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# Dalit Struggle for Social Justice: A Study of Hoshiarpur

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*Abstract: The worst word in this world is exploitation. Because exploitation is the hardest to bear in any country, if exploitation is taking place in the society of that country, then nothing can be a bigger shame for that nation. The form, size and method of exploitation may be different in different countries but today the whole world is its victim. Like with the monarchy, there is social discrimination with the caste system and elsewhere religion and community are being exploited. Different scholars raised their voice against this exploitation in different countries. Which also became the reason for the repression of the exploiters. If we talk about a vast country like India, where exploitation has become a practice of the society. They custom that people have been following for thousands of years. It is not that voice has not been raised against this exploitation in India. Many scholars of India raised their voice against exploitation, if we talk about Punjab then there is a district of Punjab Hoshiarpur where many scholars were born who raised their voice against Dalit exploited society in India society. Hoshiarpur is the only district in Punjab which is known as the land of Dalit reformer. Because many Dalit reformer scholars were born in this land. There are many scholars in this whose work known from that land. Where Babu Mangu Ram gave a new religion to the Dalits by establishing the Ad-Dharma. By establishing the Santram B.A. Jatpat Todak Mandal, he inflicted a severe blow on the Indian caste system. Chaudhary Hazara Ram Piplawala gave Shri Ad Prakash Granth to Dalits Society. Babu Hanraj Prem Gadhia went from Village to Village in Punjab and Created a new awakening among the Dalits and inspired them to educate their children. The birth place of Babu Kanshi Ram is undoubtedly Ropar but the land of work is Hoshiarpur. Staying here, he created a new consciousness among Dalits, spread education among Dalits and awareness about their rights. He awakened the people of Hoshiarpur so much that in the 1996 Lok Sabha elections. He became the MP here. How a long line a Dalit reform scholars of Hoshiarpur district is seen.*

**Keyword:** Struggle Social Justice, Dalit, Exploit Society, Ad-Dharma, Jat Pat Todak Mandal, Shri Ad-Parkash Granth.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Punjab is one such state of India which is famous all over the world for its specialties. Where



the fertile land made Punjab happy with the revolution of different crops here the same great warrior, Guru Sahibanand Peer Pegamber made the land of Punjab holy and famous. In order to get India's Independence from the British, 80% of the people of Punjab had sacrificed themselves. Sardar Bhagat Singh, Sardar Kartar Singh, Sardar Udham Singh and the sacrifice of the Gadhari warriors will always be immortal in Indian History. Thus it would not be wrong to say that the land of Punjab contributed significantly to the revolution of crops as well as the revolution of the country. History is witness to the fact that Punjab has always struggled because Punjab is the entry gate of India. Many attackers attacked India on the way to Punjab. Due to which Punjab had to struggle for centuries. Form of conflict may vary in size and basis.

Many types of struggles took place on the soil of Punjab. Such as the struggles against external aggressors, the struggle for independence of India, the struggle to give high status to the Punjabi language or the struggle for the rights of the Dalits, one of these struggles is such that it has been going on continuously from Ancient to the modern period. That is the struggle to improve the social condition of Dalits, which will be run by different scholars in different states all over India. In Punjab also many scholars contributed in different districts for the social justice for Dalits. If we talk about Hoshiarpur, then the most learned people who raised their voice for the rights of Dalits were from this land. Hoshiarpur is the district of Punjab which has the highest number of educated people. That is why this district was named Hoshiarpur. The land of Hoshiarpur gave birth to many scholars, out of which Dalit reforms are more counted. The details of some Dalit reform scholars are as follows.

### **Babu Mangu Ram Mugowaliya**

Gadhari warrior and Ad-Dharma founder Babu Mangu Ram was born on 14 January 1886. His father's name was Shri Harnam Das and the name of his village was mugowall Tehsil Garh Shankar District Hoshiarpur. Such a scholar of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who first chose the Ghadar movement for the Independence of the country and endured thousand of atrocities like the country's devotees. Then for the freedom of his Dalit society. They did such things which later proved to be a milestone for the Dalit society. When Babu Mangu Ram was in the Ghadar movement then his duty was imposed to carry weapons from abroad. In which he was also largely successful. He had to endure many atrocities after being caught on the way. When he came back to India after escaping, seeing the atrocities on the Dalits, he vowed that the freedom of the Dalits is necessary before the independence of the country. Who have been living the life of slaves for thousands of years. Hence Babu Mangu Ram gathered a Dalit among village mangowalas on 11-12 June 1926 AD in his loud speech appealed to Dalits to leave Hinduism which for thousands of years treated Dalits like animals. They considered himself a native. Who are the real heirs of this country. That is why by establishing Ad-Dharma, Babu Mangu Ram gave a new religion to the Dalits apart from the Hindus. In which all will be equal there will be no ups and down. Thus Babu Mangu Ram breathed a new life into the dead Dalits. Ad-Dharma started from a small village which proved to be a new light for the future of Dalits of Indian History. When the Simon Commission came to India in 1928 at time more than 10,000 people met the Simon Commission under the leadership at Babu Mangu Ram. And they demanded a separate religion from the Hindus from the Simon Commission went to the part of India Ad-Dharma put its demands in front of them. The result of which was that in 1930 the Ad-Dharma was recognized separately from the Hindus. Hindu leaders were slept in the 1931 Census. The



