

History Part – 33

33] Social Transformation In Tamil Nadu

Notes

The Justice Movement

- The justice party represented the non Brahmin movement and engineered a social revolution against the domination of Brahmins in the sphere of public service and education.
- The justice party , officially known as south indian liberal federation was a political party in the madras presidency of british india.
- This party was established in 1916 by T.M.Nair and thiyagaraya chetty.
- This party published ‘Dravidan’ in tamil , ‘ Andhra prakasika ‘ in telugu and ‘justice’ in English. Hence it came to be called as the ‘justice party’.

Rule Of The Justice Party

- In the election of 1920 , the justice party secured a majority and subbarayalu reddiar formed the ministry.
- In 1923 election again justice party won and formed the ministry.
- In the election of 1926 , the swarajya party got success but refused to form the ministry.
- With the support of swarajya party , A.Subbarayalu , an independent candidate constituted the government.

- In 1930 elections again the justice party won and B.Mnisamy naidu formed the ministry.
- In 1932 he was replaced by Raja of Bobhill.
- In 1934 elections congress party won but refused to constitute the party. So again the justice party formed the ministry.
- In 1937 justice party failed miserably and never recovered from the defeat. Then the justice party came under the leadership of periyar and his self respect movement.
- In 1944 ,at salem conference , periyar transformed the justice party into a social organization called dravidar kazhagam and withdrew it from the electoral politics.

Achievements Of The Justice Party

- The communal G.O's of 1921 and 1922 provided reservation of appointments in local bodies and educational institutions for non – Bhramins
- The justice party government set right the imbalances in the representation of different communities and improved the status of depressed classes
- To avoid nepotism , favouritism and other influence in the process of selection , this government created a staff selection board in 1924 and it became public service commission in 1929.

- For the benefit of all communities , college committees were created to regulate the higher educational institutions.
- In 1925 andhra university and in 1929 annamalai university were opened.
- To regulate temple accounts , temple committees were created.In 1926 the hindu religious endowment bill was passed.
- The women were granted the right to vote in 1921 , abolished devadasi system , prevented immortal traffic of women and passed industries act.
- The system of giving free pattas for housing sites to the poor was introduced.
- By way of introducing midday meal schemes at thousand lights thiyagaraya chettiar strenghtened the school.
- It gave encouragement to ayurveda , siddha and unani medical education.

Decline Of Justice Party

- In the election of 1937 , justice party failed miserably and the congress party constituted the ministry under Rajagopalachari.
- The justice party never recovered from its defeat.There were many causes for its failure.
- The justice party came to power when the world was in economic depression.
- The nationalist movement was popular and heading freedom.

- Caste and wealth played a vital role. Hence the party lost its hold.
- The rise of Congress under the leadership of Gandhi became a formidable challenge to the Justice Party.

Self Respect Movement And Periyar

- E.V. Ramasamy Periyar was the greatest social reformer of Tamil Nadu.
- He was the first leader the country had ever seen to inculcate self-respect, rationalism, women liberation and social equality in the minds of the people.
- E.V. Ramasamy was born on September 17, 1789 in Erode in a very rich Hindu family.
- He got married at 13th year and renounced his life in his 19th year.
- He went to Kashi where he noticed that the Brahmins ill-treated the Non-Brahmins.
- He joined the Congress in 1919 to realize his ideas. He was elected as the secretary of Madras State Congress Committee in 1921 and its president in 1923.
- He joined the Non-Cooperation Movement. He led the famous Vaikom Satyagraha in 1924, where the people of the downtrodden community were prohibited to enter into the temple.

- Finally the Travancore government relaxed such segregation and allowed the people to enter into the temple. Hence Periyar was given the title of Vaikam hero.
- Periyar started the self respect movement in 1925 to spread and execute his ideas and policies.
- The self respect movement condemned and fought against Brahmin domination over other castes, society, politics and religion.
- It fought to abolish traditionalism and superstitions.
- It advocated women education, widow remarriage, intercaste marriages and opposed child marriage.
- He was given the title of Periyar by a women conference held at Madras.
- In 1937 election, the Justice Party was defeated and its decline became inevitable. At the Salem conference of 1944, the name of Justice Party was changed as 'Dravidar Kazhagam'.

