

**A concise referential study on the primary education, agrarian and national movement in Orissa**

Dr. Joachim Dung dung

**Introduction:**

The references of books, journals and other literatures are the source of gaining knowledge, develop idea and skill in capturing of the subject concerned undertaken for the study. A concise reference on the primary education, agrarian and national movement in Orissa could be fruitful to understand on the above subject; at the same time it may be useful for readers and scholars to generate deeper understanding on primary, agrarian and national movement in Orissa. The following study has been done for the sake of review literature and is not an artificial made.

**Primary education:**

An author Grace E. Storm in his book the Social Studies in the Primary Grades has given an importance of place of the social studies in primary education. Here an author has distinctively described the aims and spirit of modern education in primary grade with new curriculum of overall development of children in first grade, has great importance in current education system. An author has given primary focus on social studies in primary grade or in the kindergarten and primary education as an integrated programme dealing with community life, geography, social types, civics and history. These are the activities based on education that are termed differently by different writers, such as activities, project, unites and centre of interest.

An author here clearly described, the kindergarten is the first grade of education wherein how the children learn through different activities programs to be growth, and also it helps them to see the relation of the community to home development.

The other part of his description the Grace E. Storm focused the importance of the social studies in first grade of education, which help to contribute to the development of children in-terms of adjustment of human personality and build up better citizens. Universal acceptance and enrolment of children from different background, that provides opportunities to be learnt through different unites. At the same time the social studies help to establish right attitudes of children through experiencing together and develop observation through many opportunities. The another contribution of social studies in the first grade primary education is to develop and self-control, that helps to learn child

responsibilities contribution to the general success, links education with life that helps children understanding about life.

In pursuing his writing the Storm said social studies makes children familiar with environment, enable them to understand them to know the geography and history of different continents. It (social studies) stimulates child's thinking and problem solving. It is also said that the social studies comprise a body of materials that train for living. After all the importance of the social studies in primary education, the kinds of teachers' role and guidance towards children success accomplishment, rather than failure accomplishment is emphasized which (failure accomplishment) weakened a child's effort and discourage them from further attempts.

At the same time an author very distinctively described the role and meaning of home and basic requisites of home in the first grade of education. In his words he said home is a happy and congenial place of abode in which all members of the family love and kindly, but on the other hand he said finest houses do not always have the happiest homes.

In the second part of his description, an author enunciated that the home is a primary institution wherein a child learn language, develop ability to think, work habits done promptly and carefully therefore, in his view the home is a teaching habits of industries and also at home children usually acquire most of their tastes from their parents, develop ideas of right and wrong it means children develop honest thought. Apart from these children can do help to parent in keeping neat and clean of the home environment.

Similarly in teaching unit he said family is the first social group whereby a child establishes its relationship with world environment. Therefore, it is the author's view that the home should be placed either in the kindergarten or first grade. He also focused that the child's interest is aroused in the facts and relationship of the home.

In viewing of the approach, an author suggested that instead the teacher set everything for the child learning, the approach should be suggested by the children if possible to be more effective for child's learning. In view of the suggesting approach he said several proposed way in which the home unit may be introduced such as playing with dolls, toy, furniture and use of pictures.

In his unit description he tried to explain the children's intelligence how far a child is aware about the house and whose responsibility is there at house. Other hand an author also wanted to know the role of child at home, particularly in assisting his/her parent. The development of child's habit and courtesy, helpfulness and responsibility in the home are taught through the unit.

### **Agrarian Movement.**

In the book socialism in India, an author Binay Bhusan Chaudhuri, reflected his study on agrarian movements in Bengal and Bihar in the period between 1919 and 1939. He clearly described about peasants aspiration and struggles in the context of particular economic and political development, the interaction of their social radicalism and the mainstream of the nationalist movement and the extent of their success. The following paper has been categorized into nine sections on different subject heads on peasants' movement of Bengal and Bihar.

In the first section an author has given his view on nationalist movement led by the congress, elaborated agrarian programme, but could not provide an appropriate philosophy for a greater peasants' movement. The writer described here on the critical analysis of the British land revenue administration in India. The primary aim of congress led peasants' movement was denounced the maximization of land revenue, on the other hand he viewed unwillingness of handful of middle class people for the sudden change, because of their close relationship with the British Government and also reflected peasants, poverty and blind all were exploited by the government, land lords, money lenders, petty officials, police, lawyer, priest etc.

In the second section the peasants' movement given less importance and atmosphere of non-cooperation movement was initiated, which was favourable to the growth of an independent peasant movement. In the non-cooperation movement peasant were encouraged for non-payment of tax (land revenue and Chaukidar tax and to Zamindars). In between this the peasant movement suffered a great set back but peasants got opportunities to renew their activities after Govt. brought a bill in 1923 for amending the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1885.

In the Third section it is clearly described the formation of workers and peasants' party taken place (1926-1928), and also the implementing the influence of Marxian principles to make strong of workers and peasants association/party. The gradual spreading of Marxian principles among the workers and peasants were done through two Bengali Journals Langal (plough) and Ganavani (voice of the people). Besides these many other journals also took an important role to make aware of the Bengali peasants. Here it is highlighted that Zamindars were mostly responsible for peasants' poverty and misery. According to the book, the Kisan movement developed during the day was the outcome of the agricultural crises, such as great down fall of agricultural prices and demand in Bihar and Bengal.

