

ROLE OF MODERATES & EXTREMIST IN INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

Ms. Siddhi Shah
Student - B.A.- I
Vivekanand College (Autonomous),
Kolhapur.

ABSTRACT -

Almost two hundred years British ruled India, Indians were exploited and had suffered a lot under their rule, but in late 1920's the people started to feel that they need to free their nation from the hands of British. As people started getting education, they came to know the importance of 'Independent India'. Result was they started making committees, groups to influence people and to make every person know the importance of independence. A feeling of great nationalism rose among the people. It was a huge struggle and involved various movements, revolutions, revolts etc. But a great contribution in late 1920 was made by Moderates then the extremists and the Gandhian's Era. Though they all had a different time era and different method works, their only motive was to make mother India free from the English rule. They all fought with only one dream 'FREEDOM'. They knew it was a tough fight. They didn't lose hope and their constant efforts are the result India became free on 15th August 1947, this paper highlights to the major contribution of MODERNATES and EXTRIMISTS in the freedom movement, their ideology, their method works etc.

KEYWORDS - Post Independent India, Moderates, Extremists, Movements,

INTRODUCTION -

The time period from 18th century is known as modern period of history. The actual time India changed from medieval to modern. But the actual year when a new epoch for Indian history is the year 1885. There was a rise in foreign domination, few major dominations were.

British Imperialism - Whole India was concurred and brought under one sovereign authority.

Establishment of means of Transport - It was a important reason which gave momentum to the Nationalist Movement.

Western Education - The traditional outlook of Indians had changed due to the concept of western education.

Socio-Religious Reform Movements - Western science and philosophy bought new light of customs and practices. As a result of all these many social and religious reforms like the *Bramho Samaj*, *The Arya Samaj*, *The Ram Krishna Mission* and so on.

Although, all these things were positive things done by British, this were only the main reason that a nationalist feeling rose among peoples, though this facilities were good but the exploitation of British was increasing day by day, and another measure reason was the revolt of 1857: in the course of 8 years, Dalhousie annexed 8 states. The annexation of Avadh was the most unjustified act of British and damaged the faith in British, it created dissatisfaction and distrust in several local rising prior to the revolt.

This led a huge rise of nationalism among the people. Now they felt a need of leader under whose guidance they could give a fight to the British and after many ups and downs in 1885 under the guidance and effort of A.O. Hume (An Retired English Official) Indian National Congress was established and the era of freedom struggle began.

THE MODERATES; (1885 to 1905) -

A.O. Hume, An Retired English Office man, convinced Lord Deufferil that there was a need of some political party through which they would know the real wishes of the people and thus. Indian National Congress was formed. The first meeting of INC was held in Bombay in 1885 under the presidency of Shri Umesh Chandra Banarjee.

The Moderates in the congress where led by *Sir Surendranath Banarjee*, *Dadabhai Naoroji*, *Gopalkrishna Gokhale* and others. They provided a common stage for the leaders from diverse parts of the country. The members of the educated middle class were predominant in numbers, most of whom were first generation English educated Indians. The moderate's believed in constitutional agitation within the four corners of law, slow but orderly political progress. They were influenced by western political ideas and practices. Especially by the political philosophy of liberalism. Congress meetings

were organized regularly and their focus was on important national problems such as individual freedom rights, dignity to every individual, they did a great amount of spade work in national awakening, political education and uniting Indians and creating a common Indian Nationality. Other prominent moderates were *Baduddin Tyabji, Pherzeshah Mehta, P Anada Charlie, Romesh Chandra Datta, Ananda Mohan Bose, Mahadev Ranade, Mohan Malavia, G Subramania Iyer* etc.

IDEOLOGY –

Though moderates were Indian by blood and colour they had British taste, they believed in British Ideologies and Philosophy. They made demands in a very cautious and peaceful manner. For enduring attachment for British way of life and as also they had a deep sense of gratitude towards British Rulers. They believed that it was because of British India was a young organization in its early stage of development. So they took every step very carefully. The moderates disfavoured a direct confrontation with the British rulers, but wanted to change their rule to reflect interests of the country. Later, when moderate came to know the harm caused by British to their country, they were disappointed and began to press for 'Swaraj' or Self Government for India within the British Empire. Their main motive was to build-up public opinion in India as well as outside India. This was done by submitting petitions to British authorities and also by passing resolutions and giving speeches outside India, especially in Britain a great effort was made to familiarize people of Britain and the Parliament with the real conditions in India. In 1889, a committee was started in Britain, which started publishing weekly journal 'India' to present India's case before the British. Dadabhai Naoroji spent a major part of his life in Britain and played an important role.

CONTRIBUTION –

If we critically evaluate the work of the moderates, it appears that they did not achieve much success but they tried to generate public opinion on all important measures of the government. They have contribution in each field constitutional, social and even economic reforms. One of the major contributions of the moderate leaders was unity. They created a great unity among people. They also raised voice against major issues like increase of the number of Indians in the higher echelons of administration, promotion of primary education, extension of medical health facilities, development of irrigation to avoid famines. They also opposed the annexation of Burma and the attack on Afghanistan and the tribal people of the North Western India. They were committed to principle of democracy & tried to safeguard the civil rights of the Indian People. The leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Mahadev Ranade made scathing criticism of the economic policies followed by the British rulers in India through books, newspapers articles, speeches they expressed themselves. Although all these efforts, very few reforms advocated by them were carried out and it was no denying fact that the early congress represented only the upper strata of society. That is why the younger and more enthusiastic element in it could not be contained and ultimately this element which was known to be extremist had to break away in order to find its expression outside.

