

AUGUST KRANTI MOVEMENT AND ITS MULTI FACETED DIMENSIONS IN ASSAM REFLECTED IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE OF INDIA.

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ABSTRACT:

In this context, an attempt to evaluate the role of Assamese women in Indian Independence Movement. Like other states, the contribution of Assam on the freedom struggle of Indian was a remarkable in the history of India. Along with the men, and the women of Assam also Participated to each and every phases of the Indian Independence Movement we're launched by the Indian leaders .

Assuming the leadership of the Indian National Congress in 1921, Gandhi had led nationwide campaigns for achieving swaraj or self-rule.

Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, outbreak of the great nationalist movement namely, the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-21), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and the Quit India Movement (1942) .In these various program of Freedom Movement the Assamese women were involved in heartedly. , die' for Independence of the country and began agitation with 'Quit India' slogan against the British regime. Young and old, men and women, boys and girls, all fearlessly and whole heartedly joined the movement.

In Assam, the Quit India Movement or Kranti movement took place at Kamrup, Nagaon, Darrang, Sivasagar, Golaghat, and Barpeta. Assamese women took part in the Movement's, who were the members of the Mrityu-Bahini or Santi-Sena . The women's revolutionary group were helped by their male counterparts in cutting telephone and telegraph lines, burning government buildings and damaged bridges to paralyze the British administration. Under the leadership of revolutionary Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, in the district of Darrang a resolution was adopted unanimously to hoist National flag at the court and police station, on 20th September at Gohpur, Dhekiajuli , Bihali and Sootea. The names of Kanak Lata, Bhogeswari Phukanoni, Khahuli Devil, Kamuli Devi are counted as the leading freedom fighters of Assam in true sense.

Among revolutionaries Kanaklata Barua and other women's started peaceful procession and to proceed for hoisting flag. That's time the police opened fire and Kanak Lata Barua died of bullet injuries on the spot. The contribution of women's of Assam in Indian freedom movement can't be measured in words.

Key words: Nationalist ,Kranti, independence, symbols, activities, women, cooperation

Introduction:

In this eastern part of India, the anti-British upsurge first made its appearance during the first half of the 19th century. Assam came under the direct British domination after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. Since then on, many freedom-loving people of Assam belonging to both nobility and common masses began to feel the burning desire for freedom from the foreign domination.

Along with the men, the women of Assam also responded to each and every phases of the freedom movement launched by Gandhiji, namely, the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920 / 21), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930) and the Quit India Movement (1942). They participated in the movement by organizing processions and picketings and undertaking tours to the remotest areas to propagate the message of the movement.

In 1942, the Assamese women perhaps surpassed all other women of the country in respect of courage and sacrifice. The revolutionary group of women helped their male counterparts in cutting telephone and

telegraph lines, burning government buildings and damaging bridges to paralyze the British administration. Such activities led the government to take repressive measures to suppress the women folk. They were harassed both mentally and physically, which in turn aroused the common people to fight for the noble cause of freedom. women's likes Kankalata Baruah, Gahapur, Bhogeshwari Phukanani, Nagaon, Khahuli Devi, Dhekiajuli, Kumli Devi, Dhekiajuli, Tileshwari Baruwa, Dhekiajuli, Kiran Bala Bora and others were sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country and many were lost forever.

Objectives of the Study:

The main objectives of my study are as follows:-

- To highlight the life of Assamese women and message by them to Assamese society.
 - To show their vast contributions to Indian freedom struggle .
 - To highlight specially how sacrifice of the Assamese women touches the heart of not only Assamese peoples but also Indian society.
 - To draw a meaningful conclusion based on the findings
- **Research Design and Methodology:**

The methodology of research for preparation of this paper may be categorized into two parts VIZ, methodology applied for descriptive analysis about role played by the Assamese women and contributions to Indian freedom struggle movment . Both primary and secondary sources have been used for the study. Primary sources have been taken from Planter Raj to Swaraj - Freedom Struggle & Electoral Politics in Assam (English, Paperback, Guha Amalendu) and secondary sources have been collected from various books, articles, journals and research papers.

Contributions of Assamese women:

The history of Indian Freedom Struggle would be incomplete without mentioning the contributions of women. The sacrifice made by the women of India will occupy the foremost place. They fought with true spirit and undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn us freedom. When most of the men freedom fighters were in prison the women came forward and took charge of the struggle. The list of great women whose names have gone down in history for their dedication and undying devotion to the service of India is a long one.

Woman's participation in India's freedom struggle began as early as in 1817 .Bhima Bai Holkar fought bravely against the British colonel Malcolm and defeated him in guerilla warfare. Many women including Rani Channama of Kittur, Rani Begam Hazrat Mahal of Ayadh fought against British East India company in the 19th century; 30 years before the “First War of Independence 1857”. Rani of Ramgarh, Rani Jindan Kaur, Rani Tace Bai, Baiza Bai, Chauhan Rani, Tapasvini Maharani daringly led their troops into the battlefield of 1857 's great revolts.

