Sree Narayana Guru and Social Reformation- A Sociological Analysis

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Abstract

India is the country of contradictory. It has social structure with caste hierarchy. Caste is basically based on varna system that leads several castes and sub- caste's. In the same system many of the lower caste people faced different discrimination and injustice. If we speak about history many social reformers fought against injustice and inequality. For instance Basaveshwara Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Periyar, Jyothiba phule, etc. Including all these social reformers Narayana Guru from Kerala was one among them. His spiritual philosophies were strengthen the restructure of caste based society. He led a social reform movement in Kerala against the inequality and injustice in the caste ridden society along with he tries to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality. Hence, the present research paper intend to find out Social movements and spiritual ideas of Narayana Guru in which he tries to brought equal society.

Keywords: Discrimination, Injustice, Reformers, Spiritual, Movement, Enlighten.

Introduction :" One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man," this was the famous statement has given by Sri NaryanaGuru. Born in 1856, Chempazhanthy near Thiruvanathapuram, Kerala, in an Ezhava caste. NarayanaGuru considered a social reformer and led a foundation for social movement. Narayana Guru The father of Indian renaissance was a philosopher, spiritual master, educationist under social master. "The honorific title, Guru is a synonymous with narayana guru whose teaching And ideas remain a beacon of hope and resilience for the downtrodden across the country"(Shaji K.A. opinion On Sree Narayana Guru. South first. 2023) The Opinion by an author reveals that Sree Narayana guru is the one who respects all over the Kerala and the country as well. His ideas and spiritual teachings thrown light on various issues of the society and also his life was guiding light to the downtrodden people of the country.

Early life of Free Narayana Guru

Narayana Guru was born on August 20 1856 as a son of Madan Asan and Kutti Amma. His father was also a teacher, learned in Sanskrit and Proficient in Astrology, his father influenced Narayana Guru in many ways. He narrated story of Ramayana and Mahabharata to the village people. Sree Narayana Guru would criticise the discrimination and the practice of separation based on caste. When he was only 15 years old lost his mother.

Sree Narayana Guru As a Social Reformer

History remembers or tells the story of the people who fought against the vivid condition of the society. Sree Narayana Guru was the one who remembers for his legacy and contribution for the uplifment the marginalized group of the society. His works regarding social equality is

remembered for the ages. He laid a social movement against rigid caste system, especially practice of untouchability also advocating spiritual enlightenment. The following elements shows Sree Narayana Guru's various reforming movements.

One cast, One religion one God for all.

("Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam, Manushyanu) This slogan or message is enough to understand the vision of Sree Narayana Guru. It indicates oneness And seeking society as a whole. Sree Narayana Guru philosophy made inexpungible among the people of Kerala and India as well. The concept of equality and the concept of all are equal before the God also ineffaceable. His teaching bridged Advaita philosophy and social justice.

Fight against caste system.

Sree Narayana Guru led an anti caste movement, fiercely fought against the rigid caste system. The 19 the century and people of India especially those who believed in oneness or social justice, emphasize on equality. We can also see it as enlightenment or renaissance. Narayana Guru was tries to enlighten the people through his spiritual teachings. " One God One religion, One God" it was the iconic slogan of Narayana Guru, along with this the temple entry movement was also an important event in the history which left an imprint in social reformation.

SNDP and Sree Narayana Guru

Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Movement aimed social justice and social equality through education and the movement also focused on political representation for the marginalized groups. The movement evolved in Aravipuram where Narayana Guru installed a Shivaling in 1888. Under the Indian Companies Act, SNDP registered in 1903. Narayana Guru was the founding chairman. Kumaran Asan, Dr. Palpu were also made significant contribution for the development of SNDP. This movement redefined traditional caste system of the society. Narayana Guru organized an All Religion Conference in 1923 at Alwaye Advaita Ashram, which was first such event in India.

Educational contributions

Sree Narayana Guru believed education is the only criteria to bring marginalized groups in to mainstream he also believed **"Education is the way to uplift the oppressed**. Hence, he emphasised universalization of education irrespective of Gender, caste, and religion. Established schools, and educational institutions to provide education to the marginalized groups of the society. He also believed that education can change social and economic status of oppressed community. Guru stressed the holistic approach in education, which includes integration, hormoney, spiritual ideas and morality. He established school and educational institutions at Sivagiri in 1904, Aluva in 1914, SNDP in 1903. Presently, Gurudeva trust, SN Trust, Sree Narayana educational society, Sree Narayana Gurukulam trust, Sree Narayana mandira samithi are and named after Narayana Guru working for the educational uplifment of the marginalized groups and people of Kerala.

Voikom Sathyagraha.

" The Viokam Sathyagraha stands as luminous beacon , casting its profound influence across future generations " (Karthikeya Nair, Edited Book., , Kerala: Viokam Sathyagraha- Drown an era, Information and public relations department, Kerala 2023). The Viokam Sathyagraha is illuminant movement that upheld the future of upcoming generations. Viokam Sathyagraha (1924- 1925) was an important incident or an event in the history of Kerala, which led an anti caste movement and organized a considerable fight against untouchability and inhumane practice. It was a nonviolent movement against the prohibition of public of Viokam temple. Sree Narayana Guru supported Viokam Sathyagraha, T.K. Madhavan. K. Kalppan, E.V Rmaswamy Periyar, Mahatma Gandhi were also involving in the movement.

Literary Contributions:

Sree Narayana Guru has written Vinayakastakam, Guhastakam, Sree Vasudevastakam, Bhadrakali Slokam, Brahma Vidya Panchakam, Nirvrithy Panchakam.

Conclusion

Narayana Guru is one of the greatest social reformer of pre independence India. His philosophy, legacy would inspire across the generations. He fought against social injustice, discrimination and untouchability which has based on caste system. His philosophy " one God , one religion, one man or humankind" is the iconic slogan ever produced. In the present chaotic world, human being have lost their values, humanity, ethics. Hence, the ideas of values of morality, ethics, concept of mankind are the most relevant aspects. These were the ideas advocated by Sree Narayana Guru for human integrity and solidarity have not been forgotten. India and world must remember the personalities like Narayana Guru.

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