

Psychological Aspects of Tantiya Bheel's Revolution

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Abstract: *The present study aims at study of psychological aspect of Tantiya Bheel's revolution a revolutionary from Nimaad region of M.P., among the five varieties of revolutionaries , The Founders, The Professional Revolutionaries, The Scholars, The Agitators, and The Generals. he comes under agitator category due to the reasons of being socially deprived, The economic conditions of that time resulted in severe social deprivation of peasants and down trodden and thus Tantiya became a cult figure Masiah for Bheels and adivasies of central India.*

KeyWords: *The Founders, the Professional Revolutionaries, the Scholars, the Agitators, and the Generals.*

I. Introduction

The Indian Independence Movement has two clear phases demarcated by revolution of 1857. The characters and personalities of leaders of these two phases have vast difference in upbringing, education and approach towards the revolution. The causes of revolution and rivalries were also different to great extent. The Revolution of 1857 was mainly characterized by its leaders being Kings , queens , nobles , religious leaders and forces of princely states and the East India Company as rivalry. Whereas the post 1857 era is ear marked by leaders of great thinking, well educated, scholars and much more organized in the approach. It is the time when common man also started becoming a part to the uprising and with Mahatma Gandhi spearheading the revolution, it ultimately became a common people movement. There were revolutionaries in post 1857 period who resorted to armed revolution and quite a good number of these have laid their life for freedom of the country , but most of them were well travelled, educated , motivated by ideas of various revolutionary movement of the world and were good writers who have created ripples of freedom movement in masses. In post 1857 era some of the leaders lead the revolution in their style and character which was driven by their own ideology. One of such character was Tantiya Bheel or Tantiya mama , who became icon of common people , somewhat like Robbin hood. He was the result of the atrocities that were inflicted by the British after the 1857 movement was crushed.

II. Definition Of Revolution And Revolutionary

Mostly the word revolution is used in the sense of socio-political change. However the application of the word is not limited and it encompasses various fields including Science when some theory or discovery changes the present theories and approach . As matter of fact we are always subject to constant revolution.

“Any and all instances in which a state or a political regime is overthrown and thereby transformed by a popular movement in an irregular, extra constitutional and/or violent fashion” -Jeff Godwin

He further defines “an effort to transform the political institutions and the justifications for political authority in society, accompanied by formal or informal mass mobilization and non institutionalized actions that undermine authorities” -Jeff Godwin

Scholars who have studied revolution and are being considered first generation scholars, concluded that revolution has its roots in social psychology. Further an explanation of revolution further can be sought in social behavior theories which may have psychological, sociological and political. Second generation scholars have taken this approach and studied revolution in the back drop of cognitive psychology and frustration - aggression theory of masses. It is interesting and an interdisciplinary avenue to understand revolution on the basis of state of mind of people rather than just saying that revolt occurred due use of Tallow (cow meat) and lard (pork-meat)-greased cartridges. Any revolution can be characterized by two adjectives “rapid” and “fundamental” and these have more consistency in explaining a revolution than any other aspect of revolution. Psychology helps in understanding what people might have undergone pre and during revolutionary period and supplement historical and social studies.

A revolutionary could be fearlessly advocating radical changes. He or she may be anarchist, communists, democrat or a person who have revolted against principles of a state or government. Mostly the revolutionaries are defines in terms of their ideologies.

III. Five Types Of Revolutionaries

Dr Mostafa Rejai and Dr Kay Phillips have studied 135 revolutionaries across the world, involved in 31 revolutions and concluded that revolutionaries can be divided into five categories **The Founders, The Professional Revolutionaries, The Scholars, The Agitators, and The Generals**. Persons falling in each category have been found to possess common traits however not necessarily an individual falling in one category possesses all traits.