Like other parts of the country, Assam was engulfed in anti-British protests during the country's independence struggle. In this eastern part of India, the anti-British upsurge first made its appearance during the first half of the 19th century. Assam came under the direct British domination after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. Since then on, many freedom-loving people of Assam belonging to both nobility and common masses began to feel the burning desire for freedom from the foreign domination. The Assamese women in the Indian independence movement was also played a significant role . In Assam, women, like men, came from all over the house and took an active part in the independence movement, setting an example of patriotism. The brave women of Assam rebelled against the British in various ways, many of them sacrificing their lives.

Many women's were sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country and many were lost forever. The following is a list of some of the women freedom fighters from Assam who fought valiantly against the British.

1. Kankalata Baruah, Gahapur

An active organiser and member of Mrityu Bahini, Kanaklata Barua was a freedom fighter and revolutionary from Assam who actively participated in the Quit India Movement. Like in many other places of Assam, preparation for successful implementation of the programme was also at Barangabari under Gohpur Police Satiation in the district of Darrang (at present Sonitpur). The preparation was made by the people of three Mauzas - Kallangpur, Helem and Brahmajan under the leadership of local leaders like Jonaram Bhuyan, Jiten Borah, Lakhi Kanta Bora, Giridhar Barua, Karneswar Hazarika and Mukunda Kakaty. These leaders inspired the local people with the slogan of Gandhiji 'Do or Die' which Indian National Congress in Mumbai on August 9,1942, resolved to 'Do or die' for Independence of the country and began agitation with 'Quit India' slogan against the British regime. Young and old, men and women, boys and girls, all fearlessly and wholeheartedly joined the movement. Among them was Kanaklata Barua. She got an opportunity to fulfill her dream of serving the country. As soon as the 'Quit India' movement began the British rulers started arresting Congress leaders. Under the leadership of revolutionary Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, in the district of Darrang a resolution was adopted unanimously to hoist National flag at the court and police station, as they were the marks of British Empire. Being aware of women's participation in the nation's freedom struggle, Kanaklata enrolled herself in the suicide squad. The day for peaceful and non-violent action was decided as September 20.

According to the programme, freedom fighters with National flag had to capture local police station. Four thousands people from Kalabari side and an equal number from Barangabari moved towards Gohpur police station. In the front line was Kanaklata Barua holding a National flag in her hands. She requested the officer in charge of the police station to allow her to hoist the flag at the western gate peacefully. The officer in charge ignored her request and threatened to shoot her, if she dared to proceed further. Firebrand Kanaklata marched ahead and had to face the bullets of the strong police force. She laid down her life for the freedom of the country in front of Gohpur Ploice Station in 20 September 1942.

2. Bhogeshwari Phukanani, Nagaon

Bhogeshwari Phukanani was one of the strongest organizers of the freedom struggle in Berhampur ,Nagaon district. Among the residents of this place was a brave lady freedom fighter, Bhogeswari Phukanani. Berhampur Congress Office was on seize by military and police during the freedom movement. The revolutionaries took back control of the office and were celebrating their victory. At the same time to take revenge the British army sent a military force under Capt Finish. Echo of 'Vande Mataram' pervaded all around. People from nearby villages came out with National flags in their hands. Ratnamala and Bhogeswari Phukanani were leading the mob. As soon as they came face to face with Capt Finish, he snatched the flag from Ratnamala's hand. Ratnamala fell down on the earth and the flag was in the hands of Capt Finish. Noticing the insult of the National flag, Bhogeswari got excited and immediately hit on the head of the Captain by pole of the flag in her hand. A furious Captain Finish pulled out his revolver and fired at the head of Bhogeswari. She fell down on the ground and succumbed to her injury On 16 September 1942 and breathed was September 20,1942.

3. Khahuli Devi, Dhekiajuli

Khahuli Nath of Dumdumia village under Dhing area of Nagaon district also laid down her life while going to capture Dhekiajuli police station along with her husband Ponaram Nath. She fell victim of police firing. In another event people from Dhekiajuli came out of their homes to protest against the British rule and hoist the National flag at the police station. Among them was a suicide squad member Golok Chandra Neog. Observing the fall of the co-activist Manbar Nath after being hit by the police bullet, Golok moved ahead with National flag in his hand. Realizing that Golok Chandra was face to face with the police his

mother, Kumali Neog, hurriedly came out to save the life of her younger son and suffered a bullet strike on her chest. She fell down and died on the spot.

4. **Kumli Devi, Dhekiajuli**

Kumali Devi was a brave woman who died along with Tuleshwari Baruah and Khahuli Devi. Kumali Devi was shot dead by police in Dhekiajuli on September 20, 1942, after taking an active part in the anti-British movement of the Quit India Movement.