In the next part of his description, highlighted about the depression suddenly aggravated and peasant had long been suffering. There was crisis in selling of cultivated crops and finally peasant had to surrender themselves to the Zamindar. Movement was going on well but when civil disobedience movement started Swamiji Sahajanand very promptly suspended Kisan agitation, because he feared Kisan agitation would tend to weaken the struggle for freedom, even though in other part of the country Kisan Sabha were formed. The prime focus was on to abolish Zamindari system in Bengal and Bihar. The writer wanted to focus an object of Kisan Sabha that needed complete freedom from economic exploitation and achievement of full economic and political power for peasants and workers and other exploited classes.

In the fourth section it is described on the interference of Muslim league into the Kisan Sabha, because there was chance to be weakened of the league by the Kisan Sabha. It is also said that the contribution and object of Krishak Proja party was remarkable who intended to abolish completely the Zamindari system and peasantry will pay fixed land revenue and peasants will be permanent proprietary system of land. The writer here distinctively mentioned the difference of objects of Kisan movement and Krishak proja party.

In the fifth section it is clearly elaborated the aim of the Kisan Sabha movement. Here the writer described the aim of Kisan movement was complete freedom from economic exploitation and achievement of full economic and political power for peasants and workers and all other exploited classes as well as demanded for the abolition of Zamindari system, so during the time Zamindars were restricted to avail the customary services from the labours, barbars, dhobi (washer man) etc. Gradually Kisan movement promulgated for “no rent” movement among peasants, but other side Govt. too promulgated Ordinance No-111 of 1932 and implemented section 144 of CrPC to prohibit the conducting of Kisan Sabha.

The organization of the Kisan Sabha vastly improved at the time. This was due to the fact that a number of political workers who relied till then on “terrorist methods” increasingly lost faith in their efficacy and were attracted by the Marxian ideas relating to class struggle and organization of industrial workers and agricultural labourers. The writer described that, according to the police reported large numbers of terrorist involvement in this movement. In this section an author touched on two things in his writing, one is movement against Zamindars for “no rent” which became the electioneering speech and

movement against the money lenders and attempt has been taken to repay the debt money without interest, and the principal amount will be paid in 20 installments.

The success of Kisan Sabha in organizing sharecroppers (Bargadars) from which small peasants at least got benefits, because by accumulation debts gradually lost their lands. Here the success of Kisan Sabha to some extent in organizing the sharecroppers (Bargadars) and incapability of small peasant was highlighted by which they lost their land to Zamindars, at the same time the disagreement of the Bargadars also observed wherein they boycotted the Kisan Sabha community, that resulted plight of bargadarss increased along with losing of their land to money lenders. But anti-money lenders measures of the Govt. helped to debts of the peasants and gave them some relief. The writer focused here on that, there was a great influence of Kisan Sabha among sharecroppers in northern and eastern Bengal. The sharecroppers were known as the Adhiyars (Adhi system). In this section he described the aims of Kisan Sabha achievement and conversion of sharecroppers into ryots and also restoring to the owner peasants the land they had lost and preventing the eviction from the Bakhasht lands.

In the section six he emphasized about the heterogeneous group of peasantry seen in both Bihar and Bengal which could not influence much to other peasants and according to Swami Sahajanand agricultural labourer also considered as peasant, because they were known as Grihasta, who earn livelihood by cultivation and agriculture. Besides this Sahajanand said that, the interests of agricultural labourers and the Kisans were same and not separate. In the next part of his description, he described, peasant classification by the president of Krishak Samiti of Mymensingh district Muzaffar Ahmed into four groups, where as the group who had enough land and got it cultivated by hired labour did not join in the Kisan movement, but Swami Sahajanand rely more on the lowest strata of the peasantry as the backbone of the Kisan movement.

In the seventh section the involvement of Kisan Sabha with the congress in Bihar is visualized. There many peasant leaders were actively connected with the congress to make success of Kisan movement which led for freedom struggle, ultimately it made strengthened the congress organization. In the next it is described the performance of the congress ministry disappointed the Kisan leaders although some of its measures undoubtedly helped the peasantry. As per the expectation of the Kisan leaders the congress ministry did very little for the rural indebtedness and became chronic as before. Later on there appeared misunderstanding and great gap between the congress and Kisan Sabha.

Similarly in the next section some of the elements of weakness of the Kisan sabha has been highlighted. It is also said that, Barrington Moore found the Indian peasants far less rebellions than the Chinese peasants. Sometime congress understood it and led it to call off the nationalist movement. The weakness was the peasants' caste system provided a niche for landless labourers and tied them into the division of labour within the village. The next weakness of the Kisan Sabha was, even though their members/ participants were more than fifty thousand but only organization depended on small group of dedicated workers. The next weakness could be to the agrarian relations in Bihar and Bengal, wherein class relations did not admit of any adjustment and Zamindars had the legal power to evict them and money lenders to force the payment in various ways as peasant community was not homogeneous, therefore, it was a complex structure composed of elements which were sometimes naturally hostile.

