandra Jana	Tilkhoja
Gobindra Prasad Jana	Do
Kartik Chandra Das	Do
Netai Chandra Pramanik	Rajballavpur ⁴³

In 1922 one mammoth gathering was held in Tamluk Raj Moidan, presided and students of Moina attended. Beside this, many congress workers and students from different places of the district had to Calcutta to strengthen non-cooperation movement & they were arrested there. From Moina 60 volunteers were sent in three batches of 20 heads each. They underwent a term 2/3 week's imprisonment⁴⁴. Some of them were students and their names are:

Name	Profession	Home
Rakhal Chandra Sahu	Congress worker	Dakshin Moina
Keshab Chandra Jana	Do	Changra
Gopal Chandra Bhowmick	Do	Do
Troilakyanath Kundu	Do	Masumchak
Ananga Mohan Das	Student	
Bhabananda Das	Do	
Bholanath Das	Do	
Gajendra Mahapatra	Congress worker	Changra
Gobardhan Pramanik	Do	Kalai
Sasibhusan Maity	Student	Paramanandapur
Surendranath Jana	Congress Worker	Changrachak
Harekrishna Maity	Do	Denachak
Sachidananda Maity	Do	Roychak
Nilmoni Adhikary	Do	
Brajendra Krishna Das	Student	Asnan
Chandicharan Maity	Congress worker	Do
Iswarchandra Jana		Do
Himangusekhar Das		Do

By this way people, youth & students of Moina police-station bearing all oppressions did untiring struggle with devotion in line with non-cooperation movement. They founded bright examples of 'love to country', formation of combating sensibility through mass struggle and

also taking up issues like: Leaving government schools, using home-land substances, keeping the issue of untouchable at bay, widow marriage and others.

Gandhi retreated non-cooperation movement after the incidence of 'Chourichoura' in 1922. Congress camps became closed. This time devotee student mass leader-Sri Anangamohan Das of Moina joined regional congress office at Calcutta as a worker. Chittaranjan Das created 'Swarajya Dal' after Gandhi's backing out from non-cooperation movement. Election of Calcutta Corporation was held in 1924. With huge chance of winning the election-it was settled to select Desbandhu as 'Mayor' with Birendranath as chief 'Executive', but due to objection of aristocrats of Calcutta, Subhash Chandra Bose became the chief executive of Calcutta Corporation. At the impact of this incidence Birendranath parting Calcutta politics left for Midnapore. Anangamohan Das also relinquishing congress post headed towards Midnapore. He established 'Moina Seban Sammilani' in association of local congress leaders, students and youth with an aim to develop Moina from all spheres of the society. Its members joined to carry forward the different tasks imbining education, health, communication, agriculture and irrigation for entire Moina police-station⁴⁶.

In 1926 the election of 'legislative assembly' was held. Pramanath Bandopadhyay, Mahendranath Maity and Natendralal Khan were elected respectively from Kanthi, Tamluk and Medinipur. Few days after a difficult time appeared in the life of the people of Medinipur. Heavy shower destroyed the bundth of Keleghai River and inundated Medinipur 'Sadar' and also villages of Kanthi and Tamluk subdivisions. Students of school, colleges, clubs, and other bodies took part in rescue operations⁴⁷. Relief was sent to non-approachable localities under the hand of students, youth and congress workers of Moina police-station. They were: Surndranath Das, Anangamohan Das (Students leader), Narendranath Jana, Sachidananda Maity (Non-violent student), Rakhachandra Maity, Brajendrkrishna Das, Iswarchandra Jana and others⁴⁸.

Sutahata: In freedom movement Sutahata police-station had a greater role. Particularly students were very active. Strike was called in January of 1912 at the time of 5th George's coming to Calcutta. Chandra Jana of Sutahata was then a student of 'Normal School', Calcutta. It was ordered on teachers and students to take 20 primary students. Kumar Chandra Jana took active role to accomplish this task. Just that time Gandhi returned from South Africa. It was heard for his coming to Calcutta and to deliver speech for students.

In fields, pond-bund, schools, colleges his name reverberated. Kumar Chandra Jana was then at Calcutta. The period is around March month of 1915. Gandhi came to Calcutta. Kumarchandra waited for two hours at College Street to see Gandhi. Gandhi came in right time. Kumarchandra saw him from a close distance. He was attracted to Gandhi at his first vision. This is the first time that non-violence political seed had its plantation in his mind⁴⁹.