C.N. Annadurai

- C.N. Annadurai was called as Perarinar Anna by the people of Tamil Nadu. He was born on 15th September, 1909 at Kancheepuram.
- He had his M.A. in Pachaiyappa's College, Madras. He was the founder of Dravidar Munnetra Kazhagam.

- In the salem conference of 1944 , Anna brought a resolution for changing the name of justice party as dravidar munnetra kazhaagam and became very close to periyar.
- The marriage of periyar with maniammai in 1947 gave severe blow to the party men.
- A new party called dravida munnetra kazhagam was formed on 17th September 1949.He became the general secretary of the party.
- In the election of 1967 , his party got victory and anna became the chief minister of tamilnadu in 1967.
- He introduced the scheme of 1kg rice for Rs1.Due to the financial strain he was not able to promulgate this system all over tamil nadu.
- He also introduced Tamil language Development scheme.
- In 1967 , chief minister of tamil nadu announced , the first day of chittirai as tamil new year day government under the leadership of anna changed the official name of the state from madras to tamizhaga arasu or tamizhagam.
- On 16th April in the secretariat in fort St.George , the chief minister Anna ceremoniously switched on light in the form of state emblem – a temple gopuram , above the words ‘Tamizhaga Arasu Tamizhaga cheyalagam’.
- At the same day he announced that the national motto ‘ Satyameva jayate ‘ would henceforth appear as ‘vaimaye vellum’ and that sanskrit form of

address sri/srimathi/kumara would replace the tamil forms of Thiru/Thirumathi/Selvi.

- He was conferred doctorate by annamalai university in 1968.He passed away on 3rd February 1969.

Dr.Muthulakshmi Reddy

- Dr. muthulakshmi reddy was born on 30th july , 1886 In pudukottai.
- She was the first woman in india to get a degree in medicine.
- In 1923 her sister died of cancer . So she started cancer relief hospital in 1949.
- The cancer institute at adyar was started due to her good efforts.Our first prime minister pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundation for that institute.
- She fought vigorously against the devadasi system.She was personally praised by gandhiji for her active propaganda against devadasi system.
- Appreciating her role in the agitation against devadasi system she was nominated to the tamilnadu legislative council in 1929.
- In 1930 she organized all india women conference at pune.She was the president of indian women Association from 1933 to 1937.
- She also started Avvai illam an orphanage at santhome in madras.
- She passed away in 1968 at the age of 82.

Dr.S.Dharmambal

- Dharmambal was born in 1990 at karun thattankudi near thanjavur. She had the instinct of social service. she studied siddha medicine and started a hospital in chennai.
- As she was very much influenced by the ideas of periyar , she showed great interest implementing widow remarriage , intercaste marriage and women education.
- Till 1940 tamil teachers had no due recognition in the society. They were not paid equal salary like other teachers. So she started an agitation called Elavu varam.
- As a result educational minister Thiru. Avinasilingam chettiar announced equal pay to tamil teachers as other teachers.
- She also started Chennai manavar mandram and she was the president of this association for more than 10 years.
- Appreciating her service to tamil language and literature she was conferred the title veera tamil annai.
- She gave the title periyar to E.V.Ramasamy and Ealisai mannar to M.K.Thiyagaraja Bagavathar.
- She died in 1959 at the age of 69.

Moovalur Ramamirdham

- She was born in 1883 in thiruvarur but she was brought up in moovalur , a village near mayiladudurai.Hence she was commonly known as moovalur Ramamirdham ammaiyaar.
- She belonged to isai vellalar caste.In olden days girls belonging to this particular caste were sacrificed to temples to do service to god.
- She joined the indian national party and organized the conference of isai vellalar at mayiladudurai in 1925.This conference was attended by many great leaders like Thiru vi.Ka , periyar , S.Ramanathan and Mayuramani chinnaiah pillai who raised the slogans against the cruel practices of devadasi.
- As a result the government passed “Dr.Muthu Lakshmi Devadasi abolition act”
- She passed away on 27th june 1962. The widow remarriage act was passed in 1856.