

Disciples of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Karnataka special Reference to Bijapur District Chandrakant Koligudde

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ABSTRACT:

This article explores the influence of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's philosophy and movement on the Bombay-Karnataka region, with a specific focus on the Bijapur District (now Vijayapura). It highlights the rise of Ambedkar from the Mahar community to become the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a Messiah for the oppressed. The study outlines a biographical sketch of Ambedkar and identifies key followers in the broader Karnataka region, such as Shri Shankarananda Shastri and Datta Katti. The core of the work details dedicated disciples in Bijapur, including Goura Guruji, a primary teacher and first Dalit poet who spread Ambedkar's philosophy through literature and meetings, and Allappa Avadi. A significant section recounts Dr. Ambedkar's visit to Bijapur on May 31, 1937, for the Zilla Harijan Parishad and his successful legal defense of Soman Gowda, illustrating his commitment to social justice. His visit inspired the overall development and upliftment of Dalits in the area.

KEYWORDS:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Bijapur District, Karnataka, Dalit, Goura Guruji, Social Justice.

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Introduction:

Babasaheb Ambedkar born in the Mahar Community rose to high Position on the account of his ability and hard work. He is one of the most illustrious sons of India. He attained supreme position such as the chief –architect of the Indian Republican Constitution, Messiah of Oppressed and depressed a great freedom fighter and the first law Minister of India .His career has influenced and inspired all section of the Society.

Biographical Sketch of Babasaheb Ambedkar:

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was born on 14th April 1891at Mahow cantonment near Indore Presently situated in the heart of Madhya Pradesh, where his father was employed in the British –Indian Army. his Parents

were Ramaji sakpal and Bheemabai .Babasaheb Ambedkar born in the Mahar community ,Who were not Merely untouchable but were not heard or seen. When the Portuguese first landed on the Konkan, The Mahars of the konkan were among the first Untouchable to come into contact with them. They were know for daring, Courage, determination, faithfulness, loyalty, and honesty which had always held in high esteem by the village Population

Bhimrao Ambedkar Passed Matriculation Examn in 1907,at the age of sixteen he married Ramabai who was hardly 9 years old. The marriage was held at night in an open shed of Bycullah market in Bombay. After Ambedkar's matriculation and marriage he joined Elphinstone college Bombay, He Passed BA Examination in 1913.He selected as a lieutenant in the Baroda state army but after the death of his father on second February in 1913 he resign the Job.

Babasaheb Ambedkar was fortunate of getting Scholarship from Maharaj of Baroda to Pursue MA studies at Columbia University USA. He was awarded MA degree in 1915 for his dissertation on 'Ancient Indian Commerce' In June 1916 he submitted his Ph.D to Columbia University Entitled "The national dividends of India –A Historical and Analytical study" In 1921 he was awarded M.sc for Provincial Decentralization of Imperial Finance in British India and in 1923 he was awarded as D.Sc on 'The Problems of the Rupees' By all these academic achievements Babasaheb Ambedkar Proved himself to be a Person of Extraordinary

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar has influence on numerous followers across India. Where a strong admirers resides, especially in the Bombay-Karnataka region. The list of notable followers further illustrates this point. Among them is Shri Shankarananda Shastri from Dharwad, a close friend and devoted supporter of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar; Shri Datta Katti, a Member of Parliament from Karnataka where he was elected from Nippani Constituency of Belagavi district ; Shri Balavantha Varale, a former MLA from Mumbai Karnataka. The impact of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's on the followers throughout Indian history is unforgettable . This impact is particularly strong in Karnataka, especially within the Bombay-Karnatak region, where a robust community of dedicated followers exists. A closer examination of this community reveals among them Shri Shankarananda Shastri from Dharwad, a close associate and steadfast supporter of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar; Shri Datta Katti, a prominent

Member of Parliament representing Belagavi; and Shri Balavantha Varale, the former MLA for Mumbai Karnataka. Their dedication exemplifies Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's enduring legacy in the region.

The influence of Dr. Ambedkar's followers throughout India's history is irrefutable, with a powerful presence in Karnataka, especially within the Mumbai region, where a vibrant community of devoted their life for the Development of Community. A prominent figure and contemporary follower of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, were Devaray Ingle who is called as the Karnataka Dalit-Pithamah Hailed from Ingali village in the Chikodi region. His notable contemporaries were Sadalgara, Mr. Peddanna, Mr. Parasurama P. Hegde, Ratnapra suryavanshi, Lakshana Kamble, and barrister Mr. S. N. Mane. Other key figures included Mr. M. B. Kambale, Ningappa Varale, Kadakalatar, Mr. M. D. Kambale, a steadfast supporter of Examba, Mr. V. D. Manege (a retired teacher), Mr. M. G. Devarushi, and Mr. M. B. Chitale. Mr. M. B. Nadkarni from Galatag and Dr. Male from Benadi village were notable adherents of Dr. Ambedkar. Mrs. Siddavva Metri from Belgaum, Mrs. Jigan B. Patel from Karoshi, and Sonabai from Athani contributed to the movement.

Followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in Bijapur District:

There were group of People who aware great followers of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Folklore songs and literature were created Awareness among Bahujan Samaj about Babasaheb Ambedkar's social and Political Movement. Bijjargi was the most important village where large Numbers of elite or Educated People followed the Philosophy of Babasaheb Ambedkar. Among them Mr. Allappa Avadi, Mr. Ramachandra Avadi, Mr. Bhimanna Jolli, Mr. Gurappa Kyatanavar, Mr. S. L. Gonasagi, Mr. L. S. Mukyala, Mr. L. K. Sandimani, Mr. Lakkappa Thoravi, Mr. L. K. Chinchalakar, Mr. L. R. Nayaka (Lakshmana Ramappa Lamani), Mr. Shivappa Havinala, and Mr. Shivanagi from Indi taluk. Shri Chandrasekhara Hosamani of Shivanagi Village Shri G. S. Aidale (Legislators), Mr. Revappa Kale (legislators), Mr. Goura Guruji, and Mrs. Y. G. Goura also played essential roles in the Babasaheb Ambedkar's movement.

Goura guraji was the greatest Followers of Babasaheb Ambedkar, he was the Primary Teacher and First Dalit Poet in area. He organized many Meetings and Created awareness among the Untouchables for their rights and dignity. He regularly read and referred the News Papers

of Babasaheb Ambedkar namely Mook nayak, Bahishkrut Bharat and Janata. He spread the Philosophy of Babasaheb Ambedkar among the Community. He inspired and supported many people to organize seminars, Functions and birthday of Babasaheb Ambedkar on 14th April along with his school Teachers and Members of the Bahujans Samaj.

Allappa Avadi was also one of the Prominent Followers of Babasaheb Ambedkar. He installed the statue of Buddha's in the Durga Temple. His main aim was to spread the Philosophy and Teaching of Lord Buddha among community.

Zilla Harijan Parishad requested Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar assume the presidency, and he agreed to visit Bijapur on May 31, 1937. This marked Dr. Ambedkar's first visit to Bijapur, generating significant anticipation among his followers throughout the district. Consequently, advertisements featuring his portrait were circulated to every village in the area to promote his visit, reflecting the excitement surrounding Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's arrival. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Advent to Bijapur: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar addressed the agenda of the Zilla Harijan Parishad and the case concerning the murder of Mr. Soman Gowda, affirming that Bijapur would warmly welcome him. On May 30, 1937, at 10 a.m., Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar arrived at the Bijapur railway station by train. A large gathering of his followers and admirers awaited him for darshan. Gaura Guruji presented garlands on behalf of the district. Mr. Andanappa, a lawyer, was also introduced. Hundreds of supporters formed a guard of honour. As he waved to the crowd, he expressed his appreciation with the enthusiastic chants of "Ambedkar Zindabada" ringing out. He then proceeded to the tourist temple by car. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Argument in Court: There were murder charges brought against Soman Gowda of Belagi, with the police having gathered Gowda's evidence to substantiate these charges. Mr. Gowda's lawyer, Mr. Andanappa Angadi, took the case documents to Mumbai, seeking the expertise of Mr. Nariman's lawyer, Mr. Nariman. However, Mr. Nariman's legal team was ultimately successful in the case. They found the lack of supporting documentation problematic and remarked that it would not be beneficial even if the matter were brought to Bijapur. Despite these challenges, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was persuaded to take on the case. After thoroughly reviewing the details for a day, he agreed to travel to Bijapur. The public was abuzz with curiosity about the proceedings. Dressed in a gown, Dr. Ambedkar, ac-

accompanied by lawyer Mr Goura Guruji, made his way to the court. The courtroom was crowded with judges and spectators eager to witness the unfolding drama. When the time came, Dr Ambedkar stood ready to present his case, drawing upon the evidence from numerous courts to underscore Mr Soman Gowda's innocence. After an hour and a half of arguments, the case concluded with Soman Gowda being acquitted. This outcome clearly illustrated Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's fundamental commitment to providing social justice for scholars and ordinary people. Visit of Historic Places: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar stayed at Bijapur on 31-05-1937 for the program of Zilla Harijan Parishad. Along with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, his followers and Vidhan Sabha members Mr Revappa Kale, Mr Aidale and Goura Guruji all visited the historical places in the early morning. The untouchables from the Bijapur district began arriving early in the morning to have a darshan with Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The stage was set at Rani Bagicha, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Stadium in Vijayapur. People also travelled from the Solapur districts to attend the event. At 5 p.m., nearly 50,000 participants. Were attended Programme This turnout demonstrated Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's popularity as a leader. Mr. B.H. Varare, a dedicated worker and Member of the Legislative Assembly for Belgaum District presided over the council. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar took to the platform to deliver his speech. Notably, Mahamedhavi, a renowned orator, spoke for nearly two hours, expressing his frustration over the dire conditions faced by Dalits and their systemic exclusion. He recounted his long-standing efforts in the social and political struggle against untouchability, aligning himself with Gandhiji's movement. Addressing the impact of the Poona Agreement, he passionately highlighted the injustices face people's of society. Declaring his commitment to bringing equality to Dalits and other marginalized communities through the reservation, he inspired a sense of urgency

Conclusion:

Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's visit to Vijayapur resulted into overall Development of Dalits life. People from Vijayapur town felt blessed during his visits .many people in the area highly qualified and Acquired highest Position in Administration, Politics and in the Public Services.

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