The final resolution to go in non-violence path against British was passed first in congress conference at Nagpur in December, 1920 and then at Calcutta. Gandhi in a voice as grave and resounding as rumbling of cloud, called for passive resistance and non-violence movement. Birendranath Sasmal became the torch-bearer to carry on that call to Midnapore. Then Kumar Chandra Jana carried forward that message in the villages of Sutahata and also touched the ears of 'Harijan' and schedule caste with such invocation⁵⁰.

Within a short while the news of the movements in the way of passive resistance and non-violence, spread in the form of tornado creating inspiration mood throughout India, as if, the country suddenly changed in a magical way. Firing of foreign dresses became the norm of the day all around. The demand of homeland dresses increased in a rapid succession. That time Kumarchandra Jana was a final year student of St. Xavier's college and will go to America for the cultivation of science subject to passing final examination few months after. Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy was his role-model. Closing the chapter of education he came out of the college, not alone, but few friends of Sutahata joined him. His friends Were: Suryakumar Chakraborty, Hrishikesh Tripathi of Debhog, Sri Nibas Jana, Jibeshchandra Deb (Pattanayak of Jamalchak) and his junior brother Pareschandra and others⁵¹.

Pareschandra was arrested and imprisoned in accusation of reading government banned confiscated book on the roads of Calcutta. Pareschandra is the first imprisoned person of Sutahata⁵². This time many students of Sutahata were reading in Calcutta in medical & other colleges. They were: Kabiraj Girishchandra Adhikary (Barabari), Doctor Sasibhusan Das and Doctor Hiralal Maity (Barbasudebpur) and others. They also reanimated in national character under the influence of Congress⁵³.

Leaving St. Xavier's college abandoning education, Kumarchandra Jana selected Sutahata as his work-center and activities. Centering him students and youth came forward to work with him. In early 1921 Kumarchandra established one national school at Anantapur village. The

students that joined the school from the very first day; practically they all took part in freedom movement up to the end & lastly had with Kumarchandra in his struggle and all activities.

Those students are:

Name of the student	Home
Rajani Pramanik	Bajitpur
Charu Das	Babupur
Saratchandra Kar	Basudevpur
Amulya Khatua	Anantapur
Janardan Hazra	Sijberia
Trilokesh Samanta	Gazipur
Bhibuti Berab	Nandarampur
Gunakar Jana	Basudevpur
Dhirendranath Jana	Jadavpur
Bankimchandra Bhowmick	Anantapur
Jyotiprasad Maity	Dororajampur
Nitygopal Das	Barabari
Dugal Halder	Diamond Harbour ⁵⁴

In 1922 Gandhi declared stoppage of non-violent movement in view of the incidence of ‘Chourichoura’. Then ‘swarajya Dal’ was formed. Not involving in party conflicts of Congress, Kumarchandra implied him in the constructive politics of Congress & Swarajya party bringing students in such development work. He initiated to undertake various programs in villages—such as: arbitration meeting for the people in discord on personal issues, touching the untouches program, popularization of ‘khadi’ products as also forming ‘village Committees’. Congress movement was too timid during 1925 to 1928. But this time Janardan Hazra, Amulyachandra Khatua and Nityagopal Das; passing L.M.S from Dhaka National Medical College came back to their villages and as dear students dedicated themselves in work following Kumarchandra in full spirit. This time Kumarchandra arranged student-conferences sometimes.⁵⁵ With the ex-students of national school and other schools – picnic enjoyment was a regular affair at there. Creating unity amongst them was the primary target of Kumarchandra. To hold this true –the event of an important conference held at the base of ‘Light House’ at Fulbari situated at the bund of Hooghly River in 1928 can be cited.

Nandigram: The role of the people and the students of Nandigram in freedom fighting were not less at all. The remarkable incident that can be mentioned is as—‘After the defeat of Germany at the hand of alliance force during 1st World War, British, bringing ’The Government of India Act’ ordered the young doctor-Atulchandra Mahapatra of samsabad village to keep interned in his own village. Dr. Mahapatra is the first victim of ‘The Government of India Act’⁵⁶. In 1919 the strike called against ‘Oppressive Rowlat Law’ and ‘death-misery of Jallianwala Bagh’ by Gandhi on behalf of congress, became obeyed in strict sense in many villages, markets of Satahata in high spirit. The students and the youth of the villages took fantastic role for the success of the strike⁵⁷.

