



ISSN Print: 2394-7500
ISSN Online: 2394-5869
Impact Factor: 8.4
IJAR 2023; 9(3): 115-117
www.allresearchjournal.com
Received: 23-01-2023
Accepted: 26-02-2023

Priyanka Dixit
Ph.D., Department of History,
Pursuing, Banasthali
Vidyapith, Jaipur, Rajasthan,
India

Women's contribution in quit India movement

Priyanka Dixit

Abstract

Women followed Mahatma Gandhi's example and joined the Quit India Movement, which is the subject of this study. In the wake of the Quit India Movement, both the Royal Indian Navy Mutiny and the Indian National Army (INA) actions led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose shook the basis of the British Empire in India. Rani Jhansi regiment INA associate and commander, Captain Lakshmi Sehgal of Madras. During this time period, women took the strict discipline and selflessness they practised at home and applied it to the entire country. Early 1940s women, it appears, were eager to demonstrate Gandhi's correctness.

Keywords: Quit India, august revolution, presidency, women participation, Mahatma Gandhi

Introduction

The Quit India Movement

'Bharat Chhodo,' 'Quit India.' This simple but powerful phrase kicked off the legendary struggle in response to Gandhi's appeal for immediate independence, popularly known as the 'August Revolution.' It was a civil disobedience movement in which the country's common people displayed unrivaled gallantry and militancy (Chandra, Bipan. 1989) ^[1].

Gandhi advocated for a strong but non-violent resistance in his Quit India speech on August 8, 1942. He issued the command "Do or Die." Congress leaders from Madras, including Kamaraj, the Chief Minister of the Madras Presidency at the time, Sathyamurthi, S, Muthuranga Mudhaliar, M. Bhakthavatsalam, and 30 others, attended the address at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay. Nehru also discussed the significance of the movement.

The next day, while returning by train, the party was warned that police were waiting for them at the stations. This alarmed Kamaraj, who resolved to be imprisoned only after all of the necessary preparations for the August revolution had been made in all of the districts. He disguised himself as a villager and took a bag with key movement paperwork with him. He intended to promote the movement across all districts alongside K.R. Kalyana Rama Iyer.

The British retaliated by proclaiming Congress to be an illegal organization and arrested Congressmen across India. The arrests signaled the start of a nationwide movement across the Presidency, as well as across India, in which violence was freely mixed with nonviolence, paralyzing the administration (Sundararaja, Saroja.1989) ^[2].

Because Rajaji had resigned from the Congress and objected to the Quit India movement, the situation in the Presidency deteriorated during the Quit India agitation. Many in the south were perplexed by this decision (Gandhi, Rajmohan. 1997) ^[3]. In the South, a lack of capable leadership prompted students to join the movement. Students at college skipped classes. Students from Loyola, Christian, Presidency, and other engineering colleges were prominent throughout the movement, holding rallies, stopping electric trains, enduring lathi charges, whippings, and imprisonments. Stones were thrown at the police by students from Loyola and Pachaiyappa's colleges, who were dispersed by a lathi charge. Mohan Kumaramangalam, the President of the Presidency College, called a halt to the strike on August 12, 1942. The students, on the other hand, passed a resolution to keep the strike going.

Students from diverse linguistic regions held meetings at Annamalai University to protest Gandhi's arrest and presented impassioned speeches in their mother tongues. Protests were also attended by female students. Queen Mary's College students staged hartals and led processions chanting "Quit India" chants until the police dispersed them. The director of public instruction issued a circular requesting that heads of educational institutions report

Corresponding Author:
Priyanka Dixit
Ph.D., Department of History,
Pursuing, Banasthali
Vidyapith, Jaipur, Rajasthan,
India

daily attendance class-by-class until regular attendance was restored, as well as any student demonstrations in their institutions (Sundararaja, Saroja.1989) [2].

Participation of Women in the Movement

Gandhi's nonviolent nationalism campaign was built on this principle. The streets were metaphorically considered as moral battlegrounds, and this idea encouraged women to leave their homes. Because of the precedence in the previous two decades, more women stepped up to engage in the quit India movement in the 1940s, 20 years after the non-cooperation movement and 10 years after civil disobedience (Thapar-Bjokert, Suruchi. 2006) [4].

When the majority of the males were imprisoned, women stepped forward to lead the fight. "When the history of India's war for independence is written, the sacrifice made by the women of India will assume the foremost place," Mahatma Gandhi said. Volunteering, lobbying, demonstrating, fasting, and giving to the causes of freedom were all sacrifices made by uneducated and educated women alike.

