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SRI MALLIKARJUN M.KHARGE'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Harshavardhan and I. S. Vidyasagar

Research Scholar, Department of Studies and research in Political Science, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.
Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr.Ambedkar College, Gulbarga .

Abstract:-



Sri.Mallikarjun Kharge Ji

Sri.Mallikarjun Kharge's 72 years old Lok Sabha M.P elected from Gulbarga of Karnataka State as a Member of Indian National Congress Party. He has won elections for a record ten consecutive times having won the Assembly Elections for an unprecedented nine consecutive times (1972, 1979, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2008) and the recent 2009 General Elections from Gulbarga. Kharge is considered a Competent Leader with a clean public image and well versed in the dynamics of politics, legislation and administration.

Keywords: Political Leadership , Education ,Sri Mallikarjun M.Kharge's .

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Sri, Mallikarjun M. Kharge, a man of actions, a true lover of Education, went on exhibiting his positive qualities of leadership, in the interest of the welfare of the people of Karnataka, especially, the down-trodden. Occasions come to such personalities, who believe really in the service of the people.

Education is considered as "Important component of the ideological apparatus of the State"¹.

By and large political changes are followed by cultural or educational developments, Education means an all round drawing out of the best in child and man.

According to Aristotle, "It is the business of Politicians to determine the aims of Education and Educators are only to find the means to implement them."

Undoubtedly, education implies growth but not an obstacle to the progress. In a country like India, where democracy is infant, our Problems many and arduous, education has a special role to play, to make our youth active' creative, more self-reliant and more cooperative. Education, also has the aim to raise the standard of discipline and judgement and charge the youth with scull purpose. So, that "they grow out of narrow regionalism and communalism, to broad ways of humanity and contribute, through the assimilation².

It was a rare but a golden opportunity provided to Sri Kharge, to use political power in a legitimate way. His role or work in the field of education, as an education minister, cannot be exaggerated. His concrete work in the field of Education is really immortal because, the people of Karnataka, even today remember the same.

Sri Devaraj Urs, picked up the right person to deal with the issues and problems relating to education. Any work Sri

Kharge deemed as “worship” which he used to accomplish with the spirit of commitment, devotion and dedication.

Believing in the Vivekananda's ideal of “Awake, Arise, Stop not until the goal is reached,” Sri Kharge deemed and realised that his responsibilities and tasks increased when he became minister of Education. He realised the importance of Political power,” which is not a bed of roses but a bed of thorns”.

As a man of actions, as a Karmayogi, Sri Kharge believed that any programme or work or plan launched, should be timely accomplished or implemented. Effective or timely implementation of the plans and programmed was nothing but timely delivery of goods and services to the people. it meant, real service rendered to the people.

In accomplishing all the tasks ahead, as an education minister, Sri Kharge was impressed by what John F. Kennedy said: 'Ask, not, what the country has done to you, but ask; what you can do for the country’³.

So, here, an account of his Political leadership in the field of Education' is worth mentioning. Sri Kharge gave primary importance to Primary Education. Because, he knew fully well about the worst environment in which, the children of the down-trodden had grown. A good proper environment was possible only through better education, which, he believed, was really the need of the hour. The living conditions of the children of the suppressed 'classes were not favourable, for the development of their personalities. So, to fulfill and realise the same, Sri Kharge, determined and decided to improve the conditions of the children of the poor and down-trodden by providing, better educational facilities.

Accordingly, through the proper channel of the Government, Sri Kharge started opening many primary schools in every nook and corner of the state, with all available facilities like, mid-day meal etc. At the same time, Sri Kharge, felt the need for improving the health of the children. The every location or of the schools in slum and SC and ST colonies, provided an opportunity for all the children of the poor and the down-trodden to get all educational facilities, including, free food (mid-day-meal programme). The programme of free-meal or mid-day meal, was effectively implemented during the regime of Sri Kharge. Such programme encouraged and facilitated many children of the poor labourers, Scheduled Caste and Tribes, to go to the schools attend the classes regularly and to improve their physical and mental abilities. So many children were able to receive the basic education⁴.