THE EXTREMISTS; (1905 – 1919) –

THE Indian Council Act of 1892 did not satisfy the aspirations of even the moderates. The Act still left Indians without any real voice in the administration of this country. The political events also disappointed the nationalists, thus there was a rise of extremism of the Indian Political Scene. It was growing steadily since the uprising of 1857. The actual time when extremist came forward was when Lord Curzon announced 'Partition of Bengal'. Though the uprising was brutally suppressed by the British, the ideas of 'Swadharma' and 'Swaraj' was an undercurrent among the Indian People. The moderates were content through the spoken and written word along strictly constitutional lines. The extremist condemned such method as 'Medicate Politics'. They said that the time of prayer and petition was over. Talented writers voiced the Extremist's position in the columns of fiery journals such as *Kesri* of Poona, *India* of Madras & *Bande Mataram* of Calcutta. The message was preached in giant open air meetings; it was echoed from town to town, from village to village. All these instilled a sense of self respect and self confidence in the Indian Nationalists. The extremist leaders of INC like *Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai & Aurobindo Ghose* articulated radical political ideas. The first of 3 of them became famous as trio of the extremist leadership: 'Lal-Bal-Pal'. They became prominent after the partition of Bengal in 1905. Their programme also became popular which was known as 'Swadeshi Movement'.

3.1 IDEOLOGY –

The Extremist neither believed in the goodness of the British rule nor in the sense of justice and fair play. They were aware that the Britishers were here to only exploit the nation, thus they didn't wanted them to show sympathy and keep going on with their exploitation. They believed that the British must be brought under pressure so that they complete their demands. For Extremist a leader like Lokmanya Tilak 'Swaraj' was a 'Birthright' and was not at dependent on British assurances. They believed in arguing emotive indignation against British rule and then by promoting active involvement of the masses in the agitations. They aimed in preparing masses for the struggle to gain 'Swaraj' by educating people, uniting them & instilling in them a sense of self-respect, self-reliance and pride in their ancient heritage. Ghosh & Tilak played a major role & developed blue print of the extremist program, which involved following points -

1. 'Swadesi' goods should be used & 'Boycott' the foreign goods.
2. 'Boycott' of governmental activities included non cooperation with Bureacracy.
3. They established *schools and colleges* that gave education in Indian languages.
4. 'Passive Resistance' to British rule by nonpayment of revenue & taxes.

The extremist leaders disfavored the use of violence against British rule.

CONTRIBUTION -

The extremist leaders tried to reorient Indian religious traditions to worldly life & link them with the national liberation struggle. They believed that if the nation was not ready to undertake political movement, then it was the duty of the leaders to prepare the people for it; for that they were ready to suffer imprisonment, physical suffering etc. For the sake of mobilizing the masses for struggle against foreign rule. They devoted their full life for this purpose. Thus, under extremist leadership the INC gradually began to acquire a mass character. They were successful in arousing the urban middle and lower classes, apart from mobilizing the peasants and workers. The Swadesi and Boycott movement spread rapidly. British trade was appreciably curtailed. Thus, there was a huge contribution of extremist in the independence of India.

CONCLUSION -

India went under a huge struggle for freedom. Many people sacrificed their life to make mother India free. But in late 1800's when the people extremely needed a leader exactly at that time Indian National Congress was formed. Though it had a few members in it, their guidance to the people was right and the number of INC gradually increased. Moderates or Extremist both had a different ideology, but they only work with one dream in mind. The dream to make India free, the dream to achieve success in the mission even when they knew it was at the cost of their life. They did it very promptly. No doubt, there were many great leaders but the contribution of Moderates & Extremist made the coming leaders the journey an easy and wrathful journey. We should always remember Gandhi but at the same time we should never forget Naoroji or the Lal-Bal-Pal who fought all their life for independence. Overall I would say that everyone's contribution made the British rule to quit India and make our mother India free and thus everyone should be remembered equally.

BIBLIOGRAPHY -

- Wolpert Stanley: *Tilak and Gokhale: Rvolution & reform in the making of modern India* (1960).
- Bose S.C.: *The Indian Struggle* (1964) Bombay, Asia Publishing House.
- Jain A.P.(Ed): *India and the World* (1972) Delhi.
- Mohanram: *Indian Communism; Split within a split* (1969) Delhi.
- Rao R.P.: *The Congress splits* (1971) Bombay
- Mahajan V.D.: *History of Modern India Vol-I 1919 to 1974* (1983).
- Dudi A.S.: *Modern History of India* (2012)
- Tripathi, Amale: *The Extremist Challenge* (1967) Culcutta.
- Chandra, Bipin: *History of Modern India* (2009) Hyderabad.
- *Web Sources*