Finally the writer described that the decline of Kisan movement. according to him Houser pointed out Kisan Sabha leadership was dominated by the personality of Swami Sahajanand and partly to a series of developments which tended to reduce the misery of the peasants. It is said that Kisan Sabha was a strong movement of agitation, but it was not organized structurally because of impatient and articulated leadership which Swami Sahajanand provided. At last Swami Sahajanand was attracted to ideological politics of the anti-national left and the movement he had created found no support among the peasants of Bihar. But according to Houser, the new legislative measures reducing the rent in the south Bihar district between 1937 and 1940, and the price situation of the war period, were responsible for diminishing the distress of the peasants.

#### **National movement in Orissa:**

In the book the Nationalist Movement an author A.C. Pradhan described about the second phase of civil disobedience movement that took place in Orissa between 1932 to midst of 1933. The second phase of civil disobedience movement in Orissa started under the leadership of congress leaders and trained congress volunteers. He also described in the following movement the first step taken by the congress leaders and volunteers were to avoid/stop purchasing and using of foreign products. The forms of action undertaken by the congress leaders and volunteers were, conducting meeting and procession in different places of the Orissa state, such as Bhadrak, Balasore, Jajpur, Cuttack, Puri, Sambalpur, Bargarh and many other rural areas too. Picketing, slogan against colonial Government, distribution of leaflet etc. were the activities of volunteers and leaders. He described how

the leaders appealed people to stop using of foreign cloths and boycotted foreign cloths and encouraged people to wear ***Khadar*** cloth.

An author also clearly described about how they banned the export of country products to foreign country such as salt and other mineral and natural things from the country. It is also clearly enunciated that how the congress leaders and volunteers conducted meeting in different occasion in different places, the consequences of which many leaders and volunteers including women were arrested by the Government officials (Police administration) and imprisoned in jail for different couple of months. Gradually the impact of congress movement reached to the remote and inaccessible rural areas of Balasore district and other districts too.

Other part of his description he highlighted that, as the impact of civil disobedience movement became more serious by the congress leaders and volunteers, how the Government adopted official measures to stop and banning to organize meeting and Sammilans and also many congress institutions of Puri, Cuttack and Sambalpur district were seized by the Government. Besides this the Government implemented Emergency powers Ordinance of 1932 to intercept the correspondence of congress workers. Restrictions were imposed on nationalist news paper such as on the ***Samaj*** and ***Prajatantra***.

The brutality and merciless behavior of police towards the arrested congress leaders and volunteers also distinctively mentioned in his descriptions. He not only emphasized the involvement of male congress leaders but also it is highlighted striking feature of women participation in the second phase of civil disobedience movement in 1932. Several women were arrested and sentenced imprisonment. Besides this, the second phase of civil disobedience movement was obstructed by the government officials including police administration. Similarly it is also focused that the Ashramas located in different districts of the Orissa also seized by the administration.

In the last part of his write up the author shortly highlighted the depressed classes' movement initiated by Mahatma Gandhi, aimed at the upliftment of the depressed classes but simultaneously civil disobedience movement also continued. According to the book following active congress leaders of Orissa, who had been arrested and imprisoned jail for their active leading role in the civil disobedience movement in Orissa. They were Lokanath Pattanyak, Acharya Harihar Das, Gopabandhu Choudhury, Harekrushna Mahatab, Nabkrushna Das, Nilambar Das, Naba Krushna Choudhury etc.

**Harijan Movement.**

In course of the national movement, the Harijan movement was led by Indian Odia leaders also taken an important place in the state of Orissa by inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi. An author A.C. Pradhan described about the Harijan Movement taken place between 1932-34. In his study the author distinctively highlighted the movement against untouchability, initiated by Orissa's leaders who had been inspired by the Gandhian Movement against untouchability. In the following chapter, in the first stage an author enunciated the different steps undertaken by Odia leaders between 1932-33, wherein untouchables were given opportunities to get involved with caste Hindu populace as well as allowed to enter into religious institutions, and also started education institutes for lower caste populations.

In the second part of his description, he said the successful foot march of Mahatma Gandhi formed Jaganath Dham. The main aim of his foot march was to lay emphasis on the spiritual aspect of the Harijan movement. Even though the situation was serious, some of the conservative leaders denied public not to listen Gandhiji's meeting, later on the most of the conservative leaders were inspired by the Gandhiji's views and it helped them to bring great success on anti-untouchability movement in Orissa.

**Reference:**

1. A.C. Pradhan, the Nationalist Movement, Amar Prakashan, Post. Box no. 8458, A1/139-B Lawrence Road, Delhi-110035
2. Grace E. Storm, the social studies in the primary grades, Lyons and Carnahan, Chicago, New York, 1931
3. B. R. Nanda, Socialism in India, Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd, 576, Masjid Road, Jangpura, New Delhi-110014. First edition-1972, Second edition-1991