5. **Dariki Dasi Baruah, Golaghat**

Dariki Dasi Baruah of Golaghat, one of the leading leaders of the 'Disobedience movement', also led the anti-Adict movement. He was arrested by the British government on February 1, 1932, and sentenced to six months in prison for his involvement in the movement. She was pregnant at the time of her arrest, was holding an unparalleled patriotic pact by rejecting the government-granted bail. He died in prison on April 26, 1932.

6. **Tuleshwari Barua, Dhekiajuli**

Tuleswari Barua, who was shot at the age of 12 by the British, during the Quit India Movement, when she and some freedom fighters tried to hoisting the Tricolour flag at Dhekiyajuli police station. Tuleswari went along with a mrityu Bahini — a kind of suicide squad — as it marched towards the police station in Dhekiajuli. Fifteen people were killed in the shooting that day. Tuleswari was the eldest of four children of Bhabakanta Barua of NijBorgaon village on the outskirts of Dhekiajuli. Tuleswari was a little behind Monbor Nath, who headed the local mrityu Bahini and was leading the group. When Nath defied orders of the police officer and climbed atop the police station, he was gunned down within a few seconds. Other volunteers followed, one by one. Tuleswari was the fourth to be hit by the bullet after Nath, Kumoli Devi and Mohiram Koch. It is noteworthy that Kankalata Baruai died on the same day in Gahapur.

7. **Revati Lahan, Tyak**

Revathi Lahane, one of the leading freedom fighters, took an active part in the Quit India Movement. He was imprisoned for participating in the 1942 election, during which time he contracted pneumonia and his health deteriorated. He died shortly after his imprisonment.

8. **Malti Mem (Mangri Orang), Lalmati, Darang**

One of the leaders of the tea garden movement was Malti Mem or Mangri Orang. In 1921, Malati Mem was assassinated by the government at Lalmati in Darang district.

9. **Padumi Gogoi, Dhekiajuli**

Padumi Gogoi, who joined the Quit India Movement on September 20, 1942, was injured by a police baton. He was later arrested and sentenced to six months in jail. But after being hit with a stick, he broke his body and died shortly after the end of his imprisonment.

10. **Golapi Chutiani, Dhekiajuli**

On September 20, 1942, Golapi Chutiani of Dhekiajuli joined the Quit India Movement. Due to the fireworks of the fireworks, it also conducted a stick in the logistics. Golapi Chutiani was seriously injured in the attack. He later died of his injuries.

11. Leela Neogni, Lakhimpur

Leela Neogni was one of the women who took an active part in the freedom struggle. The anti-British movement was carried out in Lakhimpur as part of various programs of the Quit India Movement. In October 1942, there was an anti-British rally.

12. Thunuki Das, Dhekiajuli

She was an active participant in the 1942 revolt at Dhekiajuli. She was injured in the lathicharge that took place near Dhekiajuli police station on September 20, 1942, and died a few days later.

13. Jaluki Kachariani, Dhekiajuli

She was another active participant of 1942 revolt. She got bullet injury in the Dhekiajuli police firing on September 20, 1942, and died soon after.

14. Kon Chutiani, Dhekiajuli

She was also injured in the lathi attack near Dhekiajuli police station on September 20, 1942, and succumbed to her injuries a few days later.

15. Kiran Bala Bora

Kiran Bala Bora (1904 - 8 January 1993) was a freedom fighter, and social activist from village of North Haiborgaon in Nagaon district, Assam. She is known for her participation in the civil disobedience movements of the 1930s and 1940s, which contributed to the independence of India. In 1942, the Quit India Movement was announced; the British were asked to leave the country . "Do or Die" became the slogan of time. Inciting many people and walking along with them against the British was Kiran Bora. She had to bear a lot of lathi charges and other actions by the police but never gave up.

Kiran also had to go into hiding to keep herself safe from the police. However, the sacrifices and loss of her fellow fighters like Bhogeshwari Phukanani, Lakhi Hazarika made her forget all attachments and join the war-field. She fought till India was granted independence.

Conclusion:-

In addition to the martyrdom of these womenfolk, a large number of female activists were seriously injured, while facing the police and military bullets.

Around five hundred women freedom fighters had to bear the brunt of British atrocities in Assam in the movement for the country's liberation. Their names will always be remembered by the people of the nation. After decades of struggles, revolutions, bloodsheds, Sathyagrahas and sacrifices, India finally achieved independence on August 15, 1947. Despite being oppressed by the societal pressures, women too shouldered several critical responsibilities in the independence struggle. They bravely faced the baton of the police and even went behind bars. Hundreds and thousands of Indian women dedicated their lives for obtaining freedom of their motherland. This Independence day let's salute those woman whose brave deeds made India proud.