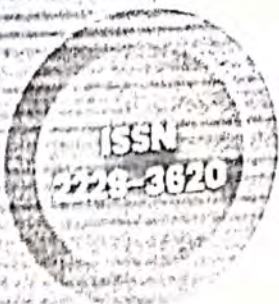


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MAHATMA GANDHI'S FOLLOWER: YASHWANT SAKHARAM DESALE (JIBHAU)

Dr. Vijay Kautikrao Desale*

ABSTRACT

Yashwant Sakharam Desale was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He propagated Gandhian ideology in the villages of Western Khandesh. He was also involved in the civil disobedience movement of Mahatma Gandhi. His contribution for the Jungle Satyagraha in Nagar district is remarkable one. Jibhau also began Jungle Satyagraha in Sakri tehsil as well where thousands of villagers from Sakri tehsil participated. Yashwant Sakharam Desale was born at Solapur of Baglan in Nashik district on 27th October 1907. His father was engaged in the traditional occupation of farming at the same time he was running a jaggery making factory with the help of the sugarcane, cultivated in his own farm. He continued this occupation up to the establishment of Panzara-Kan sugar factory in Sakri tehsil. It took a lot of effort for the establishment of Panzara-Kan sugar factory. This present research paper is an attempt to highlight the contribution of Yashwant Sakharam Desale for village development and freedom struggle movement.

Keywords: Mahatma Gandhi, Yashwant Desale, Satyagrah, Civil disobedience, Jungle Satyagraha, Quit India Movement, British Government, Western Khandesh

Introduction:

Yashwant Sakharam Desale was born at Solapur of Baglan in Nashik district on 27th October 1907. His father was engaged in the traditional occupation of farming at the same time he was running a jaggery making factory with the help of the sugarcane, cultivated in his own farm. He continued this occupation up to the establishment of Panzara-Kan sugar factory in Sakri tehsil. It took a lot of effort for the establishment of Panzara-Kan sugar factory. He himself visited people, managed share holders and did remarkable progress in the cooperative sector. Yeah also started pig farms and cow farms in kasare for the generation of self employment. He was also involved in the civil disobedience movement of Mahatma Gandhi. His contribution for the Jungle Satyagraha in Nagar district is remarkable one. Jibhau also began Jungle Satyagraha in Sakri tehsil as well where thousands of villagers from Sakri tehsil participated.

Civil disobedience and Yashwant Sakaram Desale:

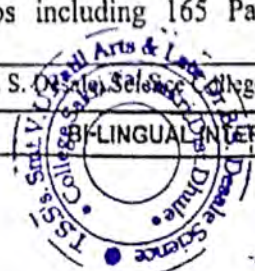
Mahatma Gandhi wrote an article in the newspaper 'Young India' and put forth his demands to make a compromise with the British government before the launching of the Civil disobedience movement. To cancel the tax on the salt was an important demand made by Mahatma Gandhi. However, Viceroy Lord Irwin did not give a positive response to the demands of Mahatma Gandhi. Finally Mahatma Gandhi made planning of the Civil disobedience movement and decided to launch a revolt against the government which imposed tax on the salt.

On 12th March 1930 Mahatma Gandhi set out for Dandi March along with his 78 followers from Sabarmati ashram. Many volunteers of Mahatma Gandhi from Sakri tehsil of Western Khandesh joined this March. Many government servants resigned their jobs including 165 Patils from Western Khandesh

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present Dhule district). "1 Many people supported Mahatma Gandhi, one of them was Yashwant Sakharam Desale, at the age of 20 joined the freedom struggle movement of Mahatma Gandhi. Speeches were delivered and guidance was provided on the salt law in the Tilak Garden by Balubhai Mehta and Vinayak Thakar."2.

Balubhai Mehta himself was staying in Kasare therefore many people from Kasare joined this work with Yashwant Sakharam Desale and Vishnu Shraavan Desale was prominent among them. Yashwant Sakharam Desale did the planning of many works due to the company of Congress Dhule district President Balubhai Mehta. He made a committee with the help of people from Kasare and did the works like eradication of untouchability, cleanliness drive and guidance about cottage industry.

• Nagar's Jungle Satyagraha and Yashwant Sakharam Desale:

Civil disobedience movement started all over India including Western Khandesh. Salt movement was limited to the coastal areas only; it was not the internal part of the country. It was the view of Mahatma Gandhi that we should launch any other movement to oppose the tyrant policies of British in India therefore he started a forest movement after Salt Satyagraha. Mahatma Gandhi sent a message to those who are far from the coastal area they should launch non-violent movements in the internal part of the country."3. Yashwant Sakharam Desale also wanted to do something for the nation so he shared his idea with his comrades of Kasare about Jungle Satyagraha and talked with Balubhai Mehta. Mehta also immediately gave a green signal for this proposal.

"Jungle Satyagraha came out from the civil disobedience movement. British issued an order not to cut the grass from the forest without their permission so those people who were unable to attend Salt Satyagraha joined the Jungle Satyagraha. Jungle Satyagraha started in Nagar district under the guidance of Adv. Dada Saheb Garde."4. The proposal of Jungle Satyagraha was already shared by Yashwant Sakharam Desale along with Vishnu Shraavan Desale, Sitaram Mazi Shinde, and Madhubhai Sahadu Kaparkar Vanjari with Balubhai Mehta."5.