Thereafter non-violence movement started at the call of Gandhi on 1st August, 1920. Many intelligent students of Tamluk sub-division leaving education centers joined no-violence movement. Out of these students some young students of Nandigram police-station also joined the movement and the memorable fact is that –all of them kept their footprint as leaders in right time in the freedom movement of the country.

This time twenty bright students left their college education to join non-cooperation movement and some of them were:

Student’s name	Home
Hemchandra Raot	Kharigyera
Surendranath Ghorai	Do
Gorachand Giri	Do
Pratapchandra Maity	Do
Gajendranath Maity	Osmanpur
Chiranjib Maity	Do
Surendranath Panda	Do
Nabinchandra Pal	Do
Pratapchandra Bej	Do
Satischandra Maity	Kharigyera
Rajanikanta Pradhan	Fulbari ⁵⁸

Out of them Hemchandra Raot became one qualified ‘Naval Engineer’ as per training at England. Surendranath Ghorai, Barrister Pratapchandra Maity wrote ‘Chabuk’ named poem and ‘Bharatbir’ named drama⁵⁹.

One mammoth mass-meeting against establishment of Union Board under the leadership of Birendranath Sasmal was held inside Kanthi sub-division office complex in the year 1921. School and college leaving young volunteers of Nandigram police-station area participated.⁶⁰ In this meeting Birendranath declared— “So far the functioning of Union Board is not stopped; till then we on bare foot moving from one village to other, will continue movement against tax-paying to Union Board”⁶¹. However, the goods croaked by government-could not be sold through auction in want of purchasers. Even, no one came to carry the croaked goods to police-station despite offering of more money for the work. The British Government, being humiliated and pestered under the activities of Birendranath, bowed down in the soil of Midnapore. People of Nandigram are boastful equally with the people of Kanthi in such win. In line with success of the movement making Union Board as ineffectual; in Nandigram, congress workers tried to concretize the plan of weaving by handloom using spinning wheel and spindle in homes by the students to be self-sufficient along with abandoning foreign goods, as also, establishing national education system in good stead. This resulted to-

“The students became accustomed to spin thread in school-off time carrying spindle in their pocket. Village organizer Gyanendranath Misra and his wife taking monetary assistance of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, made ‘weavers workshop’ in the name of “Deshbandhu Khadi Mission” in his ‘Kulapara’ village situated at the western end of Nandigram police-station. Under these workshop twenty two weavers in five centers used to make clothes and shirt-clothes by the process of weaving threads. More than two hundred persons of eighteen villages taking the help of this mission earned some money to meet their own need weaving threads using cotton-roles or taking much more cotton for their jobs. The weavers were mostly women and most of them were widows”⁶².

In this respect mention must be made of ‘Gumgarh Sebak Sangh’. This body was established in 1920 by few youth leaving school & colleges. They were mainly engaged themselves in: serving drinking water in fairs, helping people suffering from cholera and pox. They reached to three hundred members within a short time. The most active working members were: Brajendranath Bhunia, Nabinchandra Pal, Gorachand Giri, Surendranath Panda, Priyanath Bera, Prajapit Jana and Surapati Jana. This ‘Sangh’ had one Library in the house of Banamali Panda in Boyal village. The members of this body did not keep them confined in place and in the wheel of time but became vociferous wherever required to contain injustice⁶⁴.

On 24 December, 1924, full strike was obeyed in Radhagung, Terpekhia and Tekhali markets of Nandigram in the time of coming of 'Young prince of Wales of England to India. Students and youth took greater role in such strike issue⁶⁵. In 1922 Gandhi withdrew from non-violence movement under the effect of 'Chouri choura' incidence. This decreased the velocity of movement activities. Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das formed 'Swarajya Dal'. In Midnapore, congress divided into two fractions; one as 'No change group' under Gandhi & the other as 'Pro-changer group' under Chittaranjan Das and Birendranath Sasmal. In this scenario students' not joining any fraction engaged themselves in different social-welfare activities. For example, in 1926, the bund of Keleghai River destroyed due to flood and this inundated the western part of Nandigram and whole area of Bhagabanpur police-station locality. There was loss of grains and most of the houses remained under water-body. The students and the youth extended their helping hand to the seriously suffering people⁶⁶. In February 1927, the students of Medinipur College formed 'Yuba Sangha' under the leadership of Prafulla Tripathi. Student cum youth-Sudhansu Sekhar Bhunia and Jaganandanath Roy of Nandigram joined this 'Sangh'⁶⁷. By this way through different events the students and youth of Nandigram police-station area took part in non-violence movement in unison and in full strength.