reason for this was that thousands of people left Hinduism and got Ad-Dharma written. Which became a matter of concern for the Hindu leaders. Because in Punjab alone (418779) people got themselves registered in the census as Ad-Dharma. That number was astonishing due to which Gandhi Ji fell into deep thought. The Lord Lothian Committee announced the Communal Award on 17 August 1932. In which Dalits got the right to Double votes and 78 seats were fixed. While Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and Mangu Ram were happy with this decision, on the other hand Mahatma Gandhi was against this decision. Therefore to get this decision canceled, Mahatma Gandhi fasted for death. He started saying that he will not break his fast until the British government cancels this decision. The news of Gandhi ji fasting death spread like wildfire across the country. BabuMangu Ram called Gandhi's fasting death a robbery on the rights of Ad-Dharmi. Thus BabuMangu Ram also fasted against Gandhi in Punjab.

On repeated requests from congress leaders, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar made an agreement with Gandhi ji, which was named Poona Pact. According to this act, reservation was given to Dalits but BabuMangu Ram was not happy with it that's why the fast of death of BabuMangu Ram continued for 20 days, later at the behest of friends, he broke his fast.

After this BabuMangu Ram went from village to village and held meetings with the Dalits people and inspired them to teach their children. He also became an MLA once because of his selfless service. He devoted his whole life in providing social Justice to the Dalits.

Overall we can say that BabuMangu Ram was undoubtedly a small person born in a small village of Hoshiarpur but he gave a new thinking to Dalits in India History. That Dalits are the original inhabitants of this country and not slaves.

### **Choudhary Hazara Ram Peeplawala**

If we talk about the Dalit scholars of Hoshiarpur, then the name of Choudhary Hazara Ram Peeplawala is very important in it. He also religions text to Ad-Dharma in same way as the Gita for Hindus, the Guru Granth Sahib for Sikhs and there's the Bible for Christians. He composed Sri Ad-Prakash Granth for Ad-Dharma. Choudhary Hazara Ram was born in Hoshiarpur in October 1904. Since childhood he was of sharp mind and sharp thinking. He united day and night to get social Justice for Dalits.

In 1926, when BabuMangu Ram established Adh-Dharma in his village mangowals, Choudhary Hazara Ram as appointed general secretary. That was a big responsibility which was played by Choudhar sahib with utmost sincerity. To infuse new thinking and consciousness among the Dalits Choudhary Hazara Ram also had a weekly newspaper named "Adi Danka". In this the views of different Dalit scholars were printed. He appealed to pay attention to education among Dalits. He believed that the end of orthodox society can be done only by education. He asked to pay special attention to the education of girls. Because when a girl is educated, she can educate her children tomorrow. The first step of education for the children of Dalits will start from home itself. The Community whose mothers are educated will be community educated. Instead of spending money on dowry of girls, he insisted on spending money on their education. The only goal of his life was that Dalits should get social Justice and their children should get education.

In this way Choudhary Hazara Ram Peeplawala made one day and night one in the upliftment of Dalits that the work done by him will always be immortal in Dalit History.



### **Sant Ram B.A.**

If we talk about the Dalit reform of Hoshiarpur, then don't talk about Sant Ram B.A. A big mistake has been made because Santram B.A. tried to prove that society is equal for all. He establishing Jat-Pat TodakMandal to end the caste system in the society.

Sant Ram B.A. was born on 14 February 1887 in Kumharsamaj. In 1909 he completed his B.A. (Graduation) from Government College Lahore. At that time passing (B.A) was a big deal. So he started putting B.A world in his last name. Thus his name became Sant Ram B.A. He was very much against caste as he had suffered the humiliation of caste many times during his lifetime. He had joined AryaSamaja only to end the caste system. Because he was greatly influenced by the social reformer ideas of Swami DayanandSaraswati and Shradhdhanand. That's why he became AryaSamaj.