The Founders represent solid, mature, seasoned personalities mainly in their middle age originating from middle class families, harbinger democratic ideas, well educated, variety of occupational backgrounds and had taken over the central stage on call of situation of national crisis or emergencies. They were cosmopolitans and cultured but have little or no foreign connections. They grew on the soil of the nation and preserved identity, integrity and independence of their country. George Washington, Oliver Cromwell belong to this category. We may keep our father of nation in this category however he was educated and travelled abroad. His ideas had strong roots in the rural India and was moved by down trodden and their exploitation by British. He responded to the national crisis arising under British Rule and became a leader of masses as his ideas reflected their pain.

The Professional Revolutionaries are well travelled, well educated, radicalized at early age and were members of middle class. They had long history of struggle against the regime, were imprisoned several times and spent time in exile. Shri Subash Chandra Bose was akin to such professional revolutionaries.

The Scholars are those revolutionaries who were members of professional families and were professionals themselves **law, medicine, teaching, journalism, the ministry**. Regardless of their profession the continuously wrote on various issues and motivated people with their writings and scholarly articles. Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who started *Kesari* and *Mahratta* in English and had written many articles. His statement *Swarajya is my birthright, and I shall have it!* which became the central idea of Indian Independence movement, do fall in this category.

The Agitators, are usually young, uneducated, from lower strata of society, unruly people who had typically rural backgrounds. They have strong sense of social deprivation. They tend to look at situation from narrow point of view and seek immediate solutions. Their unruly actions resulted into arrests and imprisonment. Many of them faced trial for murder and loots and were given death sentences. They mostly address to local needs, could be socialists, communists or anarchists.

Generals are the fifth category of revolutionaries, well educated, military officers who became revolutionaries because of dissatisfaction with the established regime or because of national crisis or emergency. They are well travelled, educated and experienced military personnel. Again we can place Shri Subash Chandra Bose in a related to this category which acquired military experience and attitude during the course of the revolution itself.

The discussion lead to the fact that every revolution need a people who certain organizational skills, zeal to change existing social or political order and have capability to convince masses with the ideology they possess. A revolution could be a success when scholars provide justification to revolutionary ideologies aid fuel to the thinking of masses, agitators give voice to ideas, formulates plan of revolutions, their background is easy to connect to masses and therefore people find role model in them. Generals fought battle where ever needed. Bring pressure on the exiting regime. Founders institutionalize revolution and stabilize the situation after success of the revolution by making constitutions etc.

However not all the revolution do have all types of revolutionaries. Many a times the functions of above discussed five types of revolutionaries also overlapped according to situation.

IV. Tantia Bheel

This man of flesh and blood walked in Nimad region of Madhya Pradesh around 1844 and took a revolutionary life after the atrocities of British started when the revolution of 1857 was crushed. This iconic figure was uncouth, uneducated rural person with strong hate rate to British. He was the outcome of the prevailing situation social deprivation. He had organizational skills and to an extent had courage and was able to wage a battle with his experience of military operations of that time and was skill full in **Guerilla warfare**. His interpersonal relation with his people (clan) seem to be very strong as he commanded a large number of people. His affinity to the masses can be gauged with the fact that he was popularly known as Tantia Mama. His approach was socialistic and his ideas born out of hardship which he faced while spending time in deep forests, valleys and interacting with last man of the society. We find in him traits akin to Agitators and generals although he differs in quality and approach to the Generals who are supposed to be well educated and members of higher strata of society. The economic conditions of that time resulted in severe social deprivation of peasants and down trodden and thus Tantia became a cult figure Masiah for Bhils and adavaies of central India.

V. Conclusion

In foregoing analysis context has been taken from the latest studies of Dr Mostafa Rejai and Dr Kay Phillips who have tried to categorize revolutionaries across the world. Not much literature is available about Tantia Bheels the present study therefore whatever here is being concluded require more studies of tribal literature , folklores and national records but it can safely be stated that Tantia was great agitator of his time with strong heart , daredevil approach and love for poor and deprived. The paper will pave the way of perusing further studies of the tribal revolutionaries who greatly participated in Indian freedom movement .

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