There was introduction of armed struggle to fill up the void created due to arrest of nationalist leaders in the background of ending non-violence movement under the effect of 'Chourichoura' incident in 1922. Terrorist activities started again in Midnapore through opening of branches under 'Anusilan Samiti' (Purbabagla terrorist group) and 'Jugantar Dal' (Paschimbanga terrorist group).

The terrorist group of Medinipur started functioning under one brother or elder person. The relation between the team and the leader was deep and was under oath of allegiance. In 1928 the armed struggle moved in new line. The young force leaving alerted view of elders became engaged in assassination of white employees of British government.

A small part of youth of Medinipur town being disappointed in non-violence political movement, wanted to do some revolutionary activities. In the background of such mental make-up of small youth group, Dinesh Gupta (a member of 'Dhaka Mukti Sangha') took admission in Medinipur College in 1928 and tried to re-life 'Medinipur Gupta samiti'⁶⁸.

In 1926, Dinesh once came to Medinipur after Matrik examination. His elder brother-

Jatish Gupta, was a lawyer of local Court. Srimati Kusumrenu Gupta was like mother-equivalent sister-in-law for Dinesh. Dinesh was still then not entrusted to take responsibility of Medinipur organization. But that time every activist believed to preach for wise counsel for struggle through breathing of life. Dinesh was much more animated in this regard. Firstly he looked at 12-year old-Kshitiprasanna Sen. He liked this boy as he is prompt, serious and in need keep important things in hiding. Dinesh searched about students and youth of the town from Kshitiprasanna and his brothers. Kshitiprasanna took Dinesh to Hemchandra Kanungo of Alipur Bomb case. Old Kanungo in a state of bewilderment seeing Dinesh in the image of light with his conversation, sensibility and dazzling brightness; said— “My benison will remain encircling you always. What we have not achieved; you do that. Only observe that bragging, power-grabbing evil spirit and deficiency of plan secret does not hamper your all good attempts.....”⁶⁹

Then Dineshchandra started to join the platform of children with Kshitiprasanna. He told different stories to be aware of the process of removing British. Some got interest, some became afraid and few became be spotted without understanding the stories and related issues. This time Dinesh recruited Bholanath Dutta and Ramsankar Chakraborty in his team. Dinesh moved for Dhaka for the end of vacation⁷⁰.

In 1928 after I.S.C examination, Dinesh again came to Medinipur. Kshitiprasad was then a boy of 14 years. Thus Kshitiprasad became an important youth for Dinesh for his work. That time “Ramkrishna Sevasram” of Medinipur was an important center for social-welfare services. Many youths, lads and boys were then attached to such welfare services. Kshitiprasanna as per opportunity took Dinesh there to rendezvous with them. Some good boys were available from such meetings. On the basis of Dinesh Gupta’s report various leaders advised Dinesh to form working center of party in Medinipur.

Through ‘Ramkrishna Sevasram’ young students like; Prafulla Tripathi, Haripada Bhowmick, Parimal Ray, Phani Kundu and others took vow of revolution under Dinesh Gupta⁷¹. The nucleus of Medinipur branch, ‘B.V’ started its work. After few days, Amar Chatterjee, Kshiti Sen, Brajakishore Chakraborty, Naren Das and Sudhir Pattanayak formally joined revolutionary movement. Dineshchandra named these last equal-aged boys as ‘Pancha Pandab’⁷².

Prafulla Tripathi was senior amongst the workers of Dinesh. He was a good speaker. He had to work as one public worker. In the revolutionary center of Midnapore the senior members

were: Haripada Bhowmick, Parimal and Fani Kundu. As per directions of local leader Dinesh Gupta and next man Komet (Sasanka) Dasgupta, the seniors through 'Benu' office they had the chance to come in contact with party heads of Calcutta. At the beginning every member had the function to work for the organization. One needs to cross two steps to enter into organization as per revolutionary norms: moral stage and political stage. In first step the worker had to cultivate national literature, health-culture, continence-practice, courageous sense and discipline. Till group leader is confirmed of the success of the worker from the first stage-stepping into the second step was not feasible.