After this he came in contact with swami Parmanand then together they founded Jat Pat TodakMandal in 1922. Whose head Parmanandwas made and its secretary Sant Ram BA became he gave light to Indian society through Jat Pat TodakMandal. Because the scope of this organization started increasing gradually, which crossed the borders of Punjab and started opening its branches all over the country.SantRam B.A was adamant in his words and deeds. He used to apply the rules of Jat Pat TodakMandal not only on other people also on his family member if he was promoting inter-caste marriage, then he also got his children married through inter-caste marriage. Thus were firm in doing and saying,Sant Ram B.A had called Dr. BhimRaoAmbedkar to Lahore for the President's speech in the annual convention in 1936. But this meeting was concealed due to the objections of the rest of the members of the Mandal. After this Dr. BhimRaoAmbedkar presented his speech through a book. The name of this book in the Annihilation of caste. In 1948 he wrote a book whose head article was HamaraSamaj. It was a book that created a stir in the Hindu society because of which he had to suffer humiliation. Because he openly opposed the conservatism spread in Hindu society through historical events.

A Glimpse of modern society was seen in his speeches. He wanted to reshape Indian society. Free from conservatism. He used to say.

"ChalJaungachhodKar

Jab is asshiyaneke,

BewafetabhiyadAaegimeriEshJamaneKo"

It is true that even today when it came to inter-caste marriage or JatpatTodakMandal, sant Ram BA name definitely come. The struggle of his life is found in his books, he wrote at least more than 100 books on 30 may 1988, the person who showed dreams of a new society said goodbye to this world. But his thoughts are giving a new direction to the Indian society even today through the books written by him.

### **Babu Hansraj Premgarh**

The name of BabuHansrajPremgarh is also taken with great respect among the Dalit reform scholars of Hoshiarpur. Because he also made on incomparable contribution to the Dalit reform movements of Punjab.BabuHansraj was born in 1890 AD in MohalapremgarhHoshiarpur father ShriGandha Ram and mother Mangti. Babu Hans Raj's financial condition was also not good seeing the society that consciousness arose in their mind that the treatment of Dalits is unfair. That's why he raised his voice against it from his small locality Premgarh. Then he went to different villages of Hoshiarpur and awakened the Dalit about their rights.



The people of Hoshiarpur were so impressed by his ideas that if he wanted he could have become the M.L.A. of Hoshiarpur at that time. He paid more attention to social service than politics. In 1930, many social reform movement were going on in Punjab like AryaSamaj, Namdhari, Nirankari, RadhaSawami, Ad-Dharma and Jat Pat TodakMandal etc. In all these movements, the Ad-Dharma influenced BabuHansrajPremgarh.

This was the reason that he actively participated in the ad-Dharma movement seeing the hard work, BabuManguRam elected him as the vice president of the mandal. He was weak due to financial and illness but his intentions for Dalit reform are very strong. The speeches given by him filled the passionmind of the Common man. BabuHansraj had seen up and down very closely because when he used to study in college he was not allowed to drink the tap, there was a ban on sitting in the canteen, his classmates used to taunt the caste fraternity while coming from this it can be inferred that he had to endure many troubles only because of the cast. He did not want the coming generation to bear all this. That's why he tried his best to get social Justice. In the last years of his life the disease fell him in such a way that in 1943, those who said goodbye to this world.

## **2. CONCLUSION**

It is true that there is a district of Punjab where maximum number of People are educated. That is Hoshiarpur probably because where many scholars were born who made a name for their work not in Punjab but all over India. In this patriotic, social reformers like Mangu Ram and demanding a separate religion for Dalits or then like Sant Ram B.A. Who opposed social stereotypes and emphasized on inter-caste marriage and founded Jat Pat TodakMandal or scholars like HansrajPremgarhia have given their whole lives for social Justice.

ChaudharyHazara Ram established Ad-PrakashGranth by collecting the poetry of the Sant for the Dalit society. Many such scholars have made Hoshiarpur famous not only in the whole of India but all over the world by taking it out of Punjab.

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#### **Endnotes:-**

1. Ad-Dharma Movement:- Ad-Dharma movement founder by BabuMangu Ram 11-12 June 1926 in village mugolwall District Hoshiarpur.
2. Jat Pat TodakMandal:-Jat Pat TodakMandal founder by Swami Parmanand and Sant Ram B.A. in 1922.
3. Sri Ad-PrakashGranth:-This book belongs to those who believe in Ad-Dharma composed by ChoudharyHazara Ram Piplanwala.
4. Guru Sahibain: It has been told about 10 Sikh Guru (Guru Name-G.G)
5. Gadhar Movement:- Gadhar movement founder by Sohan Singh Bhadana in 15 July 1913 (Indian Independence Movement).
6. Simon Commission:- A group of seven members of Parliament under the chairmanship of Sir John Simon Come in India 1928.
7. Annihilation of Caste: This book written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1936. It is underlined speech for (J/P.T/m).
8. Poona Pact:- Poona Pact is agreement between Mahatama Gandhi & Dr.
9. BhimRaoAbedkar in 1932.