Women's early contributions to the national struggle began with their membership in the Indian National Congress in the late nineteenth century. Their campaign was not solely nonviolent, but also included armed resistance. Some female students staged a picket outside the Secretariat to protest British control.

Women who participated in the Quit India Movement

- A.V. Kuttimalu Amma
- Ambujammal
- Padmaja Naidu
- Rukmini Lakshmi pathi
- Maya Thomas
- Sister Subbalakshmi

These are among the many women who took part in the Quit India campaign, some of whom also advocated for women's rights.

Profiles

A.V. Kuttimalu Amma

Kuttimalu, A.V. Amma was an active participant in all of the Congress's Kerala campaigns. During the Swadeshi movement, she was a khadi supporter who organized groups of women picketing foreign garment shops. The government had banned the Malayalam daily Mathrubhumi during the Quit India agitation for printing a report on European soldiers misbehaving with women in Kochi. Amma, holding her 2-month-old baby in her arms, led a procession of women through Calicut, defying the ban order. She asked and received permission to transport her kid to the Presidency jail when she was detained. The government was obliged to revoke the directive due to public uproar. Amma was the President of the KPCC, an MLA, and the Director of Mathrubhumi.

Ambujammal

Ambujammal fought to empower women to be self-sufficient. She set up social programs for impoverished women and supplied food and basic education to orphans. This she accomplished by establishing a printing press as a means of providing practical training. Gandhi emphasized the need of knowing Hindi in bringing the people of India

together, so she studied and taught it. In 1964, Ambujammal received the Padma Sri award (Bhote, Perviz. 2000) [5].

Padmaja Naidu

Padmaja Naidu, the daughter of Sarojini Naidu, followed in her mother's footsteps and dedicated herself to the cause of the nation. She was a co-founder of the Hyderabad-based Indian National Congress. She promoted Khadi's message and encouraged people to boycott Western goods. She was imprisoned as a result of her involvement in the Quit India movement.

Rukmini Lakshmi pathi

She was born in Madras and became a member of the Congress in 1923, donating all of her jewelry to the Harijan Welfare Fund. She was imprisoned as a result of her participation in the salt sathyagraha. She was a famous social reformer who sought to improve women's status in society.

Sister Subbalakshmi

In the Madras Presidency, Sister Subbalakshmi was a strong advocate for women's rights in general and widows' rights in particular. She was a member of the All-India Women's Conference and the Women's Indian Association, among others. In 1915, Sister Subbalakshmi began her pioneering service for underprivileged women. She was widowed at an early age and worked to ameliorate the situation of child widows through education. She established a social welfare center for women and children near Tambaram, a women's school in Vidya Colony called Srividya Kalanilayam, and an elementary school in Maduranthakam. She founded the Vidya Mandir School in Mylapore in 1956 as the founder of the Mylapore Ladies Club. In 1960, she was awarded the Padma Shri (Sundaram, V. 2005) [6].

Maya Thomas

She started the Satyagraha movement in 1941 as a research student at Madras University's politics department. She and Shakuntala Reddy would sneak out of the dormitory early in the morning to distribute periodicals about the liberation fight. Men did the actual printing, but the printing machine was hidden under her cot because women were rarely suspected of participating in such operations. She and Diraviam hammered out the picketing strategy at the secretariat. She was transported to the Egmore Magistrate's Court with Shakunthala, Mahalakshmi, and Anasuya, and sentenced to six months simple imprisonment and sent to the Vellore women's jail (Krishna Reddy, Shakuntala. Diraviam, Leila. April 1999).

Conclusion

The current research looked at the involvement of women in the Quit India Struggle, as well as student activists who followed Mahatma Gandhi's lead and joined the movement. Captain Lakshmi Sehgal of Madras was a member of the INA's Rani Jhansi regiment and its commander. Women extended the discipline and sacrifice of their homes to the nation as a whole throughout this time. In the early 1940s, women seemed to want to prove Gandhi wrong.

References

1. Chandra Bipan. India's Struggle for Independence; c1989. p. 457.

2. Sundararaja Saroja. March to Freedom in Madras Presidency, 1916-1947. 1989. p. 602.
3. Gandhi Rajmohan. Rajaji, A Life; c1997. p. 237.
4. Thapar-Bjokert Suruchi. Women in the Indian Nationalist Movement; c2006. p. 92.
5. Bhote Perviz. Twin Tribute. The Hindu; c2000 Nov 30.
6. Sundaram, V. Great Crusader for Women's Emancipation. News Today; c2005 July 9.