Haripada, Amar, Braja, Kshiti and others remained busy in organizational work of 'B.V'. Phani Kundu and Naren Das was in 'action squad'. Within a short period Brajakishore was entrusted to observe the 'moral stage' of the workers of Midnapore⁷³. One fact is needed to be mentioned here—

'In that period "Tilak Pathagar" placed in the first floor of 'Abhay Asram' at Barabazar was an dependable resting place of all revolutionaries. Wearing 'khaddar' being in the disguise of social worker they remained engaged in secret activities. The then dear worker of Abhay Asram -Sri Basant Kumar Das (Teacher), had a very soft corner for those young lads⁷⁴.

In 1928 strike was performed everywhere against coming of 'Simon Commission'. The students of Medinipur Town School under Prafulla Kumar participated in this struggle. B.V for the first time joins the movement openly. The role of Amar, Brajakishore (Town School), Kshitiprasanna (Collegiate School) is worthy of mentioning. Brajakishore wrote a small book—"How to recruit a revolutionary". The content of this book may be taken as *Geeta* for all revolutionaries and revolutionaries of all countries. This book guided for the right path for the revolutionaries to come-in as the steady force⁷⁵.

In 1929 Haripada Bhowmick under the direction of leadership went to Kanthi for a branch of B.V. He is very well known there. Haripada Bhowmick is credited in full for the revolutionary activities of Kanthi. Later the role of his colleague Jatish Bera and thereafter of Bhupal Panda is praiseworthy to B.V⁷⁶.

In 1931 Parimal Roy went to Sibpur to read in B.E. College. The responsibility of organization of Midnapur town was entrusted on: Amar, Kshiti and Brajakishore. Amar being arrested in 1931, Prodyot and Mrigen joined Kshiti and Braja for organizational work⁷⁷. Phani

Das, Kshiti Sen and Naren Das became responsible for the activities of 'Action Squad'. In 1932-Kshiti, Naren and Phani being convicted, responsibility fell on: Brajakishore, Santigopal Sen, Prodyot Bhattacharya and Nirmal Roy (Young brother of Parimal Roy)⁷⁸. But revolutionary activities came to be stunned after the killing of 'Burge'.

By this way after the second time admission of Dinesh Gupta in college, many students and youth of the school and colleges of Midnapur joined B.V branch as per its development in Midnapur. The renowned students and the youth who made the group strong and hard were: Phani Kundu, Parimal Roy, Haripada Bhowmick, Amar chatterje, Prafulla Tripathi, Chandrasekhar Sengupta, Kshitiprasanna Sen, Amar (Tinu) Sen, Amalendu (Kalu) Dasgupta, Kamakhya Ghosh (Senior), Kamakhya Ghosh (Junior), Naren Das, jatijiban Ghosh, Bimal Dasgupta, Phani Das, Pravansu Pal, Prodyot Bhattacharya, Brajakishore Chakraborty, Ramkrishna Roy, Nirmal Jiban Ghosh, Anathbandhu Panja, Mrigen Dutta, Sachin Kanungo, Jatish Bera, Santosh Bera, Ashoke Roy, Bhupati Mandal, Santi Sen, Sanatan Roy, Biren Ghosh, Suren Banerjee, Sailen Kundu, Saroj Kanungo, Sitangsu Pal, Mani Chowdhury, Panchkouri Setua, Ashoke Das, Sushil Roy, Amar Singh, Nandadulal Singh, Himangsu Mitra, Pramath Mukherjee, Bhababandhu Panja, Bimal Jiban Ghosh, Chitta Das, Krishnalal Banerjee, Anil Roy, Jasida Banerjee, Nabajiban Ghosh, Sukumar Sen, Rabi Mitra, Santi Ghosh, Binod Sen, Bimal Adhikary, Bhupal Panda⁷⁹.

Besides, the women worker who acted secretly may not be much in number, but their role was matchless and the remarkable figures were: Santi Sen (Khukudi), Rama Sen, Uma Sen⁸⁰.

From the above discussions it is clear that whatever role the students community of Midnapur took in congress run non-violence movement-is valued in their life gaining courage, strength, self-confidence, unity, nationalism, self-help and inspiration to go ahead for freedom against penetrating oppression of rulers and that in the next law breaking struggle and Quit India movement, advanced in much more enlightened pathways. In the other way, the revolutionary activities were manifested deeply in the heart of Midnapur students'. In such performances, a majority of Midnapur students' and youth considering death as leg's servant became successful in making the freedom movement marching steadfastly, creating menace among the British imperialist force.

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