• Jungle Satyagraha in Sakri Tehsil:

"Yashwant Sakharam Desale visited the Jungle Satyagraha in Nagar district. He had already shared his idea about Satyagraha in Sakri taluka as well with Balubhai Mehta. Prepare an outline of the Jungle Satyagraha after discussion with Pundlik Atmaram Kulkarni. For this purpose camp was arranged at Dangsirwade and Sakri. Don't give 'cattle grazing tax' this message was spread by all the volunteers that were why some of the volunteers were arrested and punished by the government. Sakri tehsil was living in the Jungle Satyagraha"6.

The decision of the government of imposing tax on the grass was really troublesome because it was available freely in the forest and was a gift of God. This brutal action of British made the followers like Yashwant Sakharam Desale, Vishnu Shraavan Desale, Rangnath Rajaram Tondgaokar (Dondaicha), Sitaram Mazi Shinde angry.

Maximum Bhil people were living in the Sakri tehsil of Western Khandesh and their livelihood was completely depend on the cutting of grass from the jungle. Grass cutting was really difficult for the Bhil people due to the British policy. Rural people were facing much difficulty. Finally from 14th August 1930 collective Jungle Satyagraha started at Sakri Tehsil. First Jungle Satyagraha took place in the Jungle of Ashtane in Sakri Tehsil on 17th August 1930 and 20 to 25 thousand people participated in this Jungle Satyagraha."7. About the success of the Jungle Satyagraha Mr Sitaram Mazi Shinde says. "The contribution made for Village development by Yashwant Sakharam Desale, Captain Shirish Deore, Naval Anada Patil, Balubhai Mehta encouraged people to participate in Jungle Satyagraha. The rural People had realised the importance of self reliance therefore women engaged in khadi cutting, household work and daily wage workers involved in this Satyagraha. Many women were actively participated but unfortunately their record is not seen anywhere" 8. After the success of this 'Diwalemal Satyagraha' many volunteers were arrested and one of them was Yashwant Sakharam Desale who was imprisoned for four months in Dhule jail on 18th August 1930.

▪ **Rearrest:**

After returning from second Round Table Conference 1931 Mahatma Gandhi again started andolan against the British government. Many leaders including Mahatma Gandhi and sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested by the British on 3rd January 1933. Even in Western Khandesh also Balubhai Mehta and Yashwant Sakharam Desale were arrested and sent to the Pimpalner jail for six months respectively. They were kept in the jail of Dhule where they met Sane Guruji and Vinoba Bhave. Vinoba Bhave came as chief guest of Annual Function V.K.Rajwade Historical Research centre."9. This was really a great coincidence where all the followers of Mahatma Gandhi came together in the jail. This resulted into the decision of making villages self reliant.

▪ **Quit India Movement of 1942 and Yashwant Jibhau:**

"The resolution of Quit India passed on 8th August 1942."10. After that on 9th August 1942 all the Congress committees in the country were considered illegal under the Criminal Amendment Act. Public meetings and rallies were banned under India Defence act, many leaders including Mahatma Gandhi were arrested.

Yashwant Jibhau was also on the way to arrest but he remained underground.

Those who had participated in the Civil disobedience movement were arrested before the beginning of the Quit India Movement in 1942. "Sane Guruji was released from the jail on 10th August 1942 but an order was passed under police law section that he should not enter Western Khandesh for two years."11. British kept watch on the photos of Mahatma Gandhi and it increased underground movement in Western Khandesh. Yashwant Sakharam disli was influenced by Sane Guruji and Vinoba Bhave in the jail, that made him to spread Quit India Movement in the villages. He was arrested in Kasare because he was an active member of Congress and attended Panvel conference. He was sentenced to jail for nine months along with Mr. Lakshman Mahadu Desale for spreading Quit India Movement."12. After release from his jail he became the president of Sakri Taluka Congress Committee. He was elected to the

assembly election in 1952. He did lifetime Gandhian works like Harijan service, village development, medical service, cottage industry, marriage functions and Bhil community services.

▪ **Conclusion**

1. Yashwant Sakharam Desale was involved in the civil disobedience movement of Mahatma Gandhi. His contribution for the Jungle Satyagraha in Nagar district is remarkable one.
2. He himself visited people, managed share holders and did remarkable progress in the cooperative sector. Yeah also started pig farms and cow farms in kasare for the generation of self employment.
3. Yashwantrao also began Jungle Satyagraha in Sakri tehsil as well where thousands of villagers from Sakri tehsil participated.
4. Yashwantrao also wanted to do something for the nation so he shared his idea with his comrades of Kasare about Jungle Satyagraha and talked with Balubhai Mehta. Mehta also immediately gave a green signal for this proposal.
5. First Jungle Satyagraha took place in the Jungle of Ashtane in Sakri Tehsil on 17th August 1930 and 20 to 25 thousand people participated in this Jungle Satyagraha.
6. Because of Andolan Yashwantrao Desale was arrested and sent to the Pimpalner jail for six months respectively. They were kept in the jail of Dhule where they met Sane Guruji and Vinoba Bhave.
7. Yashwant Sakharam Desale was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He propagated Gandhian ideology in the villages of Western Khandesh. He was also involved in the civil disobedience movement of Mahatma Gandhi.

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