Sri Kharge played a dynamic role in according permission to the people of SC and ST, to open their own educational institutions. Because, the poor people had no their own financial resources to start their own educational institutions. He also was responsible to remove some rigid conditions, that came in the way of the poor people in starting educational institutions of their own. Such rigid conditions which were relaxed were:

- 1) Depositing of Rs. 10 lakh to run or start any educational institution.
- 2) To run the school or any educational institution at least for five years out of one's own funds.
- 3) Any one, to start any school, should have 10 acres of land so the grant in code was amended and the following conditions (liberalised) were laid down-by the government:
 - a) Any institution, to be started by SC and ST people was eligible to get grants from the government from the very beginning itself.
 - b) The limit to deposit Rs. 10 lakh was reduced to Rs. 10,000 only.
 - c) The limit to acquire land was also reduced. Due to such relaxed conditions many SC and ST people were able to open, start and run in any educational institutions.

The people of Karnataka, OWE much to Sri Kharge, for having provided such dynamic leadership, to liberalised the rigid conditions of the Government thereby, facilitating them to start educational institutions.

Another landmark in the field of Education brought about by Sri Kharge relates to the “facility of Back Log” in the appointment of SC and ST candidates as teachers.

According to the Government statistics, out of 1 lakh 10,000 in general 4,000 teachers belonged to SC and ST groups, but due to the Back-Log facility, and to maintain 18% of the quota reserved for SC and ST candidates, a “Special Recruitment Committees known as district Level Recruitment Committees were set-Up and nearly more than 25,000 candidates belonging to Sc and ST groups were recruited as Primary school teachers”.

In the same way, out of 22 thousand high school teachers appointed, only 1000 teachers belonged SC & ST groups, but due to the amendment made to the law the reservation quota for SC and ST candidates was fixed at 68% due to which nearly, 14000 candidates belonging to SC & ST groups were appointed as teachers.

Another most important development made in the field of education due to dynamic leadership of Sri Kharge relates to the Training Programme.

By and large; a rule existed in the past and that exists today is that any body, who wants to become a teacher should complete TCH after SSLC and B.Ed. after a degree. But it created a great handicap for the sc and ST candidates. Because, no candidates belonging to SC and ST group was available with the requisite training.

So remove such tragedy, Sri Kharge persuaded the Government to issue a direction, providing for appointing the candidates of SC & ST groups first as teachers and then depute them to under go and complete the training. Such facility, facilitated many SC and ST candidates to become teachers, to earn their daily bread. So, Sri Kharge, is perhaps the first and foremost political leader to have such a heart-felt concern for the children of sc & ST groups.

Sri Kharge played his role and fought at the Government level to make the Post of Physical teacher for every Primary Schools compulsory, which helped a lot to the poor and SC & ST candidates, to become Physical teachers. Sri Kharge fully was aware of the principle “A sound mind in a sound body”, He gave equal importance to the Physical and mental capacities through education.

Whatever may be the case, in helping the poor and the down trodden people, Sri Kharge also helped to the general public. So many caste Hindus were benefited from the Governmental actions moved by Sri Kharge. He was responsible for establishing the proper link between “the particular i.e. Self and the General i.e. Society.” So his concrete help through his dynamic leadership reached all the people of Karnataka. His dream of freeing sc and ST people and to make them free, enlightened civilised and educated citizens was, partially fulfilled and realised.

Commending the role of Sri Kharge as Education Minister Sri S.B. Hungund remarks thus: “ The most important contribution to the field of education, made by Sri. Kharge is nothing but issuing a governmental order making the post of physical teacher as compulsory for every primary school”.⁵

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Harshavardhan

Research Scholar, Department of Studies and research in Political Science, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga.

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