
Bardoli and Sardar Patel

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INTRODUCTION

Bardoli means work-place of ReMahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Gandhiji had selected Bardoli for non cooperation movement to face British Government.

Re. Gandhiji told to nation: "We have to face English Government by non-violence. We will have to suffer, whatever happens in doing so, with willingness. If people of nation will follow non-violence, then freedom would be accessed within a year." Hearing these words, people of whole nation awakened and promised to Gandhiji for full support and cooperation. Movement of non-cooperation started in 1920 in the whole nation. But, Commotion happened in chauri-chaura in Bihar, during those days. English Government ordered to 'quick fire' to prevent the procession. People were died on both sides. So promise non-violence was violated. Gandhiji told: "Non-violence first, and then, self -Government. Still people of India did not understand meaning of non-violence." He postponed non-cooperation movement in 1922. He was arrested and sentenced to jail for six year for three articles published in 'to Young India' considering those articles were responsible for instigation to people for commotion and violence. He, while going to jail, assigned Maganlal Gandhi to complete vow taken by people of Bardoli regarding clothes. So he came Bardoli from Sabarmati S.G. Institution and started S.G. Institution at Bardoli Programme (aim) of this institution to disseminate process of making pani from cotton, Kantan, weaving and under making of Khadi.

During very short time, so many centers. Were established unblock for Khadi work. The work had taken velocity and it reached to tribal area also.¹

Establishment of S.G. Institution:

'S.G. Intuition Bardoli' is an institution consisting historical importance which was established in 1922 before independence. It is known in the world as work-place of Gandhiji and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The institution had tired for social economic, religious and educational welfare of tribal people. The institution had played an important role for preparing soldiers for independence.

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Initially five tribal youths joined in classes of weaving at Bardoli. Tribal people came (visited) the institution for purchasing rantio and Vanat of cotton. People demanded to establish (start) such centers in their respective villages, as the dissemination of this work was happened.

Jugatram Dave writes in the book "Tribal people liked rantio. By it they could gain clothes. They were released from clutches of money-lenders because earlier they had to borrow money for clothes from those money lenders and they had to do dept. to purchase clothes. They lost their land and dwelling. More over they could not purchase clothes for whole family-members. So demand for rantio and preparing khadi was increased.

Uttamch and bhai joined with S. G .Institution, Bardoli in 1923. In 1920 a youth, Uttamchandbhai was studying living in Mahavir Jain Vidyalaya, Mumbai. There he read Navjivan of Gandhiji.

Gandhiji had written in an article: "This foreign education is destroying our soul." This sentence had impressed on Uttamchandbhai very much. He was psychologically struggling within himself to leave wilson college and to join Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad. Tilak Maharaj died on 1-8-1920. The scene of giving his solder to dead body of Tilak Mahraj by Gandhiji shacked the mind of Uttamchandbhai. He jointed Gujarat Vidyapeeth at once without asking anybody in the family. He became scholar in commerce in 1923 and reached Sarbhon Village of Bardoli block for doing creative (constructive) work in villages obeying order by Gandhiji. From Sarbhon he joined with S.G. Institution Bardoli.

Contribution of Sardar Patel in Bardoli Movement:-

Bardoli movement was started in 1928. Gandhiji interested management of Bardoli to Sardar Patel. Sardar Patel and so manyother freedom fighters started to live in S.G. Institution, Bardoli this movement bhad attracted concentration of people of India who desired freedom. Santokben wife of Uttamchandbhai continued work of awaking of women and work of fighting for freedom in Bamni Vilalge with Ravishankar Maharaj. Soldiers of Gandhiji had shown how non-violent struggle be could be fought cooperatively and how we could face against injustice without violence.

Workers of Freedom institution Bardoli tried to join tribal farmers in Satyagraha movement and other national movements.

Establishment of Sardar Girl's school:

Visitors from country (nation) as well as from abroad when visited Freedom Institution, Bardoli, Gandhiji and Sardar were naturally recalled by them once an educationalist visited the Institution. He observed the institution minutely and then told: "There is everything in the institution, but, without experiment of education of Gandhiji, the institution seems incomplete Uttamchandbhai heard the critic and answered: If you want to see experiment of education of Gandhiji, then let us go to vedachhi. It is not far away from here. Jugatrambhai is running a fine experiment of "Nai Talim" there. the educationalist still insisted: "I know the experiment of Vedachhi. But if a school of "Nai Talim" is here, it would be well and good."

The talk struck in the mind of Uttamchandbhai. He told the talk to morarjibhai, the president of Freedom Institution. He liked the talk but then asked. "who will take responsibility of it?" Uttamchandbhai answered politely "Nani and Mukulbhai are joined in the same work at Borkhadi. How it would be it we, make join them in this work?"Morarji bhai said, "Yes, they would do."

Uttamchandbhai called both the person before a day of meeting. Morarjibhai tested confidence (faith) of Niranjnanaben and silent consent of Mukulbhai and accepted their matter. But, it was not enough. They met Pujya Shree Motu who was Guru of Niranjnanaben and Mukulbhai. Pujya Mota told to Niranjnanaben: "Every one can do the easy work. You are brave women. You have to live in Bardoli. You destiny is joined with it. God will bless you and you would succeed."⁵

Niranjnanaben obey desire of Pujyashri Mota. He started to establishpujyashri Mota. He started to establish post-Basic Girls show. In this way Sardar Girls school established.

While Niranjnanaben was thinking work of Girls school a tribal man came there with this daughter. He at once started his story and told: "Sister, you have to teach this girl. I don't know where to study her. Please suggest for a good school. We did not learn but please show us that our children may study."

"Sister, you would not believe. we started for here early in the morning in darkness of night. We have not school, nor books, nor teacher. So if you will not touch, then where shall we go?"

Mind of Niranjnanaben which was thinking to start girls school, became steady, hearing story of this tribal poorer man. She thought how many such girls would remain illiterate. Then he decided direction of her work of life.

Sardar Girls school was started on 15h June, 1966 with a class of VIII of 22 girls students. Constructive workers of this area, parents of tribal girls and well wishers (residents) of Freedom. Instituting remained present in the opening ceremony. Kakasaheb Kalelkar who was nick-named as " Recluse of culture" announced to open this Girls school kakasaheb Kalelkar who was an educationalist, teacher, philosopher and believing in systematic sequence of culture told in the lecture of opening ceremony, told we will have to concentrate in girls education if we want to awareness in society. If we want to make revolution, it would be only done by girls education."⁷

Tribal girls started to educate due to establishment of Sardar Girls school. Majority of tribal's became aware to educate their girls, due to change occurred in tribal girls.

Activities of Freedom Institution:

Uttamchandbhai developed Bardoli Freedom Institution from 1950 to 1998: He filled the institution with various creative activities. He included cottage industries in creative activities so that tribal people of nearby area may earn their bread.

Following activities were taken in hand by Freedom institution. Office

1. Office of the institution makes furniture of various types.
2. There is a soap making unit which makes soap from non-edible oils.
3. There is a weaving unit which makes Khadi from cotton thread.

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4. There is a training centre for local self Government (Panchayat) in which Serpent and Secretaries (Talaties) are taking training.
5. There is K.G. Unit. Very little children play in natural atmosphere of institution.
6. There is a cow-rearing unit. In which cows of best quality reside.
7. There is a Khadi Bhadndar.
8. There is a naturopathy centre.
9. A museum showing life and work of Sardar Patel which situated just touching with institution. Which is governed by Government of Gujarat. Of course, the land is given by institution. Uttamchandbhai played an important role in its planning.

Uttamchandbhai developed all the activities. He started all the units with faith. Nearby tribal people were benefitted by these activities. The institution has done social, economic, religious and educational welfare of tribal's of Bardoli by these creative activities.

Freedom institution became famous as a historical place of India. by success of Bardoli movement.

Sardar Patel considered Bardoli as his residence. He told in 1950 during when he became Home minister of Independent India: "Uttamchandbhai that is a historical place of freedom fighting movement. Of India. In future it would become a holy place so preserve it well."

Uttamchandbhai replied: " I obey your order and I would work here till end of my life." Uttambhai fulfilled his words given to sardar patel by devoting his life to this institution.⁹

The historical place of Freedom Institution is well preserved by Uttamchandbhai. He has made a fragrant smell in nearby area by his work.

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